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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 251

Santa Monica Daily Press

ARE WE BETTER OFF?
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE BACK TO THE GRIND ISSUE

Santa Monica: Where tenants rule

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

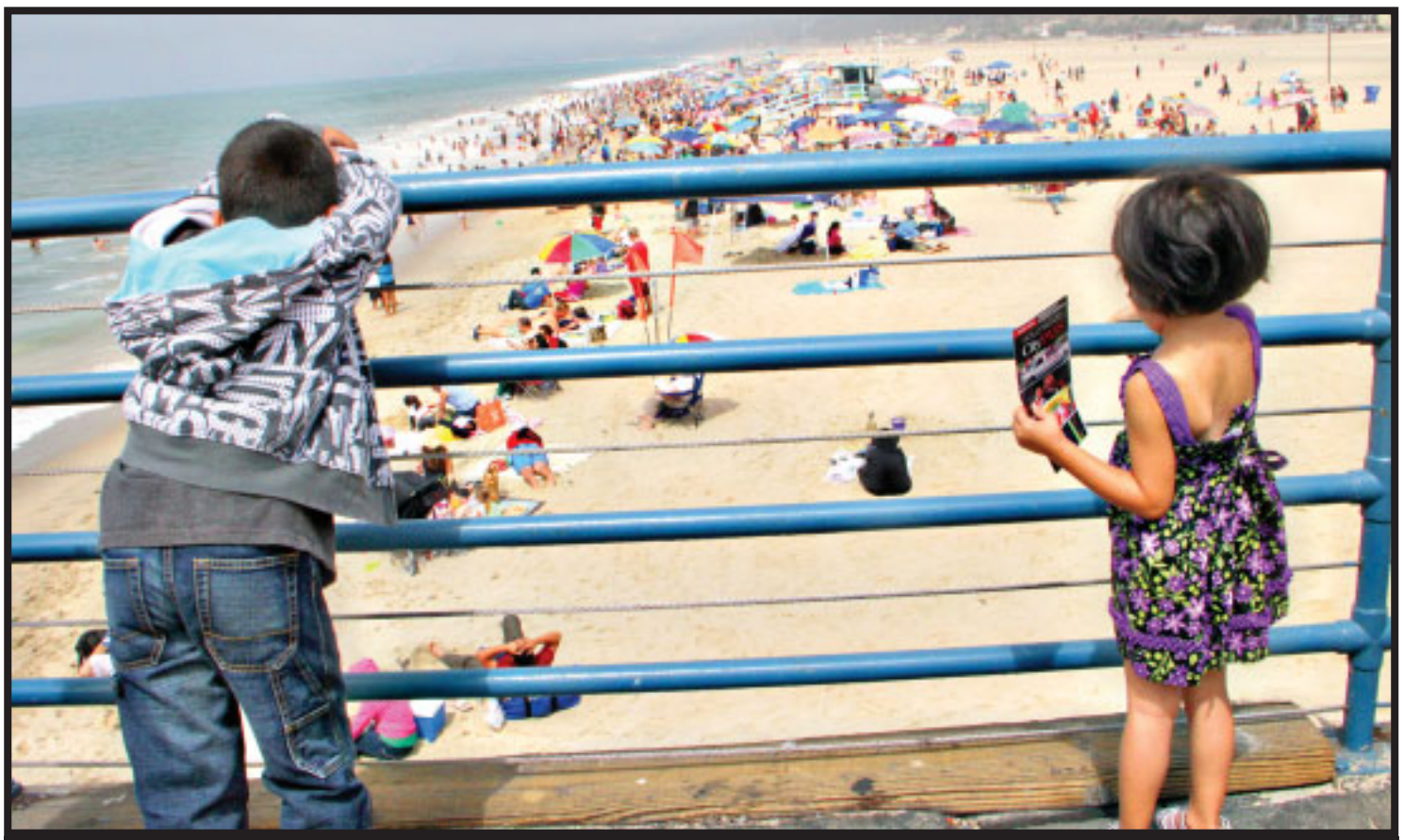
CITYWIDE In the People's Republic of Santa Monica, tenants rule.

That is borne out with a quick count of elected officials. Five of the seven City Council members, four of the five Rent Control Board members and six of the seven members of the Board of Education were all backed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR), a group formed in the late 1970s to fight for rent control laws in the city by the sea.

Gearing up for the 2012 election, SMRR dollars — $73,000 of them at last count — will be reaching out to thousands of voters, and when tenants here vote, they tend to go for left-leaning policies, people and measures.

A $385 million school bond measure, which will appear on the November ballot as

SEE TENANTS PAGE 12



SUMMER'S LAST STAND
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*
The Santa Monica Pier and the beach surrounding it were already crowded by early afternoon on Monday, which was Labor Day.

Today's docs want a real life

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO Don't call today's young doctors slackers.

True, they may shun a 24/7 on-call solo practice and try to have a life outside of work.

Yet they say they're just as committed to medicine as kindly Marcus Welby from 1970s TV, or even grumpy Dr. House.

The practice of medicine is in the midst of an evolution, and millennial and Gen X doctors seem to be perfectly suited for it and in some ways may be driving it. The federal health care law is speeding some of these changes, too.

"It's a fortunate accident," said economist and health policy expert Robert Reischauer. "The two will reinforce each other."

These doctors embrace technology and teamwork. They like electronic medical records and smartphone apps. And they like sharing the load with other doctors on the team.

Emal Nasiri and Leana Wen are part of the new breed.

Nasiri, 32, is a medical resident at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa. He likes the idea of working in a large health plan group where doctors, specialists and other medical staff work as teams, with easy access to patients' electronic medical records. That kind of setup is more likely to be "wired" than smaller practices, and Nasiri can't imagine working without his iPad.

"The older guys carry around little pharmaceutical books" when going room-to-room visiting hospitalized patients, Nasiri

SEE DOCS PAGE 8

Small earthquake shakes West Los Angeles

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The U.S. Geological Survey is reporting an earthquake early Monday in the greater Los Angeles area.

The magnitude-3.3 quake was centered in Beverly Hills at 3:26 a.m.

There are no immediate reports of damage.

Beverly Hills police watch commander Sgt. Michael Publicker said his station has been getting numerous calls from anxious citizens. He said, "Every alarm in the city is going off." But he added that his patrol officers had seen no signs of structural damage.

An officer at the nearby West Los Angeles police precinct said there had been no calls about the quake.

The Los Angeles Fire Department says its survey found no significant damage, injury or loss of life in the city.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012

Say it in verse
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 10:30 a.m.
Mixing enlightened analysis with innovative authorship, join Bill Robertson of Santa Monica Emeritus College and strengthen your poetry dedication, appreciation and creation. Visit www.greenpoets.com for more information.

Save the statue
Civic Center
1800 block of Main Street, 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
There will be a candlelight vigil to save Paul Conrad's "Chain Reaction" sculpture, which city officials say may be in need fo repair. The vigil is being held on the second anniversary of Conrad's death.

Rolling feast
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St., 5:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Gourmet food trucks gather each week offering foodies plenty to choose from. There's free parking in the museum's lot. For more information, call (310) 392-8537.

Wine and a song
Sonoma Wine Garden
395 Santa Monica Place, third floor dining deck, 6:30 p.m.
Join Brett Young and special guests every Tuesday night for a live music set on the garden patio of this popular spot. For more information, call (424) 214-4560.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012

Catch a chef
The Market
Santa Monica Place 395, 9 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Have you ever wondered what all those chefs are going to make with all that fresh produce they buy at the Farmers' Market? Now is your chance to follow a chef back to the kitchen and learn how they put all of the ingredients together to create a special farmers market menu. Meet chef Nyesha Arrington and her staff with the red wagon at the corner of Third Street and Arizona Avenue in the middle of the Santa Monica Farmers' Market at 9 a.m. sharp. Cost: Free.

We have a problem, parents
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Westside Family Health Center's next Lunch & Learn Series topic is "Parents, We Have a Problem." The Lunch & Learn panel features Janis Kingsley-Scott, school psychologist at Santa Monica High School and formerly with John Adams Middle School for more than 10 years. Kingsley-Scott will present basic information on identifying the key mental health issues that youth face today, how parents and other adults can engage best with adolescents and what the warning signs are that kids give when they are truly deeply troubled. For more information, visit www.wfhcenter.org.

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



New attendance push prized by students, educators

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. School day wake-up calls recorded by celebrities. Weekend makeup classes. Contests with laptop computers, private concerts and cars as prizes.

Educators across the nation are using creative strategies as another school year gets under way to convince students and parents that regular attendance matters — and not just for grades and achievement.

New research suggests missing as little as two weeks of school can put young children behind their peers, burden overworked teachers, cost districts state dollars and undermine mandates to raise standardized test scores. So many public school districts have launched campaigns to reduce all absences, not just those serious enough to warrant a home visit from a truant officer.

"Students who are getting a 'B' and are OK with a 'B,' they think it's in their rights to skip school now and then," said Berkeley High School Attendance Dean Daniel Roose, who offered a movie night to the grade-level boasting the best attendance last semester. "I've tried to challenge those kids and their families to change the mindset that you aren't impacting anyone but yourself when you skip."

The rewards are designed to supplement courts, mentors and other interventions for addressing serious truancy. They direct attention to what education experts call "chronic absenteeism," which applies to students who miss 10 percent of their classes for any reason and may even have parental permission to be out of school.

To counter slumping attendance that tends to worsen as adolescents get older, about 200 middle and high schools in 17 states will be competing this fall in a challenge organized by Get Schooled, a New York-based nonprofit that uses computer games, weekly wake-up recordings from popular singers and actors, and social media messages to get students to show up in the name of school spirit.

The winner of last year's seven-week competition, a Seattle middle school, received a private concert from R&B performer Ne-Yo, who also served as principal for a day to recognize the 3.7 percent jump in the school's average daily attendance rate

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 11



ON BEAT

Photo courtesy Angela Weiss

Latin music sensation La Santa Cecilia perform their hit song, 'La Negra,' during the Broad Fest on Saturday. The festival was held to celebrate the performing arts center's fifth anniversary. The Broad opened its doors for a full day of free entertainment.

Are Americans better off heading toward election?

CALVIN WOODWARD
KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. In an overnight reversal of rhetoric, President Barack Obama's top allies insisted Monday that Americans are surely better off than four years ago despite a slow economic recovery and joblessness of 8.3 percent. Republicans countered that the president has failed on the fundamental question of this election.

On Labor Day, Republican Mitt Romney said in a statement: "For far too many Americans, today is another day of worrying when their next paycheck will come."

"We're worse off," declared Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus, speaking on CNN in the warm-up to the Democratic National Convention. "There's half a million more people unemployed today than three or four years ago, not to mention the under-employed, people who aren't making what they should make."

Obama, for his part, sought to highlight the economic gains of the past four years by visiting with Toledo autoworkers before heading to Louisiana to survey damage from Hurricane Isaac. He sat down to breakfast with three workers before a scheduled address at a United Auto Workers rally, underscoring the turnaround of the U.S. auto industry on his watch.

Vice President Joe Biden seconded the message at a Labor Day rally in Detroit and put the blame for the country's economic woes squarely on the Republicans, declaring, "America is better off today than they left us when they left."

Then he struck up a chant: "Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive."

Democratic supporters went into overdrive to put a glossy sheen on economic progress after offering a more muddled message over the weekend about whether

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 15

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A different point of view

Editor:

Regarding the appointment of Ms. Lael Rubin to the Santa Monica Airport Commission ("New airport commissioner breaks mold," Sept. 1-2), I find that, possibly for the first time in my life, I agree with Martin Rubin when he says that her appointment was a "missed opportunity."

I believe, though, that the missed opportunity was the City Council's failure to appoint someone to the commission who is a pilot or who is connected to aviation in some way. It's almost beyond belief (except, perhaps, in Santa Monica) that an Airport Commission (of any city) would not have as a member a pilot or someone who is connected in some way to the aeronautical world. But, it's unfortunately true that Santa Monica's Airport Commission does not have any member who can provide that "flying" point of view. Santa Monica's airport commission members are all party faithful appointed by other party faithful.

What is the City Council afraid of? Do they fear having a commission member who does not support the closing of the airport, or who holds a different, broader point of view? This is a rigged game.

The airport has a right to exist and it has a right to be represented on the Airport Commission. Santa Monica has over 96,000 inhabitants. The "airport closers" number only a few hundred and those are concentrated around the airport. A "closer" admitted to me that even in the communities right around the airport, the residents do not all agree with closing the airport. When he walks around his neighborhood trying to drum up support, many people disagree with him and others are supporters of the airport. The "closers" would love for you to believe that their voice is the voice of the people, but it is not, not even in the neighborhoods closest to the airport.

The airport's local economic impact has been valued by consultants hired by the city (probably to their dismay) at $275.2 million dollars annually. On-SMO businesses number 177 and represent 30 industry groups; this is not just a matter of six flight schools. About 1,500 jobs and the families who depend on those jobs are dependent on the airport. Separate from that economic impact is the airport itself. Except for some money paid for capital improvements, the airport breaks even as an airport – no money from other things like education, police and fire has to be diverted to support the airport.

Santa Monicans need to be aware that the FAA has offered to buy the homes that the city has said are in "harms' way," but Santa Monica refused the offer. The FAA has also offered to pay for some additional safety features for the airport, but Santa Monica refused the offer. The "airport closers" don't want you to know that!

We can only hope that Ms. Lael Rubin talks to some other people with differing views and does not confine her discussions only with the City Council and her other airport commissioners, who seem to have a vested interest in closing the airport. The views of the FAA, the pilots, the airport businesses and their employees and the many, many people here in Santa Monica who view the airport as a real asset need to be heard.

Reynold Dacon
Santa Monica





After the Bell

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hold on tight to your cash

MAKING MONEY IS NICE. BUT THE REAL trick is keeping it. No matter how tight you hold it, it seems that the government takes some, your kids borrow some and the rest goes to fix up the house.

Suppose you do make a bit of money and have it to put aside. What should you do with it? Not many years ago the cautious person would buy government bonds. The slightly less cautious would buy corporate bonds because they paid a bit more interest. But in today's world neither pays enough interest to keep up with inflation, so the purchase of a bond is basically losing some of the money over time.

Of course you can put it in your mattress, but that too doesn't help with the fact that the money becomes less valuable over time, as inflation continues to eat away at it.

There are stocks, of course. Some politicians think people should be allowed to invest their retirement plans themselves into stocks. That would no doubt boost the stock market, but since a small percentage of people are knowledgeable in the market, many would lose a significant portion of their money. And only those with a lot of money could afford a professional advisor.

The goal for most is to put the money into something very secure for their retirement. I read a report recently by Bruce Givner, one of the most knowledgeable tax lawyers in California — or maybe anywhere. Some of what I'm writing about today comes from what I learned from him, and his recent article.

The best of all possible places to put retirement funds would be somewhere that allows a deduction when the funds are invested, allows the returns on the investment to build up tax free, allows you to take out money without paying taxes on it and allows it to pass to your spouse and children tax free. Life being what it is, it is probably too much to expect to find the perfect investment vehicle. But you can come close.

Perhaps most financial advisors would suggest a retirement plan. That has all of the advantages you are looking for except that it is not tax-free when you die. But since most people's estates are below the limit of taxability, it's only the very rich that have to worry about that. So a retirement plan is a really good place to put your money — if you can do it. Not everyone can benefit from a retirement plan because if you are in a company with other employees, the government insists that you share the wealth, and some part of the cash contributions have to be put aside for the other employees.

And then there is still the issue of what to do with the money that goes into the plan. Many advisors now suggest bond funds and mutual funds. But generally it's cheaper to get a good advisor to select specific sector Exchange Traded Funds instead because they have less costs and can be traded into more specific areas.

Givner points out another possibility that most people shun — life insurance. The disadvantage of the various life insurance plans is that you do not get a deduction when you put money into the policy. But the money that is earned is tax free. You can take money out without paying tax on it, and — best of all for rich people — it passes to your spouse and children tax free.

For people that can't economically put money into a pension plan without too much of it going to others, this is a good alternative. Another advantage is that you don't have to worry about the investment side of it, because the insurance company takes all the investment risk and gives you a fixed return, typically quite a bit more than is available in a government bond.

PAYING UNCLE SAM

We are closer to the end of the year than you might realize. So pretty soon it's time to think about year-end tax planning. What I've written so far is part of what you should be thinking about. But there are a lot of other things to think about.

It's a good time to talk to your accountant now about those little things that help with taxes. I can tell you from experience that it certainly is a good idea to keep a really careful record of all business expenses. When you use a credit card, write right on the receipt the names of the people you were with and the business topic that was discussed. File these receipts carefully in a way that allows you to find them by category — dinners, travel, gifts, etc. There are a few computer-scanning programs that you can buy that allow you to scan your receipts and electronically file them by both name and category.

While many accountants and financial advisors do not voluntarily disclose it, there are also a number of other personal strategies you can employ to reduce taxes, if you know about them and ask your accountant about them.

For example, if you work at home you can take a number of tax deductions as a result, usually based on the relationship of the square footage you use for business and the amount used for your personal use. The same is true for telephone and car expenses.

And if your spouse works at home, perhaps helping you with paperwork from the office, you can set up a separate company for him or her, and pay for his or her services. In some cases such a company can provide medical coverage for the family and allow a much greater deduction for these expenses than you can get as an individual. Sometimes this also creates a higher Social Security benefit for the spouse, and a number of other deductions. And the payments are tax deductible at your highest tax rate, while the company might be in a lower tax bracket.

For information about **MERV HECHT** and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.

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Promoters' e-mail: Concern over Jackson's stability

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Promoters of Michael Jackson's planned 2009 comeback described in e-mails how they feared for the megastar's stability, saying he was out of shape and consumed with self-doubt.

The Los Angeles Times obtained some 250 pages of messages, most between executives at Anschutz Entertainment Group, which was financing the ill-fated "This Is It" concerts set for London. Some of the e-mails indicated that executives were concerned that Jackson's planned 50-show stand at AEG's 02 Arena would be an expensive bust.

In one exchange AEG's Randy Phillips wrote his boss that Jackson was "an emotionally paralyzed mess." Phillips was writing from Jackson's London hotel suite just hours before a press conference announcing the concert run.

"MJ is locked in his room drunk and despondent," Phillips said in an e-mail to AEG President Tim Leiweke. "I (am) trying to sober him up."

In the end, the e-mails show, Phillips and Jackson's manager had to dress the pop star, the Times said.

"He is scared to death," Phillips wrote to Leiweke.

Jackson arrived 90 minutes late for the press conference and made brief remarks that some of the 350 reporters described as odd and disjointed.

In an interview with the newspaper, AEG's attorney Marvin Putnam suggested Phillips had exaggerated in his e-mails and said Jackson's behavior appeared to be a case of "nerves."

The Times said the messages will probably play a key role in two lawsuits set for trial next year. The shows' insurers are asking a judge to nullify a $17.5-million policy that they say AEG got with false claims about Jackson's health and readiness to perform. And Jackson's heirs filed a wrongful-death suit that accuses the entertainment giant of pressuring the singer to carry on with a comeback despite indications he was too weak.

Lawyers for AEG, which has denied any wrongdoing, told the Times most of the correspondence was produced as discovery in ongoing litigation. They said the messages reviewed by the newspaper were incomplete and leaked to portray the company in a negative light. The lawyers declined to provid3e additional e-mails that they said would give a fuller picture, citing a protective order imposed by a judge in the civil litigation.

Numerous e-mails show Lloyd's of London unsuccessfully pushing for access to five years of Jackson's medical records in order to expand insurance coverage for the concerts.

The insurer also wanted the singer to undergo a four-hour medical exam that would include three doctors, heart monitoring and blood work. AEG's insurance broker tried to persuade Lloyd's to drop the physical, according to the e-mail discussions. AEG suggested that Jackson's physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, could give an oral recitation of Jackson's recent medical history instead, the Times reported. Lloyd's refused.

A Lloyd's underwriter wrote that repeated requests for written records and details about Jackson's daily fitness program were met "always with no response."

Murray responded to the last of the requests June 25 at Jackson's Southern California home, according to e-mails presented at the doctor's criminal trial. He wrote that he had talked to Jackson and "Authorization was denied."

Jackson died less than an hour later, according to a timeline Murray gave investigators.

The Q Line

Paying to play

The City Council asked planners to take a look at a new fee intended to make getting around Santa Monica easier, but some say it's particularly hard on small businesses.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it's fair for City Hall to ask for more to fund transportation projects even if it makes doing business in the city that much more expensive?

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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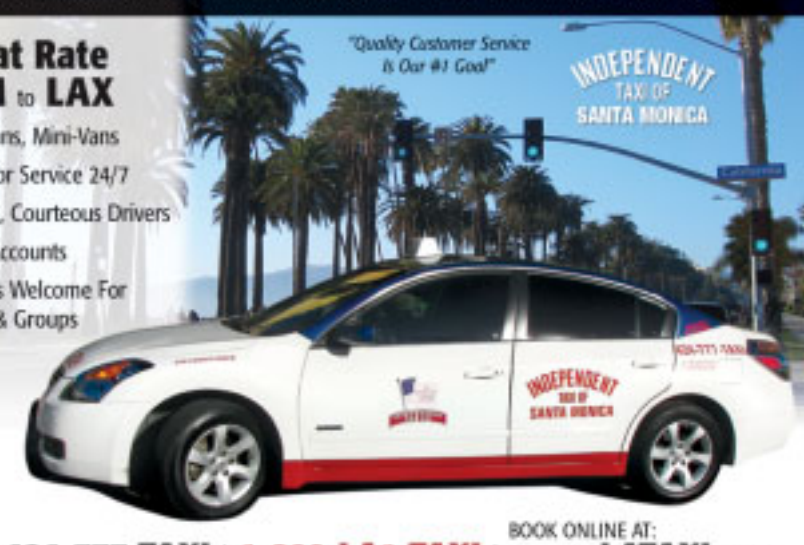
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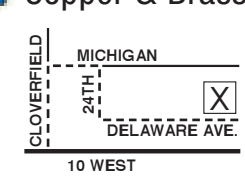

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Pension reform deal reflects Democratic, union ties

JUDY LIN
JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Union leaders grumbled this week when Gov. Jerry Brown released a compromise deal with Democrats to scale back pension benefits for the state's public employees, but it was far less than a resounding victory for the Democratic governor.

While Brown and Democratic leaders hailed the deal as sweeping and substantial, the governor failed to get critical elements that he previously said were needed to better protect taxpayers for years to come.

The deal will increase the retirement age for new employees, eliminate numerous abuses of the system and require workers who are not contributing half of their retirement costs to pay more. Missing were three pillars of the 12-point proposal Brown announced last October.

There is no hybrid system that includes a 401(k)-style plan so public employees would bear some of the investment risk, as private-sector workers do. Nothing was done to reduce skyrocketing health care costs promised to current workers when they retire. And there will be no independent members or guarantee of independent financial expertise on the union-dominated board of the state's main pension fund.

The changes also will not be embedded in the state constitution, meaning they can be altered by majority vote of a future legislature.

In negotiating a deal that falls short, Brown faced political constraints endemic to California politics, particularly for Democrats.

The governor and the Democratic legislative leaders with whom he negotiated are beholden to the financial and organizational support of the public employee unions that stand to lose the most if benefits are scaled back.

This year, Brown faced added pressure of his own making: He needs the unions' support for Proposition 30, his November ballot proposal to temporarily raise the state sales taxes and income taxes on higher-income earners to help ease California's budget crisis.

While Brown and Democratic lawmakers removed some provisions that were most onerous to public employee unions, labor groups still complained about the changes, calling them an overreaction to an economic crisis caused by risky actions on Wall Street.

Many pension-reform advocates credit Brown for getting far more than any other governor in recent memory, although they cautioned that the legislative package approved Friday is just the first step to what they believe must be a major overhaul of the entire system.

"It would have been moving a mountain," said Marcia Fritz, president of the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, a lobbyist for pension reform. "A leader can only do so much with what he has at the moment. My feeling is that (retiree) health care just would've been too much."

She said voters may find the changes insufficient.

The chief actuary of the California Public Employees' Retirement System preliminarily pegged the savings for that pension system as high as $60 billion, but others remained skeptical that the deal will do much to reduce the long-term liabilities.

Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, cautioned that the latest reforms may address as little as 5 percent of the state's overall pension problem. The state's two main pension funds — CalPERS and the California State Teachers' Retirement System — are at least $165 billion underfunded.

California currently spends about $1.5 billion in medical care for state government retirees, almost 2 percent of general fund spending. That's up from $560 million a year a decade ago.

"I think that the governor worked hard to try and get some reforms that matter, but for the reforms that will have the greatest long-term impact, the unions are not going to let it happen," Lapsley said. "The unions, this is their fundamental mission, to protect pension benefits and to get as many gains as possible for their members, but to get it at the public's expense."

Reform advocates say additional concessions are needed from current workers, but those must be negotiated through collective bargaining because the courts have consistently protected existing retirement benefits for government workers. Any savings from the pension changes for future employees will not be realized for decades.

Lapsley said the only real pension reform will be come at the ballot box, as happened in San Jose and San Diego, where voters in June overwhelmingly approved measures to scale back benefits. The business group has already reached out to Brown about the possibility of partnering with him on a future pension initiative, he said.

Unions might be wiser to take their medicine in the state Legislature, said Thom Reilly, a professor at San Diego State University and author of the book "Rethinking Public Sector Compensation: What Ever Happened to the Public Interest?"

"The Democratic legislators may very well feel they're protecting a key constituent, but private citizens will take it to the ballot and their remedies will be much more draconian and much more punitive," he said.

One of Brown's stated goals, adding two independent members to the CalPERS board, would require voter approval because its current structure was put in place by a 1992 union-led ballot initiative. Proposition 162 gave the fund exclusive authority over management and investments, putting the interests of retirees ahead of taxpayers.

The board has been criticized for using overly optimistic investment returns in its projections, which could mask the amount needed to fully fund retirement obligations. When he rolled out his pension-reform plan in October, Brown was emphatic about the need for change on the board.

"Retirement boards need members with real independence and sophistication to ensure that retirement funds deliver promised retirement benefits over the long haul without exposing taxpayers to large unfunded liabilities," he said then.

David Crane, who was economic adviser to former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, said the only way to change how pension funds are governed is to have a majority of their board made up of people who are financially savvy and independent.

"In other words, not be pension beneficiaries," he said.

Brown defended the deal as a historic achievement, noting the complexity of state pension laws and the difficulty of addressing an issue that affects so many parties.

Obama, GOP duel over rising college expenses

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama would make tax credits for college expenses permanent and expand Pell grants for students from lower-earning families. The Republican team of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would emphasize the need to curb rising tuitions and federal education spending that are burdening families and the government.

The different approaches to coping with growing college costs highlight one way that Obama and the GOP ticket are competing for young voters. This important group leaned heavily toward Obama in 2008 and still prefers him, according to polls, though less decisively.

Tuitions and fees for four-year public colleges grew by 72 percent above inflation over the past decade, averaging $8,244 last year, according to the College Board, which represents more than 6,000 schools. Student loan debt in the U.S. has hit $914 billion; the average borrower owes more than $24,000, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York says.

Democrats are sure to reach for the college vote at the party's national convention in Charlotte, N.C., a week after Obama spoke to students in university towns in Virginia, Colorado and Iowa. Romney was counting on his youngest son, Craig, and the 42-year-old Ryan to court young supporters.

In 2008, voters age 18 to 24 sided with Obama over GOP candidate John McCain by a 66-32 margin. A Gallup poll taken in July and August found that same age group preferring Obama over Romney by 56 percent to 36 percent, an edge that Republicans would love to erode further.

Well before the party conventions, both sides had issued proposals directly affecting college students — and their parents — coping with those mushrooming costs.

Obama would let the current $5,550 per year maximum Pell grant increase to $5,635 next year, as scheduled under current law. That figure has grown by more than $900 since 2008 for a program that is the largest source of federal aid for students, serving more than 9 million of them.

Obama would make permanent the American Opportunity tax credit, created as part of his 2009 economic stimulus program. The credit provides up to $2,500 a year per student for college costs but is due to expire Jan. 1. Renewing it would cost an estimated $13 billion next year alone.

Obama has also proposed tying some federal aid, including Perkins loans and subsidies for students' work-study jobs, to schools' abilities to curb tuition increases. The president's proposals continue "the administration's commitment to keep college affordable for students and their families," his 2013 budget blueprint said.

Separate plans by presidential nominee Romney and his running mate focus more on containing federal costs.

In a May paper, Romney argued that even as federal spending for higher education has grown, the costs of attending college and student debt have ballooned. Obama initiatives making the government the direct source of federal student loans, creating the American Opportunity tax credit and boosting Pell grants have not worked, it said.

"Flooding colleges with federal dollars only serves to drive tuition higher," said Romney's education paper, "A Chance for Every Child."

It said Romney would improve college access and affordability: "A Romney administration will tackle this challenge by making clear that the federal government will no longer write a blank check to universities to reward their tuition increases."

Romney would eliminate duplicative federal college financial aid programs, direct Pell grants to "students that need them most" and put the program on a sustainable long-term path, the document said. It provides few details.

He would put private lenders back in the business of issuing federally backed student loans, let companies compile data about lending and colleges for consumers and help families save for higher education. The paper says little about how.

Campaigning in March, Romney was asked by a voter what he would do to make college more affordable. Romney replied that while it might be popular for him to answer that he would provide students with government money, "what I'm going to tell you is shop around."

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who is chairman of the House Budget Committee, wrote a House-approved 2013 budget that would let the American Opportunity tax credit expire in January. It would freeze the maximum Pell grant at $5,500 for the next decade and it suggests rolling back some subsidies for student borrowers and recent provisions making the grants more widely available.

Ryan's budget says the Pell grant program, currently costing about $36 billion a year, is unsustainable.

"Urgent reforms are necessary to enable the program to continue as the foundation of the nation's commitment to helping low-income students gain access to higher education," budget documents say.

Obama also proposed keeping interest rates at 3.4 percent for subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates. After initial Republican hesitation, Romney endorsed the idea and Congress eventually approved it. Ryan's budget would have let the rates double to 6.8 percent, as was scheduled under previous law.







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DOCS
FROM PAGE 1

said. He thinks that's less efficient than being able to quickly view patients' electronic charts and online drug information.

Wen, 29, will soon finish a residency in emergency medicine at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. She's also a newlywed whose husband is an information technology project manager.

"I want to have a balanced life that includes having time for my family," she said.

She chose emergency medicine because the hours are more flexible than those of primary care doctors. That will allow her to work part-time in the ER and follow her other passions — teaching, research, writing and blogging about empowering patients to get the best medical care.

Wen finds her smartphone as handy as her stethoscope. Its apps help her quickly figure out proper medicine doses for critically ill patients, or translate medical instructions for Spanish-speakers. That means she doesn't have to wait for a hospital translator to arrive, and she thinks it makes patient care safer.

She says those who call doctors with outside interests less committed have "a fairly limited world view."

"We need doctors who 'just' practice medicine, but we also need these other doctors who can improve medical care on the larger scale. It is also better to have those taking care of you to take care of themselves and their families, so I would argue that it is a healthier ... and in some ways, more balanced workforce that is emerging," Wen said.

Dr. Darrell Kirch, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, thinks these new doctors have a broader view of medicine and life than their predecessors, and calls that a positive trend. "I see no evidence that indicates that their ethical commitment is any weaker, that they care any less for patients," he said.

When Kirch graduated from medical school 35 years ago, he envisioned starting a small solo practice, like many of his peers. A mentor steered him into research and work at an academic medical center. But that was not the norm.

"A typical model was of a male physician who plunged into medicine and was supported in doing that by a totally supportive spouse or partner who often gave up any work aspirations of their own," he said.

Newer doctors often have working partners and both share responsibility for raising children or caring for elderly parents, he noted.

Consider some statistics:

• When Kirch graduated in 1977, only about 20 percent of medical school graduates were women; now nearly half are.

• 1 in 5 male doctors and 44 percent of female doctors employed by medical groups worked part-time last year, according to an American Medical Group Association survey. That compares with just 7 percent and 29 percent respectively in 2005.

• New doctors in their first year of medical residency training can no longer work 24-hour shifts. Since last year, they've been limited to 16-hour shifts. Stricter limits began in 2003, cutting residents' maximum weekly hours to 80, to improve grueling schedules and reduce medical mistakes.

• A 2011 survey of final-year medical residents conducted by national physician recruitment firm Merritt Hawkins found that only 1 percent wanted to work as solo practitioners, running their own small medical offices.

• Rising numbers of medical school graduates are seeking training programs in high-paying specialties offering flexible hours; emergency medicine and anesthesiology saw some of the biggest increases in this year's medical resident match program.

Those two specialties are popular among young doctors, who on average face more than $150,000 in medical school debt. The others are radiology, ophthalmology and dermatology, all offering better pay and work hours than primary-care medicine.

Also rising in popularity are hospitalists, a specialty that didn't even exist a generation ago. For decades, internists and other primary-care doctors have typically provided part-time care for their patients when they were hospitalized. Increasingly, hospitalists have taken over those duties full time. They often work several 12-hour shifts in a row, with an equal number of days off — the so-called seven on-seven off model.

Dr. John Schumann runs the internal medicine residency program at OU-Tulsa; among the 14 young doctors who finished the program last year, nine became hospitalists, Schumann said.

Nasiri, the tech-loving resident, is also considering hospitalist work.

He's getting married in November and says the long stretches of time off would be more family-friendly and allow him to pursue hobbies, including snowboarding.

He views technology as improving efficiency so that "spending less time doesn't necessarily mean less dedication or worse patient care. More experience with years doesn't necessarily mean better doctors if the older generation isn't keeping up with newer treatment modalities and approaches to patient care."

Kirch, of the medical college association, agrees. When he visits campuses and asks students how they differ from his generation, "they almost always point to the readiness with which they embrace technology."

He's noticed another trend on those visits. Schools used to show off vast medical libraries, "taking pride in how many volumes were sitting on the shelves," Kirch said.

Now, less is more. At one of the newest medical schools, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, "they point with pride to one small room near the entrance, and in that room they hold the books and journals that cannot be accessed online." Their goal, Kirch said, is for that room to be empty.



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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 3

of 89 percent.

"The issue of attendance, if you look at the evidence, there are many things that drive it, but one of those is engagement and feeling part of a school community," said Get Schooled Executive Director Marie Groark. "A friendly competition motivates people. It motivates students, all of us."

Elk Grove Unified School District outside Sacramento has made rewards a hallmark of its school attendance strategy for six years. As part of the "No Excuses — Go to School" campaign, middle and high schoolers with a month's worth of perfect attendance have been entered into raffles for laptops, while elementary schoolers with the same records have for bicycles. Local businesses donate the prizes.

The program has been so successful the district changed the rules for winning the grand prize — a $20,000 voucher for the local auto mall, which also agreed to pay taxes and licenses on the winner's new car. To be eligible, high school seniors used to need one month of perfect attendance over the school year. Starting last year, the criterion was raised to five months.

The attendance push has been particularly strong in California, New York, Texas and other states where schools funding is based on how many children are in their seats each day, rather than enrollment. Several California districts have made a back-to-school ritual of reminding parents that schools lose money whenever kids are out.

Some have asked families with children who missed school for avoidable reasons such as family trips to reimburse schools the $30-$50 a day the absence cost in lost funding, or at least consider having a child with the sniffles or a stomach ache show up for the first part of the day so he or she can be counted before going home sick.

"If a child is not at school for any reason at all, including sickness, the district does not collect revenue," the Spreckels Unified School District in Salinas, Calif., wrote in a pledge form issued this month asking parents to take vacations and to schedule routine doctor's appointments when classes are not in session.

Under pressure from the local district attorney and others to improve its attendance rate, officials in Berkeley last year got much stricter about demanding meetings with parents of students with three unexcused absences and conducting midday "sweeps" of local teen hangouts to identify ditchers. By June, the district had made $1.4 million more for the current school year and avoided laying off 148 teachers, said student services director Susan Craig.

The Pomona Unified School District in Southern California last year launched a voluntary four-hour Saturday school on alternate weekends to help recoup some of the money it was losing due to student absences. A few parents initially objected to infringing on traditional family time, but most warmed up to the idea of kids having a way to get caught up, Superintendent Richard Martinez said.

One-third of the district's 30,032 students attended at least one Saturday session, earning the school system an additional $1 million in state funding. "It made people feel like there is a financial benefit to this whole notion of responsible behavior and establishing good habits," Martinez said.

Hedy Chang, director of Attendance Works, a nonprofit that studies chronic absenteeism, said that while it may seem evident that children will not learn when they are not around to be taught, schools only recently have begun to examine their rolls for students who are falling behind due to excessive excused and unexcused absences.

"If you have a parent who calls in and says my kid is sick, the kid might be sick. Sometimes, they can have transportation issues, or if there is a lot of bullying or separation anxiety for a kid going to school, it will come out as sick," Chang said. "If it continues as a habit, someone needs to notice and talk to the kid and the family ... so you can nip it before it becomes a big problem."

When it comes to devising strategies for getting kids to school, the approaches do not need to be flashy, according to Ken Seeley, president of the National Center for School Engagement in Denver. In Martinez, Calif., teachers had their classes write letters to absent students with at least three unexcused absences to let them know they were missed. And some parents created a "walking school bus" that picked up students who had had a hard time making it to class.

"We give away a lot of alarm clocks," Seeley added.



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TENANTS

FROM PAGE 1

Measure ES, enjoys far more support from renters than amongst homeowners, whom they outnumber two to one, according to polling data gathered by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research. A full three-quarters of apartment dwellers polled supported the bond, and 55 percent said that if SMRR got behind the measure, they were more likely to support it.

Despite the fact that tenants outnumber homeowners in most of Los Angeles, their influence is not felt to the same degree as in Santa Monica. That may have something to do with the nature of the tenant voting base which, while huge, is also diverse and heterogeneous.

Renters come from all walks of life, speaking different languages, holding different politics and political interests. Corralling that into a political force and channeling it in the same direction is difficult at best.

Larry Gross has been working at it for years.

Gross is the director of the Coalition for Economic Survival, an organization that works to organize low- and moderate-income people to fight for economic and social justice.

The multi-racial and multi-ethnic coalition helped organize renters in West Hollywood to protect rent control and incorporate the city in the 1980s, which at one point was just another neighborhood in the county of Los Angeles.

Having seen them in action, Gross knows the power and influence tenants can have — if they can be compelled to act. Organizers in Santa Monica have had notable success, he said.

"I am a whole-hearted believer that tenants are a political force, a sleeping force that if tapped into on these issues as is done in Santa Monica, they have tremendous influence on elections," Gross said.

ROOTED IN RENT CONTROL

In Santa Monica, much like West Hollywood, the galvanizing force behind the organization of SMRR and the rise of tenant power was rent control, a policy which artificially holds down prices on rental housing to the benefit of tenants and the distress of many landlords.

The direct influence of rent control is a near-freeze on prices, which allows people to stay in their homes even when prices of housing around them go up.

The indirect impact, however, is the knowledge that a tenant can expect to stay in place over the long term, a feeling which supporters, like SMRR co-chair Patricia Hoffman, say causes a normally unstable population to put down roots and invest in a community.

That means joining civic life, participating in public debate and, sometimes, passing expensive school bond measures.

"It created a really stable population," Hoffman said.

That security and stability transformed Santa Monica by changing tenants from a group that could be ignored into a political force, said City Councilmember Kevin McKeown, a renter himself and firm supporter of SMRR.

"I lived here before rent control," McKeown said. "Tenants were considered transients, and were rarely involved in governance or community affairs at the level we take for granted now, after three decades of

SEE RENTERS PAGE 13

california READS

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Hollywood



RENTERS
FROM PAGE 12

rent control."

The year was 1979.

Hoffman and her husband, Gene Oppenheim, had returned to Santa Monica after a three-year relocation to Seattle. Their move away from the city by the sea had a helping hand from their landlord who raised their rent $100 from $165 to $265.

Although that sounds like a dream now, the couple had made $3,600 that year and Oppenheim was still in school, pursuing a career as a doctor. The rent hike was too much, and the couple left.

They came back in June 1979, just months after the spring election in which a newly-minted organization, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, had pushed rent control through by popular vote.

"There was a real sense of optimism, success and idealism," Hoffman said.

A coalition of community groups had campaigned for rent control in the 1978 election, only to fail. There were many theories about why that was, but they focused on Proposition 13, said Denny Zane, a former mayor and one of the original founders of SMRR.

That was the year that Californians passed Proposition 13, a measure put up by tax-hawk Howard Jarvis meant to stop runaway property taxes in their tracks. Many believed that if property tax rates stopped increasing, rapidly rising rents would also stop.

"(Howard Jarvis) always said you don't need rent control, just Proposition 13. The only reason rents are going up are property taxes … . Some share of renters probably believed that," Zane said.

And yet rents continued to rise, and Santa Monica tenants decided to take more concrete steps, spurred forward by the 1978 loss.

"I would say that the first rent control law that failed was close enough to think that if we had worked harder, we could have won," Zane said.

Less than one year later, SMRR proved that point by campaigning for and winning rent control in Santa Monica. Over the next 20 years, SMRR would be responsible for electing 17 members of the City Council — many of whom were re-elected at least once — and held an iron grip on the makeup of the Rent Control Board until Robert Kronovet, a landlord, snagged a spot in 2008.

A dynasty had been established, and Santa Monica's rental community was at the head of it.

SURVIVAL

People jokingly refer to Santa Monica as "the People's Republic." It takes only a glance at the SMRR party platform to glean the reason why.

McKeown describes it as "the most complete and nuanced expression of local progressive political values I've ever seen," and one thing is for sure — it's complete.

The group's platform started with rent control and tenant protections and expanded to encompass environmental values, land use policies, the value of the arts and even workers' rights.

In part, the breadth of the tenants group's platform speaks to what it takes to keep an organization like SMRR relevant and capable of maintaining a passionate base because, similar to a Las Vegas buffet, there's something for everyone.

That's critical in a place that has changed as dramatically as Santa Monica. The town, once a product of the aviation industry in the 1940s and 1950s, is now called Silicon Beach because of its concentration of tech start-ups.

In 1990, the median household income was $36,000 and 46.6 percent of the population was employed as managers and professionals in specialty occupations. As of the last census, median household income was over $66,000 and the average household income was above $100,000. Almost two-thirds of residents earned their money in management, business, arts or sciences.

Gary Painter, a professor at the USC Price School of Public Policy, said that organizations that want to stay in control over the long term have to be flexible in order to bring new people into the fold.

"You would expect that political power would wane over time, without a doubt," Painter said. "But these groups are fairly adept at figuring out who new constituencies might be and changing their platforms and policies."

What exactly SMRR will have to do to remain as top dog in Santa Monica remains to be seen.

Hoffman estimates that over 4,000 new units, not subject to rent control, are already in the planning pipeline to be built in Santa Monica in coming years. Many of those are small units, 375 to 425 square feet in size and can cost upwards of $1,700, if current prices hold.

That fact concerns McKeown, who sees it as a threat to the stable renting community that Santa Monica has worked so hard to form.

Young people that take advantage of those small studios, also called SROs, which stands for single room occupancy, may see them as stepping stones to other forms of housing later when they decide to have a family and need more space.

That doesn't breed the same level of participation that has been the distinguishing feature of the Santa Monica rental community for so many decades.

"My concern is not that short-term tenancies make SMRR's progressive platform less relevant, or that the short-termers will go in some other direction politically. I think not," McKeown said. "What I worry about is that more and more new Santa Monicans will simply be disengaged from longer-term local issues."

The true impact of the new renting population is yet to be seen, but SMRR, and the constituency that it represents, isn't going down without a fight.

"The population may or may not get involved. They may not be much of a factor at all," Zane said. "But SMRR will reach out to them, knock on every door and build familiarity."

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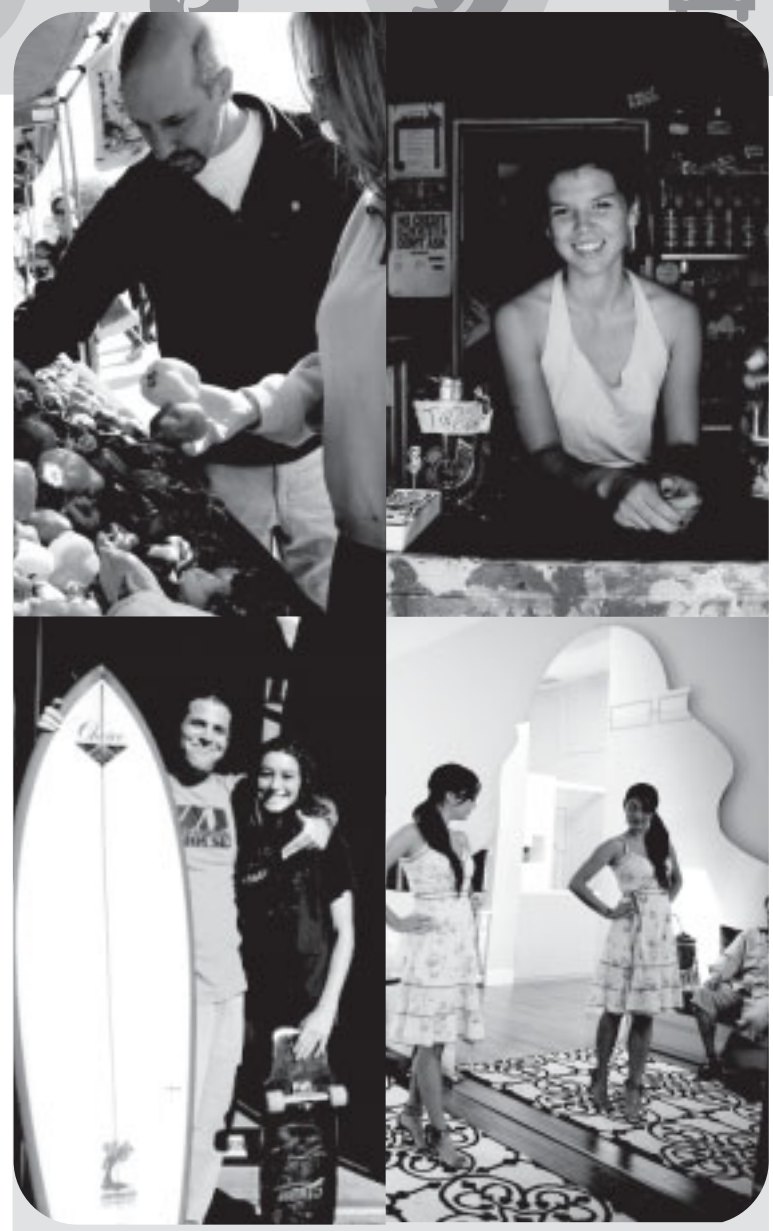

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ELECTION
FROM PAGE 3

Americans are better off under Obama.

"Absolutely," said Stephanie Cutter, Obama's deputy campaign manager, speaking on NBC's "Today" show. "By any measure the country has moved forward over the last four years. It might not be as fast as some people would've hoped. The president agrees with that."

Martin O'Malley, Maryland's Democratic governor, had answered the same question with a "no" on Sunday before turning the blame to Obama's Republican predecessor. Appearing Monday on CNN, O'Malley tried a more positive turn of phrase, saying: "We are clearly better off as a country because we're now creating jobs rather than losing them. But we have not recovered all that we lost in the Bush recession. That's why we need to continue to move forward" under Obama.

Democrats have plenty of convincing to do.

In the most recent Associated Press-GfK poll, 28 percent said they were better off than four years ago, while 36 percent said they were worse off and 36 percent said they were in about the same financial position.

While the official convention program doesn't start until Tuesday, delegations were gathering across Charlotte on Monday for state breakfasts and a festival in downtown Charlotte hosted by the Democrats featuring singer James Taylor and actor Jeff Bridges.

At a breakfast with the Iowa delegation, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the chair of the convention, told about 60 members of the state's contingent that Romney and running mate Paul Ryan would pursue massive tax cuts that would benefit only the very wealthy — stances that he said were far removed from their GOP predecessors.

"Ronald Reagan would turn in his grave listening to some of these people," he said. "They're so far out there."

Villaraigosa told the Iowans that he spent 25 years as a community organizer and urged them to register new voters and recruit volunteers to help re-elect Obama.

"We've got our work cut out for us. We know that," he said. "The country is evenly divided. It has been for a long time. So what are we going to do? This is going to be a working convention. Every one of you can sign up as a volunteer. In fact, I know you're already going to volunteer."

In Boulder, Colo., on Sunday, Obama warned a college crowd that "the other side is going to spend more money than we've ever seen in our lives, with an avalanche of attack ads and insults and making stuff up, just making stuff up."

"What they're counting on is that you get so discouraged by this, that at a certain point you just say, you know what, I'm going to leave it up to somebody else." Obama did not mention his own side's arsenal of negative advertising.

The Republican convention behind him, Romney was staying low for a few days, preparing for the October debates as Democratic conventioneers gathered for the opening of their event Tuesday.

Younger voters gave Obama a big boost four years ago and he can ill afford to see their support drop off in a tight election where the sluggish economy is the dominant issue in the nation and a specific drag to many young people coming out of college or trying to afford it.

But his campaign surely has a more immediate need for young people, too — helping to fill the seats for Obama's address Thursday. With 6,000 delegates at the convention and thousands more attached to the event, Democrats hope to pack a nearly 74,000-seat outdoor stadium for the prime-time speech.

Obama deputy campaign manager Jennifer O'Malley-Dillon told Iowa delegates the campaign was hoping the rain would stay away when the president delivers his speech.

"If you believe in weather gods, you should pray to them," she said.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro delivers the keynote speech on Tuesday, followed by first lady Michelle Obama's remarks. Obama and Biden will be nominated for second terms on Wednesday night, when former President Bill Clinton takes the stage as star speaker.

Keeping a strong focus on the economy, a new Obama campaign ad running in six closely contested states — Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia — claims Romney's policies would "hit the middle class harder" and that he doesn't see the "heavy load" the middle class is carrying.

Biden joined the fray, accusing Republicans of seeking to undermine the decades-old federal program millions of seniors rely on for health care. "We are for Medicare," he said Sunday. "They are for voucher care." That was a reference to a proposal in Congress by Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, the GOP vice presidential nominee, to offer future retirees the option of buying health insurance with a government subsidy.

Romney spent Sunday at his Wolfeboro, N.H., vacation home, leaving only to attend church services with his wife, Ann. Aides said he would spend much of the Democrats' convention week preparing for three fall debates with Obama, beginning on Oct. 3.

Obama aides said they expected Romney and Republicans to outpace the president and his party in fundraising in August because Obama spent less time raising cash than in the month before, and because the GOP held its convention — usually a big money draw — in August.



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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

Drivers in Santa Monica might have noticed some recent changes to many intersections around town that have people wondering if they are headed down the Champs Elysees towards the Arch de Triumph or perhaps lost on an English country road.The roundabout intersection has made a roundabout trip across the world to Santa Monica with the hopes of easing traffic congestion and making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers here in Santa Monica must be aware of the traffic rules and regulations that govern roundabout driving so that motorists are not stranded like foreigners in a foreign land. Here are some basic rules and explanations about roundabouts that will hopefully help you on your way around town.

The basic definition of a roundabout is a circular junction in which road traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Roundabouts increase safety in the community by requiring drivers to both decrease their speeds and in turn increase their awareness upon entering the intersection. Roundabouts also increase a neighborhood's aesthetic appeal by creating charming and unique architectural designs. Neatly landscaped circles or placement of a statue, monument, or flagpole give roundabouts a homely and suburban feel despite their very urban purpose. Pedestrians are often prohibited or discouraged from entering the center circle of a roundabout, but pedestrians and drivers can nonetheless enjoy the visual charisma that the intersection adds to a community. Roundabouts facilitate motorists, bicyclists, runners, and dog-walkers in an efficient and competent manner.

Roundabouts have some negative drawbacks as well. Larger vehicles and trucks may find it difficult to navigate through narrow roundabouts that are not built to handle such vehicles.The recent implementation of roundabouts in Santa Monica has also caused some backup and unwanted traffic delays at roundabouts where drivers are not familiar with the traffic laws and traffic flow. On the same note, there is a greater risk of traffic collisions and accidents from drivers who are simply not paying attention to their surroundings. Roundabouts require far greater concentration and awareness than do conventional squared intersections.

Upon entering a roundabout, drivers should first notice a sign or traffic indicator alerting the driver to slow down and prepare to yield. A painted dashed line will also alert drivers that they are entering a roundabout intersection. Unless otherwise indicated, drivers do not have to come to a complete stop; however, the situation may require a complete stop depending on traffic conditions at the time. Remember, pedestrians always have the right of way! So, if you see a bicyclist, jogger, or walker you must stop in order to allow that person safe passage. If there are no other cars in the roundabout and no pedestrians, the driver can then safely enter the roundabout. Most Santa Monica roundabouts are one-way, meaning a driver can only make a right turn to enter the roundabout and a right turn to exit the roundabout.

A driver that is already in the roundabout has the right of way over a driver that is entering the roundabout.Thus, if you are the car that is approaching the roundabout and slowing down getting ready to turn into the roundabout, do not expect another car that is already in the roundabout to stop or slow to let you in! This area tends to be one of the most confusing aspects of roundabouts, but if you remember that the car already in the roundabout has the right of way…you should be alright. Regardless of who has the right of way, drivers should nonetheless always remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings to prevent any kind of accident. Keep a slow to moderate speed while circling depending on the traffic at the time. Also, it is very important that drivers remember to use their turn signals. Turn signals alert circling drivers inside the roundabout and allow other drivers to adjust speeds based on turns. Moreover, a turn signal also notifies drivers waiting to enter the roundabout that the path is clear for them to safely make the maneuver.

Avoid unnecessary traffic citations, accidents, and congestion by following these simple roundabout rules. Remember to be aware, vigilant, and attentive to your surroundings at all time. Adjust to a roundabout way of thinking and enjoy the ride around town!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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

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

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

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

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

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

5:00-6:30pm Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café.

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

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

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

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

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney Sandeep Agarwal.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66.6°

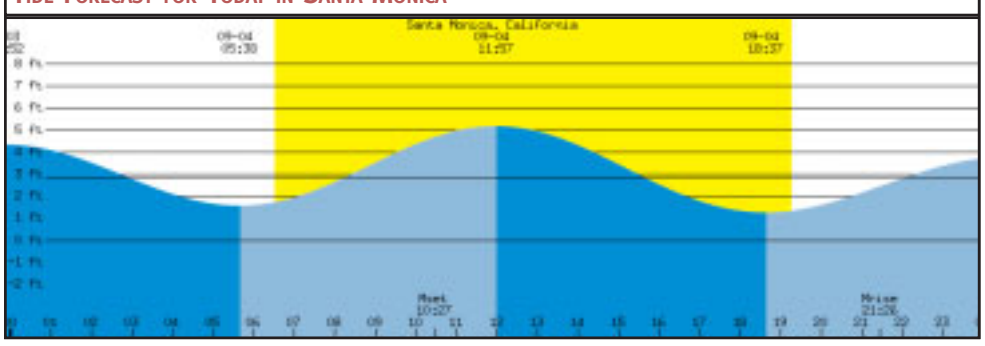
Swell Forecast

Should be chest high at south facing breaks, knee high at west facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking more like a waist high day for south facing breaks, knee high at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **August 29, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

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

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

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

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

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

as -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

New era begins at Penn State, challenges remain on campus

MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. The shriek of the final whistle in Penn State's loss to Ohio University represented a milestone for the university as it struggles to move past the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal that has damaged it immeasurably over the past 10 months.

The first game under new coach Bill O'Brien began a new era for one of college football's elite programs, and the Saturday defeat at the hands of an underdog showed the team may face a long season ahead following the overhaul of its coaching staff and the departure of several star players.

Outside the stadium on Saturday the talk among tailgating fans was littered with the vocabulary of the Sandusky scandal — notably criticism of the NCAA sanctions, the Freeh report and the university's board of trustees.

"We can't move on until the board of trustees moves out," said Georgia Verkuilen, a State College native who now lives in Belvidere, N.J. She was handing out lung cancer awareness ribbons with the initials of Joe Paterno, the longtime coach died of complications from the disease in January, two months after being summarily fired by the board.

"They need to either step up or step down," Verkuilen said.

Fallout from Sandusky's arrest, trial and conviction for sexual abuse of children will remain a major challenge for the university for years to come, starting in a month or so when the national spotlight will return as the former assistant football coach learns what sentence the judge will impose.

The sentencing date has not been announced, but he is likely to serve the rest of his life in prison. Last week the state board that evaluates sex offenders made its recommendation that Sandusky fits the criteria to be declared a sexually violent predator.

The parallel criminal case, in which two university administrators faces charges they did not report suspected child abuse and then lied to the grand jury about it, was recently scheduled. Jury selection was set for Jan. 7 inside a county courtroom in Harrisburg.

The attorney general's office has repeatedly indicated some sort of grand jury investigation remains active in the matter, and if that produces charges the scandal could go in a new direction. That poses a particular risk for the university, given that questions remain about which officials were aware of Sandusky's behavior, when they knew it, and what they did — or didn't do — in response.

So far two people have sued Penn State, and a third has filed court paperwork indicating a civil complaint is being prepared, and several other lawyers have indicated they represent potential litigants. Penn State has signaled its interest in settling claims with Sandusky's victims, but no one can say how long the civil side will take to play itself out.

Mike Kitto, a Penn State alumnus who lives in Purcellville, Va., said before the game that there ought to be more focus on the victims, and less on Paterno and the former leaders of the university.

"They took care of that generation — it's gone," Kitto said. "Why are they penalizing this team, when the boys playing on the team were 4 years old when all this happened?"

Several fans said they suspected there was considerably more to be learned about what occurred, and hoped the court system might shed additional light on it.

"There needs to be more investigation into what certain officials did know," said Cheryl Bitano, a Penn State college graduate and an audiologist from Bridgeport, W.Va.

Penn State avoided its football program being shut down entirely by the NCAA when it agreed to a set of penalties and institutional changes, but paying off the $60 million fine will take five years and revisions to policies and procedures won't happen overnight.

The decisions made by Penn State trustees, both before Sandusky was charged and in the aftermath, have generated considerable animosity among students, faculty, alumni, donors and boosters, and the board faces a lot of work in mending fences. It also will have to spend much of the coming year in the hunt for a new president.

So far the school's vaunted fundraising apparatus has not suffered from the scandal, but some major donors are clearly upset at how Joe Paterno was treated, and by acquiescence to the NCAA sanctions. If they start to pull their support, that could do more to change the direction of the institution than anything else.

The U.S. Department of Education has been looking into whether Penn State violated the Clery Act, which mandates disclosure of campus crimes, and has been evaluating a request that it also open an inquiry into whether the university's handling of the Sandusky scandal ran afoul of the federal Title IX gender discrimination law.

Before the Ohio game, fan Bob Denezza said the return of football was a welcome change from the drumbeat of bad news generated by the Sandusky scandal.

"Personally, myself, I'm just tired of hearing about the whole thing," Denezza said.

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Apparition (PG-13) 1hr 22min
2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

2016: Obama's America (PG) 1hr 29min
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure (G) 1hr 28min
11:00am

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:05pm, 4:10pm, 7:15pm, 10:25pm

Expendables 2 (R) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
6:45pm, 10:15pm

Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Lawless (R) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Hit & Run (R) 1hr 40min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

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

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

Chicken With Plums (Poulet aux prunes) (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

La Scala Opera Series: La Traviata (Encore) (NR) 2hrs 43min
7:30pm

2 Days in New York (R) 1hr 31min
1:50pm, 9:30pm

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

Queen of Versailles (PG) 1hr 40min
7:00pm

Ruby Sparks (R) 1hr 44min
4:20pm

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

Premium Rush (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
11:30am, 2:50pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Possession (R) 1hr 31min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

ParaNorman (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:15pm

Hope Springs (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

For A Good Time, Call... (R) 1hr 26min
11:55am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

ParaNorman 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
2:25pm, 7:45pm

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

Relax, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might find it difficult to move forward in the morning. Perhaps you have pushed yourself beyond your limit. As the day goes on, you'll become more verbal and upbeat. Your logic appeals to someone. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You beam, and others respond. You might not be up for following a routine; instead, you could want to indulge in more spontaneity. Once in a while, taking some time off helps re-energize you. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your day improves as time goes on. You know what someone wants because you have the ability to zero in on his or her needs. Unfortunately, your ability to respond often leaves this person thinking he or she has control of you. Tonight: Do for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Assume a low-key attitude, and refuse to push yourself as hard as usual. You are able to change gears and do something differently, if you pull back. Your attitude toward a special friend or loved one might be changing. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You initially could feel quite pressured by certain events and by what is going on around you. You naturally will loosen up and open up to new beginnings. Success comes out of your willingness to head in a new direction. Tonight: With friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to do something in a very different manner from how you have done it in the past. Detachment helps you see the big picture. Take in as much as possible. A child or new friend continues to change right in front of your very eyes. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with a partner first thing in the morning. You could be taken aback by what is happening around you. Try not to trigger a reaction from anyone, and stay centered. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Spend quality time with a child or loved one. You could be withdrawn or wondering exactly how to handle a difficult situation. You decide to talk to a key person directly. You know what to do and what to expect. Tonight: Dinner for two!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might have organized a very tight schedule, but you will watch it unravel quickly during the day. Do not try to fight city hall. Go with the flow, and you will appreciate the fun and light mood. Tonight: Be aware of your spending habits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You wake up in the mood to hang out with the one you love, but clearly you have much to do. If you decide to change direction, there could be repercussions in other areas of your life. Be aware of this before taking action. Tonight: Could be late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Getting going could be a major effort for you, yet one that is worthwhile. Tap into your innate creativity, and you'll discover solutions to what is seemingly impossible to resolve. Note the costs of taking a new course of action. Tonight: Let your hair down.

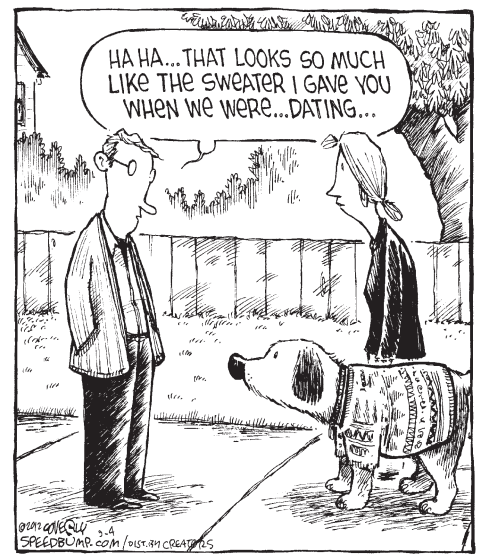
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Move on a key matter early in the day, when you will be most open to communication. Tension builds throughout the day. You might want to clear the air, but perhaps you would be best off staying away for now. Tonight: At home.

Happy birthday

This year you often feel as though you cannot get certain elements of your life under control. You won't want to leave anything to chance. By learning to detach, you will gain many new insights that could make a big difference in the choices you make. If you are single, the romance you think you are attracting could be very different in reality. Your ability to grow and transform within a relationship will be tested. Ultimately, that skill is needed in all relationships. If you are attached, you will have control of your finances. You will display considerable talent in that area. Curb a tendency to be possessive around TAURUS.

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

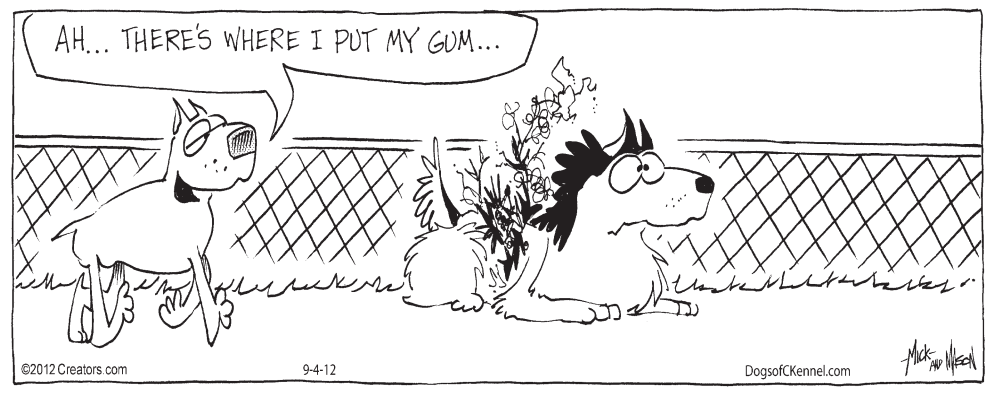


Strange Brew By John Deering



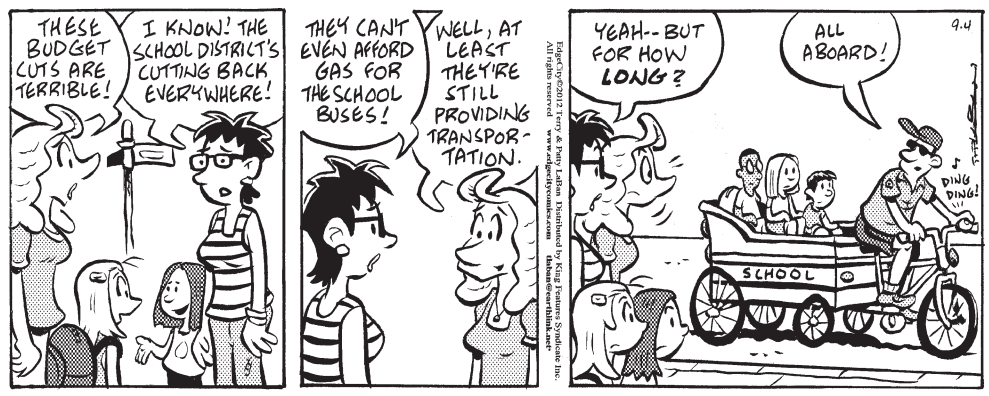
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



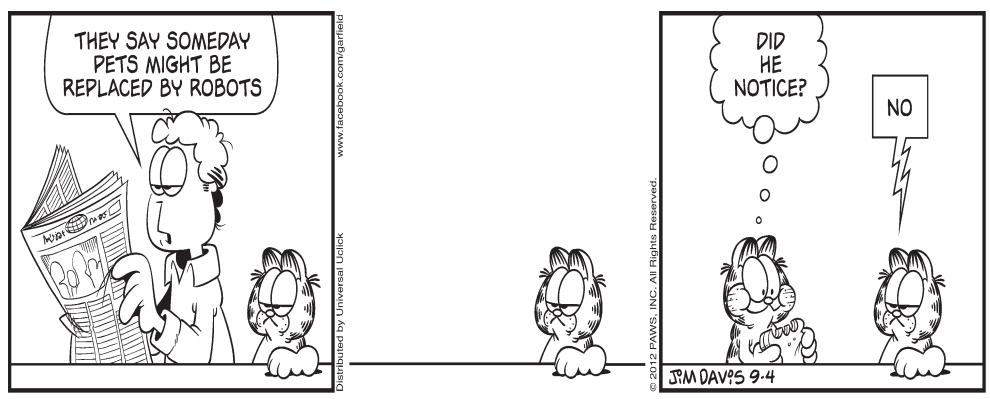
Edge City

By Terry & Patty LaBan



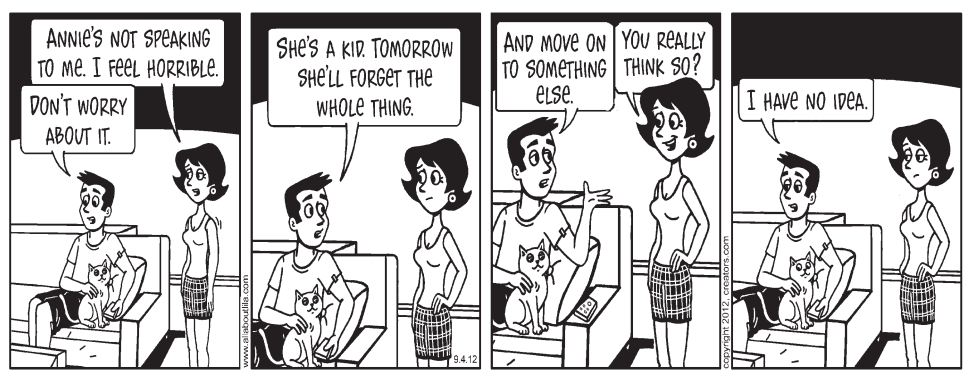
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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

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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

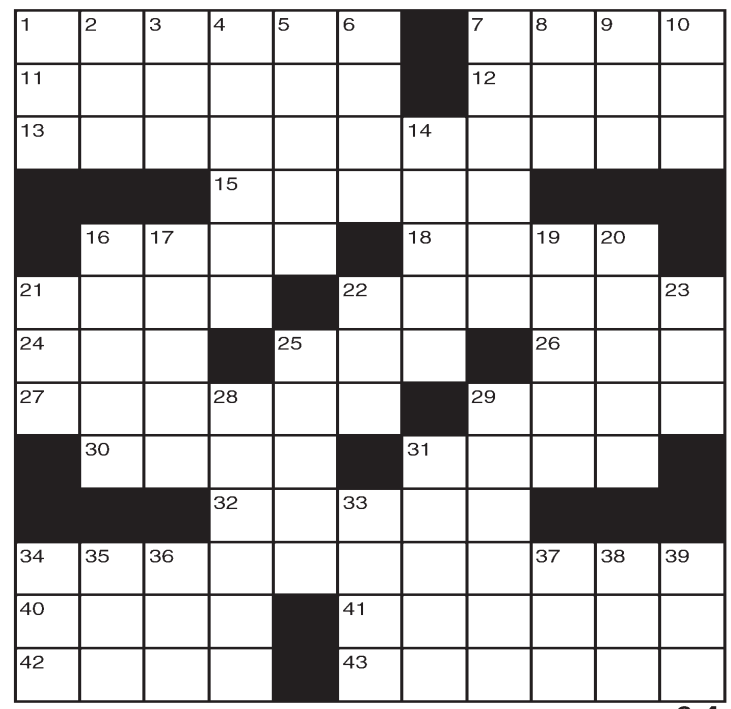
ACROSS
1 James of the NBA
7 Nevada neighbor
11 Show up
12 Long story
13 Site of early education
15 Follow
16 Earth's neighbor
18 Goad
21 Seed holders
22 Flower part
24 Gardner of movies
25 Failure
26 Water tester
27 Wish undone
29 George Eliot's "Adam —"
30 College head
31 Heal
32 Writer Asimov
34 Site of vocational education
40 Broad
41 Torino's nation
42 Stench
43 One way to chop peppers

DOWN
1 Fall behind
2 Misstep
3 Lingerie item
4 Pony Express workers
5 Pizzeria sights
6 Lawman Eliot
7 Theater workers
8 Eastern philosophy
9 In the past
10 Hollywood's Holbrook
14 Amorous archer
16 Deeply touched
17 Wise saying
19 Playful mammal
20 Radio part
21 Golf goal
22 Place
23 Antietam general
25 Thick
28 Corporate shark
29 "The 39 Steps" author John
31 Spiny plants
33 "Like that'll happen!"
34 Binary base
35 Free (of)
36 Bustle
37 Flamenco cry
38 Squeak stopper
39 Place down

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

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



9-4



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 fightarthritispain.org.

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In July, a California appeals court reinstated police officer Enrique Chavez's lawsuit against the Austrian gun manufacturer Glock for its "unsafe" design. Chavez is now paralyzed from the waist down because his 3-year-old son got hold of the gun and accidentally fired it, hitting his dad. Chavez, in violation of police policies, had left the gun loaded underneath the front seat of his car, and his son, whom Chavez had not belted into a child seat, was free to explore while Dad drove. The gun is regarded as of safe design by dozens, if not hundreds, of police departments, and the LAPD disciplined Chavez over the incident.

■ Didier Peleman, 41, is a major-party candidate for the city council in Ghent, Belgium, and, like most, has champions and detractors. Though he has been active in "community work" for 11 years, Peleman is candid about a mental disability that noticeably slows down his speaking and writing and which some voters fear impedes his reasoning ability. His Flemish Christian Democrats Party said it is important that people with disabilities challenge constraints.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1912 – Albanian rebels succeed in their revolt when the Ottoman Empire agrees to fulfill their demands

1939 – World War II: a Bristol Blenheim is the first British aircraft to cross the German coast following the declaration of war and German ships are bombed.

1941 – World War II: a German submarine makes the first attack against a United States ship, the USS Greer.

1944 – World War II: the British 11th Armoured Division liberates the Belgian city of Antwerp.

1944 – World War II: Finland exits from the war with Soviet Union.

WORD UP!

ataraxia
**\ at-uh-RAK-see-uh ** , noun;
1. A state of freedom from emotional disturbance and anxiety; tranquility.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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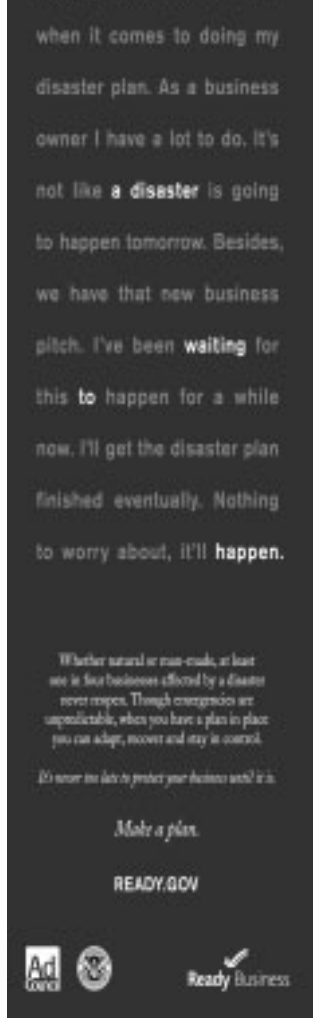
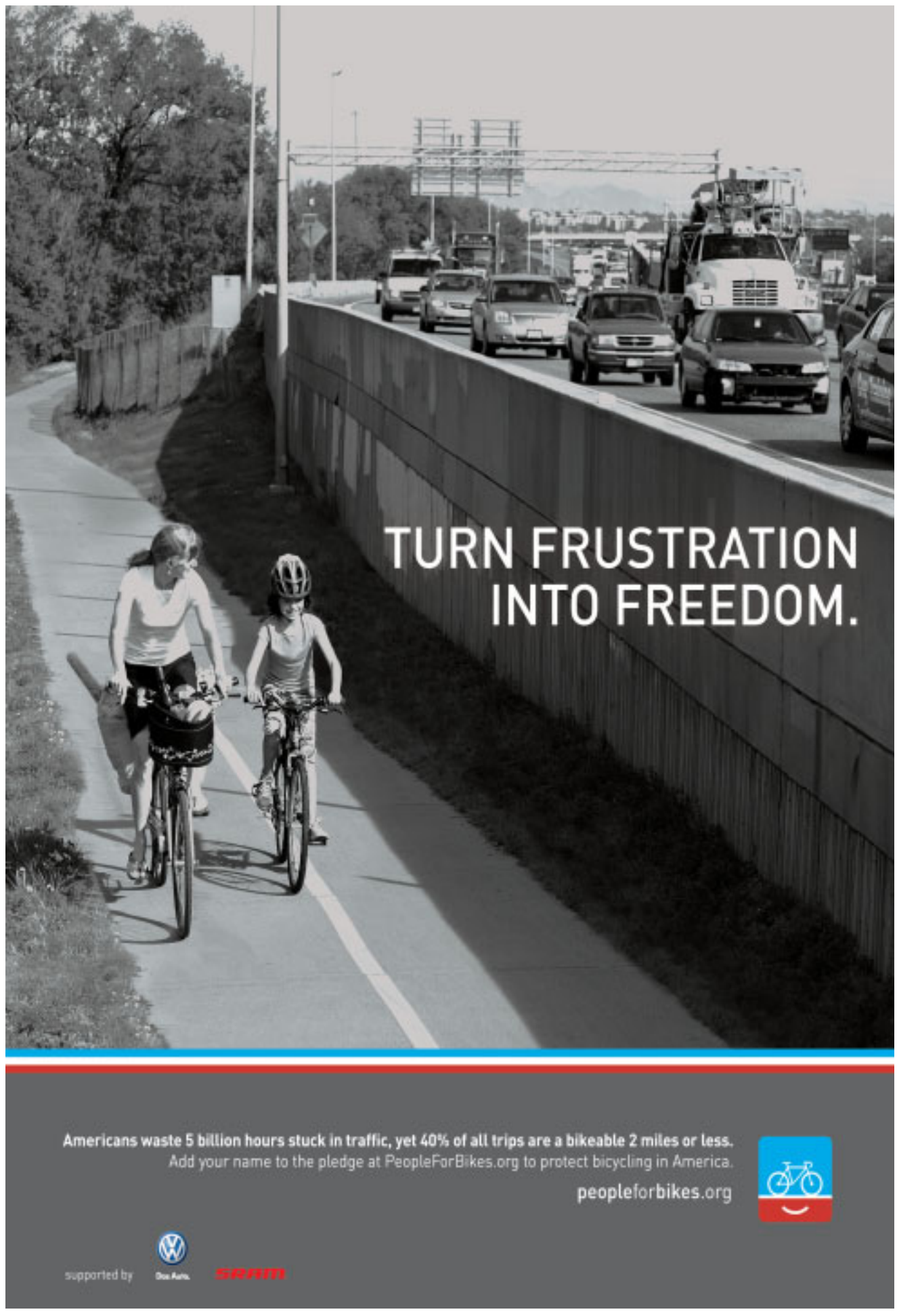
Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. LS023029
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of RYAN MOTAMED for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: RYAN MOTAMED filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: RYAN MOTAMED to RYAN ELIJAH LEVI. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: September 19, 2012 Time: 8:30am, Dept. C, Room 310
The address of the court is 6230 Sylmar Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: AUGUST 09, 2012
Richard H. Kirschner, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT





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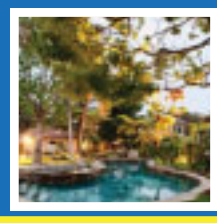

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