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AUGUST 10-11, 2013

Volume 12 Issue 234



RESIDENTS' REVIEW POST OFFICE
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE WELCOME TO THE WORLD AMÉLIE ISSUE

Flat year for students on statewide tests

BY AMEERA BUTT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Standardized test scores for students in Santa Monica and Malibu public schools remained relatively flat, mirroring the performance of students statewide, according to results released this week, but the school district did see decent

gains in science and history.

The Standardized Testing and Reporting exam, or STAR, is a statewide test that 4.7 million California students in grades 2 through 11 participated in.

Maureen Bradford, director of assessment, research and evaluation for the SMMUSD, said officials were "somewhat disappointed" in not making gains in math-

ematics and language arts.

"We would love to see growth, but for a district like ours that is relatively high performing you do anticipate years where there is a slight dip or a plateau," Bradford said. "What we look for growth over time. From one year to the next there are going to be ups and downs."

The results come as schools across

California are gearing up for a transition to the Common Core State Standards, a set of expectations adopted by states across the country that emphasize a new style of learning that values critical thinking over rote memorization and application of concepts to real-world situations.

SEE SCORES PAGE 10



Paul Alvarez, Jr. editor@smdp.com

SIZE DOES MATTER: Recent guests to Angels Attic on Colorado Avenue are fascinated by the miniature displays.

It's a small world after all

Angels Attic museum offers local take on miniatures

BY ILEANA NAJARRO

Special to the Daily Press

COLORADO AVENUE Amidst the talk of future structural developments in Santa Monica, a marble covered angel

statue guards the entrance to a Queen Anne Victorian house where historic architectural masterpieces abound — albeit in miniature.

Founded in 1948 by Jackie McMahan and the late Eleanor LaVove

to express their passion for dollhouses and establish a nonprofit that benefits autism centers, the Angels Attic museum — near the corner of Fifth Street

SEE MUSEUM PAGE 11



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

PEDDLING PAYS: City officials said the Santa Monica Bike Center has provided \$106,826 in revenue to City Hall since its opening.

Bike Center exceeds expectations, revenue

BY AMEERA BUTT

Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVE Business is bustling at the Santa Monica Bike Center.

On Friday, the center rented and returned 80 bikes, but still had about 50 to 60 rented out, mostly to tourists, said Ron Durgin, general manager.

The bike center, run by Bike & Park, is located in a prime location on Second Street and Colorado Avenue just a block from the world-famous Santa Monica Pier where thousands of tourists pass by every day, some peering in or stopping by the center to ask questions about various cargo, trek and mountain bikes.

"Location, location, location," Durgin said. "I think [that] really helps. We get a lot of walk by traffic and then I think word of mouth. We ride bikes [and] hire people who have knowledge about riding."

The bike center was created in November

SEE CENTER PAGE 11

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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, AUGUST 10-11, 2013

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013

Get that beach body

Santa Monica Pier, west end
8 a.m.

Need a little help getting back in
shape before the summer ends?
ROGA is back and it's free. This run
and yoga class offers the best
views in town, plus an inclusive, no-
judgement environment. For more
information, call (310) 458-8901 or
visit santamonicapier.org.

Live at the library

Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Come enjoy an afternoon outdoors
while swaying to the sounds of folk
singer Fur Dixon and fiddle legend
Brantley Kearns on the library's
front lawn. Admission is free. For
more information, visit smpl.org.

Performing the classics

Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
In this delightful afternoon of stories
and song, cabaret singer Jan
Abrams and musical director John
Randall perform music written by
Jan's uncle, Victor Abrams, who
wrote for legendary performers like
Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Dinah
Washington and Sarah Vaughn. Jan
also performs classics from the
Great American Songbook, popular
standards and Broadway show
tunes. This program is free and
open to all ages. Seating is first
come, first served. For more infor-
mation on Santa Monica Public
Library programs, visit smpl.org or
call (310) 458-8600.

Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013

These barbers don't cut

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 2 p.m.
The Santa Monica Chorus invites
you to their delicious show —
Summer Sundaes. Fantastic barber-
shop harmonies and all the ice
cream you can eat. There will be
Broadway tunes, blues and patriotic
songs. Cost: \$10. For more
information visit
<http://smchorus.com/> or e-mail
SummerSundaesTickets@gmail.com

Shark week at the pier

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 3:30 p.m.
Watch and listen to an informative
presentation about sharks, a
species often misunderstood. Get a
glimpse of the aquarium's horn and
swell sharks and watch a shark-
themed film. Everyone is invited to
make a fun shark craft project to
take home. For more information
call (800) HEAL-BAY or visit
www.healthebay.org/
santa-monica-pier-aquarium

Jazz hands

Stewart Street Park
1902 Stewart St., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Bring a picnic, blanket and beach
chair, and enjoy a sampling of jazz
as part of the eighth annual Jazz on
the Lawn series presented by the
Cultural Affairs Division of City Hall.
This free series features several
acts throughout the month of
August. This Sunday groove to the
sounds of the Elliot Caine Quintet,
which lists as influences the leg-
endary Art Blakey and the Jazz
Messengers and Tito Puente. The
combination makes for a unique jazz
and Afro-Cuban experience. There
will be shaved ice from Frosty
Shave. For more information visit
www.smgov.net/jazz.
This event is free.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS Helping kids eat

Parents with students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District should be receiving a letter letting them know whether or not they qualify for free or reduced-price meals and how to apply, education officials said Friday.

The SMMUSD released its policy for providing the meals for children under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program. Each school and the central office should have a copy of the policy for parents to review.

Under the guidelines, which are effective from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, a single-parent household with one child and an annual income of \$20,163 qualifies for free meals, while the same household with an annual income of \$28,694 qualifies for reduced-price meals.

For each additional family member add \$5,226.

Kids who receive food stamps (know called CalFRESH) or other public assistance are automatically eligible.

Applications should be in the mail. They are also available at the principal's office of each school in the district, officials said.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with their eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the hearing official.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels.

For more information, contact the SMMUSD at (310) 450-8338. The district's central office is located at 1651 16th St. in Santa Monica.

— KEVIN HERRERA

PCH McClure Tunnel closure

Caltrans will close portions of the Pacific Coast Highway starting this Sunday, Aug. 11 to repair damaged pavement inside the McClure Tunnel, officials said Friday.

The closures will be on the following days and times:

- Aug. 11 and Aug. 12 from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Full closure of northbound PCH at Ocean Boulevard.

- Aug. 13 and Aug. 14 from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Full closure of southbound PCH at Fourth Street

Full closure of westbound Fourth Street on-ramp to westbound Interstate 10.

A signed detour will be in place. Closures are subject to change. Caltrans reminds motorists to "slow for the cone zone" and "move over."

— KH

SEATTLE SMC track coach breaks record

A hiker completed the 2,655-mile Pacific Crest Trail Thursday night at the Canadian border in Washington, finishing in less than 60 days and claiming a speed record.

Supporters of Josh Garret say he averaged nearly 45 miles a day on the hike through deserts and mountains ("Vegan hiker takes on Pacific Crest Trail for animals," June 26, Daily Press). He left June 10 from the border with Mexico.

The 30-year-old track coach at Santa Monica College is a vegan who used his hike to raise awareness and funds for Mercy For Animals, which works to prevent cruelty to farm animals.

No agency formally tracks trail records, but Jack Haskel of the Sacramento-based Pacific Crest Trail Association told The Seattle Times he has no reason to doubt the accomplishment.

On Wednesday, Heather "Anish" Anderson of Bellingham finished the hike in 61 days.



GARRET

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulger jury goes home for weekend without verdict

BY DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON Jurors in the racketeering trial of reputed crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger finished a fourth day of deliberations Friday without reaching a verdict.

The jury will be back Monday after deliberating for about 28 hours since first getting the case Tuesday.

Bulger, 83, is charged in a sweeping racketeering indictment with playing a role in 19 killings during the 1970s and '80s. He was one of the nation's most wanted fugitives after fleeing Boston in 1994 on the eve of an indictment. He was finally captured in 2011 in Santa Monica, Calif., where he had been living in a rent-controlled apartment near the beach with his longtime girlfriend.

Prosecutors said many of the crimes allegedly took place while Bulger was an FBI informant and was being protected by corrupt agents. Bulger's lawyers strongly deny that he was an informant.

About two dozen family members of people allegedly killed by Bulger and his gang have waited at the federal courthouse for a verdict. On Friday, many of them sat together in the cafeteria, sharing a meal and playing cards.

"It's good to see a lot of people here standing up for their loved ones," said Shawn Donahue, whose father, Michael Donahue, was shot to death in 1982. Bulger is accused of spraying Donahue's car with bullets as he left a South Boston restaurant with Bulger's target, Edward "Brian" Halloran. Donahue had

offered Halloran a ride home that night.

Patricia Donahue, Michael Donahue's widow, said although the waiting has been difficult, she is not surprised the jury has not yet reached a verdict.

The indictment contains 32 counts, including racketeering, extortion, money-laundering and weapons charges. Within the main racketeering charge are 33 separate acts, including the 19 killings, as well as extortion and money-laundering. The jury must find that prosecutors proved at least two of the acts to find Bulger guilty of racketeering.

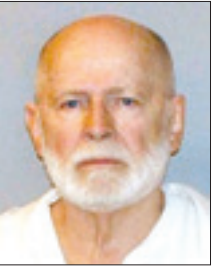
"Maybe they're taking their time and really looking over a lot of issues," Patricia Donahue said.

Her son, Tom Donahue, said he is not worried, either.

"There is a lot to go through. To have all that information dumped on you for two months, and then you have to digest it, and then come up with a verdict — that's a lot of work," he said.

Late Friday, Bulger waived his right to have the jury decide whether he must forfeit his ownership rights to \$822,000 in cash, 30 guns and other items found in the California apartment if he is found guilty. Judge Denise Casper will now make the decision.

Prosecutors say the cash, guns and other items were obtained through illegal activity so they should be forfeited.



BULGER

Calif. students found posting test pictures on social media

BY LAURA OLSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Students at nearly 250 California schools posted photos on social media websites while they were taking standardized tests, again prompting questions about testing security, state education officials said.

The most serious issues arose at 16 schools where photos were posted containing actual test questions or answers.

Deputy Superintendent Deborah Sigman told reporters Friday that officials remain confident the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results are still valid and said the incidents involved a small number of the students tested.

"It looks to us as though most of these postings were about gaining some attention and communication with peers, and not an active (attempt) to try to game the system in terms of the assessment," Sigman said.

SEE CHEATER PAGE 10



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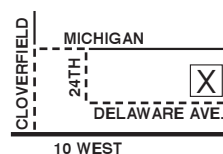
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Development done right

Editor:

Following up on Bill Bauer's column on the inevitability of change in downtown ("Like it or not, change is coming," My Write, Aug. 5).

I firmly believe the majority of the Santa Monica community, whether young or old, understands the inevitability of change, while also understanding development can and should be done in a responsible way; responsible development that includes open space, walkable streets and better building design. Development that retains the beachfront, human scale of Santa Monica while also providing for growth to remain an economically vibrant city.

There are simple alternative approaches to planning staff's bifurcating and piecemealing the planning process and choosing to focus only on increased height and density. Don't let outside developers hijack the process. Greed is not synonymous with quality of life, either environmentally or economically.

Ron Goldman

Santa Monica

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A BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE



Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Police, polymaths, prince of reggae

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE POLICE?

How you answer probably reflects your skin color, bank account, age, education, language skills, political leanings, where you live and your past experiences and those of your family and friends.

If you think it's a ridiculous or needlessly provocative question, then I would say you're less informed than you could be. But otherwise, probably like me.

I'm white, own my own home, am over 50, have a college degree and I speak English well. I've never had a problem with the police, certainly in 27 years in Santa Monica. On a few occasions, I've been helped out by them. Given my demographics, that's hardly surprising.

So, do I raise this question only because I'm a bleeding-heart liberal? Come of age during student revolution days of the '70s, when the cops were referred to as pigs?

Slightly radical though I was, I never bought into that thing about pigs; it never seemed right to me. I understood the polemics, but realized even then that they are brave, tough individuals doing a hard, dangerous, important job, and like most of us, I'm glad to have them there. Funny, I just now recalled something that was thrown around in those days by defenders of the thin blue line: Next time you're in trouble, call a hippie.

But I'm more and more troubled lately by reports of terrible behavior by some police officers, and the mild reaction of their departments. It was set off by an incident recently in Seattle, involving a reporter. No one was hurt, but the mindset of at least two policemen was disturbing. It's the attitude that I am the law rather than the enforcer of it, and that anything I choose to do in the course of my work is justified.

There have been three terrible reports coming out of Texas in the last year of women who were stopped for minor infractions and then subjected to body cavity searches right there on the side of the road. The "searches" fit the legal definition of rape in Texas, yet the three separate police departments defend them as proper procedure. An intoxicated man was surrounded by nine officers and a dog in Bakersfield last May and beaten to death. The officers then confiscated the cameras of neighbors across the street who witnessed and recorded it. No one has been even suspended. Just this week it came to light that police in Georgia are defying the law and Supreme Court rulings by forcefully taking blood from suspects without their permission.

I think there's something very wrong with our philosophy of policing in this country. I don't think it can be reversed without great effort, and that would have to start with a recognition that there is a problem. It will be hard to convince people of my demographic.

But I'll tell you what: I'm informed enough to know that every time in my life I have encountered the police (me — white, polite), I am totally aware that my life is on the line, and I act accordingly. And it makes me sad.

It doesn't have to be that way. I've traveled a bit, and the police in western European countries are a completely different animal. They are not feared. They have a very different attitude and demeanor. And

they still get the job done.

YOU DO THE POLYMATH

I thought the Rum & Humble people booking the Twilight Concert Series on the pier had ignored my earlier jabs at their stewardship for the last three years of this landmark L.A. music series (it's on our pier, but belongs to the whole region), in particular my remarks about this year's lineup. Sometimes being ignored is just fine. But do I detect a reaction in their latest e-mail posting about this past Thursday's concert with Hanni El Khatib and Bombino?

I had written that this venerable series had featured, over the previous quarter of a century, so many "performers for the ages... people who have proved their exceptional worth over more than a summer of being the hot new things on the festival circuit. Shows folks will talk about years and decades from now, without having to answer, 'Who?' That's right kids, I saw..."

The promotional e-mail from Twilight Concerts last Wednesday proudly declared of last Thursday's show, "this is an historic double billing you'll be telling the grandkids about."

Really?

It was probably a very good show. I was looking forward to it, because I always enjoy a potent rocker, but mainly because I was curious about opener Bombino. I'm sorry I had to miss it. But sight unseen unheard, I'm willing to take bets that in five years, not the 25 years it will take most of the audience who were at that show to have grandkids, all but the very musically hip with good memories will respond, "Who?" Only last year the promoters raved about the privilege of having Donavon Frankenreiter. Who? See?

But then, in the same e-mail they called Hanni a "creative polymath." You may have to look up polymath; I did. I'm not sure being the creative director at a skateboard fashion label, then releasing two albums qualifies for that rarefied designation as a great thinker with encyclopedic knowledge and expertise in a significant number of diverse areas of science and the arts, usually epitomized by the likes of Michelangelo, Francis Bacon, da Vinci, Benjamin Franklin and Aristotle.

Maybe if I had shared an evening with a true polymath, I would be telling my grandkids about it. I just don't think that happened on the pier this week.

But I do thank the bookers for the upcoming English Beat, Trombone Shorty and Jimmy Cliff shows. Several attempts in previous years were made to bring Cliff, but this group did it. Speaking of words having meaning, the term legend is thrown around lightly, but the Grammy-winning Jamaican singer-songwriter-actor qualifies. (Not a polymath, but yes, a legendary figure.) Very many of the world's reggae fans came to the music through his groundbreaking 1972 film "The Harder They Come," and he and Bob Marley are the only Jamaicans in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Irie, Santa Monica.

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com.

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The Q Line

EARLY REVIEWS

The United States Postal Service recently closed the post office on Fifth Street in Downtown and opened its replacement on Seventh Street, just off Colorado Avenue.

This past week, Q-line asked:

What are your early impressions of the new location? Is it a suitable replacement?

Here are your responses:

"THE HOURS THEY'RE OPEN ARE NOT listed. When you ask the employees, the employees don't know the hours or give you conflicting answers. Also the employees don't even know the phone number for that location on Seventh Street. There's no clock once you're inside and you have to get in line to get the free envelopes, like priority that sort of thing, where we used to be able to pick them up for yourself. Now, all those things could eventually be corrected. That I understand. One thing that cannot be corrected is the diagonal parking where when you pull out it's very dangerous because you can't see cars that are coming both south of you and north of you."

"I THINK IT'S UTTERLY DASTARDLY THAT the post office was moved from that central location. I'm now disabled so that makes it really hard. So no, I don't think it's a suitable replacement at all."

"THE PROBLEM WITH THE NEW LOCATION of the post office and mail boxes is this location is just one block from the Ocean Park Community Center's (OPCC) Homeless Service Center and homeless shelter. The SMRR-controlled City Council bought the former trailer park at Fifth Street, evicted the tenants, and then gave money to OPCC to build the homeless shelter. This location is a magnet for Southern California's homeless to move to Santa Monica. The homeless there were not evicted from an apartment in Santa Monica or homeless due to losing a Santa Monica home to foreclosure. They moved here from some place else. Based on the arrest reports by the Santa Monica Police Department, the police blotter published in this paper and other papers the homeless are responsible for a lot of the crime in Santa Monica and surrounding areas. The person arrested for the Venice Boardwalk tragedy is a homeless person who moved here from Colorado. Many people I speak with are afraid to go to the new post office due to the proximity of the OPCC facilities at Fifth and Olympic."

"ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THAT THE U.S. Postal Service can do in Washington D.C. can compensate for their policies of closing down or selling off beautiful, old, historic and architecturally desirable WPA-built post offices, not just in Santa Monica but around L.A. and California and across the country. It's a shame that they've been able to get away with closing down or selling off those beautiful pieces of architecture."

"IT WAS AN ENORMOUS ERROR TO shutter our historic Downtown post office. It was very convenient to use for most people while shopping downtown. Perhaps it is just another effort to weaken and destroy our present fine postal service."

"I PARTICIPATED IN THE POST OFFICE outreach meeting, which brought 120 resi-

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dents and business people together to express outrage over the loss of the centrally located post office. With the opening of the Seventh Street branch, I can tell you, symbolically, that our political representation is as barren and as removed as that location. No one from the city, not even the usually reliable Councilmember Kevin McKeown, showed up in support of our concerns, and no one from Congressman Waxman's office even bothered to attend to monitor the proceedings. On Tuesday, I passed Colorado and Seventh, and Colorado is now being torn up for the Expo Line tracks. As predicted at the meeting, the only access to the Seventh Street office will be westbound on Olympic, parallel to the freeway. Good luck trying to reach it, if you must. Thanks to our politicians, we now have two unusable post office branches — the Ocean Park Community Center branch at Seventh and Olympic, apparently now exclusively designated for the use of the homeless; and the cramped, cubbyhole called the Will Rogers Branch on Wilshire, where lines typically spill out the door. Last year, I suggested to the City Manager's Office that a small post office substation be built in the dead zone behind the Main Public Library. That location is one of the community's last true gathering places. Do you see it built? I don't"

"THEY NEVER PICKED UP. I CALLED MANY times. They left me on hold for a long time. And the closed post office was doing a profit. I don't know if anyone knows that. It's like a dictatorship of the proletariat. If put to an election it would have failed, they would not have closed it. ... The customer serve there sucks. It's unbelievable what it is. A disgrace. It's too bad the old one closed. It was doing well. If these people do bad, can they be fired?"

"I MADE A TRIP TO THE POST OFFICE BY bus yesterday, or rather tried to. By the time the bus had skirted the roadwork and permitted me to get off, I found I had to walk farther than had I walked directly from my home. I shall never go to that post office again."

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Aya Lucy TSURUTANI - 100



San Francisco, CA born Nisei,
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She is survived by her son,
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Verkhoglyadova); daughter,
Laurie T. (Ralph) Rennie; grand-
daughters, Amanda Sumi and

Emily Mariko Tsurutani; sister,
Helen Kimiko Tanabe; also sur-
vived by many nieces, nephews,
grandnieces, grandnephews and
other relatives.

Private family funeral services
were held on Friday, August 9, at
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State faces a longer, tough wildfire season

BY AMY TAXIN &
RAQUEL MARIA DILLON

Associated Press

BANNING, Calif. California truly is the Golden State this summer — golden brown — and that has fire officials worried heading into the peak of the wildfire season.

It's still weeks before the fire-fanning Santa Ana winds usually arrive and already it's been a brutal fire season, with nearly twice as many acres burned statewide from a year ago, including 16,000 scorched this week in a blaze still raging in the mountains 90 miles east of Los Angeles.

So far this year, California fire officials have battled 4,300 wildfires, a stark increase from the yearly average of nearly 3,000 they faced from 2008 to 2012, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Until last week, those fires had already burned more than 71,000 acres — up from 40,000 during the same period last year. The annual average for acreage charred in the last five years was 113,000, he said.

"We have seen a significant increase in our fire activity and much earlier than normal," said Berlant, adding that fire season began in mid-April, about a month ahead of schedule after an especially dry winter. "We're not even yet into the time period where we see the largest number of damaging fires."

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who lives in Riverside County, said more than 165,000 acres have burned in California this year, and climate change is setting conditions for more disastrous blazes, while budget cuts are limiting resources to fight them. Boxer's data comes from both California officials and federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service.

This year, state fire officials have called up more firefighters and reserve engines on days with hot, dry conditions, Berlant said.

And while state officials encouraged residents to rid their properties of dry brush before fire season starts, he said authorities are now urging the public not to use lawn-mowers or weed eaters during the heat of the day because a spark off the metal blades can trigger a blaze.

On Friday, firefighters launched a fleet of seven retardant-dropping airplanes against Southern California's latest destructive wildfire, which has destroyed 26 homes and threatened more than 500 others in the San Jacinto Mountains.

The so-called Silver Fire has forced some 1,800 people to flee their homes and injured six people, including one civilian with serious burns. The fire grew by 2,000 acres to 25 square miles overnight, but it was significantly less active Friday morning.

In the Twin Pines neighborhood outside Banning, Andy Schrader said he couldn't get

out in time. The wildfire crept up suddenly and blew over his house, burning his motor home and singeing his hair as he sprayed water from a hose to try to keep the house wet.

"I could feel my face burning," the 74-year-old carpenter said. "And I thought I was going to die."

Most of Southern California's severe wildfires are associated with Santa Ana winds, caused by high pressure over the West that sends a clockwise flow of air rushing down into the region.

This week's fire, however, was being fanned by a counter-clockwise flow around a low pressure area over northwest California. The National Weather Service said conditions could change in the second half of next week, with weaker winds in the mountains and deserts.

Wildfire experts say the traditional fire season has grown longer in California as rainfall has been lower than usual over the last two years and tapered off sooner.

Los Angeles, for example, received only 5.85 inches of rain from July 2012 through June 2013, compared with 8.71 inches a year before and a 30-year average of 14.93 inches, said Eric Boldt, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Tom Scott, a natural resources specialist who teaches at University of California campuses in Riverside and Berkeley, said plants can have a harder time staying hydrated under such conditions.

"The whole system is like a bank account — it's being drawn down," he said.

Richard A. Minnich, a professor of earth sciences at University of California, Riverside, said much of Southern California is in pretty good shape because older vegetation burned off during a spate of wildfires over the past decade, but there are spots at serious risk because of the prevalence of old-growth chaparral.

"Wherever there is very old chaparral, we've got a tremendous threat," he said.

About 1,600 firefighters were battling the wind-fed fire that sparked on Wednesday afternoon. Eight helicopters had been dispatched to fight the blaze. Evacuation orders were issued for Cabazon and the rural communities of Poppet Flats, Twin Pines, Edna Valley and Vista Grande, and several camping and hiking areas.

It was the second major wildfire in the San Jacinto Mountains this summer. A blaze that erupted in mid-July spread over 43 square miles on peaks above Palm Springs, burned seven homes and forced 6,000 people out of Idyllwild and neighboring towns.

The latest fire also burned in the footprint of the notorious Esperanza Fire, a 2006, wind-driven inferno that overran a Forest Service engine crew. All five crew members died. A man was convicted of setting the fire and sentenced to death.



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Postal Service had \$740 million third-quarter loss

BY ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Postal Service has trimmed its losses to \$740 million over the last three months by consolidating processing facilities, cutting hours for workers and post offices and reducing workers' compensation costs, the agency said Friday.

Still, year-to-date, the Postal Service had losses totaling \$3.9 billion, and the agency said that without help from Congress its financial woes will worsen.

The report for the financial quarter ending June 30 comes as Congress considers proposals to fix the agency's finances. The agency lost \$16 billion last year and is trying to restructure its retail, delivery and mail-processing operations.

Over the first nine months of its fiscal year, the Postal Service said 104 mail processing facilities were consolidated, career employee work hours were reduced by about 41 million and operating hours at 7,397 post offices were reduced.

The service wants to end most Saturday and door-to-door mail delivery. It also is seeking to reduce its congressionally mandated \$5.6 billion annual payment for future

retiree health benefits. The agency says ending Saturday mail delivery would save \$2 billion each year.

Joe Corbett, the agency's chief financial officer, said in a statement that "without comprehensive postal reform legislation signed into law, our hands are tied and we expect multi-billion dollar annual losses to continue."

The third-quarter loss was far less than its \$5.2 billion loss for the same period last year. Postal officials said its cost-cutting and efficiency moves helped lower losses, along with a \$918 million decrease to its workers' compensation expenses due to interest rates.

Shipping and package revenue continued to be a bright spot for the agency, increasing 8.8 percent compared to the same period last year. That helped operating revenue rise 3.6 percent to \$16.2 billion in the third quarter, compared to last year's third quarter.

First-class mail revenue, the Postal Service's most profitable category, declined by 0.9 percent compared to the same period last year. Total mail volume was 37.9 billion pieces, down from 38.3 billion pieces for the third quarter last year.

The Postal Service for years has been wrestling with declining mail volume and a

2006 congressional requirement that it make advance payments to cover expected health care costs for future retirees, something no federal agency does. The agency expects to miss a \$5.6 billion health care payment next month at the end of its fiscal year. It defaulted on two similar payments last year.

The pre-funding requirement for future retiree health benefits accounts for the brunt of the agency's red ink and underscores the urgency for Congress to end the mandate, postal officials say. About \$11.1 billion of last year's \$16 billion agency losses were due to the annual health care payments.

Earlier this year, the agency backpedaled on its plan to end Saturday mail delivery after running into opposition in Congress.

The National Association of Letter Carriers says ending Saturday delivery would hurt small businesses along with rural residents and the elderly, who depend more heavily on the mail for prescription drugs and other goods.

Postal officials also want permission to ship beer, wine and spirits to compete with private shippers such as FedEx, saying it could bring in as much as \$50 million a year. The service also favors gradually ending most door-to-door deliveries in favor of curbside

and cluster box service to save money.

Congress is beginning to tackle plans to help the Postal Service.

A Senate bipartisan proposal would let the agency end Saturday delivery in a year and make changes in how pensions and retiree health care costs are calculated in an attempt to stabilize the agency's finances.

It also would impose a two-year moratorium on closing mail processing plants. The agency also would be allowed to ship alcohol. Hearings on the bill are expected after Congress returns from its summer break next month.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee recently approved a bill to end Saturday delivery and to change how pension and retiree health costs are calculated to curb the agency's losses. The GOP measure did not win any Democratic votes. The bill also directs the agency to gradually shift from door-to-door delivery to cluster box and curbside delivery as a cost-cutting move over the next decade, something which many House Democrats oppose.

The Postal Service is an independent agency that receives no tax dollars for its day-to-day operations but is subject to congressional control.

Obama: Reform spy program, pause Russia 'reset'

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Responding to critics, President Barack Obama promised on Friday to work with Congress on "appropriate reforms" for the domestic surveillance programs that have stirred criticism at home and abroad. He also said it is time to recalibrate the United States' relationship with Russia, which is harboring NSA secrets leaker Edward Snowden.

"It's not enough for me to have confidence in these programs," the president declared of NSA domestic intelligence-gathering programs at a White House news conference, one day before his scheduled departure on a week-long vacation. "The American people have to have confidence in them as well."

The president announced a series of changes in a program begun under the anti-terror Patriot Act that was passed in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But none of the moves would alter the basic core of the program, the collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

As for Snowden, recently granted temporary asylum by Russia, Obama said he is not a patriot, as some have suggested, and challenged him to return to the United States to face espionage charges.

On Russia, Obama said that given recent differences over Syria, human rights and Snowden, it is "probably appropriate for us to take a pause, reassess where it is that Russia is going ... and recalibrate the relationship."

The hour-long news conference ranged over numerous issues, although the president became especially animated when the questions turned to Republicans in Congress. He said they would risk the wrath of the public if they vote to shut down the government this fall in an attempt to cut off funding for his signature health care law.

And on another congressional issue, he said that while he was open to House Republicans proposing an alternative immigration bill, his preference was for a vote on a Senate-passed measure that would combine border security with a chance at citizenship for millions of immigrants living in the country illegally.

He said he was "absolutely certain" such a bill would pass in the GOP-controlled U.S. House.

He did not mince words about the United States' deteriorating relationship with Russia. He said President Vladimir Putin's recent decision to grant asylum to Snowden was merely the latest in a series of differences between the two countries, including a response to the Syrian civil war and to human rights issues.

"I've encouraged Mr. Putin to look forward rather than backward," Obama said, evoking memories of relations between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

The president, who just this week canceled a planned summit meeting with Putin, said he does not want the United States to boycott the upcoming 2014 Olympics scheduled to be held in Sochi, Russia, as a protest against Russian treatment of homosexuals.

"One of the things I'm really looking forward to is maybe some gay and lesbian athletes bringing home the gold or silver or bronze, which I think would go a long way in rejecting the kinds of attitudes that we're seeing here," he said. "And if Russia doesn't have gay or lesbian athletes, then that would probably make their team weaker."

On the U.S. economy, Obama said he has a range of candidates he is considering to become chairman of the Federal Reserve, a nomination he likened in importance to selecting a Supreme Court justice. Among the contenders are former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Janet Yellen, the vice chair of the Fed, he said, adding that whoever replaces Ben Bernanke must focus

his attention on keeping inflation in check and helping strengthen the recovery from the worst recession in decades.

While saying he won't pick a Fed chairman until the fall, he expressed irritation at critics of Summers, including some Democrats in Congress, whom Obama said were engaging in "a standard Washington exercise that I don't like" of launching preemptive attacks before an appointment has been made.

The president and his family are due to depart the White House on Saturday for a week-long vacation at Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts.

It was Obama's first full-blown White House news conference since April, and both his opening statement about surveillance programs and the questions that followed underscored the constantly shifting mix of issues in the nation's summertime capital.

Chief among them was the topic of surveillance, a subject the administration has struggled with since Snowden's leaks triggered a vigorous public debate about the proper balance between government intelligence-gathering programs designed to combat terrorism and individual liberties enshrined in the Constitution.

In his remarks, the president gave no indication he was prepared to change the core of one of the most controversial programs, an effort to collect and store identifying information about virtually all the phone calls made in the United States.

There was quick reaction from lawmakers.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued a statement saying he would "carefully examine the materials released today and will continue to press for greater transparency, including the release of significant FISA Court opinions."

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Georgian and senior Republican on the Senate intelligence

committee, said, "I believe there is a consensus among my colleagues that any modifications to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act must be made on a strong bipartisan basis and must not impede the intelligence community's ability to prevent terrorist attacks."

Obama announced relatively modest changes, including one to create an independent attorney to argue against the government during secret hearings of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which reviews requests for surveillance inside the U.S. Under current law, prosecutors now make their legal case without opposing argument, subject only to a ruling by a judge.

Obama is creating an outside advisory panel to review U.S. surveillance powers, although it is unclear how that differs from the U.S. Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, an existing panel mandated by Congress, to monitor surveillance systems and constitutional considerations.

Obama said the NSA would hire a privacy officer and that intelligence agencies would build a website explaining their mission.

As Obama spoke, the Justice Department released what Obama called "the legal rationale" for the surveillance. The document appeared to be primarily a recitation of what the administration has previously told Congress.

On another subject the president declined to confirm a series of drone strikes recently reported carried out in Yemen to deter a suspected terrorist plot.

At the same time, he said the United States was making progress toward arresting the killers of four Americans who perished last year in a terrorist attack at a U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. "We are intent on capturing those who carried out this attack. And we're going to stay on it until we get them," he said.

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MOUNTAIN OF MEAT: You can't visit a traditional Kosher deli without having the pastrami on rye.

Izzy Freeman: The Deli Lama

JUST UNDER 3 MILLION CORNED BEEFS ON

rye, 6,386,129 pickles and 4,635,512 matzo balls. These are the calculations Izzy's Deli approximated by taking their weekly sales, multiplying it into years and multiplying that by 40, the number of years the Santa Monica staple has been open come Aug. 20. The figures aren't exact, but it's a fair assessment and a true testament of how beloved Izzy's is to the city by the sea.

Izzy's, The Bagel Nosh, Fromin's and NY Bagel & Deli, all just a couple of blocks apart from each other, make up Santa Monica's "Pastrami Corridor" spanning from 14th to 22nd Street on Wilshire Boulevard. Izzy's was first though, and 40 years of business is an eternity when you think about the average life expectancy of a restaurant here in the L.A. area. A hot new restaurant opening in Santa Monica always makes for a good headline. However, the fact that Izzy's has been open for the same amount of time Moses was wandering around in the desert is news worthy as well.

When you walk into Izzy's and see the display case full of cured meats, knishes, gefilte fish and lox spreads you know it's a legit Kosher-style deli. Viewing the celebrity filled wall of fame and finding pictures of prominent Jewish funny men like Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld further validates Izzy's as a true Santa Monica institution. It's also why it's often referred to as the "Deli to the Stars."

Izzy Freeman, the sole proprietor of Izzy's, recognizes old-school delis are threatened by trendier hot spots, but sees his place as a neighborhood mainstay, a place for families, friends and co-workers to relax and get full on quality food — and always with friendly service by folks who have worked there for years.

"People like this kind of food," Izzy told me over lunch. (I had the pastrami sandwich, Izzy went with a bowl of lentil soup.) "It's comfort food. We all like fancy places. We all like the fancy restaurants of the world, but sometimes it's nice to get a simple pastrami or tuna melt."

"The Deli Lama," a moniker bestowed upon him by some of his golfing buddies, Izzy has blessed Santa Monica with his take on traditional deli fare. And anyone who has recently visited any upstanding deli knows that a premium pastrami sandwich is not a cheap lunch.

"One thing I learned about being in the restaurant business for so long is to always



FREEMAN

raise your prices, never cut your quality, or portions," he said. "People are willing to pay a few cents more if they know it is going to be good."

Nowadays (especially in Santa Monica), when you eat out it's not going to be easy on the wallet. It is on a rare occasion where I actually think I didn't overpay. At this point though I've eaten out so much that I have been numbed to the gouging. Izzy's, on the other hand, is a place where you get what you pay for and a little more, especially when compared to other delis of the same caliber.

Aside from all the standards, Izzy's has a few surprises as well. During Thanksgiving they sell around 100 cooked turkeys to the public, as well as a full turkey dinner in the restaurant. They are open 24/7 (which is becoming more rare in Santa Monica with the loss of Norm's last month) and in 40 years they have never closed, aside from when "Curb Your Enthusiasm" filmed a few episodes there. And as I discovered they have one of the best cake and pie selections in town.

Izzy's shouldn't be overlooked or taken for granted because it has been in Santa Monica seemingly forever. They give to charities; employ families, some now for two generations; and have a passionate owner who has become a local institution in his own right. Maybe some day they will change Wilshire Boulevard to Izzy Way, 15th Street at the least. Regardless of the future, 40 years is a benchmark everyone involved with Izzy's should be proud of. If you have never been to Izzy's, give it a visit and see what a great deli is all about.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food. He can be reached at michael@smdp.com. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/greaseweek>

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MAKE SURE TO CHEW: Stop and smell the ... fennel. Mindful eating is a key to controlling weight gain and leads to a greater appreciation of the foods we eat.

Mind what you eat

LAST MONTH MY FAMILY AND I SPENT some time in our lovely San Bernardino Mountains. Early one morning we took a yoga class at an outdoor amphitheater. Under the shelter of a canopy we were protected from the soft rain pattering the soil around us. All the sounds of the forest quieted just before the rain fell, but as soon as the clouds released the gentle stream all my senses came alive. The birds began to chirp excitedly, the wind carried freshly washed pine and the gray clouds swirled across the sky.

Mindfulness is a concept of being more aware and present in the moment; to rely on all senses to achieve satisfaction. This is a concept that I use in my practice when counseling patients to slow down their pace of eating, smell and taste their food, and in general just be more aware of what they're putting in their mouths.

How many times have you sat at your desk and wolfed down your lunch without even tasting the food or remembering that you've finished it? Or maybe sitting in your favorite club chair with a bag of popcorn or chips while reading a book or watching TV with your intention to just eat a little and then finding yourself rooting around the bottom of the bag for more without even realizing that you ate the entire bag. This sort of mindless eating can lead to reflux and unwanted weight gain, which in turn can increase cholesterol and blood glucose and may even lead to metabolic syndrome.

I was out to lunch with a friend recently at True Food Kitchen in the Santa Monica Place. True Food Kitchen offers seasonal, sustainable, simple and pure meals that support Dr. Andrew Weil's anti-inflammatory diet. Their concept is to take popular trends in cuisine and pair them with healthy living. But I will take it one step further and say that their food supports mindful eating as well. While catching up on the latest news and gossip with my friend, I was still able to be present with my meal.

I ordered the red chili shrimp entrée, which is a sesame noodle dish with perfectly cooked tender-crisp shrimp, spinach and shitake mushrooms in a flavorful broth. This was a simple dish with vibrant colors, high-quality ingredients and robust, satisfying flavors. I left lunch having enjoyed each mouthful of my delicious meal. The next

The breakdown

- Cucumber lemonade**
— not worth the carbs or sugar
Calories: 80; Fat: 0; Carbs: 19g; Fiber: 0; Sugar: 17g
(Analyzed from True Food recipe found online.)
- Red chili shrimp**
Calories: 350; T Fat: 6g; Sat Fat: 0.5g; Chol: 145mg; Sodium: 1660mg; Carbs: 50g; Fiber: 4g; Sugars: 8g; Protein: 27g
(Analyzed from True Food recipe found online.)

day I was a little swollen from all the high sodium sauces in the dish. Not a good choice if you have high blood pressure; fortunately I don't, so I just watched my sodium intake the next day.

Now my friend's meal, on the other hand, I didn't like. She ordered the Tuscan kale and salmon. It was colorful, but boring in content and flavor. She was served a generous 5 or 6 ounce portion of salmon on a bed of bland kale. I like kale when it's done right, but to me this looked and tasted like she was eating a giant plate of garnish with a side of salmon.

If you go to True Food Kitchen try some of their seasonal dishes. I was tempted by the summer seafood bouillabaisse with sea bass, fennel, and zucchini. It's gluten free, so no crusty bread to soak up the juices, but maybe you can order a small side of brown rice instead. Many entrées and starters are marked gluten free (gf) or vegetarian (v), but they cater to the omnivore as well with such dishes as the grass-fed steak tacos and the chicken teriyaki brown rice bowl.

Be wary of "The Natural Refreshments." These are a novelty and fun to try maybe once in a while, but these "healthy elixirs" are really no more than fresh-squeezed lemon-sugar water with little nutritional value. You could have one piece of bread or 1/2 a cup of sesame noodles for the same amount of carbs.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D.N, C.P.T. is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

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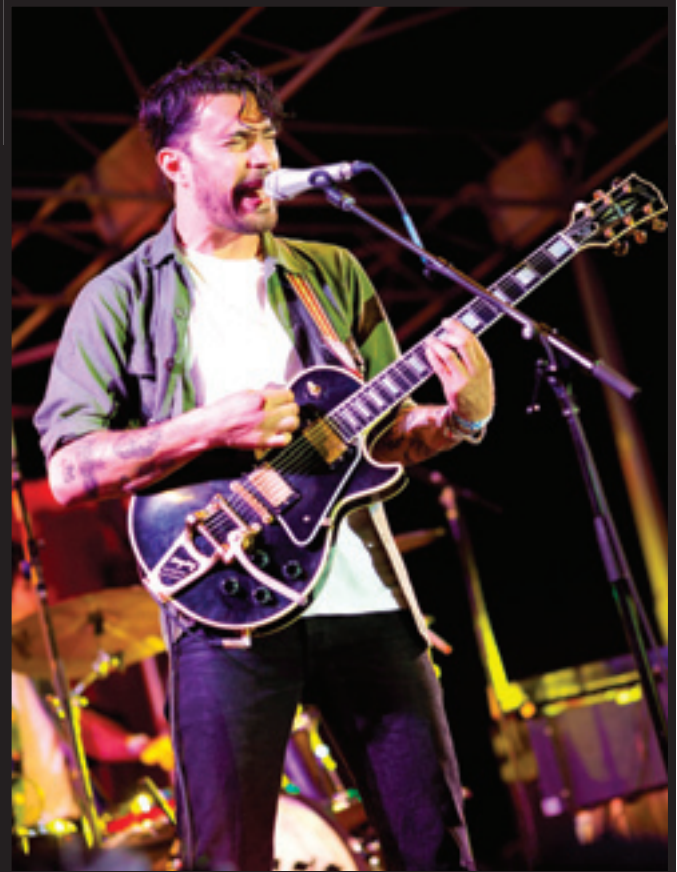
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THE PLACE TO BE

A couple relaxes on the sand as they listen to the sounds of rocker Hanni El Khatib (right) on Thursday night during the Santa Monica Pier Twilight Concert Series.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

SCORES

FROM PAGE 1

SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon said despite years of budget cuts and uncertainty and a transition to the Common Core State Standards, the school district's teachers and staff remain "focused" on student learning.

"We have created a multi-year plan to continue to work with our staff to address equity and access so that all children who cross the threshold of a school in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District have high-quality educations and are ready for college and careers and the opportunity to fulfill their dreams," Lyon said in an e-mail.

The school district is the model for "incremental steady growth," Bradford said. In the last 10 years, she said all of the schools had double digit growth in each subject area, which school district officials are proud of.

"As you creep up towards the top of a scale, it becomes harder and harder to maintain that incline," she said.

In mathematics, 62 percent of test takers

reached proficiency while 75 percent of students hit the mark in language arts.

Those percentages include students in grades 2 through 11 who took English exams and the students in grades 2 through 7 who took math exams, as well as those who took "end of course" exams, which can include algebra and geometry as well as other forms of math.

In language arts, Bradford said this year's plateau comes on the heels of seven years of gains.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson said, as expected for a school system in transition, results varied from grade to grade, subject to subject and school to school.

"While we all want to see California's progress continue, these results show that in the midst of change and uncertainty, teachers and schools kept their focus on students and learning," Torlakson said in a news release. "That's a testament to the depth of their commitment to their students and the future of our state."

Across the state, the 2013 STAR results show that a significant achievement gap continues to exist for African-Americans,

Hispanic/Latino, low income and English-learner students, compared to their peers.

But for the SMMUSD, there were some bright spots in the test results this year.

"We still have achievement gaps but they have narrowed over time," Bradford said. "For some of our groups, particularly this year, students with disabilities have made really good growth. We're happy about that."

She said there was a seven-point gain for students with disabilities.

In history and science where school officials saw progress, test takers jumped in proficiency to 63 percent from 61 percent in history, Bradford said. For science, 78 percent reached proficiency compared to 76 percent last year. Those percentages include students in grades 8 and 11 and "end of course" exams in history and students in grades 5, 8 and 10 in science.

This year, there were one-point gains for Latinos and African-Americans, Bradford said, but "we would want to see a much stronger gain."

Bradford said there was a three-point gain for the socio-economically disadvantaged.

Much like the rest of the state, Bradford



WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE GROWTH, BUT FOR A DISTRICT LIKE OURS THAT IS RELATIVELY HIGH PERFORMING YOU DO ANTICIPATE YEARS WHERE THERE IS A SLIGHT DIP OR A PLATEAU."

Maureen Bradford

Director of assessment, research and evaluation for SMMUSD.

said it's a transitional time where the school district is anticipating the new assessment of measuring kids' growth.

"We are beginning to make these shifts towards common core standards and looking forward to these new assessments that will be challenging and exciting," Bradford said.

ameera@smdp.com

CHEATER

FROM PAGE 3

In addition to photos revealing test questions or answers, Sigman said other posts by students at 242 schools depicted things unlikely to jeopardize exam results, such as test booklet covers or "bubble art," which she described as students filling in bubbles to craft a message.

The Sacramento Bee first reported Friday that results from those schools are now flagged with a red warning message next to their test results. It notes "a security breach involving social media" was identified at the school and states: "Caution should be used when interpreting these results."

Results from the 16 schools where students posted actual test content also included the warning that the school's accountability rating could be impacted. Those schools also could become ineligible for academic awards.

The department will be releasing its statewide accountability reports within the next few weeks.

Among the 16 schools linked to postings of test materials is San Francisco's Lowell High School, a high-achieving public magnet school. A person answering the school's main telephone line Friday said staff members were in training and unavailable to take phone calls.

Others include two Los Angeles Unified schools — Alexander Hamilton Senior High and Alliance Cindy and Bill Simon

Technology Academy High — as well as schools in Burbank and Anaheim. Officials with the Los Angeles Unified School District did not immediately return a voicemail left on the media contact line.

This year's cases include slightly more schools than a similar discovery last year. Online postings involving test materials were found from students at 216 schools, with posts from 12 schools including legible test questions or answers.

The discovery delayed the release of last year's scores for two weeks. In response, the Department of Education enacted new security measures to monitor the use of electronic devices.

Students generally are not allowed to have electronic devices during standardized tests.

Sigman said officials believe the number of online postings discovered may have increased because of the department's efforts to monitor social media websites during testing.

She noted that nearly 4.7 million California students participated in standardized testing this year, saying the number of incidents is "a low number given the kind of social media that students have access to."

The department may step up its efforts to monitor online postings and to train districts on what to look for during testing, Sigman said.

"We take this very seriously and we want to make sure schools and administrators are appropriately monitoring test administrations," Sigman said.



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

TIME FOR A TUNE UP: Mechanic Emily Sullivan works on a rather furry bike at the Santa Monica Bike Center on Thursday.

CENTER

FROM PAGE 1

2011 in an effort to provide a sustainable method of transportation, limiting car trips in and out of the city by the sea.

Almost two years later, the center is breaking City Hall and bike officials' expectations. As City Manager Rod Gould put it, the bike center is doing "gangbuster business" and "exceeding revenue projections."

Durgin said the center saw more than 3,000 member visits last month and boasts more than 200 members who use the center's facilities, which include lockers and showers for commuters to get fresh and clean before heading to work. When the Exposition Light Rail Line opens in 2016, city officials hope more people choose to leave their cars at home and bike to a nearby rail stop. The line ends at Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue, just two blocks from the center.

City officials said the bike center has provided \$106,826 in revenue to City Hall since its opening. The agreement between City Hall and the Bike Center calls for a base rent of \$17,500 per year with a 5 percent annual increase, plus a 15 percent share of gross sales once they rise above \$250,000. Gross sales come from rental and retail and excludes membership and day parking fees. In the first year of operation, the center paid City Hall \$78,287.

The center hopes to make a million dollars in revenue "soon," Durgin said. The retail side of the business is the revenue generating arm, while membership fees help pay for the ongoing maintenance of the facility, he said.

Half of the center's business comes from foreigners, Durgin said. On the weekends more locals tend to show up, as well as folks

I THINK THE LOCATION REALLY HELPS. WE GET A LOT OF WALK BY TRAFFIC AND THEN I THINK WORD OF MOUTH."

Ron Durgin

Santa Monica Bike Center general manager

from the inland areas or the San Fernando Valley who are trying to beat the heat.

The 10 employees rent out trek, Dutch and cargo bikes, among other varieties.

In July, Durgin said the center averaged 135 bike rentals a day and valeted 150 to 200 bikes each month. Bike valet is free for the first two hours, and \$1 each additional hour, or \$5 maximum for the day. To rent a bike for an adult, it's \$20 for two hours or \$30 for the whole day. Durgin said there's a two-hour minimum. To become a member, it's \$15 a month or \$99 for one year, he said.

At Fourth Street and Broadway, there is additional self-service bike parking for members.

Durgin said the center has become a "resource for people." Folks may come in to look around, pump up a flat bike tire or rent bikes for a day at the beach. He said the bikes, which number around 200, are constantly maintained and every bike is rotated out every two weeks to get a tune-up.

"We like to focus on quality bikes that are well-maintained and equipped," Durgin said.

ameera@smdp.com

MUSEUM

FROM PAGE 1

and Colorado Avenue — offers a unique family-friendly destination where visitors can step into a little world of contemporary and antique miniature toys.

Most of the museum's collections take visitors back to 19th century Europe; the golden age of toy making when intricate handmade dollhouses and dolls were reserved for well-off families as either playthings or educational tools to teach young girls how to run an estate.

One of the more notable pieces includes the fully furnished three-story Mexican Mansion from about 1890-1920, complete with its own working elevator and lights. There is even a replica of Versailles and a wooden shoe-shaped house fully occupied by the old woman who lived in a shoe and her numerous children from the popular nursery rhyme.

"This is a nice little time capsule for people to see," said Charles Phillips, museum director.

Phillips estimates that about 1,000-1,500 tourists and locals a year step into the Victorian's restored walls where they can appreciate and learn from an art form with historical significance.

Though he acknowledges the dominance of advanced technological gadgets over historic treasures in the popular sphere, the allure of the old miniature world continues today spanning across a wider range of ages and evolving with the times.

While Phillips argues that a large number of present-day children opt for electronic devices over toys like dolls and dollhouses that require more imagination to enjoy, at the 110th annual American International Toy Fair this past February, one of the hottest trends of 2013 included toys that possessed vintage or nostalgic value to children and adults alike.

In addition, the Toy Industry Association reported that dolls — the more contemporary kind — brought in approximately \$2.69 billion in U.S. domestic sales in 2012 alone.

Looking to adult consumers, organizations like the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts host annual conventions for artisans, collectors and dealers across the country and collaborate with similar international communities.

Nancy Robertson, a California state representative for the association, added that enthusiasts could successfully transform their hobbies of crafting or collecting into lucrative enterprises.

Artisans can pay around \$800 or more to attend workshops led by essentially miniature world-celebrity artisans who are masters at their craft, Robertson said.

Lori Kagan-Moore, curator for the Great American Dollhouse Museum in Kentucky, wrote in an e-mail that a 19th century Spanish Mansion dollhouse was auctioned off in 2005 for \$192,500. She explained that age, condition, relative rarity and merit of original artistry are among the major factors determining high price tags for collectibles.

While there is money to be made in the miniature world, Phillips — whose fascination with miniatures stemmed from his wife's collections and his own work experience with design — said that most collectors, artisans and museum patrons mainly seek a connection to their childhood.

If you go

Angels Attic

516 Colorado Ave.
Santa Monica, Calif.
90401
(310) 394-8331
www.angelsattic.com

For Robertson, who is both an artisan and a collector, the miniature world offers her just that. Only now she finds she can bring her imagination to life by creating the sets and pieces she pictures in her head.

She explained that artisans work in varying scales, the more popular being the quarter scale (1/4 inch to 1 foot) for the time and space saved. Sometimes though, making several of the same item even on a quarter scale, such as a miniature bouquet of flowers, can take hours considering the time needed for paint and glue to dry.

Many artisans even adapt to new methods such as the latest trend of using laser cutters to form more intricate designs on wooden furniture pieces.

"Anybody can do it. You just have to have an interest in re-creating an event, a structure, or the feeling of an era," Robertson said.

For younger generations still working on creating nostalgic memories, the Angels Attic museum provides a foray into the larger miniature world that captivates adults all over the world while teaching a creative history lesson.

One of the museum's older dolls is dressed completely in black for mourning, offering an opportunity to learn how high-society women in that period would dress — as well as reveal how wealthy families spared no expense in purchasing dolls for rather specific occasions.

Each of the dollhouses also offer a peak into the day-to-day lives of those long past with Phillips making sure to arrange miniature figurines and furnishings accurately, sometimes taking months to get it right.

An integral component of the museum's charm and appeal to generations young and old, newcomers and experts is its re-mastered Victorian façade which plays its part as a piece of Santa Monica history.

"It's like a dollhouse full of dollhouses," Phillips said.

The two-story Victorian was originally built in 1895 and supposedly served as a boardinghouse for local workers, Phillips explained.

Ruthann Lehrer, Santa Monica landmarks commissioner, said that Victorian houses are a vanishing breed in the area with a few scattered about, most of which are one-story buildings.

"It's a unique asset, both the museum and the building itself," Lehrer said, "It adds to the character of the streetscape."

With construction on the Expo Light Rail just a few feet away from its doors, Phillips worries how the controversial transportation project will affect the museum's future.

"I hope [those in charge are] kind to us and leaves us alone," Phillips said.

He explained how as of now the museum is set to stay as per founder McMahan's wishes and he hopes to continue opening the door to curious passers-by and knowledgeable enthusiasts at what he calls the best job he's ever had.

editor@smdp.com



INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the **HOROSCOPES** on **PAGE 13!**

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: 67.6°

SATURDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft thigh to waist high
Modest SSW swell tops out late; Plus sets for top spots

SUNDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 1-3 ft ankle to waist high
SSW swell starts to slowly ease

MONDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 1-2 ft ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
SSW swell drops out

TUESDAY – POOR – SURF: 1-2 ft ankle to knee high
SSW swell remnants

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 7, 2013

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 25 / 10

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 0 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by:
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and Grusbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Bal Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.			Wil Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Allos creeks.	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugas).	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	C	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants).	A	ns
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Rolland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dee Blocker County Beach.	A	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	C	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Serfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Serfider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	ns	Venice Beach—projection of Topical St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach—lifeguard tower.	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballena Creek mouth.	A	ns
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (joint vent).	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tones County Beach.	ns	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of GWR jetty).	A	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	ns	ns	Dockweiler Beach—opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Cedwick Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns			
Wil Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns			

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken

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



Heal the Bay

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

IOC wants assurances from Russia on anti-gay law

BY RAF CASERT
AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW The International Olympic Committee is waiting for the Russian government to clarify the anti-gay law that is overshadowing preparations for the Sochi Games.

The law, signed by President Vladimir Putin in June, bans “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” and imposes fines on those holding gay pride rallies. It has caused an international outcry and spawned calls for protests leading to the Feb. 7-23 Winter Olympics in the Black Sea resort.

IOC President Jacques Rogge said Friday the Russian government provided written assurances about the law Thursday but some elements remain unclear.

“We are waiting for the clarifications before having the final judgment on these reassurances,” Rogge said, a day before the start of the track and field world championships in Moscow.

In Washington, President Barack Obama said it would be wrong to boycott the Winter Olympics despite frustrations with Russia.

At a White House news conference Friday, Obama said he is offended by Russia’s new law. He added that American athletes are training hard and it wouldn’t be fair to deny them the chance to compete at the games.

NBC, meanwhile, is assuring its gay and lesbian employees who may cover the Olympics that it will do everything possible to keep them safe.

The network said it finds the Russian law “deeply troubling and diametrically opposed to everything that the Olympics symbolize.” The memo by Craig Robinson, NBC Universal’s executive vice president and chief diversity officer, was sent Thursday to all company employees identifying themselves as gay or lesbian.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko insisted Thursday that Olympic athletes would have to respect the laws of the country during the Sochi Games. On Friday, he said there was no way Russia would yield to

political pressure.

Referring to Western criticism, Mutko was quoted as saying by Interfax: “I wouldn’t call the pressure light. Russia must understand that the stronger we are, the more other people aren’t going to like it. We have a unique country.”

“We don’t have to be afraid of threats to boycott the Olympic Games,” Mutko said. “All sensible people understand that sports demand independence, that it is inadmissible that politics intervene.”

On Thursday, Mutko did make it clear that the private lives and privacy of athletes would be respected as it is guaranteed by the Russian constitution

Rogge said that was essential.

“The Olympic charter is clear,” he said. “A sport is a human right and it should be available to all, regardless of race, sex or sexual orientation.”

Even if Russia accepts that principle, the law leaves open the issue of athletes speaking freely during the games.

“As far as the freedom of expression is concerned, of course, this is something that is important,” Rogge said. “But we cannot make a comment on the law” until the clarifications have been received.

The All Out advocacy group said it was happy with Rogge’s comments.

“This is the strongest and most direct statement we have received from the International Olympic Committee. It shows the IOC is listening to the global outcry,” All Out executive director Andre Banks said.

Still, Rogge pleaded for time to study the Russian reassurances some more.

“I understand your impatience to get the full picture, but we haven’t (received) it today,” Rogge said. “There are still too many uncertainties in the text.”

Rogge, speaking at a news conference following a meeting of the IOC executive board with track and field’s governing body, said the problems seemed to center on translations.

“We don’t think it is a fundamental issue,” he said.

Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students of Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District’s intent to destroy the Special Education records of students born between 1980 through 1988. These records will be destroyed in accordance with state law. Records not requested by September 9, 2013 will be destroyed. With proof of identity, the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request a copy of the records by contacting the SMMUSD’s Special Education Department at 310-450-8338 ext. 70393.



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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
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Saturday, Aug. 10

Vertigo (PG) 2hrs 8min
7:30pm

Sunday, Aug. 11

It Felt Like Love (NR) 1hr 22min
7:30pm
This screening is free to all current American Cinematheque members, with regular pricing for non-members. Discussion following with writer-director Eliza Hittman.

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

Despicable Me 2 (PG) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Pacific Rim (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Conjuring (R) 1hr 52min
11:35am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Grown Ups 2 (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:30pm

Red 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
2:15pm, 7:45pm

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

Elysium (R) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm, 11:20pm

Planes (PG) 1hr 32min
10:40am, 4:10pm, 9:40pm

Smurfs 2 (PG) 1hr 45min
1:15pm, 6:45pm

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG) 1hr 46min
10:55am, 4:25pm, 10:05pm

Wolverine (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
10:30am, 4:35pm, 11:00pm

2 Guns (R) 1hr 49min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:05pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

We're the Millers (R) 1hr 49min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Wolverine in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
1:25pm, 7:50pm

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters in 3D (PG) 1hr 46min
1:40pm, 7:15pm

Smurfs 2 in 3D (PG) 1hr 45min
11:00am, 4:15pm, 9:45pm

Planes in 3D (PG) 1hr 32min
1:45pm, 7:00pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex

1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

Hunt (Jagten) (R) 1hr 46min
11:15am

Act of Killing (NR) 1hr 55min
11:00am

Spectacular Now (R) 1hr 35min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Computer Chess (NR) 1hr 31min
11:00am

Way, Way Back (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Still Mine (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:10am

Blue Jasmine (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:30pm, 9:30pm

DON'T STRESS YOURSELF OUT, VIRGO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Make it your pleasure to defer to others. In many ways, you are so responsible that you need to practice letting go more often. A boss or parent could become unusually contrary. Tonight: Finally, time to unwind at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You need some time to mellow out. Use today for just that, though you might need to get a few errands done first. You could be contacted by someone you care about, but keep in mind that he or she might be unusually controlling, especially now. Tonight: Out at a fun happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might opt to stay close to home or somewhere you can enjoy yourself. You will see a situation evolve that could force your hand financially. Clearly you want something different from the other party. Money is one of the major issues. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You'll want to run errands right away. Plans easily could be made, as you might run into someone you would like to have coffee with. Invitations to join others seem to come in from all directions. Choose where you want to be. Tonight: Let the party happen wherever you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Make your best effort to draw someone in. You will find that by asking the right questions, you will understand where this person is coming from. A discussion could help you both relax. The problem might revolve around a domestic matter. Tonight: Out in your neighborhood.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You could be taken aback by a friend's provocative style. Perhaps you have tried initiating discussions about this in the past to no avail. You might be best off letting this person revel in his or her challenging mood. Tonight: Just don't stress yourself out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You'll finally feel as if you have cleared up a problem. You might be far more upbeat than you have been lately. A conversation in the morning could mark a new beginning. Tonight: Let the good times roll!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Step back some. You need more private time to accomplish what you want and also to relax. Consider including a frivolous activity or two. A conversation revolving around a domestic issue could have you feeling angry or pushed to your limits. Tonight: Be willing to disappear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Conversations will help you understand others and allow you to help them resolve their differences. You might be wondering how to eliminate a barrier. Why not just decide that it doesn't exist? It will dissolve with more relaxation. Tonight: Be where people are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You could feel put off by a friend's attitude. You might wonder what is necessary to make a situation work. Pull back after indicating your preferences. You'll be full of energy, but do not apply it to a control game. Let others work through their issues. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ If you are thinking about someone at a distance, pick up the phone and call him or her. Do not stand on ceremony, even if you have had a disagreement. Mend bridges. Do not get tied up in someone's power play. Tonight: Squeezing in all of your invitations might not be possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a partner or friend's feisty attitude. Have a long-overdue conversation with a loved one. Tonight: Invite a favorite person over for dinner.

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



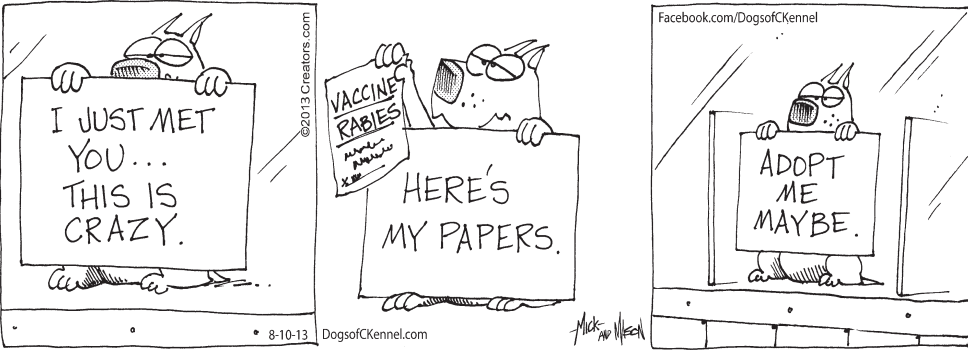
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



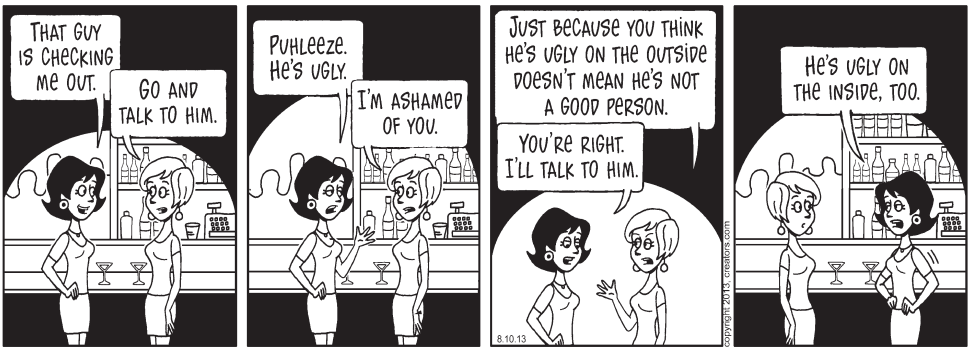
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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. Hint: let there be light!

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unforeseen problem
 - 5 Mating game
 - 10 November birthstone
 - 12 Make fresh
 - 13 Baja buddy
 - 14 Mindful
 - 15 "Norma —"
 - 16 Resistance unit
 - 18 Soccer's Hamm
 - 19 Puget Sound city
 - 21 Yellowstone resident
 - 22 Fruit cocktail item
 - 24 En-trenched
 - 25 Comedic reactions
 - 29 Heart
 - 30 Emerson works
 - 32 Small bill
 - 33 Co. abbr.
 - 34 Compass dir.
 - 35 Until now
 - 37 Bring together
 - 39 Magic illusion
- DOWN**
- 2 Kick off
 - 3 Polite denial
 - 4 Individually
 - 6 Comic bit
 - 7 Pack tight
 - 8 Chop up
 - 9 Tooth layer
 - 11 Continuing story
 - 13 Use four-letter words
 - 17 Go from close to long shot
 - 19 Do a board feat
 - 20 Nostalgic song
 - 21 River's bounds
 - 23 Tailor's slant
 - 25 Mexican state
 - 26 Word starter
 - 27 Less complex
 - 28 Method
 - 29 Budget amounts
 - 31 Squalid
 - 33 Bothers
 - 36 Dogfight pro
 - 38 Gun grp.

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

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

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

8-10



Moving is the best medicine. Keeping active and losing weight are just two of the ways that you can fight osteoarthritis pain. In fact, for every pound you lose, that's four pounds less pressure on each knee. For information on managing pain, go to fightarthritis.org.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Ronald Rock, 31, was arrested in Malone, N.Y., in May after surveillance video convinced police that he was the man at a Sears store who told a female stranger that he loved her shoes and wanted to buy a pair for his mother -- and asked if she would take one off to show him. Rock then appeared to stuff the shoe down his pants and masturbate vigorously. (Malone is within 25 miles of the small town of Massena, which was the site of the man caught on video stuffing the Hannaford's pepperoni down his pants for the same purpose -- reported in News of the Weird seven weeks ago.)

■ The New Waterboarding: In April (2009), the district attorney in Vilas County, Wis., announced that he was seeking volunteers for a forensic test to help his case against Douglas Plude, 42, who (was) scheduled to stand trial soon for the second time in the death of his wife. The volunteers must be female, about 5 feet 8 inches and 140 pounds, and will have to stick their heads into a toilet bowl and flush. Plude is charged with drowning his wife in a commode, but his version (which the prosecutor will try to show is improbable) is that his wife committed suicide by flushing herself.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1776 - American Revolutionary War: word of the United States Declaration of Independence reaches London.

1792 - French Revolution: the Tuileries Palace - Louis XVI of France is arrested and taken into custody as his Swiss Guards are massacred by the Parisian mob.

WORD UP!

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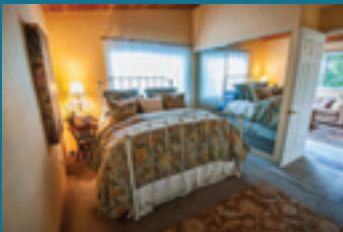
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