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TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 248

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
SEE PAGE 13

THE STROKE OF LUCK ISSUE

DACs offer parents, community a presence

BY ILEANA NAJARRO
Special to the Daily Press

SMMUSD HDQTRS With morning bells ringing in the start of the academic school year, parents in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School district look for ways to play an active role in their children's education — be it at the dinner table helping with homework or on-site as a member of the PTA.

For both parents and community mem-

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 10

Bill mandates buffer between cars, bikes

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The state Senate approved a bill on Monday that would require drivers to stay at least three feet away from bicyclists when they are passing in the same direction, despite Gov. Jerry Brown's previous vetoes of similar legislation.

Lawmakers approved AB1371 by Assemblyman Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, on a 31-7 vote. It aims to protect bicyclists from harassment by drivers who deliberately travel close to bikes in an effort to intimidate riders.

The legislation would require a driver to pass a bicycle at a distance of at least three feet, but when drivers cannot leave that much room due to road conditions they must slow to "a reasonable and prudent speed" and pass only if doing so would not endanger the cyclist's safety. A violation would be punishable by fines starting at $35.

The bill is nearly identical to one Brown vetoed last year, citing concerns about the

SEE BIKES PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

GROW IT IF YOU GOT IT: Orange flowers bloom in Sonya Anselmo's parkway garden on 12th Street.

Taking root

Parkway gardens need little room to flourish

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

TWELFTH ST Tomatoes. Mint. Basil. Brussels sprouts. All can be found at Sonya Anselmo's home on 12th Street. But instead of a typical garden out back, she has created one in front, turning her parkway, or the space between the street and the sidewalk, into something more than just a place for grass.

"My idea is that I want to rent it out for 'free' to my neighbors or anyone who wants to use it," Anselmo said.

In a city where roughly 70 percent of residents rent and have limited access to green space, creating a garden in a parkway may be the next best thing for those looking to exercise their green thumbs. Officials said as long as the plants selected follow City Hall's guidelines and do not obstruct access or pose a safety hazard, edible landscaping is allowed.

Edible landscaping includes fruits, vegetables and herbs, said Garrett T. Wong, project support assistant for the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

The trend of parkway gardens has also caught on in Los Angeles, where earlier this month residents were allowed to plant vegetables near the curb as city officials suspended a ban on the practice.

In Santa Monica, parkways are part of the public-right-of-way, and therefore must be regulated. The guidelines for parkway gardening were adopted by the City Council in 2011 as part of the Santa Monica Urban Forest Master Plan. The plan states that parkway landscaping must not create visual obstructions for pedestrians or drivers of vehicles. Plants within 5 feet of a driveway shall not exceed 2 feet in height when fully mature.

Moreover, parkway landscaping shall take into consideration personal

SEE GARDENS PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013

Words for babies
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:20 a.m.
Story series for babies ages 0-17 months accompanied by an adult. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Reach within
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 5:30 p.m.
For both beginning and continuing students, this tai chi class teaches the 24 movements of the Yang style simplified form. For more information, visit beachhouse.smgov.net.

Council meets
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will discuss the General Plan Housing Element and development Downtown. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Follow the money
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The YWCA Women's Partnership offers one-on-one guidance and support with award-winning financial experts to help you meet your money goals. Sessions cost $75 per hour. Must pre-register to attend. For more information call (310) 452-3881.

Free flick
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 p.m.
During the Civil War, a wounded Union soldier (Clint Eastwood) is sheltered at a crumbling, all-girls school in Louisiana, where he becomes the object of their desire and jealousy in "The Beguiled." Director Don Siegel considered this 1971 gothic horror film to be his best work. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013

Tales for tots
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
10:15 a.m. — 10:35 a.m.
Stories, songs, and rhymes for toddlers ages 18 to 35 months, accompanied by an adult.
Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Preschool reading
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Inspire a love for reading in children ages 3-5 with stories from your local library. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

School board meeting
Santa Monica-Malibu School District Headquarters
1651 16th St., 5:30 p.m.
Members of the Board of Education will meet to discuss such items as the establishment of a new staff position and nomination for membership on the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. For more information, visit www.smmusd.org.

Planning Commission meets
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
There will be a special Planning Commission meeting to discuss the Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway project and a zoning ordinance update. For more information, call (310) 458-8341.

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**



L.A. County told to find foster care for children

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES California officials are threatening to fine Los Angeles County as it struggles with a critical shortage of foster care that has packed children into holding rooms.

Between May 28 and July 5, nearly 600 children were diverted to holding rooms as social workers struggled to find them foster beds. More than 100 were there for more than the state limit of 24 hours and dozens spent several nights in the centers, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing information obtained under the California Public Records Act.

By comparison, only one child was held longer than 24 hours last August.

California regulators have given the county until Wednesday to fix the problem or face possible daily fines.

The number of foster parents has declined sharply over the last decade. The county had 7,800 children in 6,380 foster homes in 2007 while there now are 6,300 in 3,440 homes.

When foster beds cannot immediately be found, children younger than 12 typically stay at a holding center at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. Its cribs and cots have accommodated as many as 29 children in a night.

The Department of Children and Family Services recently issued an emergency plea for community volunteers to help feed children and change diapers.

Older children typically go to a conference room in a high-rise building, and some have had to sleep on the floor, social workers who have worked at the facility told the Times.

Several problems have exacerbated the bed shortage. The county's database of foster homes is only updated once a month and it lists only the licensed capacity of a home — not the actual number of beds a foster parent is willing to fill.

Additionally, the state's reimbursement to foster families to care for very young children is far lower than the actual costs, according to a recent study by Children's Rights, a foster care advocacy group.

The rate for children under age 4 recently was boosted to about $680 a month but that still is hundreds of dollars below the estimated costs.

"We need more homes and we need to pay them more," said Philip Browning, director of the child welfare department. "But the rates are set by the state, not the county, and that constrains us."



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ON ITS WAY OUT: **A man enters the public restroom on the 2400 block of Ocean Front Walk on Monday. It is slated to be replaced.**

Council may spend $1.22M on voter survey, new bathrooms

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL The City Council will be asked to spend roughly $1.22 million Tuesday on a wide range of goods and services, including replacing aging bathrooms on the 2400 block of Ocean Front Walk to conducting a voter survey on a potential ballot measure to pay for key infrastructure projects and possibly build affordable housing.

A California-based company, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3), will be recommended by city officials to conduct a voter survey on a potential ballot measure for the 2014 election. If approved by the council, the firm will be paid $27,800, according to a city staff report.

The voter survey is to gauge public opinion on potential ballot measures related to capital projects and affordable housing funding in light of the loss of redevelopment agencies, which were dissolved by the state. Affordable housing, the construction of a new fire station, seismic rehabilitation of Fire Station 3, updated safety communications equipment, and the reconstruction of the Corporation Yards remain unfunded.

SOFTWARE LICENSE

Laserfiche, a California-based company, is being recommended for a $73,674 contract to provide an electronic imaging and document management system. The total contract would be for five years and not to exceed $159,981, but each year the council will have to agree to continue with Laserfiche or contract with another company.

City Hall has used Laserfiche to provide imaging and document management for documents and other media that require long-term retention and/or have particular public significance, including council materials, police reports and citations, building plans and engineering drawings.

BIG BLUE BUS MARKETING

City officials hope to reach a $305,942 agreement with Pulsar Advertising, a California based company, for transit projects marketing services for two years for the Big Blue Bus. Some of the upcoming projects include BBB's new farebox system, fare media launch, new customer interfacing technology launches and service planning integration with the Expo Light Rail service expansion.

If approved, there would be three additional one-year renewal options in the amount of $152,971 per year for a total amount of $764,855 over a five-year period.

Over the next six to 18 months, BBB is developing support for new transit modes and technologies as well as appropriate

SEE **CONSENT** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wheels on the bus

Editor:

When I first moved to Santa Monica and took my first early morning bus ride, I was shocked to see mothers or fathers putting their young children on public buses, leaving them to go to school alone.

When I read the SMDP article "Police offer back-to-school safety tips" (Community Briefs, Aug. 22), 16 of them to try to safely get your child to school and back, I was outraged at the dangers involved on those trips.

All of this could be taken care of – assured safety of our children – with only one action: school buses for all children. I have lived in many cities, in many states, even others in California and all of them have had school buses.

While my child was of school age, I lived in Williamstown, Mass., 7,000 population, and we had a school for every child.

There was so much after-school activity that after our 3 p.m. buses, school buses ran every hour until 5 p.m.

One year, after the first day of school, our neighborhood children brought home a note from their principal that a survey had been made which determined that our children lived too close to the school to require a school bus, so theirs was canceled.

Immediately I phoned the principal, and did not request, but demanded the bus continue, as I later learned a parent from every family involved did the same. The next day, and every school day after, the school bus was there!

What is wrong with our Santa Monica parents? How can they subject their children to this daily ordeal? How can anyone in this city?

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica



Our Town

Armen Melkonians — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The devil's in the details

THE NOT-SO-ENDANGERED, YET ELUSIVE, Santa Monica Beach Fox was spotted two weeks ago. The sighting was made in the City Council chambers on Aug. 13, 2013. The crafty Beach Fox was up to its usual cunning tricks. She relied on her most cleverest hunting technique, "charming," which consists of performing various antics in front of her prey. She jumped, rolled around, chased her own tail until she got her prey's attention.

While performing at City Hall, the Santa Monica Beach Fox drew closer and closer without her prey ever realizing it. Then it was too late. At the right moment, she leaped and captured her prey. It was truly a well orchestrated and effective dance.

At first it seemed to be a historic night for the growing number of Santa Monica residents who are concerned with the increasing overdevelopment of our beach town. The battle between the residents and the majority pro-development City Council (and planning staff) came to a head two weeks ago in the council chambers.

At issue was the potential for proposed increased building heights for eight "opportunity" sites located in Downtown. Planning staff recommended that the City Council include increased building heights between 125 to 135 feet as part of the Downtown Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Additionally, alternative recommendations of buildings reaching heights up to 320 feet high were previously included one month earlier.

Feeling the undeniable mounting city-wide pressure from neighborhood groups and residents, the City Council surprisingly backed off from the planning staff's recommendations of increased heights.

Residents and neighborhood groups appeared to win the battle on keeping the existing character of our town. Celebrations and congratulations were in order. Height was not given away by our City Council to anxious developers who are lining up to change our town's skyline.

However, while the residents were focused on height as a symbolic, emotional, and immediately visible measuring stick of overdevelopment, the Santa Monica Beach Fox was secretly grinning as she skillfully danced and prepared to pounce. She knew that her hunting technique was working. Her antics of jumping and chasing her tale and screaming out loud that taller buildings are better was a highly effective trick to misguide the attention of the concerned residents.

While the Santa Monica Beach Fox was able to draw the focus of residents in battling increased height parameters for "opportunity" sites, the City Council ultimately ended up increasing density parameters for over 3.5 million square feet of land in Downtown. This was done through a unanimous vote by City Council to increase the outside envelope of maximum allowable floor area ratios (FAR's) that will be included in the EIR study for the Downtown Specific Plan.

Between July 9, 2013 and Aug. 13, 2013, in a one month time frame, the planning staff and the City Council were able to add significant potential new development entitlement rights on top of what was originally proposed.

Proposed densities along Ocean Avenue were increased by a factor of 20 percent. The eight "opportunity" sites received substantial increases of up to 60 percent. And a new light rail adjacent zone, encompassing 2 million square feet of property was created, increasing densities by up to 29 percent from just one month earlier. And all these increases were successfully accomplished while residents focused on height.

The Santa Monica Fox's hunting technique was genius. Residents concerned with overdevelopment made a clear cry to the council that they did not want our town character changed. And yet the City Council, through the planning staff's recommendations, voted unanimously to do just that. Potential densities in Downtown were significantly increased, which will ultimately add significant new developments along with increased traffic, congestion and gridlock to our already failing streets.

The residents' cries were heard and again ignored by City Council, and the pro-development machine continued to march forward with undeniable force.

An analysis of the City Council's decisions shows that an additional 3 million square feet of new building entitlements were potentially created through the antics of the Santa Monica Fox. These additions are on top of what was previously proposed in the July 9, 2013 public hearing and include only the changes that were made in just one month.

Ocean Avenue will realize a potential increase of 320,000 square feet of additional development. The eight opportunity sites would see entitlement increases totaling 1,020,000 square feet. And the new light rail adjacent zone will be increased by 1,650,000 square feet of additional entitlements.

Ultimately, the question arises as to the value of these new entitlements to the developers who are lining up to capitalize on the pro-development machine. Using recent purchase data for developable land in Downtown (NMS' purchase of the Denny's property), it can easily be calculated that each square foot of allowable building construction is valued at $110.

This means that when the City Council members, without batting an eye, added 3 million square feet of new entitlements, they increased the value of the affected properties by $330 million. And the residents will ultimately be left to pay this tab through a decrease in our quality of life.

Even when residents win the battle over height, the residents end up losing the war on overdevelopment. The Santa Monica Fox's cunning and deceptive tricks played an important role in making this happen. It is clear to me that the residents of Santa Monica are not only being ignored but also manipulated and now the Santa Monica Fox has been deployed to help.

But wait, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Fox hunting season is approaching fast and it is reported that Santa Monica residents have been seen preparing for the fox hunt.

This column was authored by **ARMEN MELKONIANS,** civil and environmental engineer and a grassroots advocate for resident democracy. The author and the other members of Our Town can be reached at ourtownsantamonica@gmail.com

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Labor Day deliberations

LABOR DAY IS HERE AND WITH IT THE END of summer.

It is the kick off into the holiday madness, or as I like to call it Domestic Violence Restraining Order Season. The Christmas decorations are already up in some retail outlets, and I have people on my Facebook dusting of the photos of last year's decorations and crazy cupcake designs. But let's focus on the holiday in front of us.

Labor Day began as a holiday to honor the working class in this country. For the children it is a day off from school and it should be a day of relaxation for a massively overworked society. Report after report shows that America has become a compulsive society consumed with work and being online. We are constantly in contact and focused on getting ahead.

It's little wonder that we have to force ourselves to take days off. In a country where a person's value is seemingly determined by the car they drive and the clothes they wear, how can we not expect people to be obsessive about the amount of money they're making, the sales they are projecting and, consequently, to compete about how many hours they work?

In the 24-7 world of the Internet, being connected is now obligatory. The expectation of instant communication at all times with everyone has infiltrated our society to such a degree that if we should actually sit down to dinner and not return a text instantly it is assumed something is wrong.

Concerts these days are streamed live by the thousands of people who paid to be there to their friends who aren't. They bring their iPhones to check text messages and e-mail out-of-focus photos while in the middle of watching some performance that they have spent a couple of hundred dollars on.

I'm a big fan of technology and the ability to transfer our workplace, effectively anywhere, for those of us who don't have manufacturing jobs. On the other hand, for those of us who are incapable of shutting off a communication device for even an afternoon, I think that the transition to a constant contact society is doing harm.

Though the original meaning of Labor Day has lost some of its shine in those parts of the country that are more rust belt than engine of society, we should still take a moment and remember what the intent was, to commemorate the economic and social achievements of workers. Principally begun in Australia as an outgrowth of a strike, it came to stand for the concept of an eight-hour work day, and eight hours of recreation.

The idea of eight hours of recreation is foreign to almost all of us today, which is ironic because the advent of technology was supposed to free us. In some ways it has. As I have written about before, productivity for many people has become mobile. This is where the law of unintended consequences comes into play, and we see how the dream and the reality meet, but in a way that no one foresaw.

For knowledge workers, technology has actually become the great enslaver, and for manual workers technology has dramatically reduced the need for their efforts. When the factories of yesteryear were redesigned to accommodate robots, workers were displaced and we have not found a way to utilize them. This has resulted in a surplus of labor for a deficit of need.

There are many people who look at office workers and think that because they are not swinging a hammer, or riveting sheet metal, that they are not doing "real" work. But the truth of the matter is, in terms of stress, and costs to one's life, the office worker, who is now expected to be "on call" all the time, is likely suffering from greater stress than the steelworker, who worked an eight-hour day, and though they were physically exhausted at the end of the day, could go home, and put their job behind them.

Labor used to mean hourly shift workers, and it still does, but as we have progressed in society to become more dependent upon our knowledge skills, we have also changed the face of labor. As work has become portable, people are more capable of working all the time, and the traditional concept of a laborer needs to adapt.

Oddly more people call themselves "professionals" these days, yet we all are more likely to be considered labor thanks to technology, and we should take advantage of the original intent. To take a break, and recognize our accomplishments, whether they are wrought by hammer or computer, we all need to relax more.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

The Q Line

Welcome to all

A recently enacted bill states that a transgender student is permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with his or her gender identity.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
How do you feel about the new transgender rules and why?

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



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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Smog monitors to be installed near SoCal freeways

Air quality officials will install monitors near busy Southern California freeways next year — part of a nationwide plan to provide a better look at traffic-caused pollution in 100 major cities.

The Los Angeles Times says the monitors could provide important information to nearly 1 million Southern Californians who live close to a freeway, which puts them at greater risk of respiratory illness.

Under federal EPA rules, four monitors will be placed near major roadways to measure nitrogen oxides, fine particulates and carbon monoxide. Cars, trucks and buses now account for nearly half of the smog-forming pollution in Southern California.

Some potential candidates for the monitors include Interstate 5 in Anaheim and Interstate 710 in Long Beach.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Former United worker admits plane bomb threat

A former United Airlines flight attendant has pleaded guilty to making a bomb threat against a United jet flying between London and Los Angeles.

The U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles said Monday that 40-year-old Patrick Cau pleaded guilty to one count of false information and hoaxes.

The German national who also goes by the name Patrick Kaiser is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 18. He faces up to five years in federal prison.

In a plea agreement, Cau says he used pay phones to make eight threats against United flights between October and January.

Cau — who recently moved to Dallas from Los Angeles — also agrees to pay United $268,000 in restitution because flights were delayed or canceled after the threats.

He also faces possible deportation.

– AP

PALMDALE

Sheriff: 279 birds seized in cockfighting raid

Authorities say they've disbanded a Los Angeles County cockfighting ring and seized nearly 300 birds.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement Monday that most of the birds were roosters being groomed for fighting. Forty hens were being used for breeding.

The birds were seized in a raid Thursday in an unincorporated area near Palmdale.

The department says 63-year-old Amado Herrera is being investigated for possession of fighting birds.

The birds were seized by Los Angeles County Animal Control. Investigators also seized a shotgun and ammunition and equipment used in cockfighting.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

Police make arrest in death of dog in van

Los Angeles police say a man is in custody for investigation of felony animal cruelty after leaving a dog to die inside an abandoned stolen van.

Officers in North Hollywood say 29-year-old Danny Fis was arrested Friday. Police Sgt. Jeretta Sandoz confirmed Monday that he is still in custody. Bail is $45,000.

No telephone listing for Fis could be found.

The van and dog were stolen Aug. 17 from a North Hollywood mall. The owner left the motor running and the air conditioning on while he went inside to get his family. When he returned, the dog and van were gone.

The van was found two days later in a nearby parking lot with all the windows up. Investigators say the dog died of heat exhaustion.

– AP

SIMI VALLEY

Police ID man they say shot mom, fled on tractor

The quiet of a normally serene Simi Valley neighborhood was shattered when police said a 29-year-old man killed his mother, set her house on fire and then shot randomly at passers-by before officers, who had confronted him as he attempted to flee by tractor onto an equestrian trail, shot him dead.

Police said the chaotic violence began to unfold shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday when Ryan Carnan is believed to have shot his mother to death and set her home on fire in this Los Angeles suburb.

Police Sgt. Craig Dungan said Carnan's brother called authorities to say Carnan had told him he'd killed their mother.

Carnan had never been arrested by the Simi Valley Police Department, but the agency has had "mental health-related" contacts with him, police spokeswoman Stephanie Shannon said Sunday.

About the same time the brother's call came in Saturday, however, police began receiving calls of someone shooting at passers-by in the neighborhood, whose streets are marked with names like Mellow Lane and Nonchalant Drive.

Wendy Thompson told the Ventura County Star she was riding her bike on Mellow Lane when she heard a bang and saw bullets hitting the pavement near her.

"I was like, 'What is that?' at first, then there was a 'bang-bang,' and then I saw them next to me," said Thompson, 44.

She said she looked over to see a man with a gun firing at her.

She wasn't hit.

Shannon said officers caught up with Carnan near a trail called Bridle Path. Still armed, he was riding a tractor in the area on the edge of the city's foothills.

"Faced with a deadly force situation, those officers were involved in an officer-involved shooting," the spokeswoman said.

She said the officers have been relieved of duty while that shooting is investigated.

– AP

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New deal could help repair damage at Mono Lake

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A tentative agreement has been reached that could end a decades-old battle between Los Angeles and conservationists who say the city's water diversions have damaged picturesque Mono Lake.

The board of the city Department of Water and Power was scheduled to vote Tuesday on the settlement, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The alkaline lake in the eastern Sierra Nevada about 350 miles north of Los Angeles is known for its spiraling, craggy formations. It's a stopover for millions of migratory birds.

The settlement will not affect water levels at Mono Lake, which will remain lower than historical levels.

However, it will restore miles of stream corridors that existed before an aqueduct was extended into Mono Basin in 1941, said Geoffrey McQuilkin, executive director of the Mono Lake Committee.

"Now, the aqueduct can operate as required to protect the ecosystem here even as it delivers water to the city," he said. "We expect to see stream-side forests, more insects, birds and animals — and more and bigger fish."

Conservationists first sued in 1979 because the DWP had tapped Sierra streams that supplied the fragile lake, dropping the water level by more than 40 feet and doubling the salinity.

The decline opened up a land bridge that allowed coyotes to reach gulls breeding on an island in the lake.

The lawsuit by the nonprofit Mono Lake Committee alleged that the DWP had violated public trust and created a public nuisance.

The California State Water Resources Control Board eventually ordered the DWP to make sure certain amounts of water flowed in the diverted streams and that the lake had a minimum water level.

The new lawsuit settlement calls for construction of a $15 million dam gate to release water at intervals along a seven-mile stretch of Rush Creek, promoting trout populations and restoring some habitat.

The agreement respects the concerns of both local conservationists and DWP water customers, department General Manager Ron Nichols said.

Radio star Piolin sues former employees

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES Spanish-language radio host Eddie "Piolin" Sotelo filed suit Monday against six former Univision employees, accusing them of a plot to extort $4.9 million from him with threats that they would falsely accuse him of sexual harassment and workplace humiliation.

The suit said the employees were Piolin's friends, one from high school, who profited from his success on radio and wanted revenge for being fired.

Sotelo's long-running show, "Piolin por la Manana," was abruptly canceled by Univision without explanation last month. It was subsequently reported that a lawyer for a former staffer had written a letter to Univision in April seeking settlement of sexual harassment allegations.

Sotelo's lawsuit details an alleged offer by the employees through their lawyers to "seal their lips" and take their allegations "to their graves" if Sotelo paid them.

It said the friends hired by Sotelo, one who was working at a fast food restaurant after declaring bankruptcy, were given an opportunity to break into radio. The six defendants include a bakery deliveryman, an online copywriter, a medical waste hauler, a warehouse employee and a female traffic reporter.

Some were trained in radio techniques, the suit said, and one man was given a simple job of bleeping out curse words from the freewheeling show before they reached the air. It said that man sometimes failed to stop the words from getting on the air and was written up for it. But Piolin said he interceded to keep the man's job.

The suit painted a picture of a show troubled by jealousy and questionable activities by employees.

It said trouble started when a Piolin friend who was named manager of the show found out how much money Piolin was making on promotional ventures and demanded a raise up to $1 million. It said the same man used his position to get jobs for friends, relatives and a young woman with whom he started an extra-marital affair. This, the suit said, "created a workplace drama when (his wife) drove to Univision Studios and demanded the woman be fired."

The suit said the woman, who had been given a late-night talk show, was discovered giving away prizes to her family members and ultimately was fired.

"Piolin is appalled by the conduct of his former colleagues and personal friends," the lawsuit said.

His attorney, Jeffrey Spitz, called the alleged extortion scheme "one of the most brazen, shameless and despicable examples of a shakedown that I have ever seen."

Sotelo, who was recently elected to the National Radio Hall of Fame, played corny jokes and pranks on his morning drive time show but also hosted politicians including President Barack Obama to discuss issues such as immigration reform.

In 2007, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to present lawmakers with 1 million letters in support of immigration reform. He often spoke on his program of his own experiences as an immigrant crossing the border illegally as a teenager and later obtaining papers and becoming an American citizen.

Piolin, whose nickname means "Tweety Bird," also voiced roles in "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" and other movies. He recently signed a contract with SiriusXM satellite radio.

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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 3

marketing, outreach and educational strategies to ensure that existing and new customers are prepared for these changes, according to a staff report.

NEW BATHROOM

The council is likely to approve an agreement with G2K Construction, Inc., a California-based company, for $711,700 for the 2400 Ocean Front Walk (OFW) Beach Restroom Replacement Project. The public restroom would be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The current restroom is not.

PUMP IT UP!

Lee & Ro, Inc., a California-based company, will be recommended to the City Council to provide engineering services and prepare a preliminary engineering report for the Moss Avenue Pump Station Improvements Project as part of a $83,640 agreement.

City Hall owns and maintains the Moss Avenue Wastewater Pump Station (MAPS), which is part of the city of Los Angeles Hyperion Sanitary Sewer System, and receives revenue from Los Angeles to cover maintenance and operating costs of MAPS as well as the capital improvement costs of the pump station. The station is a key component of the Coastal Interceptor Sewer (CIS) line that parallels the Pacific Ocean within the city of Santa Monica.

The preliminary report is required to evaluate the station's condition and make recommendations for priority capital improvements to meet the future capacity of the Coastal Interceptor Sewer, according to a staff report.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEES

City officials hope to modify an agreement with Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc., for $16,400 to complete the scope of work associated with preparing the Commercial Development/Affordable Housing Linkage Fee.

RSG has been working on a nexus study for a Commercial Development/Affordable Housing Linkage Fee. The nexus study identifies the specific types of commercial development which create employment with salaries that do not adequately provide for the cost of housing in Santa Monica, according to a staff report. City officials recommend extending the agreement with RSG through June 30, 2014 to complete the analysis.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

In a previous consent agenda item, the City Council was asked to spend $3.4 million for a centralized parking system for Downtown, the Main Library, Civic Center, Ken Edwards Center and Santa Monica Pier deck parking lot in an agreement with WPS USA Corp.

It would be for the purchase, installation and maintenance of a new Parking Access and Revenue Control System, or PARCS. The manufacturer of the old system no longer supplies parts for it, which has led to frequent failure, resulting in the loss of $80,000 per month in revenue when the system is down, city officials said.

However, city officials found out that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation representative who helped vet the contract bids has a son who is employed by WPS in Technical/Project Support.

Thus, city officials are expected to ask the council to reject all proposals and direct city officials to complete a new bid process.

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

PROUD GARDENER: **Sonya Anselmo poses in her curbside garden at her home on 12th Street.**

GARDENS
FROM PAGE 1

safety, vehicle safety, efficient access for pedestrian and vehicles and resource conservation, the plan states.

For example, home owners are allowed to plant thyme, jade plants, yarrow, California lilac and creeping sage, but aren't allowed to plant prickly pear cactus, ivy, agave century plants, aloe or barrel cactus. Before adding or modifying trees in the parkway, folks need to contact the community forester. To create open visibility to the street for vehicles and pedestrians, plant material shall not exceed 34 inches in height at maturity, according to the guidelines.

Plant material shouldn't be a danger to the public either. Plants with sharp, pointy protrusions such as needles or thorns are not allowed.

Anselmo installed a walkway in her parkway garden to allow for greater access after a city official stopped by to inspect it.

All landscaping is subject to the Santa Monica Municipal Code, which states "median strips and parkways planted with grass are intended to enhance the aesthetic qualities of neighborhoods and streets and to also provide limited opportunities for recreation including walking, jogging and respite."

Anselmo said she started to re-vamp the parkway on her property because the grass ended up killing the carob tree that was already planted there.

Her parkway became so transformed that her neighbor tore out his grass as well and started his own garden. For the past eight years, Anselmo, who likes to garden organically, said she's grown vegetables in the parkway garden from cuttings from neighbors.

Dana Morgan, who was the co-ordinator for the Organic Learning Garden at Santa Monica College, said she's seen people plant all sorts of interesting things in their parkways. Her concern is the exhaust and lead that comes from cars that could extend to the parkways and affect plants that are low to the ground, like tomatoes.

"Say you're growing tomatoes or vegetables right next to the parkway strip, it's probably not the best thing," said Morgan, who retired from teaching English at the college in June.

If parkway gardens aren't appealing, residents can always opt for a plot in one of Santa Monica's community gardens, however, those are in short supply. Currently 77 people are on a waiting list for the gardens, said Kathy LePrevost, community recreation manager for City Hall. Some residents have to wait as long as six years before a plot opens up.

There are 124 plots, including three workshop plots or test plots that a person on the waiting list gets for one year to see if they like gardening, LePrevost said.

The locations for the community gardens are at Main Street, between Strand Street and Hollister Avenue; Park Drive, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway; and Euclid Park. Folks sign one-year license agreements with City Hall and do that on an annual basis, LePrevost said.

The most popular community garden is the one on Main Street, LeProvost said.

For some, like Anselmo, instead of waiting for a community garden plot, a parkway garden is the next best thing. In addition to homegrown produce, other benefits of the gardens include interacting with neighbors while working outside.

"Let's get people outside and away from computer screens," Morgan said. "Let's work together and use those spaces."

For more information on the Urban Forest Master Plan, visit www.smgov.net/portals/urbanforest.

ameera@smdp.com

BIKES
FROM PAGE 1

possibility of increased crashes if drivers cross the center line or slow down too much to pass cyclists. He said then that the state could be held liable for those crashes if drivers are legally allowed to cross a double-yellow line to make room for a cyclist. Bradford's bill added new language to address those concerns.

Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, who carried the bill in the Senate, said California is one of 32 states that have so-called safe distance laws. However, California law does not currently specify a safe distance.

He said the law is needed until California has more infrastructure making it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar, said it is difficult to estimate a three-foot distance while driving and noted that sometimes cyclists must swerve into vehicle traffic to avoid road hazards.

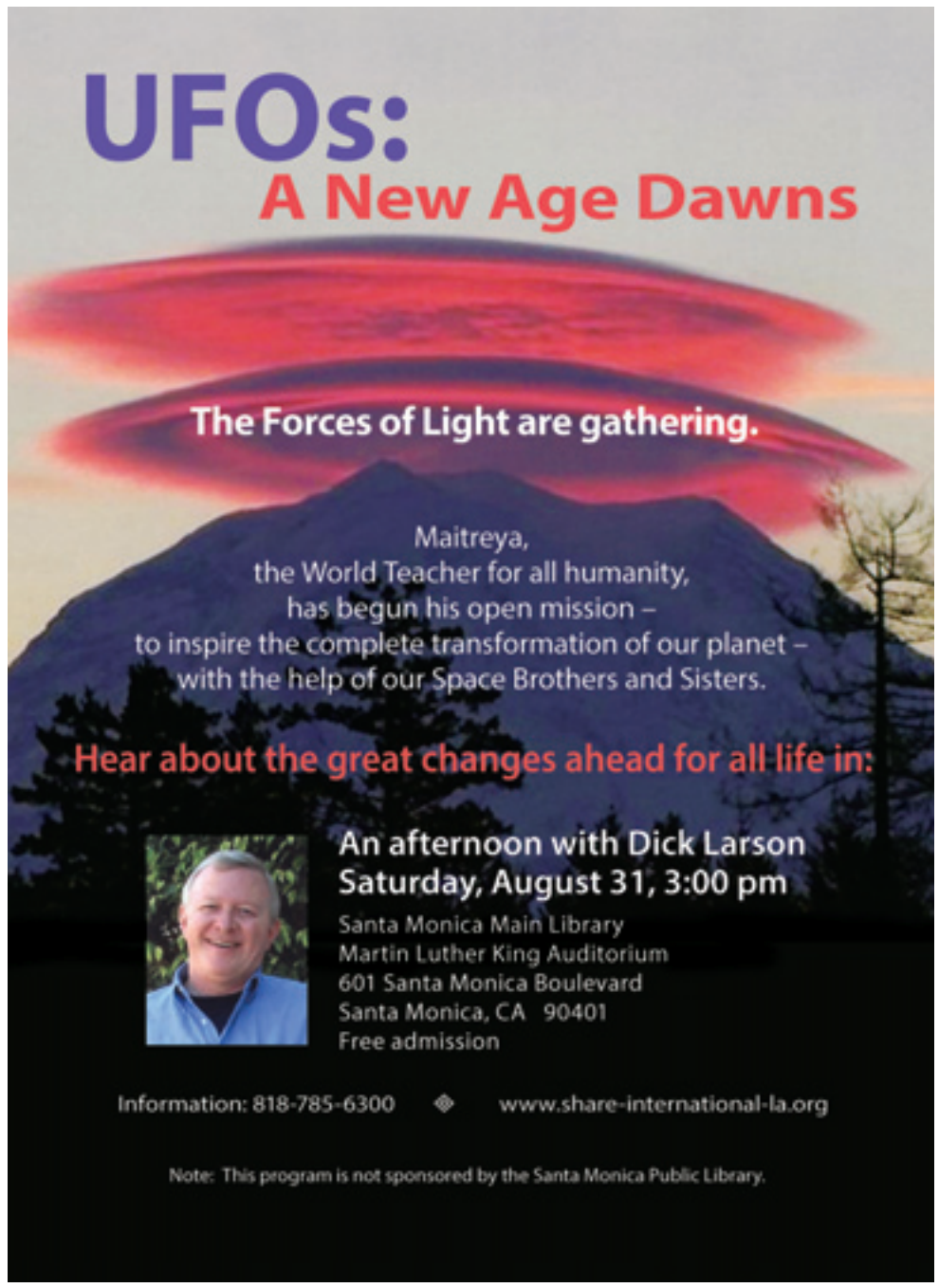
"It's just impossible to gauge what three feet is and so I don't think it really accomplishes what you want," Huff said. He said the state should instead focus on educating people about sharing the road with non-motorized vehicles when they renew their driver's licenses.

"To create outlaws of everybody because you can't judge the distance is nuts," he said.

AB1371 returns to the state Assembly for a final vote.







SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

bers, the local district offers a greater opportunity to take part in shaping the future of education through District Advisory Committees, or DACs.

The nine committees and their members are appointed by the Board of Education to focus on particular issues such as special education or English learners, to help board members make informed district-wide decisions.

As the board's policy on DACs, adopted in 1994, states: "It is not the intention that advisory committees become policy-making bodies or that they manage or direct staff. Committees are advisory in nature only; that is, they inform, suggest, and recommend to the Board of Education."

Despite committee chairs and members valuing their participation, in the last few years DACs have had a harder time getting applications in bulk to fill vacancies.

Recently 24 of 49 total DAC openings were filled showing a slight increase in applications only after due dates were moved from mid-school year to the summer.

While membership recruitment is ongoing throughout the year, interviews with DAC members and board members reveal certain factors and conditions prospective applicants should keep in mind.

FRUSTRATING LIMITATIONS

Debra Shepherd volunteered a significant amount of her time as the former chair of the Special Education DAC, averaging 20 hours a week with planning and reviewing studies. Most chairs and members of other committees reported contributing much fewer hours per week — about two hours, not including additional time for research and visiting schools.

Given the time she offered and the costs that went into funding a study she reviewed, Shepherd said she grew frustrated when members of the board did not follow through with a motion to establish a policy that would enforce respect and civility among staff and administrators, as recommended by the 2008 Independent Evaluation of Special Education Program by Lou Barber.

"People get fed up with providing their time and not have their concerns heard or have their recommendations followed," Shepherd said.

She added that she often felt board members lacked understanding of the issues and concerns within the special education community, especially when board liaisons would either fail to show at committee meetings or failed to demonstrate attentiveness when present.

Ralph Mechur, one of the school board liaisons for the Special Education committee, said that while district staff reviewed and addressed all issues brought before them from this group, some argued that they didn't go far enough.

Mechur added that there will be reports and comments that are presented to the board which may or may not be followed through depending on whether the board felt those were appropriate changes to make.

Nimish Patel, board liaison for Special Education among others, said that while DACs do provide important insights for the final votes, they must ultimately be limited to their advisory nature.

"We can't give away the power of elected board members to appointed committee

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 11

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Ordinance Numbers 2433-2437 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2433 through 2437, which were adopted by the City Council on August 13, 2013

Ordinance Number 2433 sets the 2013/2014 tax rate for the library general obligation bonds.

Ordinance Number 2434 changes the zoning for a portion of the property located at 3402 Pico from R2(low-density multi-family housing) to C2 (neighborhood commercial) so that its use may conform to surrounding boulevard uses.

Ordinance Number 2435 amends the Municipal Code provisions relating to the sale of real property owned by the City to update and modernize procedures and make them similar to other cities' so that staff may maximize the financial benefits of sale. All sales will still allow for competition and all will be approved by Council.

Ordinance Number 2436 temporarily suspends certain provisions of the Municipal Code, relating mainly to the use of public space, so that the City may conduct Glow, a one-night, public arts festival on September 28, 2013.

Ordinance Number 2437 is an interim ordinance extending the interim moratorium on the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries so that the City may continue to study the range of alternatives and integrate this zoning matter with the preparation of the comprehensive zoning ordinance.

Ordinances Number 2433 through 2435 will become effective thirty days after their adoption. Ordinances Number 2436 will become effective 15 days after adoption. Ordinance Number 2437 was immediately effective upon 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.

DISTRICT
FROM PAGE 10

members," Patel said.

Another concern Shepherd raised was that certain DACs would receive more support from the board if they covered issues for which board members already had a vested interest.

Zina Josephs, secretary for the Visual and Performing Arts committee, said that while financial constraints have been the main reason why recommendations may not be enacted for her DAC, support from individual board liaisons may help get their voices heard higher up.

Board member Ben Allen said that serving as a board liaison grants exposure to certain issues that inevitably may create more personal interest in the topic.

"It can't help but influence the way you can think of the district and your role as a board member," Allen said.

While Mechur affirmed that no one DAC has more prominence over another in the eyes of the board, Patel argued that certain DACs may receive more attention than others based on burning issues of the day.

Patel explained that if there is an incident involving race, the Intercultural Equity and Excellence DAC would have more opportunities to present their cases and recommendations since they would be the most knowledgeable on the subject.

Zakiya, a member of the intercultural DAC, noted that special interests would come up in meetings from other committee members who would take up most of the allotted time to discuss concerns specific to Santa Monica High School.

Vocal members can play a major role in determining how much attention they get from the board.

"The system is designed to be equal, but if you have certain members that advocate more, they get presented to the board more," Patel said.

Patricia Nolan, chair of the Health and Safety DAC, said that since her committee covers more general topics, it has the benefit of neutrality more so than others that address subsets of communities.

While she can't speak for others' experiences, Nolan herself has not witnessed any personal biases from committee or board members.

"I would like to think that board members, as part of their judiciary responsibility, feel that they really have to consider everybody's side," Nolan said.

LACK OF A MALIBU VOICE

Where Nolan does see an issue is when it comes to Malibu representation.

While Malibu represents 17 percent of the student population within the district, committee membership from Malibu is far less.

"Malibu representation is weak at best," Patel said.

While efforts to create a separate school district for Malibu are ramping up, SMMUSD has addressed the lack of a Malibu voice by having each DAC host two meetings in Malibu during the school year and specifically asking for a Malibu resident to fill in the recent vacancy on the Financial Oversight Committee.

> **"WE CAN'T GIVE AWAY THE POWER OF ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS TO APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS,"**
>
> **Nimish Patel**
> Board of Education member

However, Jan Maez, chief financial officer for the district, said that not many applications have come in for the oversight committee opening and they may have to open it up to Santa Monica residents.

Nolan, who lives in the portion of Topanga Canyon that is included in SMMUSD, said that even with meetings hosted in Malibu, the geographic distance and traffic dissuades members from Santa Monica to make the drive north.

She explained that while Malibu representation for leadership roles within the Health and Safety DAC has been strong, membership from that area is disappointing as most do not have her benefit of working in Santa Monica where she can easily make it to district headquarters in one commute.

Allen said that while a telecommunication system can be possible to entice Malibu residents to participate, the setting for the conversations still needs to be a public space and having members in a different location doesn't offer a long-term solution.

"It's a diminished experience. It could end up being a solitary experience," Allen said.

Nolan, on the other hand, would still prefer a telecommunication system or at least would like to see some other effort to boost participation numbers.

STILL A WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR

Despite her unsatisfactory experience as a DAC chair, Shepherd said that parents and community members interested in participating on a committee must insist to have the board put their best foot forward and make information provided by DACs a priority.

Zakiya, who promotes more parent involvement on DACs, said that parents owe it to themselves to make their voices heard in this advisory format.

"When you have a child, if you're not a part of the conversation your child is not part of the conversation," Zakiya said.

Nolan, whose DAC helped spark a successful project to have more nurses at school sites, said that she considers the DACs to be a good first step for anyone who wants to be involved in discussing the future of education.

Allen said that despite the limited nature of the committees and any other bumps along the way, participation is still crucial.

"At the end of the day the DACs are an important part of the decision-making process," Allen said, "but not the only part."

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **65.3°**

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Modest SSW swell eases; weak NW windswell

WEDNEADAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
New SSW creeps up through the day

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
SSW continues to slowly fill in - possible plus sets for standouts

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
New SSW swell picks up further - plus sets for standouts

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 21, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 27 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

High school football player released in Honolulu

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU Police have released a Southern California high school football player who was arrested on suspicion of sex assault while on a school trip to play against Hawaii teams.

The 17-year-old was arrested for third-degree sex assault, but prosecutors declined to pursue charges, police spokeswoman Teresa Bell said Monday.

Authorities wouldn't comment on the arrest because it involves juveniles.

The arrest generated reports of hazing and sex assault, but it was nothing more than an altercation in a hotel room that involved students shouting and punching, said Conejo Valley Unified School District Superintendent Jeff Baarstad. "We believe that's the extent of it, but we're going to continue to investigate it."

About 150 students were in Hawaii last week to play three football games. On Wednesday, during a visit to Pearl Harbor, a freshman player began teasing a varsity player and knocked off his cap, Baarstad said.

"Some of the varsity players who saw it thought it was disrespectful," he said.

That night at the hotel, some varsity players went to the room of the freshman involved to confront him.

"When you talk about a group of 14- to 17-year-old young men, it quickly escalated into shouting and shoving and punches being thrown," Baarstad said.

Coaches broke it up and five players weren't allowed to play in Friday's game against Waipahu High School, he said.

Someone went to Honolulu police, resulting in one arrest and one player being detained but quickly released, Baarstad said.

"We're assuming it came from a parent. We're assuming but we don't know," he said. "Someone went to the police and made an allegation and we can only surmise there was a sexual assault allegation."

Baarstad said about 70 percent of the students' parents were on the weeklong trip. The students and parents returned to Ventura County on Saturday.

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City of Santa Monica

Notice of Public Hearing Before the Santa Monica City Council

SUBJECT: Report of Water Quality and Public Health Goals

DATE/TIME: September 10, 2013 / 5:30 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

A public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council to receive and file the *2013 City of Santa Monica Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals.*

Each year the City of Santa Monica publishes its Annual Water Quality Report which includes details about the water that Santa Monica residents and businesses use every day. Along with information regarding important current water issues, the annual report includes information required by the Federal and State governments to illustrate how the quality of the water at the consumer's tap compares against established water quality standards. These water quality standards are established by Federal and State regulations as MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels). Consistently, Santa Monica's water is shown to be in full compliance with all regulatory water quality standards.

Every three years, a special report is required to be prepared by all water agencies in California to describe how the water quality compares against a different set of standards known as Public Health Goals (PHGs). PHGs are levels of contaminants much lower than MCLs. Because they are goals and not legally enforceable standards like MCLs, certain elements in the water may exceed the established public health goal while still remaining below the allowable MCL.

Details about Public Health Goals, how they were developed, what they mean, and the current state of the City's water quality are included in the *2013 City of Santa Monica Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals.* The report will be received and filed at a public hearing by the Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. Public comments can also be heard at this time. This report is available for public review at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, the Main Library, the Water Resources Division office, and online at the Water Resources Division at www.smgov.net/departments/publicworks/water.aspx .

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG) 1hr 46min
1:30pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Paranoia (PG-13) 1hr 46min
2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

World's End (R) 1hr 49min
1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:00pm, 4:10pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

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

Elysium (R) 1hr 49min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Planes (PG) 1hr 32min
11:20am, 4:25pm

You're Next (R) 1hr 36min
11:45am, 2:25pm, 5:05pm, 7:40pm, 10:05pm

Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:00am, 12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:25pm

Kick-Ass 2 (R) 1hr 43min
2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

We're the Millers (R) 1hr 49min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Jobs (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Planes in 3D (PG) 1hr 32min
1:55pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

Blackfish (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:00pm

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

Blue Jasmine (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Rider and the Storm (NR) 15min
1:15pm

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

UNWIND TONIGHT, CAPPY

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are surrounded by several people who are quite self-indulgent. You will want to initiate a serious discussion, but the playfulness around you might create a somewhat chaotic atmosphere. Tonight: Throw yourself into the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Use the morning for anything major you must do. You will feel more empowered than you have in a long time. By midafternoon, you could encounter a hassle that emerges either at work or within your personal life. Tonight: Start or finish a project at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ If you feel like moving slowly, you have the right idea. In fact, it won't be until midafternoon that you will feel back up to snuff. Initiate a long-overdue conversation with a loved one only when you feel energized and creative. Tonight: Return calls, then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Focus your attention on others, on an important business meeting and/or on an opportunity to head in a new direction. You might be difficult to stop once you start moving. Tonight: Make it early.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You tend to take on more than your fair share of work and responsibility. The good news is that you know when to kick back and start enjoying yourself. Understand that others are not as spontaneous as you are. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Look at the big picture, and consider your options. If there is a situation that is stopping you, look at the reason why, and see if it is really worth holding on to. No matter what your decision is, you will need to take the lead. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to look past the obvious with a partner. Try to root out the real cause of this person's interpersonal issue. Know that the situation is resolvable, though you might have to break precedent to find a solution. Tonight: Listen to a great piece of music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might not be comfortable with everything that others are saying. Don't automatically deny what you hear, as you will get confirmation to the validity of at least part of the message. Tonight: State your feelings in an appropriate discussion with a partner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Continue with your focus on work. Little will be able to distract you until midday. Whether you call it networking or socializing, you will become more people-oriented. Tonight: Reach out to a friend at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Review a recent decision before approaching a loved one. A change of mind is not out of the question. You have greater impact than you realize. Approach others with care. Tonight: Relax -- you need to unwind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If you are able to, try to work from home ... at least through the morning hours. A key situation will encourage you to deal with it first. Once that has been handled, your rambunctious nature might emerge. Tonight: No one can deny that you are a "people person."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Brief calls could turn into lengthy conversations. You might feel as if your whole schedule is being taken over! Resist feeling pressured. Look at the value of these conversations. Important solidifying of different bonds will occur. Tonight: Head home. Face it -- you are tired.

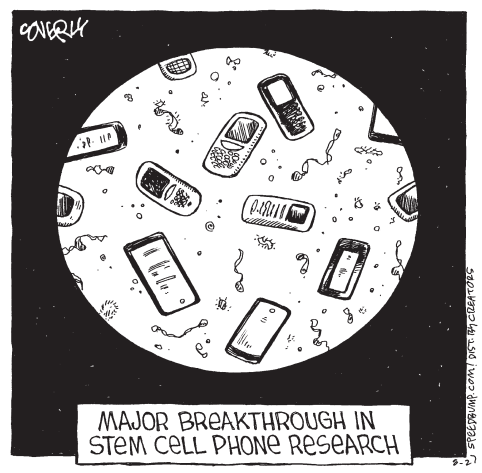
Tuesday, August 27, 2013

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

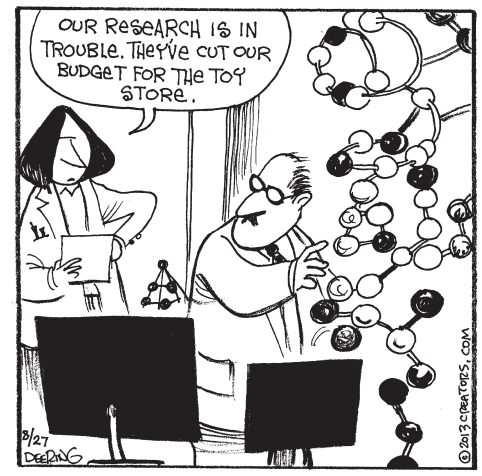
This year people often don't know which way you will go in situations where your opinion is needed. Sometimes you will be stubborn, as you believe that your idea is the best. Other times, you will want a selection of many ideas to toy around with. If you are single, others could be confused yet intrigued by you. Establishing a steady relationship will be dependent on an accepting partner. If you are attached, you could confuse your sweetie. Sometimes you might be insistent that you are right; other times, you could care less. GEMINI adores your diversity.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



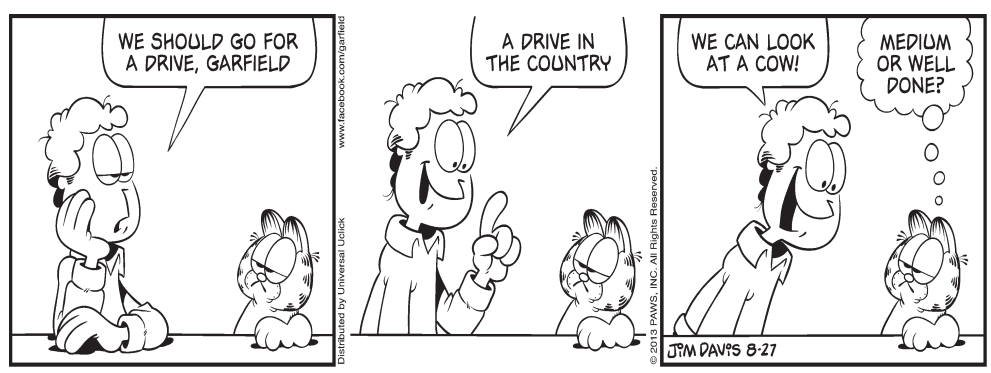
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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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

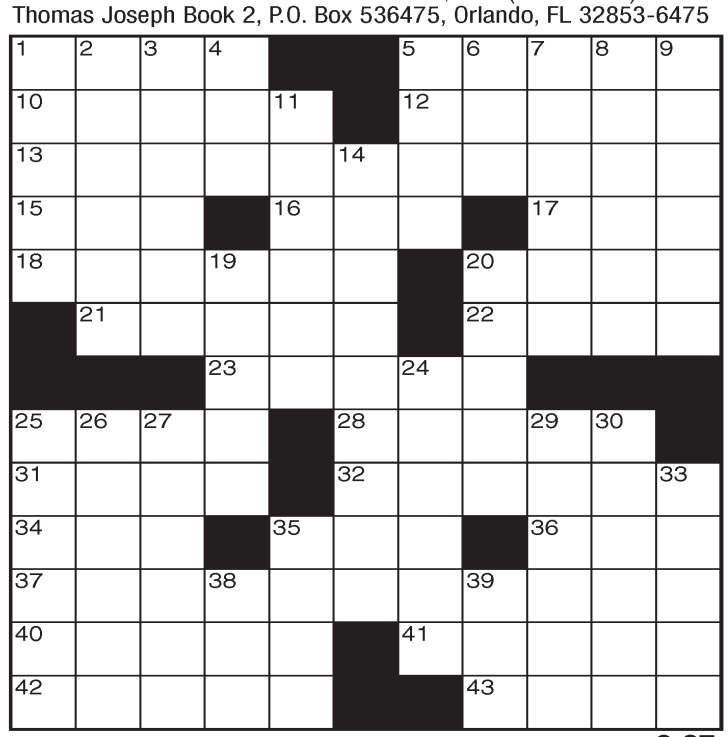
ACROSS
1 Meringue base
5 Summit goals
10 Pick up the tab
12 Koran topic
13 Working closely together
15 Cain's mother
16 "My word!"
17 Neckline shape
18 Echoing sound
20 Green, in France
21 Low point
22 Pubs
23 Writer Asimov
25 IOU
28 Closes with a bang
31 Camera part
32 Judo's cousin
34 Tax agcy.
35 Gold unit
36 Skin art, for short
37 Embarrassingly imprudent
40 Steakhouse order
41 Emergency sound
42 Act part
43 TV's Jay

DOWN
1 Old anesthetic
2 Carved, as an image
3 Swiss city
4 Feeling down
5 Book unit
6 Maximum amount
7 Like a goat hoof
8 Pub
9 White sale buy
11 River of Iraq
14 Omaha native
19 Fixes copy
20 Parish leader
24 Burglar deterrents
25 Dover sight
26 Valiant
27 Sneaker part
29 Ripen
30 New York's — Island
33 Cultural, in combinations
35 Vampire attack
38 Finger count
39 Motor need

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

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



8-27



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Adult "swinger" clubs occasionally rent commercial facilities like restaurants for an evening in which randy couples can mingle, but a club in Melbourne, Australia, struck a deal with the Casey Kids Play House Cranbourne, where frolickers could enjoy the playtime equipment -- until parents of children who play there found out in June. The parents were especially concerned about the partiers cavorting among the plastic balls in the giant ball pit. One parent told the Herald Sun, "My son is one (who) puts balls in his mouth."

■ British birdwatchers were especially excited by news earlier this year that a rare White-throated Needletail (the world's fastest flying bird) had been spotted on the U.K.'s Isles of Harris -- only the eighth such sighting in Britain in 170 years -- and ornithologists arranged for an expedition that attracted birdwatchers from around the world. A June report in the Daily Telegraph noted that about 80 people were on the scene when the bird appeared again, but then had to watch it fly straight toward the blades of a wind turbine. (As the event might be described by Monty Python, the bird thus joined the choir invisible, left this mortal coil, became an ex-White-throated Needletail.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1922 - The Turkish army takes the Aegean city of Afyonkarahisar from the Greeks.

1927 - Five Canadian women file a petition to the Supreme Court of Canada, asking, "Does the word 'Persons' in Section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867, include female persons?"

WORD UP!

troubadour \ TROO-buh-dawr, -dohr, -door \ , noun;
1. one of a class of medieval lyric poets who flourished principally in southern France from the 11th to 13th centuries, and wrote songs and poems of a complex metrical form in langue d'oc, chiefly on themes of courtly love. Compare trouvère.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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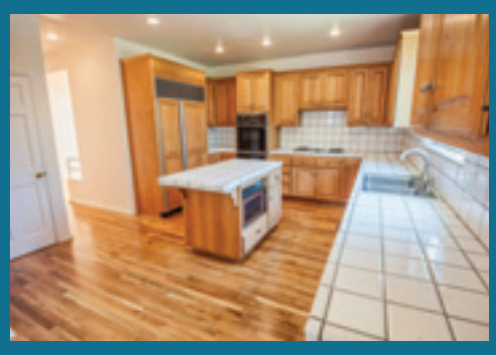












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