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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 253

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

S/HE
SEE PAGE 5

THE SAFE CITY ISSUE

City Goals: Public Works

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Every year, city departments set goals and objectives. In August, City Hall released information about how each of the 15 departments progressed toward these goals during the 2013-14 fiscal year. Over a several week period, the Daily Press will take a look at the goals that are being achieved (according to City Hall) and the ones that aren't.

CITY HALL What trimmed 6,862 trees, repaired 40,000 square feet of sidewalks, restriped crosswalks at 84 intersections, and replaced 1,700 linear feet of water main last fiscal year? The Public Works Department.

The department also repaired an absurd number of potholes: 2,515, exceeding a two-year benchmark of 800. On average, it took 3.32 days for city workers to fill pothole repair requests.

They repaired 1.2 miles worth of road on the Lincoln Boulevard project, with a goal of finishing seven miles per year.

Public works blew away its goal of repairing 28,000 square feet of asphalt, knocking out 317,987 square feet. Most of that was in the form of slurry seal in alleys, which will prevent further need for maintenance.

SEE GOALS PAGE 8



UBER-PROTEST

Ross Furukawa editor@smdp.com

Drivers and their supporters gathered outside Uber's Santa Monica offices on Sept. 9 to protest tip and fare policies. About 150 people attended the protest.

Assault, robbery, auto theft hit 50 year low in 2013

Rape, larceny up

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The number of violent crimes in the city last year was the lowest since 1963, according to data provided by the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD).

Property crimes were up thanks to a spike in the number of larcenies, according to the data.

Until 2011, SMPD released annual reports including all crime data. To align with City Hall's the biennial budget, the department began releasing the report every two years. The Daily Press requested 2013 crime statistics and compared the results to police department data dating back to 1956.

"Please know that crime rates are a result of a confluence of factors, internal as well as external," SMPD spokesperson Rudy Camarena said in an e-mail. "An attempt to describe a nuanced reality with a single index is at best a leap of faith, devoid of intellectual integrity. The figures represent a proxy used to identify overall trends as well as a qualified measure of performance relative to efforts."

There were 125 robberies in the city in 2013, down from 151 in 2012. Aggravated assaults also dropped, from 219 in 2012 to 173 last year. Both categories were at their lowest since 1963, when SMPD recorded 117 robberies and 47 assaults. In the early 1990s, assaults swelled to over 600 annually and robberies were in the 700s.

"From a police department's standpoint," Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks said, "we attribute our success in pushing back crime to our steadfast commitment in maintaining close ties with our community. People talk to the police when they trust the police. A truism in policing, much like in journalism is that information is our currency. It is that information flow that helps us prevent and solve crimes."

There were seven homicides in the city last year, five attributed to the mass-shooting spree carried out by John Zawahri on June 7.

SEE CRIME PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, September 10

Salsa Aerobics
1450 Ocean Ave., 12-1:30 pm
Come experience an exhilarating cardio workout! Get energized with Salsa, Merengue, and Cha Cha, then switch to Pilates for core and balance. Cool down with yoga stretches for flexibility. All levels welcome. Drop-in participation is available for $20. Please bring a mat. For more information, please call (310) 458-2239. Offered through the City of Santa Monica Community Classes program.

I Love Santa Monica II Exhibit
Jeanie Madsen Gallery
1431 Ocean Avenue
Recurring weekly on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Times: Sunday, Tues, & Wed: 1-7pm Thurs - Sat.: 1-11pm Mondays: by appointment only. An Exhibition of emerging to established Santa Monica and Los Angeles Artists through September 24.

Ben Mezrich in conversation with Brett Ratner
William Turner Gallery
Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave
8 p.m.
Ben Mezrich has created his own highly addictive genre of nonfiction, chronicling amazing stories of young geniuses making tons of money on the edge of impossibility, ethics, and morality. His books include Bringing Down the House and The Accidental Billionaires (adapted into the movie The Social Network.) $20 General Admission

SCBWI Westside Writers Schmooze
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 7 p.m.
The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators welcomes all writers willing to share and learn with others who are focused on writing for children.

Mystery Book Group
Montana Avenue Branch library
1704 Montana Ave, 7 p.m.
Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear. Private detective Maisie Dobbs investigates the reappearance of a dead man who turns up at a cooperative farm call the Retreat that cater to men who are recovering their health after World War I.

Write a great college essay
Pico Branch Library
2201 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m.
In this presentation by C2 Education, learn how to structure an interesting essay & get tips on selecting a topic.

Thursday, September 11

Thursday Night Salsa
1450 Ocean Ave., 7:30 -11:30 pm
Salsa is not as hard as it looks. Learn the basics of Salsa and easy patterns to get you out on the dance floor. Bring a partner, or come alone, but get ready to dance and have fun! All levels welcome. Drop-in participation is available for $20. For more information, please call (310) 458-2239. Offered through the City of Santa Monica Community Classes program.

Transmission Meditation-a meditation for the New Age
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
A simple group meditation providing both a dynamic service to the world and powerful, personal spiritual development.

Rent control board meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St. 7 p.m.
Regular Rent Control Board Meeting, visit www.smgov.net/rentcontrol for more information.

Twilight Concert Series
Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m.
The final free music concert of the year. Charles Bradley will play with opening act King James & The Special Men. Sponsor booths, food and a beer/wine pavilion will be open. For more information call (310) 458-8901 or visit www.santamonicapier.org.

Homework Help
Pico Branch Library
2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Get help with your homework! This drop-in program offers a separate study area, basic supplies, and friendly volunteers to assist with homework questions. For students in grades 1-5 only.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM Pier

Special Olympics Southern California Pier Del Sol "Goes Hollywood"

With a "Hollywood" theme, Special Olympics Southern California is holding its annual Pier del Sol fundraiser on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. on the Santa Monica Pier at Pacific Park.

This year's event includes a VIP brunch with spectacular cuisine from nearly 35 of LA's top restaurants, including Chef Michael Cimarusti of Providence, Chef Olivier Rousselle of On Sunset, Chef Tanino Drago of Tanino Ristorante, and Chef Ermando Robles of Porto Via.

General Admission tickets are $45 and include unlimited rides, eight game tickets, and a meal coupon for Pacific Park's food plaza. VIP Tickets are $150 each or $500 for five, to include an amazing VIP Brunch prepared by LA's top restaurants, unlimited rides, and 12 game tickets. Child VIP tickets are $50 (ages 5-12 and only available at the door).

The event will feature music, entertainment, all the rides and games of Pacific Park with game booth prizes. Attendees will have their chance to win fabulous silent auction prize packages from shopping sprees to local entertainment. Participants will also enjoy arts and crafts and karaoke.

"Pier del Sol is a fun day at the pier that the whole family can enjoy, while making a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes," said Bill Shumard, President and CEO of Special Olympics Southern California. "Each year, we bring out an entertaining new theme, and we hope the public will continue to come out and enjoy the wonderful cuisine, live music, and games on the historic Santa Monica Pier at Pacific Park."

At this year's fundraiser, Special Olympics will honor The Coca-Cola Company. The Coca-Cola Company has been an Official Global Partner of Special Olympics for 46 years, and has had significant impact on the Southern California program through financial support, budget relieving Coca-Cola products, leadership engagement on SOSC's Board of Directors, marketing and promotional support of our competitions, and a loyal and passionate team of volunteers. In 2015, that support will extend to the 7,000 athletes competing in the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

"The Coca-Cola Company has proven to be a very valuable partner to Special Olympics," said Shumard. "We couldn't be prouder to honor them at this high-level event."

Handfuls of celebrities and sports figures will visit the pier for the fundraiser, with Maria Shriver and Los Angeles County Supervisor candidate Bobby Shriver attending as honorary chairs. Since 1997, Pier del Sol has raised nearly $8 million, benefiting and changing the lives of more than 17,000 Special Olympic Southern California athletes.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.sosc.org/pierdelsol or contact mbrien@sosc.org or 562.502.1137.

Co-presenting sponsors for the event are Liner LLP, Wells Fargo and Westfield.

Founded in 1969 by Olympic decathlon gold medalist Rafer Johnson, Special Olympics Southern California offers opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate in year-round sports training and competition. More than 17,000 athletes and 15,000 coaches and volunteers take part in 12 Olympic-style sports. For more information, visit www.sosc.org.

– EDITED BY MATTHEW HALL

Citywide

City of Santa Monica Teamsters Local 911 endorse council candidates

The City of Santa Monica Trades & Maintenance Teamsters Local 911 endorse Kevin McKeown, Michael Feinstein, and Pam O'Connor for the November 4, 2014 City Council election.

"In a pool of competitive and talented candidates that shared their ideas for the future of Santa Monica, through our process we elected to endorse Kevin, Michael, and Pam due to their experience, commitment, and dedication to the issues that are important for Santa Monica as well as an apt alignment and understanding of the issues that impact Trades & Maintenance Teamsters," said Carlos Rubio, Spokesperson for Teamsters Local 911.

As of September 2013, Teamsters Local 911, chartered since 1975 represents approximately 400 employees working in the newly created Trades and Maintenance Bargaining Unit in the City of Santa Monica, California. We are proud to represent employees working in the Big Blue Bus and Public Works Departments. Our members serve in Street Maintenance, Street Signs and Markings, Parking Meter Repairs, Resource Recovery and Recycling, Custodial Services, Facilities Services, Pier Maintenance, Airport Maintenance, Fleet Management, Beach House Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Urban Forest, Promenade Maintenance, Beach Maintenance, Civic Auditorium, Cemetery, Transit Maintenance, Transit Facilities, and Water Resources. Teamsters Local 911 represents approximately 9,000 members throughout Southern California. Teamsters Local 911 is affiliated to the Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees, Teamsters Joint Council 42 and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

– MH

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The opportunity for a teaching moment at Olympic High

SO WHAT'S THE RIGHT QUESTION TO POSE TO THOSE PESKY WOODITES? Go long, baby - past, and future. Think quality and quantity, of art, history and message. Above all, think of the kids.

But most importantly, think of my reputation! Here I am, writing about that danged mural again. There are so many pressing issues in Santa Monica, is that all Andrews can think of to write about? Say what you will about me, and I know you do, but please don't call me boring.

I wasn't planning on hitting the woods again so soon, but questions have been raised. I urge every like-minded soul out there to also make their thoughts known, on the new Save the Muir Woods Mural Facebook page, to media outlets, and most importantly to our SMMUSD school board, because the decision to clear cut that noteworthy and cherished mural into oblivion, or not, rests in their hands.

We who value that mural have been labeled a very small group of very vocal protesters. Very vocal, yes, because this is an important issue. Very small group? Not so. The numbers show it, in petition signatures, Facebook page "likes" and other expressions of support, but let's raise our voices now and erase all doubt.

Those calling for the destruction of the iconic Muir Woods mural by Jane Golden, on the walls of Olympic High School at the corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park, want to see something else painted there. Something designed and painted by the students, it is argued. Something that represents them, the students who are there now, in 2014. That, in itself, seems like a reasonable, even honorable goal.

But isn't that short sighted? The mural existed long before these students got there, before Olympic High was there even, and if restored will be there a couple of generations after they leave. In another 36 years it may not even be Olympic High School any more, in that building. And what if the Class of 2018 doesn't like what the Class of '14 decided to paint there? Doesn't represent them. Will they be upset?

Those wanting to tear down the old for something new lean heavily on the argument that we're not John Muir school; it moved up the street 20 years ago.

If, say, it had been Samo High before and it was a big mural of a Viking by a good but not internationally recognized artist we were talking about, I'd agree. But John Muir is always a valid context, especially in California. He and his Yosemite are on the back of the California quarter, for condor's sake.

That mural has been there since 1978. At that time Jane Golden was a talented Santa Monica artist (who had to leave town to treat a life-threatening medical condition), who has now blossomed into a famous award-winning muralist in charge of the entire program for the city of Philadelphia, with 4,000 murals under her aegis. Never heard of her? Neither had I until I looked into it. The art world, which I'm not involved in, has spoken strongly as to her gifts and accomplishments, and that's good enough for me.

Wow. We lucked out. She painted only three murals in Santa Monica. Are they landmarks? An important and valued part of our artistic history?

Nope. We let them go. Two of them are painted over, and now the last remaining Jane Golden mural in Santa Monica is threatened with the same fate. Seriously, are we crazy?

There has been no insinuation that the school wants to remove all art from that space. That's not the issue. But if you paint another mural over it, Muir Woods is destroyed.

But what will be painted in its place? Has Picasso been called forth from the grave? Nauman, Baldessari, Hockney, Jasper Johns? Yoko Ono??

THAT is the question. It's not whether or not art belongs on that wall, or that the administration or even the students want a mural that represents them. The kids at Olympic have for the most part gotten a tough shake in life, and are trying to make something of themselves. Did you even know that school was there? They deserve more support from us all.

But teaching them that recognized, iconic art, valued by the community and the world, is expendable if this year's crop of students decide they want something else there, is not the lesson we should be teaching them.

Let's use this issue to get all we can for those students. Jane Golden has expressed enthusiasm for putting together events in conjunction with her coming out to restore the mural that would involve students and the community. It could be so valuable for everyone, beyond just the restoration, and shine a needed spotlight on the school, the students and their dedicated teachers.

These aren't just pictures of trees we're talking about. It's a sylvan symbol in the city representing the importance of conservation. John Muir was a great American and Californian and this is a constant reminder of that legacy.

It's not about money. The money is already there, in Measure BB funds. More than enough has been allocated for the needed repair of the mural wall.

Yes, this is a golden opportunity to think long-term and invest in the next generation, to provide those students with a sense of pride, ownership and identity. They've got a rare gift on their wall and most don't even know it.

We can make this work for everyone if we try, but we must not lose this mural. It means too much to the community these youngsters will soon be joining. Let's teach them to understand and appreciate what they've got, so they can look back in 20 or 30 years with pride and say, yes, that was my school, and I helped preserve the famous Muir Woods mural.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest." - Mark Twain

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for almost 30 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supportive but independent

Editor:

In Saturday's article about the hotelworker union's endorsing me

("Hospitality union endorses Gruber, McKeown," Sept. 6th), the Daily Press lists four projects the union asked candidates to support, including hotel towers along Ocean Avenue. The casual reader might infer that having gotten the endorsement, I must have agreed.

In fact, I explicitly told the union I do not support any of the listed projects as proposed, and actively oppose most of them.

I believe the union endorses me because they know I am a champion of working families - but they also know, based on my voting record and response to their questionnaire, that I will never let union jobs cause me to vote for a bad project. If and only if a project is truly good for our whole community, then they can trust I will fight tirelessly to mandate fair wages, respect, and dignity for workers in and on those projects.

Their other endorsee, Mr. Gruber, has a different slant on development from mine. That is why I recommend instead that voters consider Jennifer Kennedy and Sue Himmelrich, two Planning Commissioners with rock-solid slow growth voting records and a demonstrated commitment to rent control, affordable housing, and social justice for workers and others.

We do not need to sell our City to create new jobs. We just need to be progressive and unwavering on what we require of developers who earn the privilege to build here.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown
Santa Monica

Trivialization

Editor:

I would like to address the last sentence in this article about pony rides. The Santa Monica City council banned the declawing of cats. The declawing of cats is one of the most painful, routinely performed surgeries in all of veterinary medicine and it is never done in the best interest of the cat. It is the amputation of the cat's toe bones. This is far different from what David Simpson wrote and trivialized as "clipping the claws of a cat."

I applaud our council for taking a stand against the inhumane treatment of cats and ponies. Children can learn about animals without having to subjugate the animals to tedious or grueling practices. After all, kids seem to know more about dinosaurs than any other animals that ever roamed the earth and I can guarantee you they have never pet or ridden one.

Thank you,

Jennifer Conrad, DVM

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S/he

Margarita Rozenbaoum Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let's Talk About Sex

THE READERSHIP OF THIS COLUMN JUST went up. Mhm, humans are predictable. It's okay, I'm human too. We may be celibate, promiscuous, single, partnered, divorced … but the topic of sex seduces us all. And usually I'm annoyed by the "sex sells" marketing strategy, but I guess it's good for something here. Thanks for tuning in, everyone!

So, let's talk about sex. It's pretty disturbing, isn't it? Not sex itself-but what we've done with it as a culture. Sex trafficking in the United States alone has reached a number as high as 17,500 annual victims. The pornography industry rakes in $3 billion from U.S. consumers every year (that's just the porn we're paying for). And here's another statistic for you: An estimated 88 percent of pornographic scenes contain acts of physical aggression or violence. Not surprisingly, one in four women (and one in six men) in the Unites States are victims of (reported) rape or sexual assault.

I take the time to talk about the numbers because our brains often need to quantify in order to start to believe that our reality is not as it should be. We are a desensitized, degenerated people with hardly any awareness that our societal relationship with sex is perverted. Maybe this is a wake-up call for you. My wake-up call was the sound of a thirteen year-old boy's voice.

I was leaving a Santa Monica middle school campus from a meeting. School had just let out, and I was standing at the corner next to three boys who were laughing and talking about what I imagine middle school-aged boys talk about (video games? sports? homework?). As I was waiting for the crossing guard to shepherd our group across the street, I heard one of the boys say loudly:

"Would you f--- that tall girl?"

I'm 5'11", by the way- they were talking about me. The crossing guard signaled to us, the boys stepped off the sidewalk and headed home without another look. I stayed where I was, stunned. Stunned for several reasons, but the one I want to focus on here is the reality that boys (aged eleven to thirteen) feel comfortable thinking and speaking about women and sex in this way. That "Would you…?" statement effectively captures all of what sex means to us anymore.

On my drive home I wondered if this was an isolated incident. Maybe just an unluckily vulgar group? For times like this, I have a thirteen year-old sister to check in with. Oh, and hundreds of middle and high school-aged girls who come through the YWCA's afterschool program, Girl Central, designed to give them the tools to confront these situations with confidence. Bad news: This was not an isolated incident.

The word on the street is that the behavior of those boys was perfectly expected. Our girls have heard worse at their schools and have seen worse in their texts. I know girls who have been groped, verbally assaulted and sexually bullied. Others have talked about the normalcy of oral sex as a rite of passage. You can't dismiss this uncomfortable news as something unique to a faraway town with anonymous people. We're talking about Santa Monica-your Santa Monica. And your kids. And all of us.

I hope nobody is misunderstanding this to be a demonization of sex. Quite the contrary-it's a call to reclaiming the fullness of something beautiful. If anybody cares to hear my personal opinion, I believe sex is the ultimate expression of union and love. That's why we call it "making love," isn't it? But that is far from the reality of the culture we live in. As Salt-N-Pepa's hit "Let's Talk About Sex" observes, "Come on, how many guys you know make love?"

And I don't know what to blame: Technology? Lewd song lyrics? Historical sexual repression? Socioeconomic difficulties that force parents to work multiple jobs and leave children to raise themselves? What I do know is that our problems thrive off of ignorance and silence. We have to start talking about this-to our kids and to each other. On the road to change, awareness is a first step. Conversation is a second. Let's talk and decide what we stand for-and start standing for it.

You know, I kicked myself all the way home that day for not reacting quickly enough to give those three boys the talking-to of their lives. I still think about the things I could and should have said to them ("Give me your phone! We're calling your mother, so you can repeat what I just heard you say!"). But maybe instead of fantasizing about the perfect reaction to a dysfunctional culture, we should be creating a new culture, in which sex is worth more than a casual "Would you...?" Call me an idealist for trying to tackle a new major world problem every month with under a thousand words. And maybe my dreams are too big for a modest newspaper column. But then again, based on the readership of this paper alone, there are several hundred thousand conversations just waiting to happen. So, let's talk about sex.

The YWCA Santa Monica/Westside is a nonprofit organization that empowers women and girls. Annually, we serve more than 2,500 women, girls and children from 10 communities on the Westside of Los Angeles. Contact **MARGARITA ROZENBAOUM** directly at mrozenbaoum@smywca.org.



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
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Your column here

Dinah Minot
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thirsty Neighborhoods

LABOR DAY HAS COME AND GONE, AND all the kids are back at school. My thirsty nine year-old lab jerks me into the shade on our daily neighborhood walk. Three years ago, when we moved into a rental in Sunset Park, Ajax and I strolled most mornings down Broccoli Row (better known to locals as Maple Street with giant Ficus trees). We often paused to roll - or poop - on clipped green lawns in our sunny middle class haven, while I caught up with a sister or friend on the phone.

This morning was alarmingly different, maybe more so because I just returned from a three-week trip in lush green New England. Except for a cacophony of construction noises, with several new developments and renovations in the works, our quaint seaside neighborhood is stunningly quiet and parched, inescapably scarred and wilting. "Help!" cried the dying hedges and dusty dirt front yards and sidewalks. I continued down the hill and up another, with Ajax huffing and puffing nearby, stricken by a dozen new "fake" green lawns, patchworked throughout our pristine hood, some in front of single family million dollar homes and others in courtyards of tired-looking apartment complexes. Passing by stylish pebbled front yards, with woodchips covering drip irrigation systems, proud succulents fanned their glory and warmed my heart. But still, I felt an awful dread.

What's happening here is the beginning of my first real encounter with our drought, a drought that I've certainly read about and heard about for a long time. Even though my husband and I let our lawn turn to dirt a year ago, a voluntary reduction inspired by the city's sustainability efforts to not use sprinklers and to conserve water usage in general, I figured that our home was an anomaly, like a handful of other eco-conscious residents, who imagine that we can make a difference without our drop in the bucket. But the truth is we live in Santa Monica, California, where citizens are more progressive and environmentally aware than most Americans. This summer, the impact of the drought has finally caught a privileged neighborhood's attention, even before mandatory restrictions are implemented, with almost a third of the yards barren and brown. Will other neighbors voluntarily catch on? What more can be done? Pray? Change our lifestyle? Invest in Astroturf? Move?

Here in California, we are in our third year of "extreme" drought, with high temperatures and little snow in the mountains, trickling down to reservoirs. Farmers are devastated, and the state is economically slammed, estimating a loss of 2.2 billion, according to a UC Davis report by Richard Howitt and Jay Lund this past June. I recall reading it and shaking my head, worried for the farmers and the food industry but never really acknowledging that it could impact me directly. The rain will come, we all assume. But what if it doesn't? At dinner parties, community events and soccer games, we can all talk about solutions - costly desalinization plants or piping in water from even farther way- but who will pay for that? Is it a pipe dream?

Not since the earthquake of '94, when so many of us were traumatized with a feeling of helplessness, have I felt so dumbfounded and concerned for our future here in California.

Normally a glass half-full person, I try to tackle each day with optimism and hope, focusing on my work, my family and friends, and other personal, creative endeavors.

Hard to bounce along carefree on a walk, when the land is scorched and the cracks are revealing themselves.

The question is how can we help? How can we rally and organize to conserve in a serious way? Will rain barrels really help? Sustainable Works (http://www.sustainableworks.org),

contracted by the city of Santa Monica, offers workshops and programs with lots of helpful tips. Legislative protective laws, including a Water Bond, which will appear as Proposition 1 on the November 4 ballot, are trying to regulate groundwater management, cleanup and usage for businesses and residents, while environmental activists continue to spread conservation awareness, draft clean water initiatives and promote other movements to encourage community participation in water efficiency and recycling.

We are not the experts, but we ARE the consumers and the users. We can at least attempt to conserve - no more long showers or sprinkler use? We can't pretend that WE don't have a major problem. Even water experts like Dr. Peter H. Gleick, at the Pacific Institute in Oakland, warn that "It is the third year of the drought, and we did not act in the first two years as though anything was abnormal." But now, you've got to be blind or too busy burning gasoline to not see the lack of green on the ground. Please trees, please don't wither away too. Henry David Thoreau, like us, a mere mortal, sipped the boundless wonders of nature, cautioning us to brace ourselves from self-destruction. "When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods: what would become of us, if we walked only in a garden or a mall?"

Three years in, we can expect a local and nationwide buzz to flair, a buzz of complaints that "we should have done something earlier to prepare for this." But let's admit that "We" is you and you are me. We can't escape the impact of the drought, so we must act quickly. Many of us are guilty of taking long showers or baths, as well as excessively watering our lawns, blindly hoping that the skies will cry out and relieve us from this imposing bleak reality. We need Joni Mitchell's clouds, even if they do get in the way, because now our neighborhoods are crying out - they say we've changed - it's a helluva drought.

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



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy in 55 minutes

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PLAY THAT IS smart, witty, well written, well acted, and well directed, this isn't it.

The show is called "Women" and the main characters are called Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, along with their mother, insipidly called "Marmee". Sound familiar?

It's "Little Women", but, unfortunately it isn't Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" and we all aren't ten years old anymore. It's playwright Chiara Atik and director Stephanie Ward who have put together this travesty, and the nine mediocre actors who demolish it.

Most of the main points of the book are there, but badly rendered. Jo, the writer (Lauren Flans), and her sister Meg (Erika Rankin) race through their lines in double-time, making their speeches incomprehensible. Which is actually a good thing because most of what they have to say, plus their flat attempts at humor, are neither illuminating nor funny.

And Beth (Brigitte Valdez), who doesn't have much of anything to say, spends her time coughing. And then she dies, which is also a good thing, since now Marmee won't have to worry about marrying her off. In a departure from the mood of the book, however, none of the remaining sisters seems to mourn or miss her.

In another departure, Jo, who was a tomboy in the book, is characterized in the play as a lesbian. And, just in case you miss the point, when Professor Bhaer proposes to her she accepts with the proviso that he will agree to a marriage without sex.

The men in the play are somewhat better. But not by much. Clayton Farris, who loves Jo and then marries Amy, plays the next-door neighbor, Laurie, with a persistent self-satisfied smirk. Joseph Patrick O'Malley, who marries Meg, is pompous and remote. (When Meg agrees to marry him, she announces that she is "capitulating to the shackles of my gender.") Only Professor Bhaer (Ben Moroski), with his sometime-German accent, appears to be earnest and human. And then there is, inexplicably, a brother, Carl March, played by J.B. Waterman.

As the play progresses, everyone races around a lot. And then they dance.

They have plenty of room to race and dance, since the stage is nearly bare. Whoever designed it (there is nobody credited with it on the program) apparently thought that two chairs and a bench would suffice.



NOW PLAYING AT THEATRE ASYLUM

As an aside, Jo expresses her desire, as a writer, to be "the voice of a generation." Louisa May Alcott actually was. She's probably spinning in her grave right now.

"Women", however, despite my opinion, is credited with being a "record-breaking hit" from #Serials @ The Flea Theater, then was produced at The People's Improv Theatre in New York, and was an award-winning entry at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

"Women", which opened Sept. 5, will appear Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. until Oct. 25 at Theatre Asylum, 6320 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles.











GOALS
FROM PAGE 1

The department planted 358 trees, more than its 200-tree benchmark.

They also cleaned up a lot of graffiti, buffing nearly 38,000 incidences. In cases where residents requested graffiti removal, the department responded within one businesses day 99 percent of the time.

Four water mains and 11 service mains broke last fiscal year and, according to the report, the department always responded within one hour. The same went for the 16 sewer mains that overflowed.

They always responded to high priority sidewalk complaints on time, averaging 3.26 days before completing an inspection.

Public works customers were served within 15 minutes of approaching the counter 89 percent of the time.

The department was also good about responding to missed trash and recycling collection calls and reports of illegal dumping.

A battery shortage at the end of last year hurt the department's response to parking meter repair requests, which are supposed to be fulfilled within one business day. It took, on average, 2.77 business days to fill those requests but once the battery issue was resolved, everything was done on time.

All of the shops fell below their benchmarks in terms of completing work orders within seven business days. This, the report said, was primarily due to personnel issues.

The electrical department missed its mark by one percent; a crew leader has been on medical leave for a year. Plumbing fell two percentage points behind its goal while dealing with a vacancy for half the year. The HVAC department missed by 19 percentage points, returning 267 of its 568 work orders in seven business days. HVAC had two vacancies.

Public Works completed an audit, concluding "that all sustainable products and materials used in facility maintenance are achieving results consistent with reuse techniques, recycling, purchasing practices and overall environmental impact."

About 82 percent of the department's paint purchases contained little or no volatile organic compounds, according to the report.

The department struggled to cut down on waste. Green food waste collection increased by 5 percent, falling short of the department's benchmark of 10 percent.

Likewise for the junk mail opt-out program, which increased by 4.6 percent - again below the 15 percent benchmark. Nearly 3,000 Santa Monicans signed up for the program.

A goal to reduce illegal dumping by 10 percent through a donation program is stalled because a contractor fell ill.

The department did not reach its goal of installing 12 electric vehicle chargers but public works officials are in the process of adding 26 chargers.

dave@smdp.com

CRIME
FROM PAGE 1

Two SMPD officers, along with a Santa Monica College officer, killed Zawahri in the SMC library. Police were lauded for their response and all three officers are receiving commendations this week.

Just days after the shooting spree, Gil Verastegui, 29, was shot and killed in an alley off of Michigan Avenue. Verastegui was a gang member, according to reports.

There were only two recorded homicides in 2012 and one in each of 2010 and 2011.

In 2013, there were 29 reported rapes, up from 23 in 2012. Last year, the FBI expanded the definition of rape - removing the term "forcible" - in the context of crime statistics.

"A more expansive definition of an offense, much like changes in methodology will inevitably result in an immediate increase in reports without much change in the underlying circumstances," Camarena said.

These four categories - rape, homicide, robbery, and assault - are considered violent crimes. There were 334 total violent crimes last year, down from 395 the year prior. The total is the lowest in 50 years, according to police data.

There were 164 reported thefts of automobiles in 2013, the lowest in the police department's recorded history. Cars were stolen in the thousands every year in the 1980s and 1990s.

Burglary dropped slightly, from 586 in 2012 to 579 last year.

Larceny, defined as a theft of personal property that didn't require breaking into a residence, was the highest since 2002, with 2,793 incidents. There were 2,634 incidents in 2012.

This was due, in part, to one prolific bike thief, Camarena said.

In May of 2013 the Criminal Investigation's Division served a warrant and arrested the thief.

"The investigation netted a considerable number of stolen bicycles and property," Camarena said. "The suspect, a veritable one man crime wave, triggered a spike in larceny reports as the owners of previously unreported incidents reclaimed their property."

dave@smpd.com



California water use drops in July amid drought

FENIT NIRAPPIL
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO California water agencies reported a 7.5 percent drop in monthly water use in July in a survey released Tuesday, falling far short of Gov. Jerry Brown's call for a 20 percent reduction in water use when he declared a drought emergency.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted statewide water restrictions in July and will consider whether more aggressive steps are needed to conserve water in the worst drought in a generation. The figures released Tuesday showed water use fell in July compared with a year ago.

"While this initial report is an improvement, we hope and trust that it is just a start," Felicia Marcus, the board's chairwoman, said in a statement.

A survey earlier this year showed monthly water use actually increased by 1 percent in May, one of the reasons the water board imposed restrictions that include fines of up to $500 per day for water wasters.

Monthly water use fell by 4.4 percent in June.

The mandatory survey includes water suppliers that serve roughly 33 million Californians, according to the water board.

The results also show each of the state's 10 hydrological regions reduced their water use. For example, Southern California coastal communities that reported an 8 percent increase in May reported a 2 percent drop in July.

Figures for August, when new statewide regulations were in full effect, will be released later this month. Depending on those results, the board may consider even more aggressive steps to meet the governor's call for a 20 percent reduction.

The surveys do not capture some of the reasons monthly water use rises unrelated to conservation. For example, cities that battled large fires, added golf courses or new businesses, or had major leaks may register large increases.

The surveys do not show per-capita water use, which will be reported in October. As a result, it's easier for cities such as Sacramento and Fresno with historically high per-capita water use to cut back compared with arid cities such Los Angeles, which has long imposed mandatory restrictions and turf removal programs.

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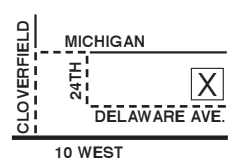


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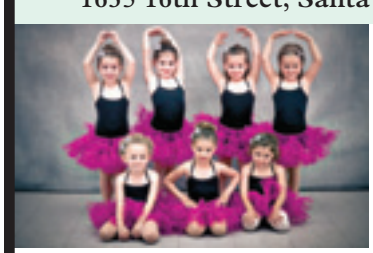
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Apple unveils smartwatch, bets on wearable devices

MICHAEL LIEDTKE & ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writers

CUPERTINO Apple unveiled its long-anticipated smartwatch Tuesday, introducing a device that transplants the features of an iPhone onto a smaller screen that's never more than an arm's length away.

Dubbed the Apple Watch, the gadget marks the technology trend-setter's attempt to usher in an era of wearable computing and lift its sales with another revolutionary product.

The watch's debut also heralds a turning point in Tim Cook's three-year reign as Apple CEO. Although the company has thrived under Cook's leadership, it had only released upgrades to the iPhone, iPad and other products hatched before his predecessor, Steve Jobs, died in October 2011. The lack of totally new devices raised questions about whether Apple had run out of ideas without the visionary Jobs.

Apple is a late arrival to the still-nascent market for wearable technology. Several other companies already sell smartwatches that have been greeted with widespread indifference.

But Apple has a reputation for igniting dormant markets. Other MP3 music players, smartphones and tablet computers were first to market, but the devices did not enthrall consumers until Apple imbued them with its magic touch.

The smartwatch "might not only be a game changer for Apple, but for the entire industry," says FBR Capital Markets analyst Daniel Ives. "A lot of major technology players around the globe are taking notes on what Apple is trying to do here."

Investors appeared lukewarm about the unveiling. Apple's stock dipped 37 cents to close at $97.99, but the shares had been surging for months amid the hype leading up to Tuesday's show. The stock has gained 22 percent so far this year and hit an all-time high earlier this month.

It will take months to gauge the popularity of the Apple Watch. The $349 device won't go on sale until early next year.

Cook hailed it as the most "personal device we have ever created."

The watch is "the first product we have seen with Tim's fingerprints all over it," said Creative Strategies analyst Tim Bajarin, who has been following Apple through most of its 38-year history.

The watch will tie into a new payment system designed to enable people to store all their credit card information in a digital locker so merchandise can be bought with a tap on a sensor at a checkout stand or a press of the button.

The watch must be used with one of the iPhone models released in the past two years - the 5, 5S, 5C or the latest versions scheduled to go on sale Sept. 19 in the U.S. and nine other countries.

Here's a closer look at what Apple has in store:

LARGER IPHONES

The iPhone 6 will feature a 4.7-inch screen, up from the 4-inch screen on the models released in each of the previous two years. The iPhone 6 Plus will have a 5.5-inch screen and other improvements, including longer battery life, that will cost an additional $100.

With the larger screen comes a new horizontal view of the home screen. Icons are usually stacked vertically, even when the phone is turned horizontally. App developers will also have new tools to rearrange their content to take advantage of that larger screen.

The new phones are not as big as Samsung's latest flagship phones - 5.1 inches for the Galaxy S5 and 5.7 inches for the Note 4 - but they will be large enough to neutralize a key advantage Samsung and other Android manufacturers have had.

The iPhone 6 will also have a barometer to estimate how much users climb stairs, not just how far they walk or run.

Apple is also improving a slow-motion video feature by allowing even slower shots on the iPhone 6. The camera will be able to take 240 frames per second, double what's in last year's iPhone 5s. Normally, video is at 60 frames per second.

Starting prices for the new iPhones will be comparable to those in the past - $199 with a two-year contract for the iPhone 6 with 16 gigabytes of storage.

However, the step-up models will have double the memory as before - $299 for 64 gigabytes and $399 for 128 gigabytes. The iPhone 6 Plus phones will cost $100 more at each configuration.

MOBILE PAYMENTS

Apple is calling its new payment system Apple Pay.

Consumers will be able to use their phone cameras to capture a photo of their cards. Apple will verify it behind the scenes and add it to the phone's Passbook account so people can make payments at a retailer. Apple announced several merchants that will accept this system, including Macy's, Whole Foods, Walgreens and Disney stores. American Express, Visa and MasterCard all are cooperating with Apple, too, as well as most major banks.

For security, the card number is stored only on the device. Each time you pay, a one-time card number is created to make the transaction.

SMARTWATCH

Cook says Apple had to invent a new interface for the watch because simply shrinking a phone would not work. Much of the interaction will be through the dial on the watch, which Apple calls the digital crown. It's used to zoom in and out of a map, for instance.

Apple also worked with app developers to create new functionality. Users will be able to unlock room doors at some Starwood hotels or remind themselves where they parked with a BMW app.

The new watch will come in a variety of styles and straps, with a choice of two sizes.

NEW SOFTWARE

Though much of the attention has been on new gadgets, the software powering those gadgets is getting its annual refresh. Apple considers iOS 8 to be its biggest update since the introduction of the app store in 2008.

Existing iPhone and iPad users will be eligible for the free upgrade, too.

Among other things, iOS 8 will let devices work better in sync. For instance, it will be possible to start a message on an iPhone and finish it on an iPad. With an upcoming Mac upgrade called Yosemite, it will be possible to continue working on that same message on a Mac computer.

These handoff features will also extend to the Apple Watch.

The new software will be available to existing users on Sept. 17.

Maritime panel to hold sessions on port congestion

BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

ISLE OF PALMS, S.C. Maritime leaders were told Tuesday that a federal commission is planning a series of meetings on dealing with port congestion that has resulted from a rebounding economy and bigger ships calling at the nation's ports.

They also learned that completion of the expanded Panama Canal, originally anticipated this year, has been pushed back to 2016.

Maritime Commission Chairman Mario Cordero, Panama Canal Authority Administrator Jorge Quijano and Gov. Nikki Haley were among those who spoke before the South Carolina International Trade Conference.

Cordero told the gathering that the Federal Maritime Commission plans a series of meetings to discuss port congestion with the first of four regional meetings to be held in Los Angeles next week.

A second is set for Baltimore next month with a later session to be held in the Southeast, perhaps in Charleston, and in New Orleans.

Cordero envisions the meetings will contribute to a study of ways to deal with congestion that includes the waits truckers have at ports before they pick up or unload shipping containers.

"Congestion is the topic of the day," he said. Such a study, he added, will allow the commission to advocate in Congress for money to improve both port and other shipping infrastructure.

He said congestion is one of a number of issues facing the nation's ports along with others such as environmental concerns, consolidation among shipping lines and energy costs.

Jorge Quijano, the head of the Panama Canal Authority, said the expansion of the canal to handle a new generation of larger container ships has been delayed because of problems with contractors.

"Progress has been significant but slower than we anticipated," he said, adding that construction of the new lock system is now about 75 percent complete.

He said he did not want to predict an exact date when the expanded canal will be open.

Quijano said the authority would probably have a drawing to see which shipping line will be the first to travel through the revamped canal.

Haley told those attending that South Carolina is aggressively trying to attract foreign companies to locate in the state.

"I lot of what I wanted was to see what we could do to bring companies back to America," she told reporters later. "We want good companies that understand that Made in America means something."

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WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
Old SSW swell continues to ease; SSE Norbert swell expected to fade

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Old SSW swell gets some reinforcements; small new WNW swell creeps in late

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
Modest SSW swell; small new WNW swell

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Modest SSW swell and small WNW swell ease

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 27, 2014**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 1
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 2
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / xx
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / xx

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA Swain Barber Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

Heal the Bay

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.

Women's MMA back in spotlight on UFC reality show

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES When Carla Esparza and Jessica Penne agreed to spend several weeks of the summer sequestered in a house with 14 fellow mixed martial artists, they didn't do it because it sounded like fun.

They joined the cast of the upcoming season of "The Ultimate Fighter" because their sport is growing in ways they never imagined just a few months earlier.

After years of training, sacrificing and getting punched for little more than personal satisfaction, they embraced the chance to showcase women's MMA to a new audience, even if it meant living in what Esparza called "a combination of a prison and a sorority."

"We're getting an amazing opportunity I never thought I would see," added Penne, who was fired from her job as a boxing instructor during her stint on the show this summer.

"In this sport, you go through people not taking you seriously, not being able to pay your bills because you're chasing a dream," Penne said. "It gets really difficult. It's a crazy, up-and-down life, but I feel lucky to be able to do something I love every single day. Not many people get the opportunity to do that. I'll suffer while I can to chase my dream."

When the UFC added an entire 115-pound women's division this year, the promotion decided to use its long-running reality television show to pick a champion for the first time. The UFC signed most of the world's top strawweights out of the Invicta FC women's promotion and filmed them living and training together in Las Vegas.

The results air on Fox Sports 1 starting Wednesday night, culminating in the title fight Dec. 12.

"It was a good experience," said Esparza, a wrestler from Redondo Beach. "I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world, but I don't know if I would do it again."

The visibility of women's MMA has skyrocketed in the last two years with the ascent of Ronda Rousey, the UFC's undefeated bantamweight champion and a budding movie star. Rousey's charisma and MMA skills were the main reasons UFC President Dana White reversed his long-standing reluctance to promote female fighters, and Rousey has become arguably the UFC's biggest star.

With Rousey topping a thriving bantamweight division, White decided to double down on women's MMA. Suddenly, 115-pound fighters who had barely made any money after years in their sport had the chance to become reality-TV stars and eventual fighters in MMA's biggest showcases.

"I had no clue that this was even going to be possible," Esparza said. "I started off fighting for pennies. I thought I was going to fight for a couple of years. It wasn't something I could survive on. I was just fighting because I love it."

"Through all my years of training and competing, I never thought of it as my profession," Penne added. "It was just something that I loved to do. I enjoyed and just never really thought of it in that way. I think Ronda did a great service to women's MMA and gave us that catapult to be taken seriously."

The UFC appointed lightweight champion Anthony Pettis and top contender Gilbert Melendez as the coaches. Melendez has been a supporter of women's MMA since he taught his first all-women jiu jitsu class in 2004, and his wife, Keri Anne, competes in muay thai.

"I was never like, 'Oh, they're girls,'" Melendez said. "They're all gamers. A lot of guys fight for so many reasons besides trying to be a true champion. Some of them fight for what it brings to them. These ladies fight straight because they like it."

The strawweights needed the UFC, but the world's dominant MMA promotion also needs them.

Even White acknowledged "The Ultimate Fighter" had grown stagnant and repetitive after 19 seasons of the same formula. Most seasons showcase up-and-coming fighters from regional promotions trying to break into the big time - and usually failing. The 20th season showcases most of the world's best fighters in the 115-pound weight class, and a title awaits at the end.

"The Ultimate Fighter" hasn't featured this much top-end talent since men's flyweights and bantamweights joined the promotion three years ago in a season that featured current bantamweight champion T.J. Dillashaw, John Dodson and Dennis Bermudez.

"I think there will be a couple of stars coming out of this season that can help the company," Melendez said. "And they can use it."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

No movie

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

Boyhood 2:43 (R)
2:10 p.m., 5:45 p.m.

Frank Miller's Sin City 2: A Dame To Kill For 1:42 (R) 3D
9:45 p.m.

Frank Miller's Sin City 2: A Dame To Kill For 1:42 (R)
4:30 p.m.

The Hundred-Foot Journey 2:02 (PG)
1:20 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10:05 p.m.

Lucy 1:29 (R)
9:20 p.m.

Magic in the Moonlight 1:37 (PG-13)
1:50 p.m., 7:05 p.m.

The Giver 1:37 (PG-13)
2 p.m., 4:35 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:35 p.m.

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

As Above, so Below 1:33 (R)
11:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:05 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 10:15 p.m.

Guardians of the Galaxy 2:01 (PG-13) 3D
2 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Guardians of the Galaxy 2:01 (PG-13)
11 a.m., 4:15 p.m. 10 p.m.

The Identical
11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 10:20 p.m.

If I Stay
11:30 a.m., 2:10 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:20 p.m.

Let's Be Cops 1:44 (R)
11 a.m., 1:40 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 9:55 p.m.

The November Man 1:48 (R)
11:10 a.m., 1:50 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10:05 p.m.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 1:41 (PG-13) 3D
4:50 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 1:41 (PG-13)
11:15 a.m., 1:40 p.m., 7:15 p.m.

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

TAKE A MIDWEEK BREAK, LIBRA

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You initially might feel uncomfortable when dealing with a money matter. Confusion is likely to add to the difficulty of settling this issue easily. It would be wise to walk away from the issue for a while. Tonight: As you like it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Note what you feel is going on behind the scenes. Don't allow someone's nervous energy to throw you off or undermine you. Stay focused. Know where you are coming from, and you will create more give-and-take as a result. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your smile draws others toward you. Your ideas make sense. Tap into your positive attitude, and you'll have the ability to transform a difficult situation into a much easier one. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to allow greater give-and-take between you and someone else. Though you might want to assume the lead once more, step back and see what comes forward. Your nervous energy could transform if you exercise. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information. You might have the good fortune of running into someone who is an expert with the issue you are dealing with. Your optimism will draw in many different types of people, often from different cultures. Tonight: Be adventuresome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You seem to enjoy one person's company more than others. You often hang out together, laughing and sharing stories. This person's spontaneity delights you to no end. Be aware of what you are spending when you're with him or her, as you tend to go overboard. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Defer to someone else, as he or she can handle a particular issue much better than you can. Don't hesitate to speak your mind and explain your priorities. Your imagination could have a big impact on your schedule. Ease up the pace. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You seem to be too focused on achieving a long-term goal. How you deal with someone could change significantly once you have a serious talk with him or her. Tonight: Play it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your mind seems to take nearly every sentence you hear and head off to Fantasy Land with it. Obviously, staying in the here and now could be a major issue. Acknowledge this tendency to fall into reverie, and avoid making a mistake. Tonight: Go for something frisky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Deal with a family member directly, or handle a domestic issue head-on. You cannot avoid this situation, even if you would like to. Your spontaneity is likely to take you down a new path, which could shock a partner, roommate or family member. Tonight: Happiest at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You speak, and others listen. Explaining your idea might be easy, yet grasping someone else's thoughts could be a lot harder. Pull yourself out of your own thinking. Tonight: Visit with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You have a tendency to go to extremes. Recognize what is going on, and make a point of walking away from distorted thinking. A sudden risk could toss some confusion into your plans. Be sure that you can take a loss here before committing. Tonight: Get some exercise.

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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

This year you are subject to wild swings in your luck. Also, a partner or loved one could be most unpredictable. You will learn not to worry so much about these impulsive moments and just go with the flow. You might desire more alone time. If you are single, there will be a tendency to choose people who don't need or want what you want emotionally. Get to know people more thoroughly than usual when dating. If you are attached, you will recharge your romance by escaping your daily lives and going on more vacations together. ARIES knows how to spark your interest.

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

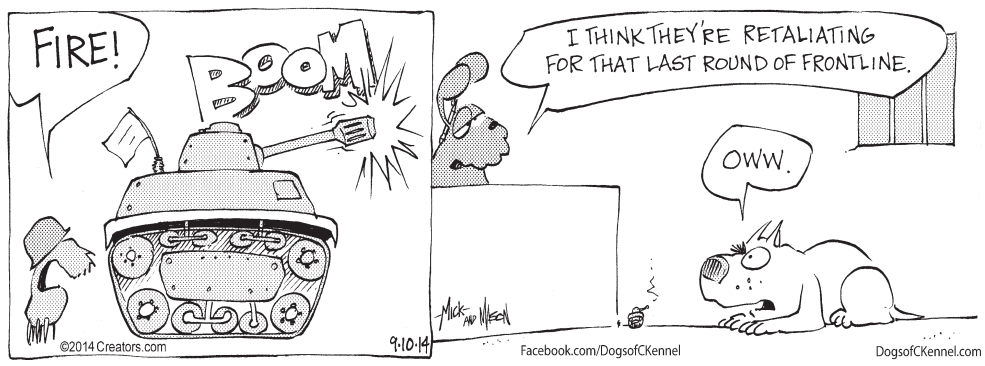
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



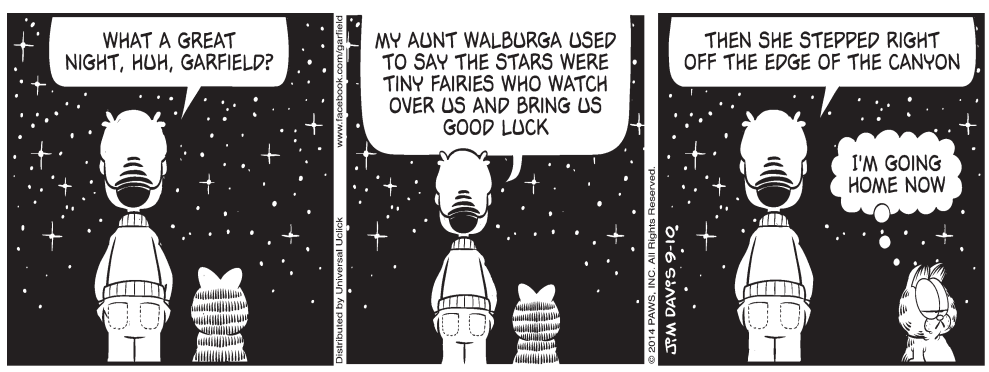
Strange Brew
By John Deering



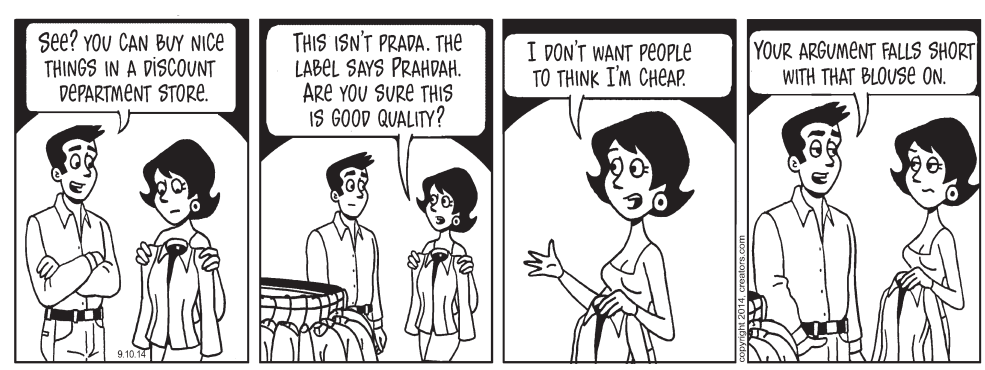
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

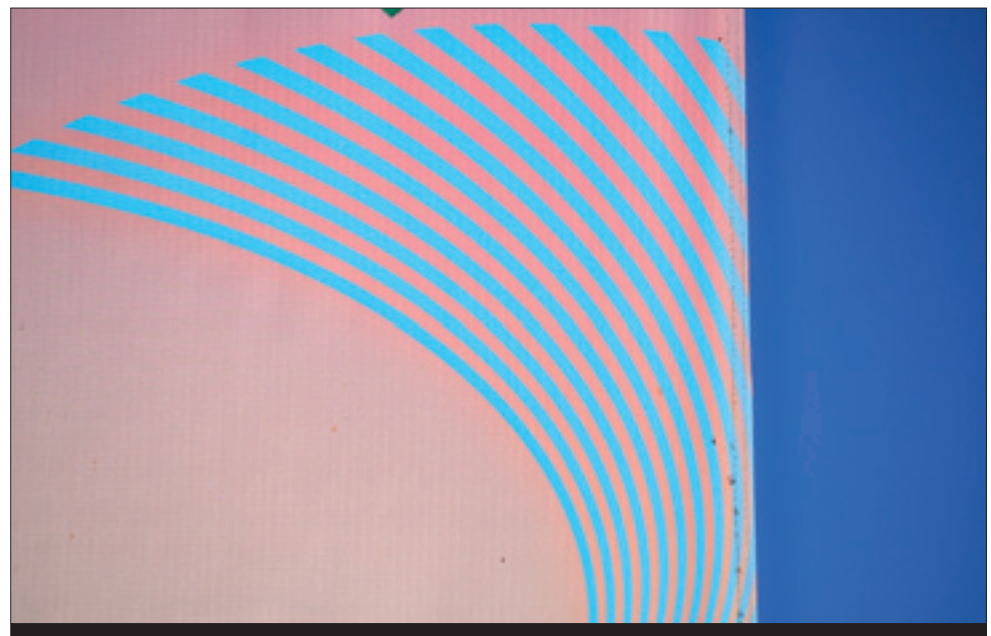
6	9	2	8	3	7	5	4	1
4	5	8	6	1	9	2	3	7
3	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	6
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	3
1	6	3	5	7	4	8	2	9
2	8	7	3	9	6	4	1	5
7	3	6	9	4	8	1	5	2
8	2	9	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	1	4	7	6	2	3	9	8

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 344 calls for service on Sept. 8.

BELOW IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Fight at 11th and Wilshire at 12:04 a.m.
Fight on the 1100 block of Wilshire Blvd. at 12:45 a.m.
Drunk driving on the 300 block of Olympic Dr. at 1:16 a.m.
Defrauding an innkeeper on the 1900 block of Pico Blvd. at 8:16 a.m.
Indecent exposure at 2nd and Pier at 8:26 a.m.
Fitness permit on the 800 block of Ocean Ave. at 8:42 a.m.
Battery at 12th and Alta at 8:45 a.m.
Traffic accident on the 1600 block of Interstate 10 at 8:47 a.m.
Burglary on the 2700 block of 2nd St. at 9:23 a.m.
Burglary on the 1400 block of Broadway at 11:01 a.m.
Battery on the 300 block of Pico Blvd. at 11:10 a.m.
Bike theft on the 500 block of Idaho Ave. at 11:11 a.m.
Identity theft on the 3300 block of Ocean Park Blvd at 11:54 a.m.
Traffic accident at Cloverfield and Broadway on 11:54 a.m.
Vandalism on the 700 block of Montana Ave. 12:38 p.m.
Vandalism on the 1800 block of 19th St. at 1:17 p.m.
Sexual assault on the 1000 block of Stanford St. at 1:42 p.m.
Identity theft on the 1500 block of Harvard St. at 1:46 p.m.
Grand theft at 5th and Idaho at 1:59 p.m.
Identity theft on the 300 block of Olympic Dr. at 2 p.m.
Petty theft on the 2500 of Pico Blvd. at 2:11 p.m.
Hit and run on the 3200 of Pico Blvd. at 2:11 p.m.
Hit and run on the 1600 block of 11th St. 2:53 p.m.
Battery at 20th and Colorado at 3:52 p.m.
Auto burglary on the 2500 block of Main St. at 4:21 p.m.
Battery on the 1400 block of 4th St. at 5:42 p.m.
Auto burglary on the 900 block of PCH at 5:52 p.m.
Battery on the 1500 block of Euclid St. at 6:12 p.m.
Petty theft on the 1100 block of Chelsea Ave. at 7:22 p.m.
Vandalism on the 3100 block of Ocean Park Blvd. at 9:15 p.m.
Burglary on the 200 Washington 9:42 p.m.
Defrauding an innkeeper on the 1300 block of 12th St. at 9:46 p.m.
Domestic violence on the 1700 block of Pico Blvd. at 10:46 p.m.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Want to know
7 Bushy hairdo
11 Fit for farming
12 Lummox
13 Cheapen
14 Muscle quality
15 Inexperienced
17 In a frenzy
20 Bumbling
23 Settle the bill
24 Exclusive group
26 Towel word
27 Really impress
28 Outlaw
29 Whole number
31 Break off
32 Plow maker John
33 Altar exchange
34 Scoundrel
37 Long sandwiches
39 Dawn-to-dusk
43 Understanding words
44 Campaign event
45 Cincinnati team
46 Play parts

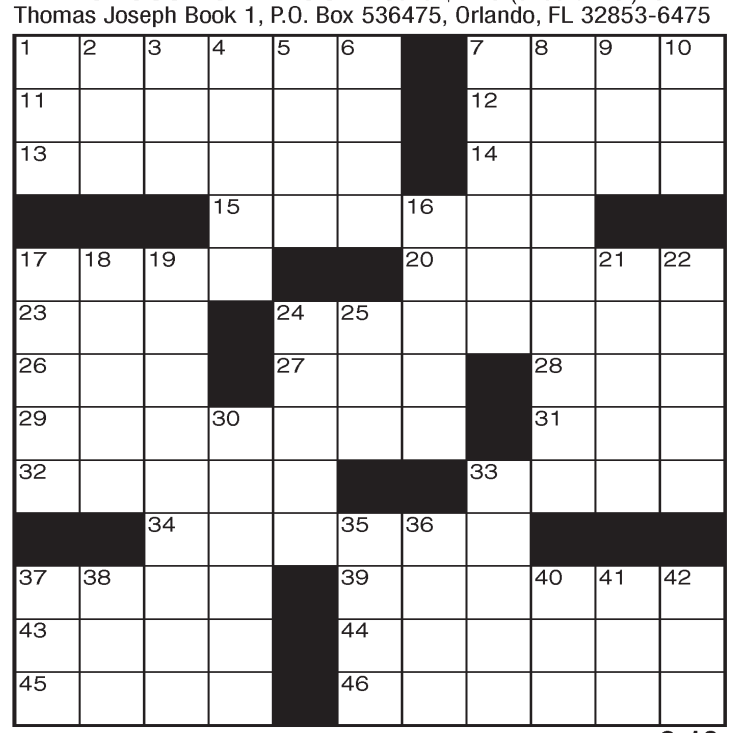
DOWN

1 Hunk of gum
2 Bauxite or magnetite
3 Collar
4 Arizona player, for short
5 "Born Free" lion
6 Lively folk dance
7 Play opener
8 Place for posies
9 Harry's friend
10 Pindar poem
16 Soda bottle size
17 Plant pest
18 Portland setting
19 Place for pearls
21 Cabaret fixture
22 Looks after
24 Pet store buys
25 Need to pay
30 Wipes out
33 "You don't say!"
35 Bounders
36 Guinness of film
37 Respectful title
38 Employ
40 Football's Marino
41 Had breakfast
42 Agreeable answer

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



9-10

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 9/6
9 29 31 43 50
Power#: 18
Jackpot: $127M

Draw Date: 9/5
7 12 20 24 59
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: $41M

Draw Date: 9/6
6 23 33 36 41
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/8
6 15 19 27 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/9
MIDDAY: 2 7 3
EVENING:

Draw Date: 9/8
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:43.01

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ From the Foreign Press: (1) After police issued a plea for help in July to identify the perpetrators of a porn movie filmed inside an Austrian church and in which actors' faces were obscured, a serious fan of Austrian porn spoke up, naming the 24-year-old female lead. The nude breasts of the star, he said, were unmistakably those of "Babsi," a popular actress, and she was subsequently charged with trespassing in the church. (2) Wilfred Mashaya told a magistrate in Harare, Zimbabwe, in June that he wanted to divorce his wife because, when they sleep together, "She would not even make any sexual sound" -- which was, to him, unbearable. The magistrate took the case under advisement.

■ Not Our Fault: In July, two of the four fertilizer manufacturers operating in the vicinity of the April 2013 massive explosion and fire in West, Texas, filed motions contesting the city's lawsuit against them. According to the companies, it was actually the city's ill-trained first responders and volunteer firefighters who caused many of the injuries.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1961 - Italian Grand Prix, a crash causes the death of German Formula One driver Wolfgang von Trips and 13 spectators who are hit by his Ferrari.

1967 - The people of Gibraltar vote to remain a British dependency rather than becoming part of Spain.

1972 - The United States suffers its first loss of an international basketball game in a disputed match against the Soviet Union at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany.

WORD UP!

pratfall
\ PRAT-fawl \ , noun;
1. a fall in which one lands on the buttocks, often regarded as comical or humiliating.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment Wanted

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Software Applications Delivery Engineer, Sr. MS & 2 yr exp reqd. Send resume to Advertise.com, 15303 Ventura Blvd, Ste. 1150, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

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Santa Monica Daily Press **HOURS** MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Buyers' Needs

• Condo • Santa Monica • Minimum 2 + 1.75 • DEAD ON ocean views • $1,000,000- $4,250,000	• Single Family Home • Santa Monica, Brentwood, Palisades, Malibu (close in), Westwood • Minimum 3 + 1.75 • Pool or room for a pool • $1,200,000- $3,500,000
• Raw land or Teardown • West of 17th Street, either N. of Wilshire or N. of Montana • Up to $4,500,000	• Raw land, Teardown or Fixer • N. of Montana, Brentwood, Palisades • $1,500,000- $4,500,000

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale as of Early September 2014

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 3,755,500
North of Montana	=	$ 6,292,692
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,366,800
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,549,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,727,857
Ocean Park	=	$ 2,581,333

Statistics updated every Friday

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