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Volume 11 Issue 227



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

NEW FOOD TRUCK LOT COMING TO TOWN
SEE PAGE 10

THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS ISSUE

Malibu residents make run for school board

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU The local school district race just got interesting.

Three education advocates from Malibu have thrown their hats in the ring, challenging the three incumbents for their spots on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education.

Craig Foster, Seth Jacobson and Karen Ferrar pulled papers Wednesday in what is now a seven-member school board race.

If all seven get the 100 signatures required to qualify for the November ballot by Aug. 10, the three Malibu residents will face off against incumbents Jose Escarce, Maria Leon Vazquez and Ben Allen as well as candidate Jake Wachtel, who also ran in 2010.

Although they believe their candidacy could solve Malibu's long-standing complaint regarding a lack of representation on the Board of Education, the Malibu candidates will strive to represent the interests of all students in the schools, they said.

"People want their kids to get the best

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 8



END OF THE ROAD

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Teens finish their cross-country bike ride by taking a dip in the Santa Monica Bay on Friday. The kids completed Overland: The American Challenge, a six-week ride from Tybee Island, Ga. to the Santa Monica Pier. One member, Billy Osterman (center, red shirt), used the opportunity to raise money for the Semper Fi Fund to help injured service members and their families.

Police, nonprofit battle elder abuse

Partnership helps seniors get resources they need

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY One year ago, the detectives at the Santa Monica Police Department welcomed Polina Havens into their criminal investigations office.

Havens does not wear a badge, and she only spends time at the Public Safety Facility on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but in the last year she's taken on 151 non-criminal cases which would have otherwise fallen on the backs of three or four detectives.

Havens' bears the title Critical Response Liaison, a part-time position funded by WISE & Healthy Aging and City Hall that is meant to help seniors who have been abused or neglected.

When the police department receives a complaint either from a neighbor of an elderly person or from Adult Protective Services, it's Havens' job to work with the alleged victim to get them food, care, socialization or whatever kind of help they need.

If police investigate a complaint but no crime has been committed, it's hard for them to help the elderly even if they are living in unhealthy conditions, said Lt. Mike Beautz.

"Most of the time it's not criminal, but there's still a level of care needed because the person affected is physically incapacitated or going through stages of dementia," Beautz explained. "Things happened that brought attention of their situation to the police still need to be addressed, but there is very little that we can do."

Elder abuse is a difficult thing to identify and even harder to quantify.

SEE ELDERS PAGE 9

USDA: Number of farmers markets up due to demand

BY TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. As demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables has increased, so too has the number of urban farmers markets sprouting up across the nation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday that the number of direct-sales markets has increased 9.6 percent in the past year, with California and New York leading the way.

"Farmers markets are a critical ingredient to our nation's food system," USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan said. "These outlets provide benefits not only to the farmers looking for important income opportunities, but also to the communities looking for fresh, healthy foods."

Santa Monica is home to four farmers markets, with the Downtown market being a staple for chefs for over 30 years.

After 18 years of steady increases, the number of farmers markets across the country now registered with the USDA is 7,864.

SEE MARKETS PAGE 8

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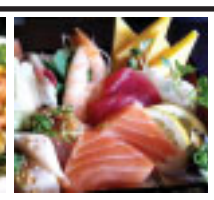
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012

Be seen on TV
YWCA Santa Monica
2019 14th St., 10:30 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Learn the business of commercial acting for fun through this course that teaches the necessary skills to begin a career as a commercial actor or perfect existing skills. Techniques including improvisation and on-camera commercial acting will be covered. The instructor, Adrienne Omansky, has taught commercial acting for over 20 years. For more information, call (310) 452-3881.

Object to this union
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.
In the third installment of staged readings of classic and contemporary plays, the Santa Monica Rep Theater Company presents Molière's wickedly funny satire, "The Learned Ladies." First produced in 1672, "The Learned Ladies" is the story of two young lovers, Henriette and Clitandre, whose marriage has the blessing of the bride's father and brother, but the disapproval of her mother, sister and aunt, who would prefer her to marry a mediocre poet. This production will be directed by Jen Bloom. For more information on this and other public programs, visit www.smpl.org or contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

Don't paint alone
Paint Lab
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Need some inspiration? Head to Paint Lab's Paint, Wine and Cheese Night to enjoy an evening of complimentary wine, cheese, bread, crackers and fruit while painting in the company of fellow artists. The cost of the evening is $3 plus the cost of $30+ for a canvas. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Expand your mind
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 9:30 a.m. — 11 p.m.
Come enjoy a two-day festival celebrating spiritual expansion and conscious living. There will be seminars and workshops on yoga, health and Ayurveda, and Kirtan and sacred music. There will also be vendor exhibitions, a spiritual art exhibition and a healing camp. Tickets available online or at the door. For more information, call (310) 651-0717.

What a waste
Household Hazardous Waste Center
2500 Michigan Ave., 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Come drive up and drop off your household hazardous materials to the Waste Center where a technician will unload and process them for you. For more information, call (310) 458-8255.

Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012

Hunting for gems
Santa Monica Airport
3100 to 3000 Airport Ave.,
8 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Spend a Sunday morning searching for the perfect antique at this antique and collectible market. For more information, call (323) 933-2511.

Dance on the water
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
6:15 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
The water ballet company Aqualillies offers synchronized swimming classes at the Beach House on Sundays until Sept. 9. This workshop is intermediate, but there is also a beginner's workshop at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Jazz up your evening
Stewart Street Park
1902 Stewart St., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Enjoy an evening of jazz and bring a blanket, picnic and beach chair. Beachy Cream will offer 100 percent organic ice cream and sweet treats, and Frozen Crush will offer ultimate Italian ice. The Dustbowl Revival, a Venice-based roots and jazz collective, will be playing. For more information, call (310) 458-8350.

Festival of the chariots
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
The 36th Annual Festival of the Chariots parade will begin at the Civic Auditorium and go down Main Street to the Venice Beach pavilion. Free entertainment and food are provided. For more information, call (310) 836-2676.

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



Feds find 2 baby mountain lions

BY HANNAH BERKMAN
Special to the Daily Press

SM MOUNTAINS Two mountain lion kittens were recently discovered by the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains, a hopeful sign given the small number of pumas living in the area, federal officials said Thursday.

The female and male kittens were given tracking devices after their discovery in their den near Circle X Ranch in Malibu. The two kittens, Puma 23 and 24, or P-23 and P-24, were born in mid-June.

"The fact that successful reproduction is occurring in the mountains indicates that we have high-quality habitat for mountains lions here," Dr. Seth Riley, a wildlife expert with the National Park Service, said in a press release. "Unfortunately, the amount of habitat is not sufficient to support a viable population long-term, and when new animals like these are born, especially young males, they run into freeways and development when they try to disperse."

That was most likely the case for a young male mountain lion that was shot and killed by Santa Monica police in May after it made its way into the courtyard of an office building located just a block away from the popular Third Street Promenade. Widlife experts believe that cat was looking to establish his own territory.

The kittens represent the second documented case of first-order inbreeding — their father, P-12, mated with his female offspring, P-19, according to DNA testing from the Robert Wayne Lab at UCLA. P-19 was captured a few months ago and appeared pregnant. When she was away from the area, researchers sent a team to find the kittens.

P-12 is also the only radio-collared mountain lion who has successfully crossed the 101 Freeway. In doing so he contributed new genetic material to the otherwise isolated lion population, officials said.

Biologists from Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are tracking seven mountain lions for their decade-long study of animal survival in urban areas. The agency has now studied 24 mountain lions, including these newborn kittens, and they are the third litter of kittens this study has documented.

These kittens will have a difficult time surviving, even though the Santa Monica Mountains are a suitable habitat, because of the lack of effective wildlife crossings, officials said.

There are efforts underway to build a new wildlife crossing in the form of a tunnel under the 101 Freeway through which wild animals could cross to get from one area to another. Officials from the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles and In Defense of Animals have stated their interest in the project, which is still awaiting proper funding.

news@smdp.com



Photo courtesy National Park Service

PAWS FOR EFFECT: **One of two baby mountain lions recently discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains.**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM AIRPORT

Mural takes flight

Officials with the Museum of Flying on Friday unveiled sketches for what is to be a mural entitled "Fly Douglas" that pays tribute to the aircraft company that once called Santa Monica home.

The mural will feature images of the DC aircraft series, from the first DC-1 aircraft to the final DC-10, which were produced at the Santa Monica Airport by the Douglas Aircraft Company. The company was founded by Donald Wills Douglas in Santa Monica in 1921.

"There's a great deal of history of Douglas in Santa Monica," Museum Managing Director Daniel Ryan said. "They changed the world of aircraft aviation, and this is a great way to tell the story of Douglas aircraft."

The mural will be painted by noted aviation artist, author and historian Mike Machat, who met Ryan through the Airforce Association, Santa Monica Chapter, when he was visiting the museum for a tour during construction.

When the museum was completed it was finished with drywall, giving it plenty of wall space to take advantage of, Ryan said. After Ryan mentioned all this free space, Machat proposed the mural.

The mural is being funded by a $25,000 grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California through the Douglas White Oaks Trust.

The project will also give visitors a more interactive experience, with Machat working on the mural and providing a short presentation on the history of the Douglas Aircraft Company twice daily. The project will take approximately four months to complete.

"This is a great way to assist in telling the Douglas Aircraft Company story and should make for a great visitor experience," Ryan said.

The Museum of Flying recently reopened in a new facility after closing in 2002, but was originally founded in 1974 as the Douglas Museum and Library.

– HANNAH BERKMAN


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Foi gras is a disease

Editor:

As a wildlife biologist, allow me to refute the outrageous statement by chef John Carlos Kuramoto ("Challenging the forbidden food," July 25) that ducks "force-feed themselves."

Wild ducks eat frequent small meals to prepare for migration, they never gorge. Moreover, mallards, the ducks who are commonly raised for Foil gras, are not even migratory! These birds are not designed to metabolize fat at a high rate, as evidenced by how quickly it metabolizes in the liver, thus causing force-fed birds to quickly develop life-threatening diseases, including obesity and fatty liver disease (that's what Foil gras is – a disease). Force-feeding is also linked to gastrointestinal diseases and blockages, spleen and blood disorders, and respiratory illnesses. Birds killed for Foil gras are only a few months old, yet up to 20 percent of them still die before they can be slaughtered.

Poultry experts all over the world have condemned force-feeding. The only people defending it are those who produce, sell, cook and eat Foil gras. They are not scientists, they are gourmands. Asking them about bird biology and behavior is rather like consulting Paula Deen about your heart condition.

Jodi Minion
wildlife biologist
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Norfolk, Va.



Your column here

Sheila Kuehl — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Having fun with words

IT PROBABLY COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT the two most powerful words topping America's "I can't say that" list are "sex" and "death." The solution? Adopt hundreds of euphemisms to avoid using the actual words.

If you surmised that government- and political-speak run a close third in the "say it some other way" department, you would be correct. You can draw up your own list, but my favorites include "enhanced interrogation," "soft targets," "misspoke," "wide stance," "tactical withdrawal," and "revenue enhancement."

Perhaps, given the quick and effective punishments doled out for telling the truth, we can't blame governments for being so cautious. Most of us are brought up to use "good words" to avoid offending. (My mother used to call everything below the waist "down there.")

George Carlin, the wisest comic truthteller since Will Rogers, once said, "The more syllables a euphemism has, the further divorced from reality it is."

Clearly, the governor's finance staff never downloaded Carlin to their i-Pods, because the January budget proposal projects significant savings from two very long-syllabled euphemisms: "government efficiencies" and "realignment."

Government efficiencies is a phrase meaning "we are going to reduce state agencies, eliminate programs and furlough or fire some state workers."

Realignment may be untangled as, "we don't want it — you take it," putting in motion the transfer of several specific and significant program responsibilities from the state to the counties, including incarceration of low-level non-sex offenders and oversight of certain parolees, as well as a number of health and human services responsibilities. The governor transferred responsibility for certain prisoners and parolees in order to comply with court orders on prison overcrowding. Of course he is describing the transfer as a kinder and gentler (and cheaper) move to local control.

Some of the efficiencies proposed in the January budget involve consolidations in the budgets for the Department of Health Care Services and the Department of Mental Health. The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (familiarly called Mr. Mib) is eliminated and the programs currently administered there — Healthy Families (gone), Access for Infants and Mothers, County Children's Health Initiative and the Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan — are transferred to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

The Department of Mental Health is eliminated and, in its stead, there is a new Department of State Hospitals. The DHCS assumes responsibility for most of the Mental Health Services Act programs and other federal programs. The Department of Social Services will do licensing and quality improvement programs. The Department of Education administers early Mental Health Initiative grants. Other responsibilities are scattered among three or four other existing programs. This move is projected to save $193.1 million and eliminate 620 positions, helping to overcome a projected shortfall in the state hospital system of over $180 million. Others of the proposed changes include conversion to generic drugs, changes to the staffing mix of registered nurses and psychiatric technicians, increasing the bed rates charged to counties for civil commitments and reducing overtime.

The Department of Alcohol and Drug programs is also eliminated, as is the Rehabilitation Appeals Board.

Since environmental concerns get so little of the state budget's General Fund anyway, the consolidations in that area actually save very little. Nonetheless, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery goes (back) to CalEPA, reversing one of Arnold's earlier "efficiencies." In addition, the number of Regional Water Quality Control Boards is reduced and so are the numbers of members appointed to each board (from nine to seven).

The January budget also proposes dropping the total number of agencies in the Executive Branch from 12 to 10 and the elimination of 39 state entities and nine programs, including putting Consumer Affairs, Housing and Community Development, Fair Employment and Housing, Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Department of Business Oversight into one big entity, despite the fact that they all have vastly different responsibilities, procedures and missions.

The governor also continues to delay opening the Veterans Homes in Redding and Fresno, but bumps up the budget of the new Redistricting Commission to pay court costs generated by suits filed to undo the new districts.

The new uber-Office of Business and Economic Development (lovingly titled GO-Biz) gets a proposed $4.1 million to serve as the lead state entity for economic strategy and marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment, and economic growth. It would consolidate the operations of the Infrastructure Bank, the Film and Tourism Commissions, the Small Business Centers and the Small Business Guarantee Loan Program.

In 2011-12, the budget began a significant effort to transfer specific program responsibilities from the state to the counties, including incarceration and parole supervision of low-level offenders, substance abuse treatment programs, adult protective services, foster care, child welfare services, adoptions, child abuse prevention, mental health managed care, court security, and juvenile justice.

The January budget proposed a permanent funding structure for both base and growth funding for realignment, allocating specific portions of the sales tax and Vehicle License Fees to counties. However, the January budget pulls back quite a bit from the original realignment implementation schedules and concentrates, instead, on the public safety aspects. For the juvenile justice system, the budget proposes to end the intake of juveniles to state facilities by Jan. 1, 2013 and provides 10 million to the counties to begin this planning.

The governor also proposed new realignment efforts in the area of education, including a significant change to current funding formulas for aid to local schools in the form of a weighted pupil funding formula to be phased in over five years. Healthcare realignment is slowed significantly to wait for implementation of the federal act. All in all, these proposals are like a first offer in a contract negotiation, waiting for the response of the Legislature.

SHEILA KUEHL served in the California Legislature for 14 years, both in the Assembly and State Senate. She is the founding director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College. For more of her essays, visit www.sheilakuehl.org/

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2012. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA.
Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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

The Q Line

Smoke signal

The City Council decided against banning smoking in multi-unit residences for concerns that they didn't consider condo owners and medical marijuana smokers when the proposed ban was conceived.

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Should the council reconsider the ban or did it go too far to begin with?"

Here are your responses:

"THE COUNCIL SHOULD RECONSIDER THE ban, too many people are suffering from their neighbors' tobacco smoke."

"I AM A SANTA MONICA RESIDENT AND I believe that smoking in the housing ordinance should definitely be revisited. Santa Monica is way behind the time and we really need to address this situation. Non-smokers' health is at danger and we've been in front of City Council for years now, trying to get some release from the smoke and it's definitely time and I believe it should be revisited."

"I THINK WHAT THE CITY COUNCIL needs to come up with is a new ordinance. I think the only way we can ban smoking in multi-residences would be in new construction only and then as it's being built, it has to be re-decided before anybody moves in whether it's going to be smoking or non-smoking. To ban smoking in buildings where people are allowed to smoke right now is a little crazy I think. I don't think any smokers are going to want to live in a non-smoking building, and non-smokers are going to want to live in a smoking building. So that would be the easiest way to do it, just start at new construction."

"ABSOLUTELY THE COUNCIL WENT TOO FAR. I think they should drop the whole thing, forget about it and let people live."

"LET THE COUNCIL RECONSIDER AND ALLOW smoking in the apartments with the following stipulations: have a designated smoking area, an area that is sealed tight and the smoke cannot get out and bother the non-smokers. That way people have their freedom to smoke and people have their freedom to smoke-free air, which is what everyone deserves."

"I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A BAN ON smoking in rentals. As far as condo owners, well right there owners means you have to keep your nose out of it City Hall. Owner is owner. If you don't like it, just don't buy the condo next to a smoker. As far as medical marijuana, how ignorant are you, where have you been for 10, 15, 20 years?"

"WE OWN OUR OWN HOME. WE DON'T own other property in Santa Monica so we wouldn't really have a dog in this race. Except that we are aware that the council seldom acts on behalf of Santa Monica residents unless certain members personally benefit. So don't believe for a minute that these folks are concerned about our health. That said, condo owners are entitled to smoke in their own units. Non-smokers are entitled not to buy condo units close to units owned by smokers. Renters likewise are free to rent apartments they best think meet their needs. No one can force them to do otherwise. As for medical marijuana, it's the best available treatment at the most reasonable price for those suffering from painful chronic illnesses or from the effects of chemotherapy. The world view of the anti-smoking zealots would improve greatly if a whiff of that healing smoke happened to invade their airspace. The council should drop the whole idea of this asinine law, return the money to what we will charitably call their lobbyists, go home, and light up."

"NO IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. Smoking should be banned in apartment buildings. … And whole buildings would need to be labeled as smoke-free. Just labeling one apartment in a building of 12 won't do it as the smoke from all the other units would permeate the one non-smoking unit."

"IT ABSOLUTELY SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED and indeed should go further. Why should my young child have to passively smoke each cigarette our neighbors smoke in our non-smoking building? We are rent-controlled while these smoking neighbors were not. Might as well have posted a "big, yellow R" for "rent-controlled" on our front door if you go by [Councilman Kevin] McKeown's logic. Even the most advanced air purifiers miserably fail when contending with second-hand smoke because the particles of second-hand smoke are too small to be filtered effectively. We know because we've tried it and the results were obvious. We were still kissing our child good night and smelling smoke in her hair and pajamas and blankets — and everywhere else in our apartment. Those against the ordinance claim smoking falls within the fundamental right to privacy. But the courts have consistently rejected this argument. Very few acts by individuals are protected by the Constitution, and there is no constitutional right to smoke. Smokers in multi-unit housing should be required to smoke outside."

"MY NEIGHBOR'S FARTS STINK SO THEY should outlaw farting in apartments. I'm a vegetarian and my neighbor should not be allowed to cook burgers. Our commie City Council has no business going into private people's apartments and condos and forcing us to follow their fascist agendas. They don't believe in property rights. The city has the right to regulate smoking in the street or parks, but apartments, homes and condos should be regulated by the owners and condo associations. Condo associations and apartment owners can choose to make their property smoke free if they want. Anyone who is upset by smokers could have moved into a non-smoking building to begin with. There are plenty of non-smoking buildings already and more all the time for these complainers to move and leave the rest of us alone."

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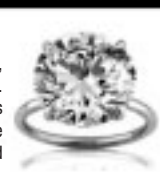

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City of Santa Monica

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Special funds review finds no further deception

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A detailed review of more than 500 state special funds released Friday found hundreds of millions of dollars in accounting discrepancies but no instances beyond the state parks department in which government officials purposely underreported the amount of money.

The review by the governor's finance department found discrepancies, sometimes in the hundreds of millions of dollars, in the amount reported to it and the state controller's office by different government departments but attributed those to differences in accounting methods, timing and human error.

Gov. Jerry Brown called for the review after it was revealed that state parks officials had deceived lawmakers and gubernatorial administration for more than a decade by underreporting nearly $54 million in two special funds.

"The bottom line of this review is that there are no such other circumstances in state government based on what we found," Finance Director Ana Matosantos said during a news conference.

The review is important because the finance department's numbers are used to develop the state's general fund budget each year and because lawmakers take millions of dollars in loans from the special funds to close budget deficits.

California's overall budget includes more than $39 billion from 560 special funds, which are generated from taxes and fees for things such as recycling and vehicle registration. Beginning next year, the two agencies will reconcile their figures before the budget process starts, Matosantos said.

The finance department's review found a difference of $3.7 billion in the amount of special fund money reported to the controller's office and the finance department as of June 30, 2011, the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. After adjusting for bookkeeping differences and a legislative budget gimmick that deferred state payroll by one day, the net difference was $415 million, or less than 5 percent of all money in state special funds.

Even so, the finance and controller's balances for some special funds diverged by hundreds of millions of dollars. That includes a discrepancy of nearly $423 million in the Public Utilities Commission funds. Finance officials said they would launch an audit of the PUC's accounting practices next week.

Matosantos said nearly $84 million of the gap was due to human error that has not yet been fixed. That includes nearly $29 million in the state's restitution fund, which provides funding for crime victims, although it's still unclear whether there is actually additional money available in that account.

The largest differences were in transportation funds, the Fiscal Recovery Fund and Proposition 63, a tax on millionaires to fund mental health services.

Despite the billions of dollars separating the finance department from the controller's office, Matosantos said the budget figures the Legislature relied on this year were "essentially accurate." Besides the state parks money, there likely would not have been additional choices available for spending or cutting, she said.

Still, she said, the governor "wants us to be more accurate than we are today ... He wants to be sure that we can explain at the drop of a hat what the differences are."

After the review was made public Friday, Brown, a Democrat, issued a news release saying he is requiring all state departments to follow new procedures to ensure that the amount of money in state special funds reported to the controller's office and finance department match.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar, called the review "slap-dash."

"This case provides clear evidence that Californians deserve a thorough top-to-bottom audit of state government to determine how many more billions of dollars have been squirreled away by career bureaucrats," he said in a written statement.

The review released Friday was prompted by the revelation last month that the parks department had not reported $20 million in the State Parks and Recreation Fund and $34 million in the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund. The deception dated to at least 2000.

On Friday, Brown said $20 million can be appropriated by the Legislature. He will recommend it go toward parks maintenance projects such as repairing water and waste treatment systems and to match money given to the parks by private groups.

The revelations of the hidden money at the parks department sparked widespread outrage because 70 state parks had been threatened with closure this summer as a result of state budget cuts. Nonprofits and local governments throughout the state had rallied to raise money to keep most of them open.

The scandal cost parks director Ruth Coleman and her chief deputy, Michael Harris, their jobs. The department is being investigated by the attorney general's office and is the subject of a separate audit by the finance department.

State reports first fatality from West Nile virus

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. State officials say an 88-year-old Kern County woman is the first person to die from the West Nile virus in California this year.

Department of Public Health officials said Friday the virus is sickening people earlier this year than last year.

So far ten people in five California counties have gotten sick from West Nile virus this year. More than 240 people have been reported ill nationwide.

Last year, 159 people in California got sick from the virus, and nine people died.

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through mosquito bites. For most people, the risk of illness is low, but the elderly and people with diabetes or hypertension are more vulnerable.

Officials say people should protect themselves from mosquito bites and eliminate standing water.

STATE BRIEFS

PASADENA, Calif.

Anxiety over rover's Hollywood-style Mars landing

Seven minutes of terror.

It sounds like a Hollywood thriller, but the phrase describes the anxiety NASA is expecting as its car-sized robotic rover tries a tricky landing on Mars late Sunday.

Skimming the top of the Martian atmosphere at 13,000 mph, the Curiosity rover needs to brake to a stop — in seven minutes.

The rover is headed for a two-year mission to study whether Mars ever had the elements needed for microbial life. Because of its heft, the 2,000-pound robot can't land the way previous spacecraft did. They relied on air bags to cushion a bouncy touchdown. This time NASA is testing a brand new landing that involves gingerly setting down the rover similar to the way heavy-lift helicopters lower huge loads at the end of a cable. How hard is it? "The degree of difficulty is above a 10," says Adam Steltzner, an engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the mission.

And American University space policy analyst Howard McCurdy says: "It would be a major technological step forward if it works. It's a big gamble."

A communication time delay between Mars and Earth means Curiosity will have to nail the landing by itself, following the half million lines of computer code that engineers uploaded to direct its every move.

After an 8 1/2-month, 352-million-mile journey, here's a step-by-step look at how Curiosity will land:

• Ten minutes before entering the Martian atmosphere, Curiosity separates from the capsule that carried it to Mars.

• Turning its protective heat shield forward, it streaks through the atmosphere at 13,200 mph, slowing itself with a series of S-curves.

• Seven miles from the ground at 900 mph, Curiosity unfurls its enormous parachute.

• Next it sheds its heat shield and turns on radar to scope out the landing site. Now it's 5 miles from touchdown and closing in at 280 mph.

• A video camera aboard Curiosity starts to record the descent.

• A mile from landing, the parachute is jettisoned.

• Curiosity is still attached to a rocket-powered backpack, and those rockets are used to slow it to less than 2 mph.

• Twelve seconds before landing, nylon cables release and lower Curiosity. Once it senses six wheels on the ground, it cuts the cords. The hovering rocket-powered backpack flies out of the way, crashing some distance away.

– ALICIA CHANG

RIVERSIDE, Calif.

Judge says Riverside can't close pot shops

A judge ruled Friday that Riverside County can't close medical marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated areas because the move doesn't give the shops any room to operate legally under state law.

Judge Ronald Taylor issued his ruling regarding the county's ban on pot clinics, and a county attorney vowed to appeal it, the Riverside Press Enterprise reported.

"Today is one of the rare situations where the court didn't get it right," said lawyer Jeffrey Dunn, who represents the county.

Taylor's ruling adds to an array of conflicting court decisions across the state about whether municipalities can prohibit pot shops.

An appeals court in Southern California recently struck down Los Angeles County's 2-year-old ban on dispensaries, ruling that state law allows cooperatives and collectives to grow, store and distribute pot. However, in a separate case, an appeals court said federal law pre-empts municipalities from allowing dispensaries.

Pot clinic advocates say government bans disregard the state law passed by voters in 1996 that allows the use of medical marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

Attorneys for cities and counties counter that local zoning laws can be used to ban dispensaries.

The state Supreme Court has decided to hear the various cases but has yet to set a hearing date.

More than 175 California cities from Calistoga to Camarillo and 20 counties already have banned retail pot shops, according to the medical marijuana advocacy group Americans for Safe Access. Last week, the city of Los Angeles ordered hundreds of pot storefronts to close until the state's high court issues a ruling.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKTON, Calif.

Lawmaker urges use of death row inmate in search

A state lawmaker called on California's prisons chief to authorize the brief release of a death row inmate known as the "Speed Freak Killer" so he can lead searchers to missing people presumed to be victims.

Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani sent a letter Thursday to prison department Secretary Matt Cate urging him to act on an emergency law she wrote authorizing the release under guard of convicted killer Wesley Shermantine from San Quentin Prison, The Record of Stockton reported.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed her bill into law on July 17, and it expires at the end of the year. The Stockton Democrat also visited Shermantine this week. She told the newspaper he says he will cooperate.

Shermantine and his boyhood friend Loren Herzog were arrested in 1999 in connection with a string of methamphetamine-fueled murders. Herzog hanged himself in January after Shermantine began directing authorities to grave sites.

Shermantine's hand-drawn maps led authorities to five bodies, four of which have been identified as Central Valley women reported missing decades ago. The fifth victim remains unidentified.

Shermantine began cooperating with authorities after Sacramento bounty hunter Leonard Padilla promised to pay him about $30,000. Shermantine complained in letters to the Record that Padilla has paid him only about $2,000 so far.

Padilla told the newspaper it appears Shermantine is fixating on the reward and counseled patience.

– AP

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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

education they possibly can," Foster said. "There's a strong sense in the district that our cities deserve a really high level of public education and that while we have a high level of public education, we're nowhere near the potential or level that we deserve as a combined community."

The three are running as what they call the "reform slate" with a common platform that emphasizes student achievement, reduced classroom size, closing the achievement gap between district demographic groups and working with the teachers' union to put in place best practices.

They plan to fund this by cutting down on the cost of administration and by creating an independent Malibu School District, which staff believes would redirect Santa Monica funds back to a sole Santa Monica district.

"We're running on a platform to put ourselves out of work," Jacobson said.

Over the course of the last year, Malibu residents have expressed their distrust of the Board of Education, whose seven members live in Santa Monica.

Controversial issues like districtwide fundraising and the newly proposed $385 million bond measure have come and gone before the board, with what many in Malibu would say was little thought to the interests of their city and their needs.

That, in part, guided the decision of the three candidates to run together. One seat might not serve to get Malibu's interests across, but three would hold a strong minority on the board.

"We feel we're more powerful as three," Jacobson said. "Considering there are three open seats, it's important to show that we want representation and are willing to aggressively pursue broad representation on the board and take on the status quo."

Each candidate comes with a background of advocacy in Malibu.

All three belong to Advocates for Malibu Public Schools, or AMPS, as well as the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, a group created to help form policy surrounding the controversial topic of districtwide fundraising.

Foster served as President of the Webster Elementary Parent Teacher Association, and Jacobson is the former vice president of the Pt. Dume Marine Science Academy parent group.

Ferrar also comes to the table with PTA credentials as the former president of Webster Elementary School, former executive board member at Pt. Dume, executive vice president of the Malibu High School PTA and nine-year member of the PTA Council Executive Board.

Jacobson and Ferrar also served on the Shark Fund, which raises money for sports programs in Malibu.

Their candidacy has support within Malibu leadership like Mayor Laura Rosenthal and Councilmember Lou La Monte.

La Monte was surprised and happy to hear that the three had pulled papers in the election.

"These are three incredibly capable candidates," La Monte said.

The Malibu City Council will vote on cosponsoring a forum for the school district and college district on Aug. 13.

In the meantime, the three candidates will push forward with their message both in Malibu and Santa Monica.

"We think that with a strong message and a compelling theme to our candidacy, we can hopefully overcome those entrenched lines that have been drawn in the sand — school versus school, city versus city — and make it about the kids," Jacobson said.

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MARKETS
FROM PAGE 1

In 1994, there were 1,744.

Organizations such as Slow Food, founded in 1989 to counter fast-food, junk-food lifestyles, first ignited consumer demand for fresh, local produce.

"My husband and I prefer to eat locally and organically," said Tracy Stuntz, a college instructor who shops at the Vineyard Farmer's Market in Fresno. "You go to the grocery store and everything is the same. The farmer's market has yellow zucchini and green onions that are like a foot long — produce you don't see other places."

Some markets are so popular that there are wait lists for farmers to sell there, including one of the largest and most diverse of all, the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market in San Francisco. Farmers from across the region travel there three days a week to sell fruits, vegetables and artisan breads and cheeses to thousands of shoppers, including top chefs from the food-centric city.

Operated by the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, the iconic market on the San Francisco Bay is celebrating its 20th birthday.

"When we started there were only three markets in the city, and now there are 29," said Liz Hunt, a center spokeswoman.

Grant Brians of Heirloom Organic Gardens sells more than 200 old-fashioned varieties of vegetables, herbs and fruit grown on two farms in San Benito County, about 100 miles south of San Francisco. Others bring in stone fruits from the San Joaquin Valley, and berries from the coast.

Dave Stockdale, the center's executive director, said farmers markets empower consumers to become active supporters of their communities.

"Every day eaters have the opportunity to vote with their forks and support small-scale farmers, investing resources in their communities, stimulating their local economies, and keeping ag land in sustainable production," he said.

The center uses the markets to educate consumers about unique varieties of produce and how to prepare them. Stockdale said the growing interest in farmers markets has prompted others to ask the center for help creating educational programs.

San Franciscan Bryan Miller frequents the Heart of the City farmers market at the San Francisco Civic Center, a venue so popular it recently added Fridays to its normal Wednesday and Sunday operations.

"It's fresh and cheap, to be quite honest," Miller said. "I can go to the store on the bus and buy black, ugly, mass-market stuff, but I don't want to do that. I would rather get local produce."

The USDA has worked to make the markets accessible to people of all income levels by outfitting more with the ability to accept payments from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. More than $4 million is being made available to equip markets with wireless point-of-sale equipment.

California, the country's top agricultural producing state, has 827 markets, according to the USDA. New York has 647, more than double the next most prolific state, Massachusetts, which has 313.

The mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Southeast saw the biggest percentage growth in markets, reporting 15.8, 14.4 and 13.1 percent jumps in participation.

The USDA website lists farmers markets with links to their websites. It also allows users to search by zip code, to make finding nearby markets easier: http://search.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/

ELDERS
FROM PAGE 1

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, between 1 million and 2 million Americans aged 65 and over have been injured, exploited or otherwise mistreated by someone they depend on.

That can be an adult child who is caring for them, a professional nursing home or even a neighbor that steps in to help out.

Abuse comes in many forms, be it physical, financial or psychological.

An elder can also find themselves in a position that they can no longer care for themselves and have no other recourse, falling into a cycle of self-neglect.

"I would say what makes them vulnerable is their difficulty in meeting their activities of daily living, such as personal care, meal preparation, transportation, money management and medication management," Havens said. "Once one becomes dependent on another person for those things, it opens them to some neglect and abuse."

Approximately four years ago, the police department created a position for an elder abuse liaison whose job it was to follow up on elder abuse matters that didn't reach the level of criminal charges, Beautz said.

When that person retired, the department was forced to give up the position in response to budget cuts.

After that, detectives would leave the matter to Adult Protective Services, an agency which intervenes on behalf of seniors but whose services focus on crisis intervention rather than ongoing care.

It was hard for the detectives to see a problem and not be in a position to solve it, Beautz said.

"It's frustrating to walk away and not be able to help," Beautz said. "These guys are problem-solvers. … We were still there and we wanted to solve the problem."

That's where Havens comes in.

Havens spends an average of three months following up with each of her clients to make sure that they get the help that they need.

"Ultimately, the goal is to keep older adults living in the community as long as possible and as safely as possible," said Michelle Quiroga-Diaz, the director of In-Home Services at WISE & Healthy Aging.

Before taking up her new role, Havens worked at WISE & Healthy Aging for several years in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, an arm of WISE & Healthy Aging that sends volunteer ombudsmen into nursing homes and assisted living facilities to make sure the elderly are well-cared for.

It prepared her for her new job, Havens said.

"It was very beneficial. I have a good understanding of the long-term care system, including discharge from hospitals and how the long-term care system operates once seniors are within a facility, and what it looks like in their first three months or so," Havens said. "I know how to help the senior navigate the system as well."

Now that Havens has over 150 cases under her belt, she hopes to increase the number of cases where the victims welcome the aid.

Only half of the clients were receptive, which Havens hopes will increase as word about the position gets out.

"They may not see a need to change their situation," Quiroga-Diaz said. "There may be a lifelong pattern of self-neglecting characteristics, and with that comes years of being able to adapt and cope on their own. They have found it to be effective for them."

The team hopes that other agencies will look at the partnership between the SMPD and nonprofit and find it to be effective for them as well.

"It's an innovative model of care management services in that it's a unique partnership with the police jurisdiction," Quiroga-Diaz said. "It could be replicated other places."

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SLEIGHT OF HAND

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Renowned teen magician Trigg Watson performs for a group of kids during the screening of 'Make Believe' at the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club on Friday. 'Make Believe' follows the story of six of the best and youngest magicians from around the world as they compete for the title of Teen World Champion.

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Satisfying Hump Day hunger

New food truck lot comes to SM

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SANTA MONICA BLVD Move over Main Street, there's a new food truck lot in town.

This Wednesday head over to the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard to sample grub from a dozen different food trucks at the Hump Day Lot created by entrepreneur and confessed foodie Brian Spire.

"I've always been a foodie and I just love the opportunity to bring smiles to the faces of people," said Spire, who lived and worked in Ocean Park for 20 years selling Batman belt buckles and other jewelry.

He plans to have at least six trucks during the lunch rush and six more in the evening, and has worked out a deal with Central Social Aid and Pleasure Club, a music lounge located next to the lot, so that diners can have a place to sit, relax and sip a cocktail.

"We're happy to do it and are hoping that it works out well and that it continues," said Rory Lovett, owner of Central.

The site of the food truck lot was home to the first in Santa Monica before city officials shut it down in January of 2010 because of a lack of proper permits.

Spire made contact with the property owner, Steve Taub, and worked out an arrangement in which the two would share in the profits made from charging food trucks a flat fee to set up shop in the lot, which normally sits empty aside from Christmas trees during the holidays.

Spire then went to City Hall to obtain a conditional use permit and is so far complying with the requirements. He has to provide security, over 20 parking spaces, restrooms and a place to discard trash, city officials said.

Spire said he has three week's worth of food trucks lined up and if it is a success plans to apply for a permanent permit once the City Council approves a change to the Municipal Code to allow for off-street food truck lots on a regular basis. The change is in response to the seemingly unstoppable trend of gourmet trucks that appeal to those who want quality food fast.

Santa Monicans already have a regular food truck court on Main Street, which is open every Tuesday night adjacent to the California History Museum. It is operating under the same conditional use permit that Spire has.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GRUB: **A new food truck lot is coming to the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 14th Street.**

Olympic High School has also brought in the mobile eateries to help raise money for students.

But with the food truck craze still going strong, who couldn't use another night to sample a variety of foods? Spire said the first evening of the Hump Day Lot will feature food from Border Grill, Roll'n Lobster, George's Greek Truck and Trailer Park Truck.

The lot will be open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. for dinner.

"I've been a person who loves all sorts of ethnic food and that which is a little bit out of the norm," Spire said. "I hope people come out to experience that many different flavors so that we can keep this going."

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Adrien Finkel photo courtesy

LOCAL: **Ann Gentry, founder of Real Food Daily and a leader in vegetarian cuisine, will be one of the chefs featured Friday night at Los Angeles Food & Wine Festival's Summer at the Shore event.**

No need to drive to dine

SM hosts 2 L.A. Food & Wine events

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

OCEAN AVE Santa Monicans won't have to travel far to enjoy the second annual Los Angeles Food & Wine Festival.

Two events will be held this Friday, Aug. 10, in the city by the sea at the classic Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows — Summer at the Shore and INDULGE.

"Santa Monica represents what makes coastal life so wonderful and our event[s] will provide an unforgettable experience and an opportunity to sip and savor from the top chefs in the area paired with nationally renowned culinary talent," said Robert Weakley, co-founder, Los Angeles Food & Wine.

People who attend Summer at the Shore, hosted by "MasterChef" judge Graham Elliott, will be able to stroll around booths and sample wine and food from some of Santa Monica's best chefs, including Nyesha Arrington of Wilshire, Michael's John Carlos-Kuramoto, Sonoma Wine Garden's Jeremy Grossman and many more.

The event is great for chatting and eating small bites.

However, if you'd prefer a more extensive menu, INDULGE may suit your taste. Located at Chef Ray Garcia's FIG Restaurant, this exclusive culinary experience features chefs Josiah Citrin from Melisse, Raphael Lunetta from JiRaffe and Joe Miller from Bar Pinxto and Joe's. The event will be composed of multiple courses and provide a distinct collection of wines from California and beyond.

"We are confident these events will give us the opportunity to increase Santa Monica's recognition as an international dining destination," said Misti Kerns, president, Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, which is sponsoring the events along with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

"Santa Monica restaurants offer some of the most unique dining experiences in L.A. and we are thrilled to be part of an event that captures the essence of Santa Monica's distinct culinary scene," said Laurel Rosen, president and CEO of the chamber.

Summer at the Shore tickets are on sale for $150 for general admission and $195 for VIP. INDULGE tickets are $350 per person. A package offering VIP access to Summer at the Shore and a reservation at FIG will be available for $450 per person. To purchase, visit www.lafw.com or call (855) 433-5239.

A CHILI SUMMER

Just because you don't live in Santa Fe doesn't mean you have to miss out on fresh, roasted chili peppers.

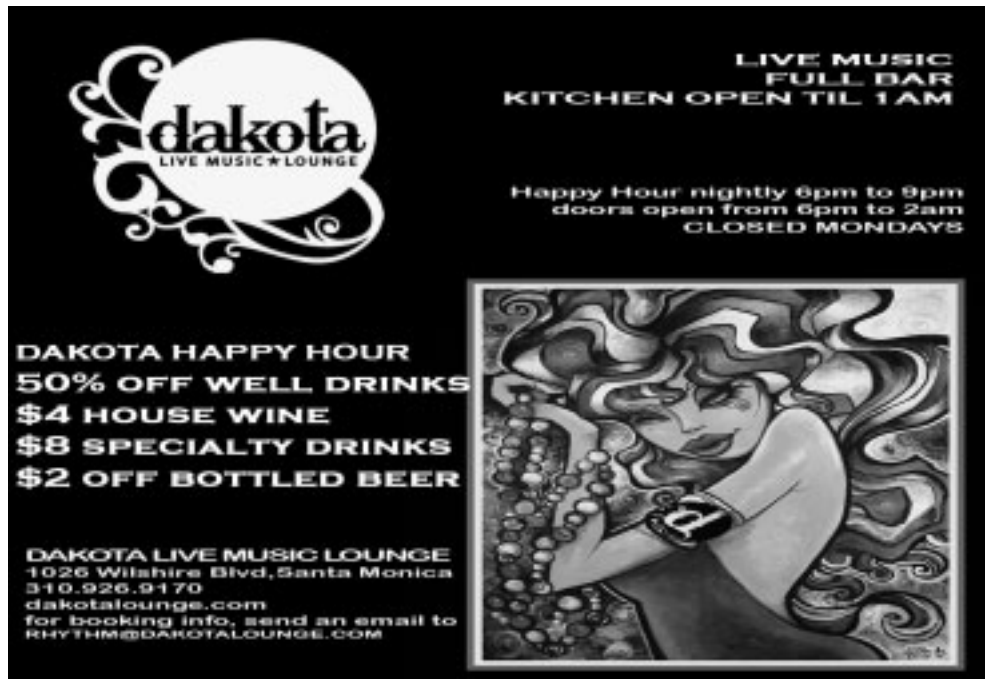
Head over to the Saturday Farmers' Market at Virginia Avenue Park and pick up a pound or two of fresh pasillas, jalapeños or red peppers.

The roasts will take place every Saturday throughout September at 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. (or whenever the chilis are gone.) Chilis sell for $2 a pound.

With late summer here, it's perfect time for a chili harvest and roast. Use the chilis in stews, sauces or simply slice them up, add some fresh mozzarella, some olive oil, salt and pepper and rest it on some fresh bread from Bay Cities Deli — easy and delicious.

kevinh@smdp.com

AMANCAI BIRABEN contributed to this report.









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Economy generates 163K jobs in sign of resilience

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER & PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON The U.S. economy generated jobs last month at the fastest pace since February, a sign it is resilient enough to pull out of a midyear slump and grow modestly even as the rest of the world slows down.

The 163,000 jobs employers added in July ended three months of weak hiring. But the surprising gains weren't enough to drive down the unemployment rate, which ticked up to 8.3 percent last month from 8.2 percent in June — the 42nd straight month the jobless rate has exceeded 8 percent. The United States remains stuck with the weakest economic recovery since World War II.

The latest job numbers, released Friday by the Labor Department, provided fodder both for President Barack Obama, who highlighted improved hiring in the private sector, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney, who pointed toward higher unemployment.

"It's not especially weak, but it's not especially strong," said Scott Brown, chief economist at the investment firm Raymond James.

Investors focused on the positive. The Dow Jones industrials surged 217 points.

Three more monthly jobs reports will come out before Election Day, including the one for October on Friday, Nov. 2, just four days before Americans vote.

No modern president has faced re-election when unemployment was so high. President Jimmy Carter was bounced from office in November 1980 when unemployment was 7.5 percent.

In remarks at the White House, Obama said the private sector has added 4.5 million jobs in the past 29 months. But he acknowledged there still are too many people out of work. "We've got more work to do on their behalf," he said.

Romney focused on the increase in the unemployment rate, as did other Republicans. "Middle-class Americans deserve better, and I believe America can do better," he said in a statement.

The economy is still struggling more than three years after the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. The collapse of the housing market and the financial crisis that followed froze credit, destroyed trillions of dollars in household wealth and brought home construction to a halt. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic output, remains weak as Americans pay down debts and save more.

From April through June this year, the economy expanded at a listless 1.5 percent annual pace, a slowdown from the January-March pace of 2 percent.

The job market got off to a strong start in 2012. Employers added an average 226,000 a month from January through March.

But the hiring spree was caused partly by an unseasonably warm winter that allowed construction companies and other firms to hire earlier in the year than usual, effectively stealing jobs from the spring. The payback showed up as weak hiring — an average 73,000 a month — from April through June.

Then came the 163,000 new jobs in July, beating the 100,000 economists had expected.

Now that the warm weather effects have worn off, economists expect job growth to settle into range of 100,000 to 150,000 a month.

That would be consistent: The economy has added an average of 151,000 jobs a month this year. But that hasn't been enough to bring unemployment down. At 8.3 percent, unemployment was as high in July as it had been in January.

The unemployment rate can rise even when hiring picks up because the government derives the figures from two different surveys.

One is called the payroll survey. It asks mostly large companies and government agencies how many people they employed during the month. This survey produces the number of jobs gained or lost.

The other is the household survey. Government workers ask whether the adults in a household have a job and use the findings to produce the unemployment rate. Last month's uptick in joblessness was practically a rounding error: The unemployment rate blipped up from 8.22 percent in June to 8.25 in July.

Worries have intensified that the U.S. economy will fall off a "fiscal cliff" at the end of the year. That's when more than $600 billion in tax increases and spending cuts will kick in unless Congress reaches a budget deal.

The draconian dose of austerity is meant to force Republicans and Democrats to compromise. If they can't and taxes go up and spending gets slashed, the economy will plunge into recession, contracting at an annual rate of 1.3 percent in the first six months of 2013, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The rest of the world is slowing. Much of Europe is in recession as policymakers struggle to deal with high government debts, weak banks and the threat that countries will abandon the euro currency and wreck the region's financial system.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said Thursday the bank is preparing to buy government bonds to help drive down borrowing costs in debt-ridden countries like Spain and Italy.

The high-powered economies of China, India and Brazil are also slowing sharply, partly because Europe's troubles have hurt their exports.

In the United States, the Federal Reserve earlier this week passed up a chance to approve new measures to jolt economic growth but signaled it was ready to act if growth and hiring stayed week. That led many economists to predict the Fed would announce a third round of bond purchases designed to push long-term interest rates down and generate more borrowing and spending in the economy.

If the previous three months of lackluster job creation were not enough to spur the Fed into acting more aggressively, then Friday's numbers "must surely kill off the possibility of imminent action," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit in London.

The job market still has a long way to go. The economy lost 8.8 million jobs from the time employment peaked in January 2008 until it hit bottom in February 2010. Since then, just 4 million, or 46 percent, have been recovered. Never since World War II has the economy been so slow to recover all the jobs lost in a downturn.

A broader measure of weakness in the job market deteriorated in July: The proportion of Americans who were either unemployed, working part-time because they couldn't find full-time work or too discouraged to look for work rose to 15 percent from 14.9 percent in June.

Nearly 5.2 million Americans have been out of work for six months or more.

More than gay marriage driving Chick-fil-A flap

BY BILL BARROW
Associated Press

ATLANTA When President Barack Obama said same-sex couples should have the right to marry, it was national news for a few days before the presidential campaign and the country went back to business as usual.

Yet weeks after a fast-food executive doubled down on his opposition to gay marriage, debate rages on about equality, religious values and free speech. "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day" on Wednesday, with supporters flooding the chain's franchises around the country, was countered with "kiss-ins" by same-sex couples at assorted locations Friday, long after Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy's initial comments to a religious publication touched off the clash.

That's an unusual amount of staying power for what initially looked like just another skirmish over a hot-button question.

Coursing throughout the conversations on social media, in letters to the editor and in long lines to buy chicken sandwiches is the sense among proud Southerners that the outcry over Cathy's comments smacks of regional stereotyping. When public officials in Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago tell a Southern icon such as Chick-fil-A that it's no longer welcome, and that Cathy should keep his opinions to himself, many in the Atlanta-based chain's home region hear more than a little northern condescension.

"Maybe the reaction is just because we're Southerners," said Rose Mason, who was lunching Friday at a Chick-fil-A in suburban Atlanta.

Mason, who described herself as Christian, said she grew up in New York City. Now, she said, "I deal with my sister telling me we're a little backward. People have this idea that we're just behind on everything. So they view anything we say through that (perception)."

Cathy, a devout Southern Baptist whose family has always been outspoken about its faith, sparked the controversy by telling the Baptist Press that he and his family-owned restaurant chain are "guilty as charged" for openly — and financially — supporting groups that advocate for "the biblical definition of a family unit." He later added that the United States is "inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage."

For Marci Alt, organizer of a protest Friday at a Chick-fil-A in the relatively liberal Atlanta suburb of Decatur, it's Cathy's financial backing of conservative groups such as the Family Research Council that takes the conversation beyond merely what he said.

"Dan Cathy has the same First Amendment rights that I do. If he doesn't want to agree with same-sex marriage, I understand that," she said.

"But when he puts a pen to paper and writes a check to an organization that is about to squash my equal rights, I have a problem with that."

Beyond Friday's organized displays of affection, there were other signs that the furor still had legs. Police were investigating graffiti on the side of a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Torrance, Calif., that read "Tastes like hate" and had a painting of a cow, in reference to the chain's ubiquitous ads featuring cows encouraging people to eat poultry.

U.S. to weigh gay relationships in deportation cases

BY AMY TAXIN & LISA LEFF
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Amid pressure from Democratic lawmakers, Homeland Security officials reiterated Friday that a foreigner's long-standing same-sex relationship with a U.S. citizen could help stave off the threat of deportation.

Binational gay couples are eligible for consideration under a federal program designed to focus resources away from low-priority deportation cases and let officials spend more time tracking down convicted criminals, said Marsha Catron, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security.

However, the Obama administration will not automatically shelve deportation cases or process green card applications involving foreign citizens married to same-sex American partners.

Catron said her agency will continue to comply with a 1996 law that prohibits the government from recognizing same-sex relationships, even as Homeland Security takes these relationships into consideration when evaluating possible deportation.

The Obama administration last year said it considers the 1996 law unconstitutional and would no longer defend it in court.

Friday's statement, which builds on comments Homeland Security officials made last summer, came three days after 84 lawmakers demanded the agency put its position in writing to help protect same-sex couples from deportation.

Immigrant advocates welcomed the comments but said a formal policy still is needed.

"It is significant to me because it is expressly inclusive of LGBT families," said Lavi Soloway, an immigration attorney who represents a number of same-sex couples in deportation proceedings.

However, "as long as it's not in writing it doesn't mean that much for an individual in deportation," Soloway said.

That sentiment was echoed by Drew Hammill, a spokesman for Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, one of the authors of a letter this week urging the federal government to recognize couples' ties in a memo or field guidance.

The statement was first reported on Thursday by the online news site BuzzFeed.

Homeland Security officials did not answer questions about whether a written memo would be issued.

The federal government last year began reviewing deportation cases to determine which ones should be top priority and which ones might be shelved. Government attorneys weigh factors such as a person's criminal record, family ties and community relations in making their decisions.

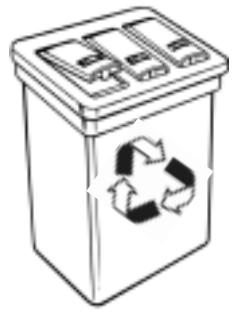
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2403 AND 2404 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2403 and 2404, which were adopted by the City Council on July 24, 2012.

Ordinance Number 2403 modifies various Municipal Code sections relating to parking to, among other things, reflect various actions the City Council has recently taken to improve traffic and parking and to create flexibility in adjusting parking rates based on occupancy in order to better manage parking resources.

Ordinance 2404 amends the Municipal code to revise procedures for administrative hearings on taxicab violations by, among other things, conforming them to other City hearing procedures and ensuring adequate Due Process for taxicab companies. These revisions are intended to facilitate Code Enforcements work to effectuate taxicab rules.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the city Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.

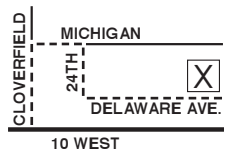


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U.N. General Assembly denounces Syrian crackdown

BY PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly denounced Syria's crackdown on dissent Friday in a symbolic effort meant to push the deadlocked Security Council and the world at large into action on stopping the country's civil war.

Before the vote, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon reminded the Assembly of the fresh violence in the city of Aleppo and drew comparisons between the failure to act in Syria with the international community's failure to protect people from past genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia, and Rwanda.

"The conflict in Syria is a test of everything this organization stands for," Ban said. "I do not want today's United Nations to fail that test."

The vote came after the more powerful Security Council was stopped by a series of Russian and Chinese vetoes on resolutions that would have opened the door to sanctions on Syria.

The General Assembly vote was 133 in support of the resolution and 12 against, with 31 abstaining. Syria's ambassador angrily called the vote "a piece of theater."

Though General Assembly resolutions are unenforceable, a strong vote can carry moral weight.

Even so, the resolution's Arab sponsors this week weakened two key provisions — a demand that President Bashar Assad resign and a call for other nations to place sanctions on Syria.

Russia and China had objected to those provisions. Both voted "no" Friday, along with Syria, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Belarus, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Zimbabwe and Venezuela.

The revised resolution takes a swipe at Russia and China by "deploring the Security Council failure" to act.

Frustration over the lack of action was clear. Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan resigned Thursday as the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria after his peace proposals failed.

Friday's session rang with accusations over why Annan's mission failed.

The Syria uprising has left 19,000 dead since it erupted in March 2011. The U.N. estimates that 1.5 million people have been forced to abandon their homes but remain in the country.

"The acts of brutality that are being reported may constitute crimes against humanity or war crimes," Ban said of the Aleppo fighting. "Such acts must be investigated and the perpetrators held to account."

The resolution backs Annan's "demand that the first step in the cessation of violence has to be made by the Syrian authorities."

It also demands the lockdown of the regime's chemical and biological weapons. Israel's Ambassador Ron Prosor said, "We should not pretend that a regime that cuts the throats of children today will not be prepared to gas them tomorrow. Assad must know that he will be held accountable for using these weapons."

The resolution denounces attacks on children as young as 9 by the Syrian government, military intelligence services and militias. It condemns the increasing Syrian military reliance on heavy weapons, including tanks and helicopters, and "failure to withdraw its troops and heavy weapons to their barracks" in line with Annan's proposals.

Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari called the resolution's main sponsors, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, "despotic oligarchies."

"The draft resolution will have no impact whatsoever. It is a piece of theater," he told reporters after the vote. And Iran's deputy ambassador, Eshagh Alehabib, called the resolution "one-sided."

British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said the resolution was not meant to be balanced. The intent, he said, was to issue an unequivocal condemnation of the Syrian regime.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said afterward that a reference in the resolution did amount to a demand for Assad leaving power: "Importantly, the resolution also welcomes the Arab League's July 22nd decision, which calls for Assad to step down and for a transitional government to be formed."

On Thursday, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said he could not support the General Assembly's "extremely unbalanced and one-sided resolution." He said the countries pushing the resolution were providing weapons to armed opposition groups.

The vote came a day after U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous told the Security Council that U.N. military observers in Aleppo were seeing "a considerable buildup of military means, where we have reason to believe that the main battle is about to start." The rebels have commandeered tanks, and are bringing them into combat as Syrian warplanes strike back.

The observer mission is in the midst of a 30-day extension of its mandate, which expires on Aug. 19. Extending it would require passage of another resolution in the Security Council.

The mission has been largely kept from its work by the violence, and it is already being cut back, from its original authorized strength of 300 to currently 115 monitors and 80 civilians.

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India left in dark by utilities losing $10 billion a year

BY ERIKA KINETZ
AP Business Writer

MUMBAI, India A decade ago, Chandrakant's fishing village in India's financial capital Mumbai lived mostly by candlelight. What people did not have — electricity — they stole.

It was easy enough to hook onto the two thin power lines that passed over the village and take a little for themselves.

Today, his settlement has moved up the feeding chain of Mumbai neighborhoods and most residents have city electricity meters. But the loose habits of the past persist. Residents still steal power on special occasions, weddings or funerals that need to be lit brighter than their home meters can bear.

An electrician like Chandrakant — who asked that his full name and that of his neighborhood not be revealed because of his illegal activity — just hooks onto one of four main distribution lines in the village, with the quiet approval of local officials.

India's power sector is lousy with thieves. Men like Chandrakant are the least of them.

As much as 40 percent of the power generated in India is not paid for. The bulk of it is stolen.

If that seems unsustainable, it is.

India suffered the worst blackouts in history this week, which left over 600 million people without power. The lights are back on, for now, but the crisis is evidence of deep problems in a sector teetering on the edge of bankruptcy for the second time in a decade.

Investigators have yet to pinpoint the cause of this week's shutdowns. Early, contested reports suggest states were drawing more than their share of power. Scanty rainfall has driven up demand, as farmers switch on electric pumps for irrigation, and crimped hydroelectric supply, which generates about 20 percent of India's electricity.

The deeper problem, however, stems from decades of populist pricing and inefficiency that have pushed losses at state utilities to an estimated $10 billion in the year that ended in March, according to the Planning Commission, a top government advisory body. That's roughly 1 percent of India's gross domestic product.

Losses from theft aside, state utilities are losing increasing amounts on every unit of electricity they sell because tariffs set by regulators have not kept pace with rising costs.

In the most recent fiscal year, utilities lost an estimated 1.07 rupees (about 2 cents) per kilowatt hour, up 40 percent since fiscal 1999.

New Delhi is now contemplating a $21.7 billion bailout for state utilities, last thrown a lifeline in 2001.

The problem really begins in the ground, with coal, which accounts for more than half of India's electricity supply.

Efforts to force Coal India — an inefficient government behemoth with a near monopoly on coal mining — to ramp up supply have foundered. Fights over land acquisition and stalled environmental clearances have made it difficult to open new mines. Power companies now are looking overseas for coal.

In the last four years, the cost to utilities of buying power rose 21 percent — faster than ever before, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers — but they have been unable to pass that to consumers because of price regulations.

Politicians currying favor with the farm vote have granted free or heavily subsidized power for agriculture, while idealists have fought to bring affordable light to the poor. Much of rural electricity is unmetered, creating opportunities for abuse.

Kameswara Rao, executive director of energy, utilities and mining at PricewaterhouseCoopers in India, said India should force states to raise rates in line with inflation and sell off part of their distribution grids to private companies.

Regulators, however, have been reluctant to raise consumer prices, preferring to push utilities to become more efficient. States don't want to cede control of their massive utilities, which rake in billions of dollars in annual revenue.

With their rickety finances, state power companies have not been able to keep pace with rising demand and have expanded the grid faster than they can manage it, analysts say.

Even though Indians use very little energy — per capita consumption is a third of the world average — there is not enough juice to go around. India has allocated 14.5 percent or more of its budget to the power sector since 1969, but has managed to add only half has much capacity as planned for the last 15 years.

At peak times, demand outstrips supply by over 10 percent, according to the Planning Commission.

"When a network grows you need more staff to police the network. If I don't see staff for a few months, it's easy for me to go hook onto a wire," Rao said. "The utility staff that comes around could just turn a blind eye. It's no different than passing a buck to a traffic cop, saying, 'Hey, let me go.'"

Lack of staff also means broken meters go unfixed and new areas are hooked to the grid before a billing system is in place, adding to losses, he said.

Pressure for price hikes is building, Rao said. Banks have stopped lending to state utilities, which has forced them to ration electricity because they don't have enough cash to buy more power, he said.

"People get upset," he said. "They say, 'Increase the tariff, just give us better supply.'"

The failure of Indian utilities has wider repercussions for the economy, argues Eurasia Group analyst Seema Desai.

It puts at risk the finances of private companies that sell utilities power, creating a disincentive to investment in a sector that badly needs it.

India's mainly state-backed banks loaned a lot of money to power companies and face large write-downs that could lead to a credit crunch, she said.

The timing could not be worse for New Delhi, which is under pressure to reduce its fiscal deficit even as slowing growth imperils tax revenue.

"Banks will take a hit," Desai said. "At some point it will fall on the central government to recapitalize the banks."

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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

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

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Info@legalgrind.com

MONDAY
4:00-5:00 pm (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman

TUESDAY
9:00am-12:00pm Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)

4:00pm-5:00pm (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month). Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, contract disputes, commercial disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, personal injury medical malpractice, and wrongful death.

5:00 - 7:00 pm Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumler. (Call for Appointment) at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café.

WEDNESDAY
11:00am-3:00pm Special Education Law (By appointment only. Also available by appointment on Mondays or Fridays from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm) Attorney Alison Arkin has extensive experience working with parfents of special needs children with a wide range of disabilities, and can help them obtain appropriate services from both school districts and regional centers. She has experience with every level of the process including obtaining appropriate assessements, representation at IEP meeting, mediations, settlement negotiations and hearings.

5:00-6:30pm Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields

THURSDAY
12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)
4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

FRIDAY
4:00-5:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only

4:00-5:00pm (1st & 3rd Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.

SATURDAY
10am-11:30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday/month) Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Will Contests, Probate, Elder Law Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, Construction Contracts Family Law including Divorce, Child/Spousal Support, Prenuptial Agreements, Personal Injury, Accidents, Premises and Product Liability, & Legal Malpractice with Attorney Richard Ruman. (By appointment only-Please call Call Dick at 310.273.7474)

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney SandeepAgarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)

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SURF REPORT



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

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 67.3°

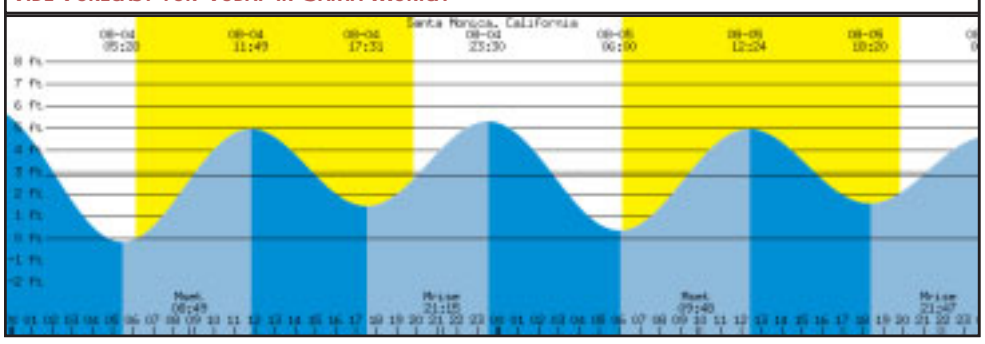
Swell Forecast

Should run knee to waist high at south facing breaks, knee to waist high at west facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

SSE swell building into south facing breaks, chest high average, and head high on the rogue waves pluses.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **August 1, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	10
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	10
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.	10	10
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	10
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	10
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	10
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	10
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	10
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	10
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	10
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	10
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	10
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	10
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	10
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	10
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	10
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	10
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	10
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	10
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	10
Tuna Canyon.	10	10
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	10
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	10
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	10
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	10

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	10
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	10
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	10
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	10
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	10
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	10
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	10
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	10
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	10
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	10
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	10
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	10
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	10
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	10
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A	10
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	10
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A+	10
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	10
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	10
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBAW jetty).	A+	10
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	10
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	10
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	10

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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MLB

Phillies trade Blanton to Dodgers

BY ROB MAADDI
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA Joe Blanton earned a World Series ring the last time he was traded. He's hoping for an encore.

The right-hander was sent from the Philadelphia Phillies to the Dodgers on Friday after Los Angeles claimed him on waivers.

Blanton will join outfielder Shane Victorino, who was traded from Philadelphia to Los Angeles on Tuesday. The last-place Phillies also dealt outfielder Hunter Pence to San Francisco earlier this week.

"It was a little bit of a shock, especially since the trade deadline had passed," Blanton said. "But when you're in trade rumors, you've got to be ready to do whatever. And I was happy if I stayed. At the same time, it will be a new thing, a new adventure to go. And that's always fun."

The 31-year-old Blanton is 8-9 with a 4.59 ERA in 20 starts and one relief appearance. He is making $8.5 million and, like Victorino, can become a free agent after the season.

While the cost-cutting Phillies are preparing for 2013, the Dodgers entered the day a half-game behind San Francisco in the NL West. Blanton bolsters a rotation that includes reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw.

"You play for the postseason and a chance to go to the World Series. And they're in a good position," Blanton said. "They have a very good team over there. Pitching against them, I know how good their lineup is. They're in a good position right now. So that's always exciting. They're fighting to win out there, and that's always exciting to be a part of."

Philadelphia will receive a player to be named or cash for Blanton. To fill the roster spot, the Phillies recalled right-hander B.J. Rosenberg from Triple-A Lehigh Valley. Kyle Kendrick was to start against Arizona in Blanton's place Friday night.

Blanton came to Philadelphia after a trade with Oakland in July 2008 and helped the Phillies win their second World Series title. He earned a victory in Game 4 against Tampa Bay and hit a three-run homer off Edwin Jackson.

"I remember the parade, going down Broad Street and all the fans everywhere," Blanton said. "Just the thrill of being able to come to such a baseball city. The fans have been unbelievable the whole time I've been here. I've had an amazing time here."

Blanton was 34-25 with a 4.47 ERA in 100 starts and five relief appearances with the Phillies. Since 2008, Blanton has the fourth-best winning record among all major league starters after the All-Star break at 17-6. He's 38-20 with a 3.83 ERA in 99 games (91 starts) after the break in his career.

Overall, Blanton is 81-71 with a 4.25 ERA in nine seasons. He's 2-0 with a 4.02 ERA in 10 postseason games, including six starts.

The five-time defending NL East champion Phillies have been stuck in last place since June and are dumping salaries. They've trimmed enough off their payroll to avoid having to pay the luxury tax this year.

Santa Monica Daily Press
PRESENTS
Squirm Night
2012 LOCAL CANDIDATES FORUM

VOTE ELECTION 2012

Monday, Oct. 15, 6:00 p.m.

The Santa Monica Public Library's
Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium

Featuring
Candidates for the Santa Monica City Council,
the Santa Monica–Malibu Unified School District Board of Education.
Answers to the tough questions that face our city posed
by the SMDP editorial staff and most importantly, YOU.

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FREE ADMISSION, open to the public, light hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

For more information call 310-458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012
Once Upon a Time in the West (PG-13) 2hrs 45min
7:30pm

Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012
The Wizard of Oz (G) 1hr 41min
4:00pm

The Great Silence (NR) 1hr 45min
A Bullet for the General (NR) 2hrs 15min
7:30pm

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

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:50pm, 10:20pm

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

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

Babymakers (R) 1hr 33min
11:40am, 2:05pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
10:30am, 4:50pm, 11:05pm

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

Total Recall (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

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

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) 1hr 34min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kumaré (NR) 1hr 24min
11:00am

Big Boys Gone Bananas! (NR) 1hr 30min
11:10am

Wagner's Dream: Met Opera Ring Cycle (NR) 2hrs 00min
11:05am

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

Total Recall (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hang out tonight, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have a lot to consider before you take off to make a purchase. When you're with others, make sure to keep much of this process to yourself. A neighbor or family member wants to catch up on your news. You may be at a party before you know it. Tonight: Hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Join your friends as soon as possible. Much is going on around you. Wherever you are, make sure you are with people. Do not make a big deal about spending; just let go. A friend comes up with an inspirational idea. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your optimism and upbeat attitude help others get past a problem. Still, you might need to take the lead in a key situation. Be honest if you feel you just do not want to handle things anymore. An older friend or relative plays into your plans. Tonight: Try not to go to extremes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be pushed to your limit with so many thoughts and so much to do. Once you detach, you will understand exactly what is needed and how to do it. Evaluate the pros and cons of this particular situation. Tonight: You might need a break from the here-and-now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others want you to join them. Whether watching a sport or participating in one, you'll enjoy yourself. Nevertheless, a close friend or loved one wants to spend some time with you. Why not bring everyone together? Tonight: Having fun wherever you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others seem to want to lure you away from whatever you are doing. Handle your responsibilities before you touch base with an older relative, friend or boss. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ It seems important to handle a project or complete a task around your home before you take off. Whether you're on a picnic or taking a drive to a favorite area, you lose yourself outside your normal setting and come back invigorated. Tonight: Make it different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Allow your creativity to emerge when dealing with a fun project involving a partner. Together, you'll come up with a unique concept that delights many people. Your ideas might only relate to a birthday or making a birthday party more fun. Tonight: Let your hair down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might feel pressured to set aside your plans in order to do something for a partner or a close family member. You could be taken aback by how much your company is desired. Tonight: Having a ball.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You speak your mind even when you're just chatting with a casual acquaintance. You have a way of presenting your ideas so that the other person receives the full, blunt meaning. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You cannot seem to find any reason not to go to extremes and overindulge a bit. You are full of spirit and get-up-and-go. A new friend, loved one or child cheers you on. Your independence often breeds mischief. Such is the case today. Tonight: Whatever suits your pleasure.

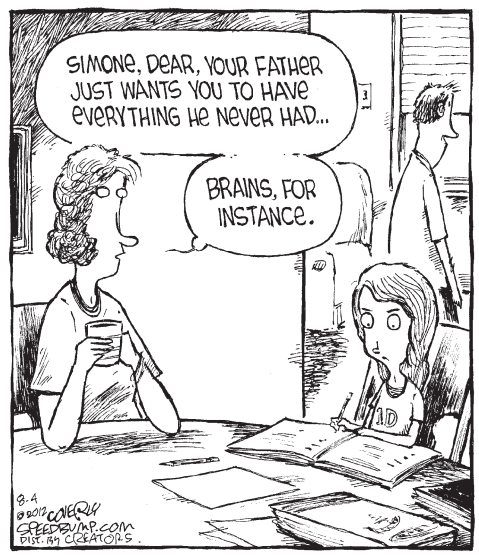
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You might be pushing the line with family members or roommates without realizing it. Not everyone is as clear as you are. Don't count on someone's smiling nod to continue if you know what you are doing could irritate him or her. Still, go for what you want. Tonight: Your call.

Happy birthday

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

You often feel as if you have too much on your plate. A key person, or persons, in your life will be there to pitch in. Clearly you are not by yourself. If you are single, you will long for a relationship that has meaning. You are likely to meet this person through a friend. If you are attached, the two of you bond more tightly together. You have each other's backs and show immense caring. Make sure you have an old-fashioned date every so often. PISCES has more imagination than you, if that is possible.

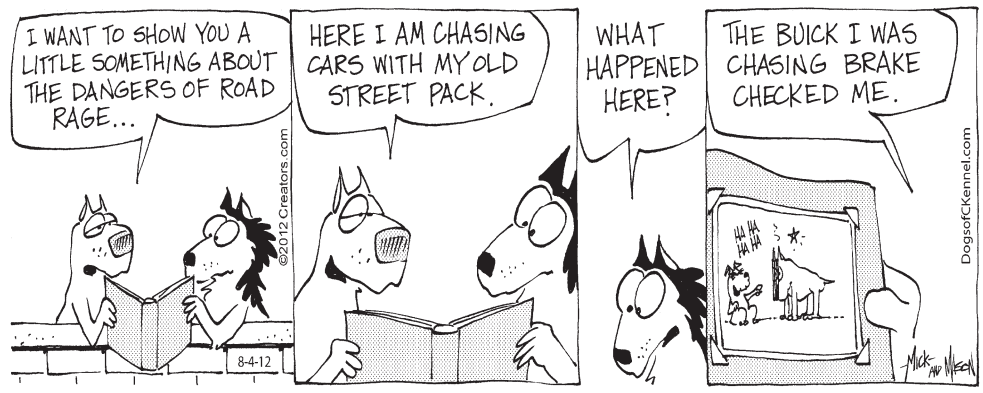
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



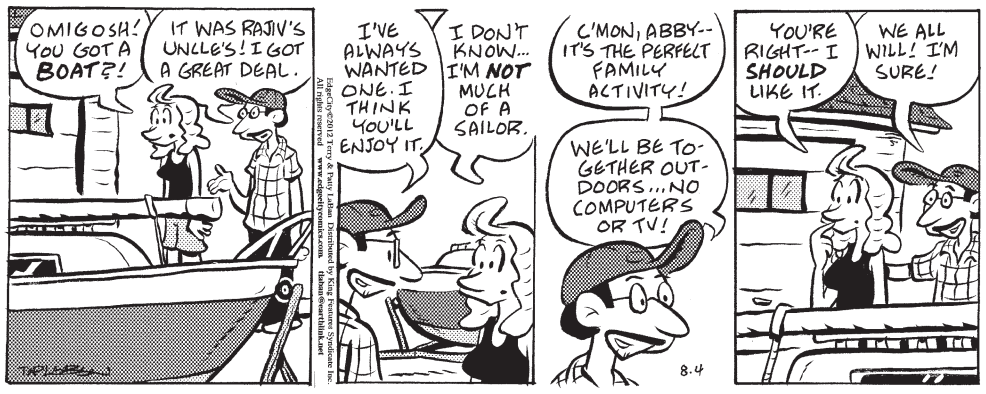
Strange Brew
By John Deering



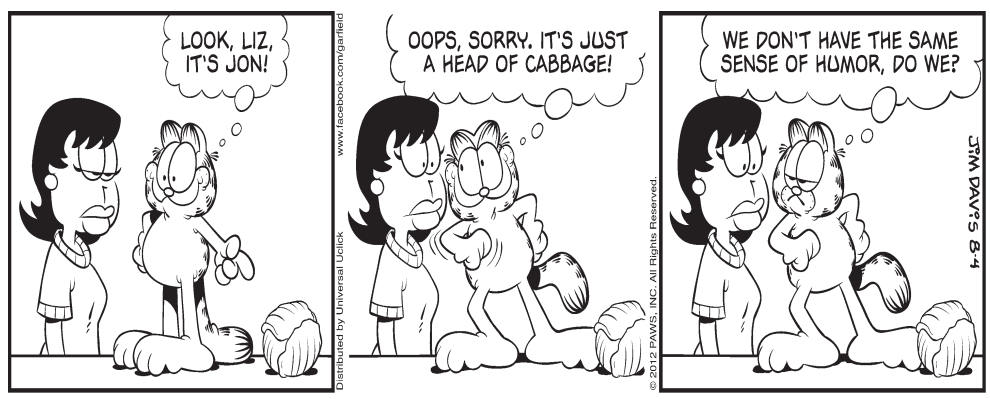
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



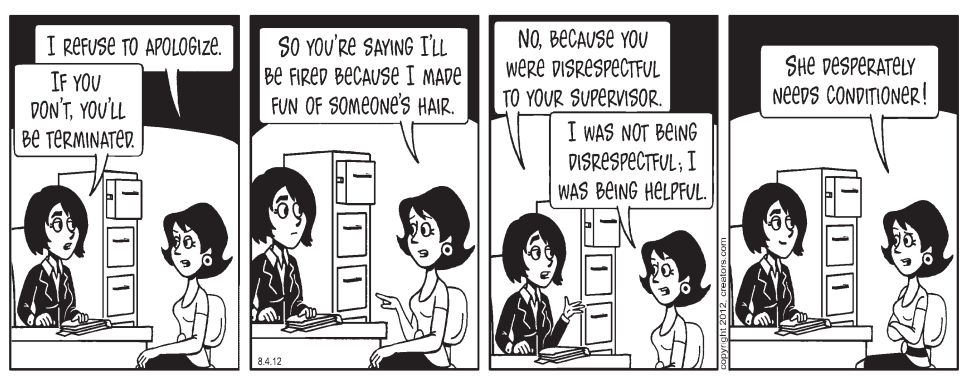
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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70 cents
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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

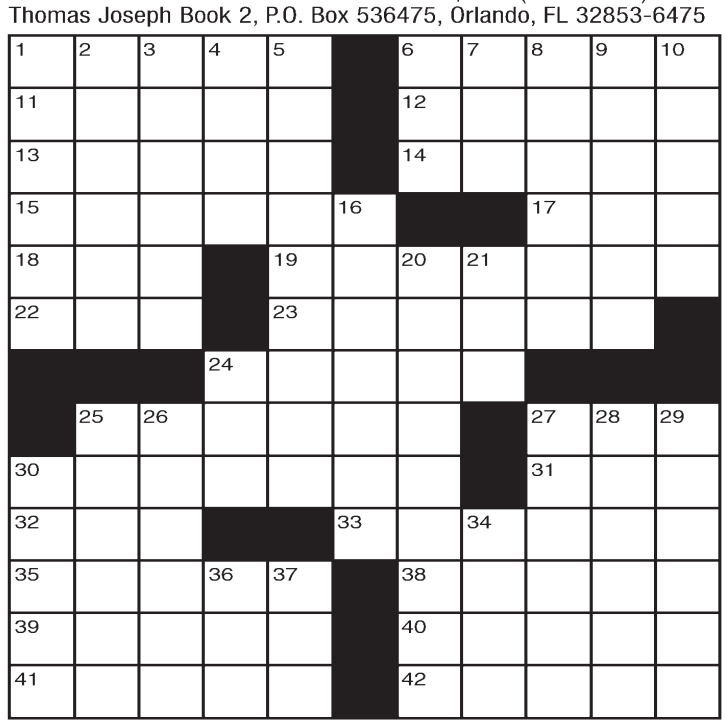
ACROSS
1 Battle mementos
6 Travel aid
11 Rock unit
12 Chunk
13 Fill with wonder
14 Barbara's "Beaches" co-star
15 Peruse anew
17 Canine command
18 Pitcher's stat
19 Visually challenged character
22 Took a load off
23 Logic
24 Marina sights
25 Walked with purpose
27 Easy mark
30 Reformer Amelia
31 Nabokov novel
32 Zodiac animal
33 Discussion
35 Texas landmark
38 Burning
39 Poll goer
40 Bile producer
41 Ham it up
42 Rating units

DOWN
1 Alarms
2 Phone feature
3 Highest point in Turkey
4 Tear down
5 Spa feature
6 NYPD alert
7 Even score
8 "Get a move on!"
9 Director's cry
10 Handle
16 Fear-inducing
20 Yard goods
21 Cart puller
24 Dude's address
25 Downhill course
26 Heckler's weapon
27 Digestion aid
28 Devotee
29 Beepers
30 Valiant
34 Pitch — (react angrily)
36 Got together
37 Galena, for one

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

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



8-4



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In May, the Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment issued a formal rule to crack down on unhygienic public restrooms. The toilets' attendants will be ordered to take corrective action any time they count a number of flies equal to two times the number of stalls in the restroom. The city official in charge downplayed the likelihood of inspectors themselves counting flies. "The regulation is specific ... but the inspection methodology will be flexible."

■ Some events, no matter how "weird" they first seemed, now occur with such frequency that they must be retired from circulation. Surely there are now too many instances in which a worker drawing disability benefits cheats by taking on strenuous pastimes or even second jobs while claiming to be unable to function normally at work. One of the most recent involved letter-carrier Jacquelyn Myers of Tallahassee, Fla., who was put on "light duty," with worker compensation benefits, because of a back injury from heavy lifting. Over a several-months period after her May 2009 injury, investigators found that she had entered more than 80 long-distance races, including the Boston Marathon. Investigators also noted that her race times improved after her "injury."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1991 - The Greek cruise ship MTS Oceanos sinks off the Wild Coast of South Africa.

1993 - A federal judge sentences LAPD officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 30 months in prison for violating motorist Rodney King's civil rights.

1995 - Operation Storm begins in Croatia.

2002 - Soham murders: 10 year old school girls Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells go missing from the town of Soham, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom.

WORD UP!

foible
**\ FOI-buhl ** , noun;
1. A minor weakness or failing of character; slight flaw or defect: an all-too-human foible.

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Retirement community is looking for PT dishwasher and PT cook to help out dining operation. Must have good attitude and love for seniors. Previous experience preferred. Schedule will include weekends. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405 and fill out and application. EOE.

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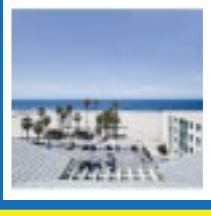




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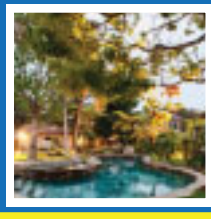
$4,800/ Month



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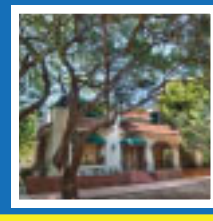
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North of Montana	=	$3,917,700
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South of Wilshire	=	$981,150
Sunset Park	=	$1,351,267
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