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Volume 11 Issue 260

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Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE WISH I COULD AFFORD A HOME ISSUE

Santa Monica property values climb

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The assessed value of properties in Santa Monica increased by 4.6 percent over last year, beating out Los Angeles County figures and Santa Monica officials' own expectations.

According to a report released Monday by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, commercial and residential properties in Santa Monica gained $1.121 billion in assessed value over 2011, making it the third most valuable city in Los Angeles County.

The only two cities to surpass Santa Monica, which is only 8.3 square miles in size, were Los Angeles (468.67 square miles) in first place with $419.127 billion in value and Long Beach (50 square miles) with $44.104 billion.

Santa Monica's total value was $25.765 billion.

The assessed value references the value of



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

SEE VALUE PAGE 10 ON THE RISE: **Property values increased by 4.6 percent over last year in Santa Monica.**

Pot lab loses again, tries new tactic

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER The owner of a medical marijuana testing laboratory plans to appeal a decision by an administrative law judge who ruled that City Hall did nothing wrong when it denied the facility a license to operate.

According to a decision written by Judge Howard W. Cohen, Golden State Collective owner Richard McDonald failed to prove that his business was approved by either the state or federal government to possess medical marijuana for testing purposes, which gave City Hall grounds under its municipal code to deny it a business license.

The hearing officer interpreted the law narrowly, McDonald said.

SEE LAB PAGE 11

NYC bans big, sugary drinks at restaurants

DAVID B. CARUSO
JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK New York City cracked down on the sale of supersized sodas and other sugary drinks Thursday in what was celebrated by some as a groundbreaking attempt to curb obesity but condemned by others as a blatant intrusion into people's lives by a busybody mayor.

Public health experts around the nation — and the restaurant and soft-drink industry — will be watching closely to see how it goes over among New Yorkers, a famously disputatious bunch. Barring any court action, the measure will take effect in March.

The regulations, approved easily by the city Board of Health, apply to any establishment with a food-service license, including fast-food places, delis, movie and Broadway theaters, the concession stands at Yankee Stadium and the pizzerias of Little Italy. They will be barred from serving sugary beverages in cups or bottles larger than 16 ounces.

No other U.S. city has gone so far as to restrict portion sizes at restaurants to fight weight gain.

"We cannot continue to have our kids come down with diabetes at age 6," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The mayor rejected suggestions that the rule constitutes an assault on personal liberty. "Nobody is banning anything," he said, noting that restaurant customers can still buy as much soda as they want, as long as they are willing to carry it in multiple containers.

He said the inconvenience is well worth the potential public health benefit, and likened the city's actions to measures taken decades ago to phase out lead in household paint.

Others, though, likened the ban to Prohibition. A New York Times poll last month showed that six in 10 New Yorkers opposed the restrictions.

"It's a slippery slope. When does it stop? What comes next?" said Sebastian Lopez, a college student from Queens. He added: "This is my life. I should be able to do what I want."

The restrictions do not apply to super-

SEE SODA PAGE 12

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Sept. 14, 2012

Wheels of steel
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 8 p.m.
World famous DJ Avicii comes to the Civic for a night of electronic music. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, visit smgov.net/departments/ccs/civicauditorium.

Jazz it up
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Jazz pianist and composer Steve Lockwood leads a stellar band through an eclectic set of contemporary music. Cost: $10. For more information, call (310) 434-4323.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012

Clean up the state
Various locations
9 a.m. — 12 p.m.
More than 11,000 SoCal volunteers are expected to join this year's California Coastal Cleanup Day, the state's largest volunteer event, annually drawing over 80,000 volunteers out to more than 800 cleanup sites across the state. For more information, visit www.healthebay.org.

Be prepared
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
10:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.
This unique event provides an opportunity to prepare for emergencies in a fast and convenient way. The Prep Shop is co-presented by the city of Santa Monica's Office of Emergency Management, and its staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice about disaster readiness. For more information, call (310) 458-2263.

Music on the waves
Santa Monica Pier
9 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Saturday is the second installment of the pier's Wake Up With the Waves children's concert series. Every Saturday through Oct. 27 will feature a free show. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

Plenty of peppers
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave.,
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Like chilis? Get your fill during this annual chili roast at the Pico Farmers' Market. Buy them by the bundle, they go with almost everything. For more information, call (458) 458-8712.

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012

Free film
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
"White Wash" explores the history of African-Americans and water culture, from slavery and civil rights wade-ins to surfing in contemporary times. This 2011 documentary includes archival footage and interviews with professional surfers and features the historic beach site known as the "Ink Well." A discussion with director Ted Woods, historian Alison Rose Jefferson and blacksurfing.com founder Rick Blocker follows the screening. For more information, visit smpl.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



Whooping cough vaccine loses punch too fast

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK As the U.S. wrestles with its biggest whooping cough outbreak in decades, researchers appear to have zeroed in on the main cause: The safer vaccine that was introduced in the 1990s loses effectiveness much faster than previously thought.

A study published in Wednesday's New England Journal of Medicine found that the protective effect weakens dramatically soon after a youngster gets the last of the five recommended shots around age 6.

The protection rate falls from about 95 percent to 71 percent within five years, said researchers at the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Research Center in Oakland, Calif.

The U.S. has had more than 26,000 whooping cough cases so far this year, including more than 10,000 in children ages 7 to 10.

"The substantial majority of the cases are

SEE **COUGH** PAGE 12



TIGHT FIT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A man inspects the inside of an Indy car on the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday. The car was on the pier to drum up interest in Saturday's Indy race at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana.

PUC approves $12M settlement over '07 Malibu Canyon fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The California Public Utilities Commission has approved a $12 million settlement with three telecommunications companies over a 3,800-acre Malibu Canyon wildfire blamed on allegedly overloaded utility poles blown down by Santa Ana winds.

The PUC said Thursday that AT&T Mobility, Sprint Telephony PCS and Verizon Wireless will pay equal shares.

A $5.1 million portion will go to strengthen utility poles in Malibu Canyon and to conduct a safety survey of poles jointly used by companies in Southern California Edison territory. The agreement, which doesn't include SCE or NextG Networks of California, notes that all the companies deny the allegations.

The PUC says the fire started on Oct. 21, 2007, when Santa Ana winds blew down three poles. Fourteen structures and 36 vehicles were destroyed and 19 other structures were damaged.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Blue Shield gives $35K to OPCC

Blue Shield of California Foundation announced Thursday that it is awarding $35,000 in core funding to Santa Monica-based OPCC to support their capacity to provide services and assist survivors of domestic violence in Southern California.

The grant is part of the foundation's efforts to strengthen domestic violence organizations in California and provide the working capital the field needs to respond to new challenges and opportunities.

"The ongoing work of OPCC is integral to achieve our collective mission to end domestic violence in California," said Peter Long, Ph.D., president and CEO of the foundation. "This flexible funding helps to sustain domestic violence agencies and programs, and ultimately ensures that those most in need continue to have access to critical services."

Across California, more than 100 domestic violence agencies are engaged day-to-day in the struggle to serve and advocate for thousands of victims, survivors, and their families, according to a press release from the foundation. Core support grants validate the essential role of these organizations and enable those working on the front lines to focus on achieving their mission.

"OPCC is very grateful for the continued support of Blue Shield in our work to address the devastating impacts of domestic violence on victims and their families," said John Maceri, executive director of OPCC. "They have been a consistent leader in the funder community on this issue, and their commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve is admirable."

As the state's largest private funder of domestic violence services and prevention, Blue Shield of California Foundation is dedicated to ending domestic violence in California. Since 2002, Blue Shield Against Violence has invested over $36 million in domestic violence services and prevention, including more than $14 million in general operating support for over 100 organizations across California, according to the press release.

For more information, visit www.blueshieldcafoundation.org.

OPCC, the largest provider of housing and social services on the Westside of Los Angeles County, provides comprehensive services to those most in need of help. OPCC clients include at-risk youth; people dealing with physical illness, disabilities or severe mental illness; women and children experiencing domestic violence; and veterans.

– KEVIN HERRERA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Paying lip service to God

Editor:

In his column ("The Godless Democrats," Your Column Here, Sept. 11) Matt Barber complains that the Democrats removed any recognition of God from their platform (although they later put it back in). I agree with this complaint, but I don't agree with some of his other criticisms.

It will help nobody to remove a reference to God from anywhere that it may be found in this country. This country was founded by Christians and the Constitution is an implementation of Christian principles. Nothing will ever be able to change that fact. Some atheists think like Joe Stalin, the Russian communist dictator. They seek to mislead future generations by concealing and rewriting history.

However, I disagree with Mr. Barber's silly Reaganite cliché, "Government is the problem." It should be obvious to a child that without government there would be utter chaos across this land within hours. When the wise and God-fearing capitalists on Wall Street got to the end of the golden Bush era, with constraints and common sense thrown to the winds, when they betted the store on chimeras invented by mathematics, they found to their horror that they had destroyed the capitalist system. It was about to collapse in ruins within hours. What did they do? They ran, not walked, to the government and put a gun to its head. "We need $1 trillion before Monday morning or our economic system will collapse!" By God they learned that government is the solution and unrestrained capitalism is the problem.

In today's L.A. Times we see that Better Markets, a public interest group that supports tougher financial regulations, has estimated that the Bush financial crisis has cost $12.8 trillion, not counting home equity lost. This demonstrates that Wall Street is not a source of wealth for the average American. Rather it is a malignant, cancerous black hole into which is poured the earnings and tax dollars of hard-working Americans for the benefit of the rich 1 percent.

Now the Republicans want us to have four-year amnesia and vote them back in for more of the same! I don't know how they have the nerve to show their faces in public.

Mr. Barber points out that the Republican platform mentions God 12 times, which is good as far as it goes, but does their platform promote the will of God or just the name of God?

We can now see the Republicans flying their true colors. Economically the Republicans want to abolish the New Deal. They want to gradually and stealthily destroy Medicare and Medicaid and all the implementations of Christianity, which the New Deal brought. I cannot understand how someone like Congressman Paul Ryan can go to mass on Sunday, listen to the priest say "Whatever you do unto the least of my little ones you do unto me," profess to be a Christian and then on Monday devise a budget which is the antitheses of Christian principles and would inflict more pain on more people than did Attila the Hun.

The Democrats may have minimized the name of God in their platform, but, nonetheless, their platform is the implementation of Christian principles and the love of God for the underprivileged. They believe in the New Testament: "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

The Republicans may have magnified the name of God in their platform, but they have removed the love of God from their policies. They believe in the Old Testament: "If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off."

God may be in their platform, but the devil is in its details.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

9/11 memories or mammaries?

WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, PEARL Harbor Day, observed every Dec. 7, was a solemn occasion. On that day in 1941, as a result of a Japanese sneak attack, 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 were wounded. (I realize so far this is not exactly Laughing Matters territory, but please bear with me.)

Another solemn day in American military history was D-Day, marking the Allied invasion at Normandy on June 6, 1944. D-Day is observed to honor the thousands of American GIs who died in just one day. (The invasion was so perilous that Ike reportedly prepared two speeches, one announcing the mission's success and the other his resignation.)

While both days are still observed, time has seemingly faded their importance, which is understandable. Currently, what is still incomprehensible to me is how one TV network treated the anniversary of 9/11. (Finally we're approaching a possible yuk.)

This past Tuesday, 9/11, at 8:46 a.m., the exact time 11 years ago that the first terrorist plane hit the World Trade Center, NBC's "Today" show made an odd programming choice.

Instead of a moment of silence as the other three networks featured, "Today" chose to continue Savannah Guthrie's interview with "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" mom, Kris Jenner. The subject, among other things, was Kris' recent breast enhancements.

As "research" for this column, I watched the entire interview on YouTube and am still speechless. I suppose the message for women with implants is they need to be replaced every 10 years so, as Kris says, "Check your expiration date."

Funny, I never thought of breasts as having an expiration date. Frankly, I'm not sure how Savannah even segued into the subject. "Speaking of towers, Kris, I've noticed your 'twins' look a lot perkier.")

Before I go further, for those who don't know of the Kardashians may I just suggest "consider yourself lucky." Clearly I'm not a big fan. But, in the name of full disclosure, I've never watched an entire segment of their reality show. (In 2010 the Kardashians "earned" $65 million, which is the kind of money it'd take to get me to watch.)

What I do know is that Kris Jenner, 56, is the former wife of the late Robert Kardashian. He was the famous (or infamous) attorney/best friend of O.J. Simpson and may or may not have helped him get away with murder, unless you think O.J. was innocent. (So, you're the one?)

In 1991, Kris married Bruce Jenner, former Olympic gold medalist in the 1976 decathlon, and recipient of too many face lifts. (In a recent column, I noted that Jenner and Paul McCartney suddenly look alike, which means either they have the same plastic surgeon or that all people who've had numerous face lifts tend to look alike.)

Kris' highly successful show is about her family, especially her six children. (Instead of "manager," Kris calls herself a "momager." How adorable. Not.) Apparently the show just finished filming its seventh season. (Meaning the end of time must be near or good news for fans of the Mayan calendar.)

For the record, the six Kardashian children are as follows: Kourtney, Kim, Khloe, Kendall and Kylie. And oh yes, one son named Robert Jr., whose apparent distinction is that he has a penis and a first name that doesn't start with the letter "k."

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT MANY VIEWERS WERE OUTRAGED THAT NBC MADE SUCH AN INAPPROPRIATE CHOICE AS FEATURING KRIS AND HER NEW MAMMARIES OVER A TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF 9/11.

The reality show follows the drama of the Kardashians' daily life (yawn) and, from what little I've seen, can best be described in one word, "shallow." I suppose this explains its success, or as PT Barnum reportedly said, "You'll never go broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public." (Although some attribute that quote to H.L. Mencken.)

The good news is that many viewers were outraged that NBC made such an inappropriate choice as featuring Kris and her new mammaries over a tribute to the victims of 9/11. The bad news is Kris' segment probably got boffo ratings. (After all, where else could one learn the latest about fake boobs at that hour in the morning? And forgive me for using the word "boffo.")

But now Kris is also furious with NBC. It seems that, in all the fallout from the "Today" show segment (including a Twitter campaign to boycott NBC) a lot has come Kris' way. (Which probably means higher ratings and more millions for the Kardashians. What a country.)

To be fair, a "Today" spokeswoman said that NBC inserted 9/11 coverage into the "West Coast feed." (Which probably means the you-know-what had already begun hitting the fan.)

I apologize for letting boobs, fake or otherwise, hijack this column. (No pun intended.) Honestly, I had wanted to explore the lessons I believe we should all have taken from the 9/11 tragedy. Oh well, maybe next year. (Hopefully I won't even mention the Kardashians.)

JACK can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.

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Tax on Amazon purchases begins Saturday

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Online retailer Amazon.com has tried to become all things to all consumers, but in California, it is about to take on a role it has fought against for years: tax collector.

The change, which takes effect this weekend, comes after years of bitter back and forth between the world's largest online mall and the California Legislature over whether Internet retailers should have to impose sales taxes on customers. The two sides reached a deal in 2011 that included a one-year grace period set to end Saturday.

The looming deadline has spurred at least some consumers into impulse-buying mode, making big-ticket purchases and stocking up on essentials before the tax collection kicks in.

The deadline spurred San Diego artist John Purlia to finally buy that Samsung flat-screen television that had been sitting in his Amazon shopping cart for months. He also picked up four CDs, an external hard drive and an oddly decorated $17.99 kitchen cutting-board — a gag gift for his sister.

"The TV was the motivating factor and the other stuff came along for the ride," said Purlia, 52. "I know I'm going to be back at Amazon before Saturday looking to take advantage of this. It's like the final days of a sale."

Technically, Purlia owes taxes on all of this: California residents are supposed to calculate what they owe and send it directly to the state. But hardly any do.

As Amazon has grown in popularity, lawmakers have complained that it was depriving the state of millions of dollars by refusing to charge taxes at checkout. Amazon argued it was not obligated to collect taxes because of a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that prohibits states from forcing businesses without a physical presence in the state to do so.

The e-commerce giant said it did not have a physical presence in California because it does not have warehouses here.

Similar fights have played out in other states, with Amazon sometimes threatening to shutter distribution centers to be able to continue selling tax-free goods.

Now Amazon is making similar treaties across the country, paving the way to start opening warehouses and offering faster shipping in areas where tax disputes had previously prevented it from putting down roots. The company now collects sales taxes on orders shipped to seven states, including New York and Texas, and has agreed to start imposing levies in six more.

The resolution of Amazon's tax fight in California has allowed the company to start building a network of warehouses to cut shipping times to customers in the nation's most populous state. Soon, California customers will receive Amazon shipments from warehouses in San Bernardino, which is near Los Angeles, and Patterson, near the San Francisco Bay Area — instead of from Reno, Nev. or Phoenix. Each new center is expected to bring hundreds of jobs to California, where the unemployment rate is the third highest in the nation.

Its expansion into California may one day allow Amazon to offer some customers here same-day shipping, as it does in 10 U.S. cities, including Boston and Seattle.

To San Francisco product manager Reid Butler and other hardcore online shoppers, that is the Holy Grail.

"For me, most my friends and family, same-day delivery could be a big blow to our retailers down the street," said Butler, 32.

As the tax deadline nears, Butler is stocking up on enough soap, printer ink and baby formula to last until the day he can scan a barcode in the morning and receive his toilet paper that afternoon.

The brick-and-mortar stores that pushed for the "Amazon tax" to level the business playing field hope the changes will end the dispiriting practice of "showrooming," when people browse electronics or books in a store but make their purchases online.

"It will remove one incentive for not buying local," California Retailers Association president Bill Dombrowski said. "Retailers are looking forward to it, but we don't go out and buy champagne on September 15."

Colin Sebastian, an analyst with Baird Equity Research, said Amazon will probably be able to make up for the loss in sales tax advantage by carpeting the state with distribution centers.

"The irony in this is the closer Amazon gets to its customers, the more success it seems to have," he said.

Amazon spokesman Scott Stanzel said the company will continue to offer lower prices, even without the sales tax advantage, and is not worried about losing business. He would not say whether the tax deadline has affected sales.

More change may be on the way. The company is lobbying Congress to cut through the web of state-specific rules and devise a national policy for Internet taxation.

Sales tax rates in California reach 9.75 percent and are among the highest in the country. The new rules, which may affect more than 200 out-of-state businesses, are expected to bring in more than $200 million annually, with at least $80 million coming from Amazon alone.

California's tax authority is preparing to hire 30 new specialists to make sure the state collects the revenue it is due.

The Q Line

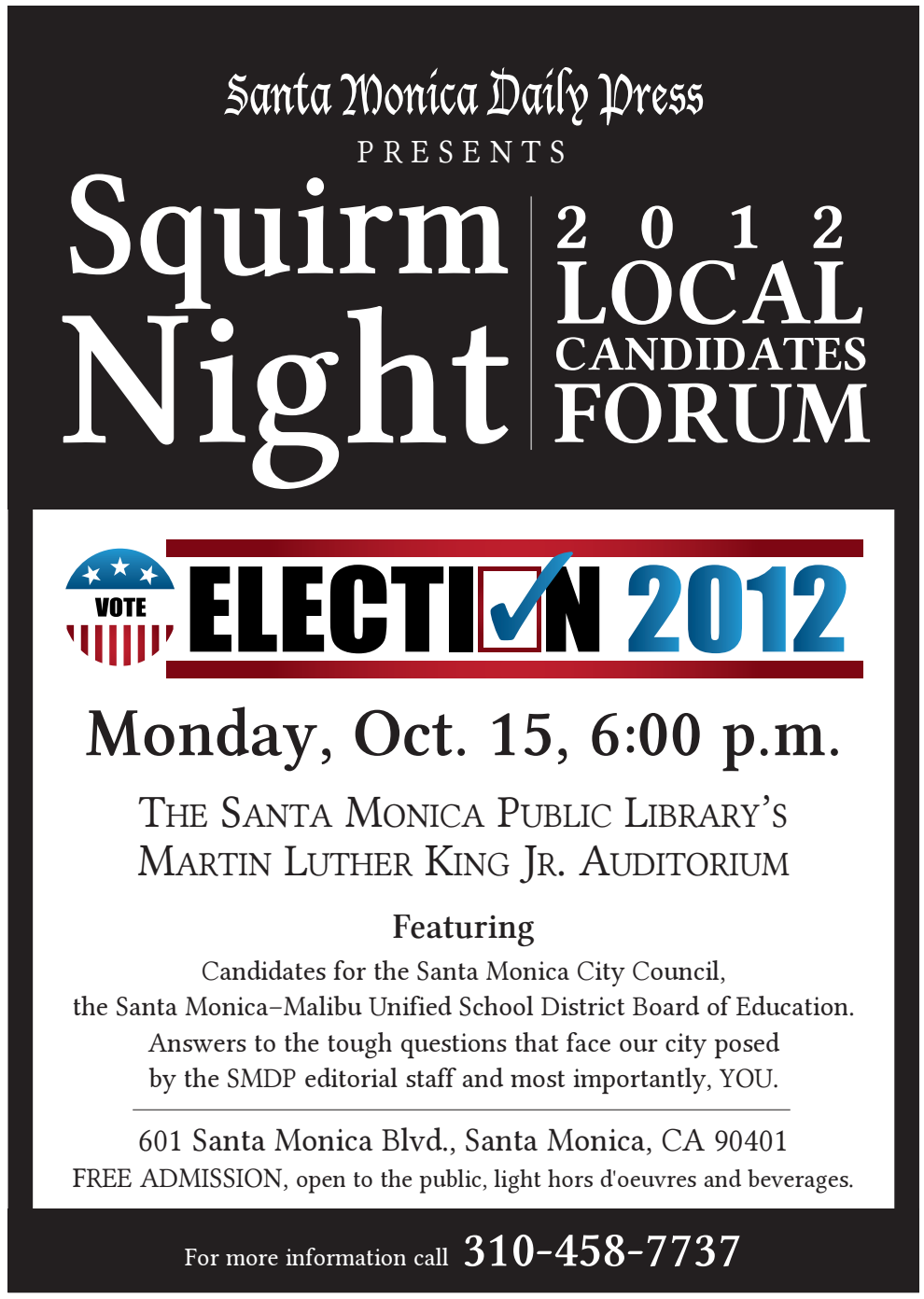
Seeking suggestions

We're planning our local election candidates forum and couldn't help but wonder what our readers would like to ask those running for office.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What question do you think would make City Council candidates squirm and why?

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



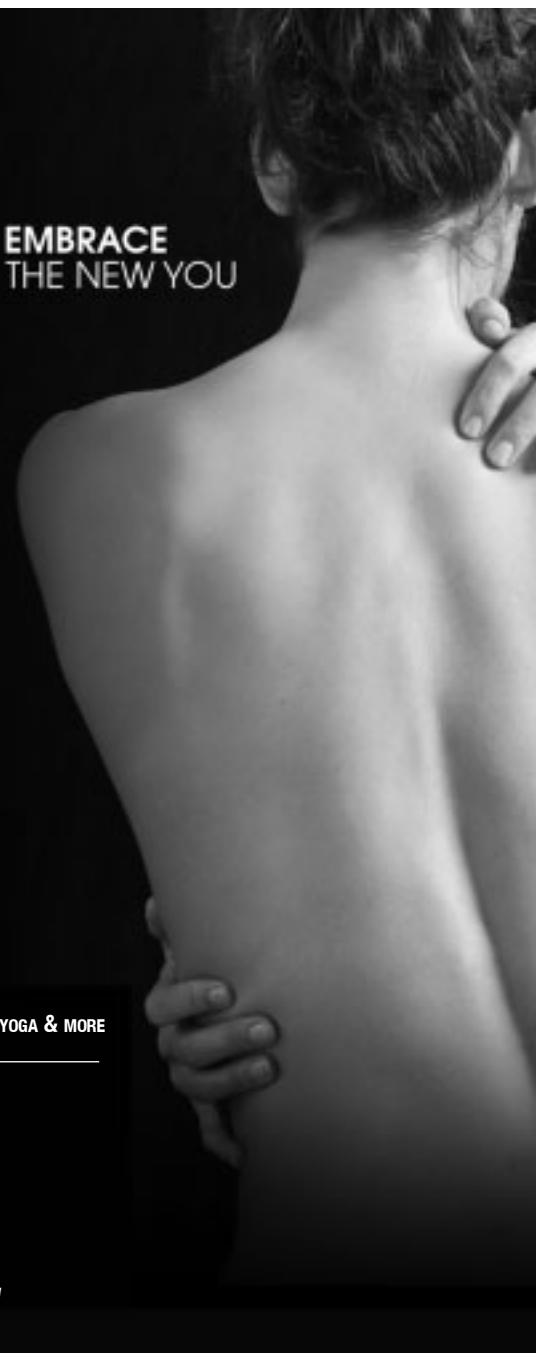




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NASA's retired shuttle Endeavour heads west Monday

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. The baby of NASA's space shuttle fleet is about to leave home — for good.

At sunrise Monday, Endeavour will depart Kennedy Space Center for a museum in California, with a two-day stopover in Houston, home to Mission Control and the astronauts who flew aboard the replacement for the lost shuttle Challenger.

Endeavour is the second of NASA's three retired shuttles to head to a museum. The youngest shuttle will make the four-day trip to Los Angeles atop a modified jumbo jet, bound for the California Science Center. Discovery landed at the Smithsonian Institution's display hangar in Virginia last spring. Atlantis will remain at Kennedy.

After taking off from the former shuttle landing strip Monday morning, Endeavour and its carrier jet will fly low over Kennedy and the beaches of Cape Canaveral, then head west toward NASA points along the Gulf of Mexico. The pair will swoop over Stennis Space Center in Mississippi and Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where the shuttle booster rockets were made.

Next stop: Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Endeavour will remain at Ellington until Wednesday morning so space center employees can see the shuttle up close. Houston had bid for a shuttle; the loss still nags many there. NASA chose New York City as the winner for the shuttle prototype Enterprise, which was relinquished by the Smithsonian to make room for Discovery.

NASA's two other shuttles during the 30-year program, Challenger and Columbia, were destroyed during flight, with 14 astronauts altogether killed.

Endeavour was built to replace Challenger and made its flying debut in 1992, six years after the launch accident. It performed the next-to-last shuttle mission in May and June 2011.

During its 25 missions, Endeavour logged 299 days in space and circled Earth 4,671 times. Total off-the-planet mileage: 122.8 million miles.

After leaving Houston on Wednesday, Endeavour will stop for fuel at Biggs Army Airfield in El Paso, Texas, and then perform a low flyover of the White Sands Test Facility in New Mexico, which served for decades as an emergency shuttle landing site. Then it will head to NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California, another old shuttle touchdown venue.

On Thursday, Endeavour will fly to Northern California, home to Ames Research Center in Mountain View. NASA plans low-level flights over San Francisco, Sacramento and other major cities before heading to Los Angeles and a late-morning arrival at Los Angeles International Airport.

NASA was mum Thursday regarding the exact times of all these flyovers for security reasons. Officials warned that the weather needed to cooperate to allow for such a full and busy schedule.

The shuttle will make its final 12-mile journey from the airport to the California Science Center, via city streets, on Oct. 12-13. It will go on public display beginning Oct. 30.

Atlantis' road trip — from a Kennedy Space Center hangar to the visitor complex — is scheduled for Nov. 2.

NASA retired the shuttle fleet last year under White House direction in order to focus more time and money on travel beyond Earth's orbit, first an asteroid and then Mars in the coming decades.

Private companies, meanwhile, are trying to pick up where NASA left off regarding the International Space Station. Until those businesses can provide spaceships for flying people, U.S. astronauts will need to rely on Russian rockets to get to the orbiting lab.

Crane operator pulls mammoth tooth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO A wooly mammoth tooth with its enamel still intact has been discovered during the excavation for a new transit center in downtown San Francisco.

A crane operator came across the 10-inch-long brown, black and beige tooth on Monday while digging a 200-foot hole for a piling at the Transbay Transit Center.

Woolly mammoths, elephant-like animals, roamed the San Francisco Bay area some 10 million to 15 million years ago in the Pleistocene era. The tooth is broken in two and missing a chunk, but is otherwise in relatively good condition.

"It's a significant find," Jim Allen, a paleontologist and geologist for the transit center project, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Other wooly mammoth fossils have been found in the Bay area, including in San Francisco, but Allen said the discovery right in the middle of downtown San Francisco as well as the tooth's surprisingly good condition are unusual.

The tooth is from the same era as fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits in downtown Los Angeles — a paleontological gold mine of Ice Age beasts that were trapped by asphalt bubbling upward through cracks and fissures. More than a million bones have been recovered from the ponds.

The tooth appears to be from a Columbian mammoth, a relative of today's elephants, Allen said.

Brandon Valasik, the crane operator who made the discovery, told the Chronicle he was digging through sand about 110 feet down when he noticed what resembled a rock but had an unusual shape and color.

"It looked too perfect to be a rock," he said.

Valasik stopped digging and called over a boss, who took pictures and sent them to Allen.

The transit center construction site has also yielded other treasures, including a gold nugget and artifacts from Irish neighborhoods that stood there in the 1800s.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES on PAGE 17!

smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

The Palette
Exploring Creative Santa Monica

Opening reception for SMMoA's fall exhibitions

FRIDAY

Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2525 Michigan Ave., G-1

6 P.M. — 7 P.M. SMMOA MEMBERS;

7 P.M. — 9 P.M. PUBLIC OPENING

SMMoA presents three new fall exhibitions. Michael Queenland: "Rudy's Ramp of Remainders" is a new sculptural installation inspired by Rudis Resterampe — which roughly translates to "Rudy's Pile of Leftovers" — a German discount store filled with surplus scraps of textile and discarded cultural items that Queenland discovered during his 2009 fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin. Kianja Strobert: "Nothing to Do but Keep Going" is the artist's first solo museum exhibition and features a new, site-specific sculptural installation and a selection of recent abstract paintings that emphasize the influence of urban architecture on Strobert's work. Agnes Denes: "Body Prints, Philosophical Drawings, and Map Projections, 1969-1978," is an exhibition of seminal drawings. As an influential pioneer of the environmental and conceptual art movements, Denes' artistic practice applies the exacting precision and unwavering consistency of mathematics to the often subjective, tenuous, and unstable concepts of ecological awareness and environmental sustainability. Free admission. For more information: (310) 586-6488.

Artist Reception: Chris Blum "i HEART LA"

Frank Pictures Gallery, Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave., A-5

SUNDAY, 5 P.M. — 8 P.M.

ON VIEW THROUGH OCT. 15

"I believe pop culture to be one of the best decoders of the cultural values of the times," Chris Blum said. "In my work, I juxtapose and connect the dots the way I see them and hope to share a cosmic giggle with the viewer. Throughout my life and long before the Internet, I voraciously fed my eyes with images from nearly 100 magazine subscriptions from multiple countries, ranging from American rural life, Italian architecture, New Zealand cuisine, French fashion, automobiles, Mad Magazine, Japanese anime and everything in between. From museums to the bright images of Walt Disney, the fantasy presentation of celebrity, the idolatry of politicians, or the lingering messages of commercials — all inspired me and gave me my visual appetite." Free admission. For more information: (310) 828-0211.

Community Dance

Marine Park Auditorium, 1406 Marine St.

SATURDAY, 7:30 P.M. — 10:30 P.M.

Try out square dancing at this community dance lesson taught by Dave Donaldson. Sponsored by the Red Ribbons Square Dance Club of Santa Monica and the city of Santa Monica. Admission: Free for new dancers. Free parking. For more information: (310) 312-0410.

Courtesy of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs. Sign up to receive The Palette weekly via e-mail at www.smgov.net/arts.



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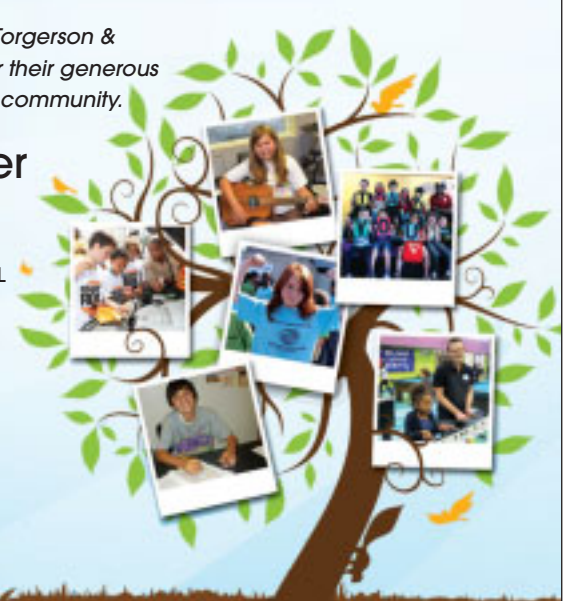
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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Everyone's a critic

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

MONDAY, SEPT. 10, AT 1:32 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to a home on the 1200 block of Ninth Street regarding a man who was allegedly destroying his roommate's property. When officers arrived, they made contact with the roommate, who told them that he and the suspect were not getting along. He said the suspect went into his room and damaged his artwork. The roommate wanted to press charges so police placed the suspect under arrest. The estimated value of the artwork was $1,200. The suspect was booked for vandalism. He was identified as John Gordon, 62, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $20,000.

MONDAY, SEPT. 10, AT 5:10 P.M.,
Officers responded to the Wells Fargo Bank located at 170 Pier Ave. on the report of a woman trying to cash a phony check. When officers arrived, they detained the suspect and contacted the branch manager. Officers learned that the suspect entered the bank and tried to cash a check for $465. Employees verified that the check was fraudulent and contacted the account holder by phone, who confirmed that they never issued the check. The suspect was booked for burglary and trying to cash a bogus check. She was identified as Sharise Andrea Bose, 21, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $20,000.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8, AT 3:40 P.M.,
Officers were on patrol in the 200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard when they saw a man sitting at a bus stop smoking a cigarette, a violation of City Hall's smoking restrictions. Officers approached the man to warn him of the violation. During a consensual search, officers said they found a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia and smoking while at a bus stop. He also had three outstanding warrants. The suspect was identified as Alexander Coleman, 26, a transient. His bail was set at $2,725.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6, AT 11:03 P.M.,
Officers responded to the Norm's restaurant located at 1601 Lincoln Blvd. regarding a report of a robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with the restaurant manager who said that the suspect approached the front counter and told him that he was robbing the place. The manager asked if the man was for real since he did not have any weapons on him. The suspect walked around the counter, as if he was going to open the register himself, and started taking cash tips that had been left on the counter. The manager tried to stop him and was allegedly punched in the face. The suspect fled on foot. Two employees followed as police were called. The suspect allegedly punched one of those employees in the face near the corner of 17th Street and Colorado Avenue. He was eventually arrested for robbery and battery. He was identified as Kevin Burbridge, 51, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, AT 10:28 A.M.,
Officers responded to a radio call of possible child abuse and a robbery that had just occurred at a motel located on the 1100 block of Pico Boulevard. When officers arrived, they made contact with a woman who said she was standing on a walkway just outside her motel room when she saw another guest grab a young girl's arm and allegedly throw her onto a bed and slap her across the face. The woman notified the front desk to call police and took down the suspect's license plate number in case she decided to leave the motel. At that point, the suspect allegedly told a male companion to load up their car. The suspect then charged toward the woman who notified the front desk and tried to pry from her hands a piece of paper with the suspect's license plate number on it. A struggled ensued, at which point the suspect allegedly pulled out Mace and started spraying it. A man who was trying to break up the fight was hit, along with the woman. The suspect drove off. Investigators learned that the suspect was a client of several homeless services providers in the area and issued a warrant for her arrest. She was picked up by LAPD officers a day later during a traffic stop. She was transported to Santa Monica and placed under arrest for attempted robbery, making criminal threats and illegal use of tear gas. The child was taken into protective custody by the Department of Children and Family Services so that allegations of child abuse could be investigated. The suspect was identified as Martha Robichaw, 27, a transient. Her bail was set at $50,000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, AT 10:32 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2800 block of Fourth Street regarding a report of two people breaking into an empty building owned by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Witnesses said that the suspects were trying to break out one of the windows so they could reach in and unlock a door. When that didn't work, one of the suspects tried to kick down the classroom door. When officers arrived, they placed two men under arrest near the scene who matched the description of the suspects. Witnesses later identified the men and they were booked for burglary. The suspects were identified as Edward Weston, 19, of Venice, Calif.; and Abeoardo Guerrero, 20, of Marina del Rey, Calif. Bail was set at $20,000.

news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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VALUE

FROM PAGE 1

all taxable properties in the county or city, which in turn determines how much property tax revenue each county produces to fund local government, specifically cities, counties, schools and special districts.

Santa Monica's 4.6 percent gain beat out even City Hall's expectations, which the Finance Department had pegged at 3 percent, said City Manager Rod Gould.

"The good news in assessed valuation for Santa Monica reflects the market perceiving increased value in what Santa Monica offers residents and businesses," Gould said.

It also means more money in property taxes, which fund essential services as well as those Santa Monicans have come to expect.

Much of the increase can be credited to development and increased sales, said Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, director of the Finance Department.

Even taking into account the 2 percent general inflation increase, the impact of the sale of major properties and new construction led staff to shoot for the 3 percent figure, she said.

The growth — along with an increase in sales tax revenues — is a bright spot in an otherwise bleak economic picture, particularly with the loss of Santa Monica's Redevelopment Agency, an entity that used a portion of property taxes to build affordable housing and fix blighted properties.

Eventually, property tax revenue that would have gone to the Redevelopment Agency will filter back to cities, counties and schools, but it's unclear when that'll happen, officials say.

While the growth is positive, others are not quite so quick to credit development with the improvement.

Santa Monica's attractive attributes cause people to want to relocate here, which means property values go up, said City Councilmember Kevin McKeown.

"Owning property in Santa Monica is clearly a good investment, but development alone does not drive land value," he said. "Santa Monica is desirable for great weather, clean air, highly livable neighborhoods, a vibrant business environment, creativity, innovation and excellent schools."

Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer, a known slow-growth advocate, questioned where the counted gains were really coming from.

When a property is developed, much of the increase in the reassessed value comes because the property may not have been revalued in years, a factor that has more to do with the sale than anything built on it.

Whether the increased revenues are worth the other costs associated with development — potentially traffic or parking woes — is another story.

"So a more sophisticated analysis of the pros and cons is required," Winterer said.

Diana Gordon, chair of Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, took it as a negative sign.

"If anything, they demonstrate that (Santa Monica) is absorbing more than its regional share of development, and much more than its share of actual, negative impacts — which we can see with our own eyes, but which are not captured in this type of limited monetary measure," Gordon said.

Santa Monica's performance makes it an outlier, but the rest of the county has benefited from an upward trend as well.

The remainder of Los Angeles County gained 2.24 percent in assessed value, but 2012's valuation makes it the second year of growth in a row, according to the report.

The Los Angeles Metro area bumped along a bit more slowly, pulling in only 1.5 percent, said Walter Molony, economic issues media manager with the National Association of Realtors.

"There's clearly a broad pattern," Molony said. "National price measures are positive, and we have seen five consecutive months of prices rising against year-ago levels."

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LAB
FROM PAGE 1

"It was not a great surprise to us that he reached the conclusions he did," McDonald said Thursday.

The venture is not your typical medical marijuana outfit.

Instead of selling the drug, which is illegal under federal law, McDonald and his team, all trained at elite universities, proposed to test small samples of marijuana to determine what the effects of the drug would be and if it had been exposed to pesticides.

The process destroys the sample of marijuana completely.

The idea, they say, was to inform medical marijuana users about the medicine they were taking under the auspices of the Compassionate Use Act, a voter- approved measure that legalized marijuana for medical purposes in 1996.

City Hall refused to give Golden State Collective a business license because it could not provide proof that its function is allowed under California state law, which does not specifically authorize testing facilities.

Cohen, who heard the facts of the case in a May 25 hearing, upheld that decision.

In a petition filed in Superior Court Thursday, McDonald's attorney Roger Diamond argued that Santa Monica did not have the authority to deny a business license by citing law from other jurisdictions like the state or federal government.

"… the proposed medical marijuana testing laboratory would not violate state law, but even if it would, it is up to the discretion of the Los Angeles County District Attorney to file charges against anyone with respect to marijuana distribution," Diamond wrote in his appeal.

Diamond went on to say that Cohen had erred in his analysis by not declaring that Santa Monica had a de facto ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, a use notably absent from the existing zoning code.

"If medical marijuana dispensaries were operating somewhere in the city, and they ought to be able to under California law, then the operation of a medical marijuana testing laboratory would be appropriate," Diamond wrote.

Anything else would be "irrational, unreasonable and a violation of due process," he continued.

The denial will go to the Superior Court, where McDonald and his team have had little success in the past. In April, a Superior Court judge dismissed McDonald's request that the court force City Hall to give him a business license.

Instead, the judge made McDonald go through the administrative law judge hearing, which he also lost.

McDonald is not putting all of his eggs in the testing basket.

In his decision, Cohen noted that although Golden State Collective's team hadn't proven that City Hall was actively banning medical marijuana dispensaries, a use allowed explicitly under state law, there was room for them to do so in the future.

If that were to be proven, the legality of such a ban could be considered, Cohen wrote.

McDonald already has a business license application in for a collective cultivation operation, what many would deem a dispensary.

Currently, there are none in city limits, although they proliferate in West L.A.

It's unclear if City Hall will smile on McDonald's newest venture.

When he first tried to get a license for his testing facility, which would not have involved the sale of marijuana even to qualified patients, city officials stalled for three months before McDonald felt compelled to take action and open the lab. Shortly after the Daily Press published a story on the lab, city officials ordered McDonald to close.

So far, members of the business license office have just asked a raft of questions, some of which McDonald felt exceeded the scope of their authority.

One in particular — a demand that Golden State Collective turn over a copy of medical marijuana recommendations for any person who will participate in the collective — stood out.

"It would be illegal to divulge confidential patient information," McDonald said, referencing health information privacy laws.

After his last extended experience with the office, McDonald said he will pursue a business license through normal channels for a month. After that, legal action may be required.

"It is not my expectation or hope that I'll have to engage in further legal action," McDonald said. "It is my deep and sincere desire that the city engage with me so we can bring to Santa Monica something that the rest of the state will point to and say, 'This is how this should be done.'"

An attempt to ban new medical marijuana dispensaries on the part of the Los Angeles City Council was met with stiff resistance by medical marijuana advocates.

They managed to freeze the ban after turning in tens of thousands of signatures to get the matter before voters.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: September 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Multi-purpose Room, (wheelchair accessible)
Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard

PROPERTIES:
ARB 12-299, 2202 Broadway: Commercial
ARB 12-323, 631 Wilshire Boulevard: Commercial (Bank)
ARB 12-359, 1300 4th Street: Commercial (Bank)

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planning-comm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail laura.beck@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus line #1 and Metro #4 serve the Santa Monica Main Library.

City of Santa Monica

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BID #4032 – FURNISH AND DELIVER UNIFORMS AND PROTECTIVE GEAR AS REQUESTED BY THE SANTA MONICA POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

BID #4033 – PROVIDE ON-CALL TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPAIR SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
The bid packet can be downloaded at:
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Bid# 4032 Submission Deadline is September 27, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.
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Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8215, or by e-mailing your request to monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

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COUGH
FROM PAGE 3

explained by this waning immunity," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-disease specialist at Vanderbilt University.

In light of the findings and earlier, similar research, health officials are considering recommending another booster shot for children, strengthening the vaccine or devising a brand new one.

But "there's nothing in the pipeline that's close," said Dr. Tom Clark of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a highly contagious bacterial disease that can strike people of any age but is most dangerous to children. Its name comes from the sound youngsters make as they gasp for breath.

It used to be common, causing hundreds of thousands of illnesses annually and thousands of deaths. Cases dropped after a vaccine was introduced in the 1940s, and for decades, fewer than 5,000 a year were reported in the U.S.

Because of side effects that included pain and swelling at the injection site, fever and apparently, in rare cases, brain damage, the vaccine was replaced in the 1990s. The newer version used only parts of the bacterium instead of the whole thing and carried fewer complications.

But cases of whooping cough began to climb, sometimes topping 25,000 a year during the past decade. Also disturbing: The proportion of cases involving children ages 7 to 10 — most of them vaccinated — rose from less than 10 percent before 2006 to nearly 40 percent this year, according to the CDC.

Dr. Nicola Klein and her colleagues looked at children ages 4 to 12 who received their health care through Kaiser Permanente Northern California from 2006 to 2011. They compared 277 fully vaccinated youngsters who got whooping cough to similar, vaccinated children who didn't.

The researchers found that the risk of getting whooping cough increases by about 42 percent a year after a child's last dose of vaccine.

The shortcomings in the vaccine did not become apparent until recently, when researchers had the benefit of several years of data uncorrupted by youngsters who received the old version.

Health officials have long recommended that children get vaccinated in five doses, with the first shot at 2 months and the final one between 4 and 6 years, and receive a booster shot at 11 or 12.

Now there's a growing consensus that something more needs to be done. Ideas include somehow pumping up the effectiveness of the vaccine or developing a new one. French scientists have been working on an experimental nasal spray vaccine.

Other ideas include administering the booster earlier than age 11 or adding another booster.

While some parents around the country have taken a stand against childhood vaccines, the outbreak is not being driven by unvaccinated children, according to the CDC. Most of the illnesses are in vaccinated youngsters, officials said.

Dr. Maxine Hayes, health officer for the Washington State Department of Health, said it is important that people not mistake waning immunity for flat-out ineffectiveness.

The vaccine is "still the best thing we have," she said. And vaccinated people who get whooping cough don't get as sick.

Omar Gonzalez of North Richland Hills, Texas, has become a believer in the vaccine, even though his fully vaccinated 11-year-old son caught whooping cough three years ago.

"Imagine seeing your son gasping for air," Gonzalez said. "This is really bad."

Gonzalez, who runs an investment company from his home, spent weeks caring for his son and then got sick himself.

"You don't want this, man, I'm telling you. It's scary," he said.

SODA
FROM PAGE 1

markets or most convenience stores, because such establishments are not subject to Board of Health regulation. And there are exceptions for beverages made mostly of milk or unsweetened fruit juice.

(Because convenience stores are exempt, the rules don't even apply to 7-Eleven's Big Gulp, even though the belly-busting serving of soda has become Exhibit A in the debate over Americans' eating habits.)

Some health experts said it isn't clear whether the ban will have any effect on obesity. But they said it might help usher in a change in attitude toward overeating, in the same way that many Americans have come to regard smoking as inconsiderate.

The regulations follow other ambitious health moves on Bloomberg's watch, many of which were attacked as a push toward a "nanny state."

Yet some have proved to be national trendsetters, such as making chain restaurants post calories on their menus. The city has also barred artificial trans fats in french fries and other restaurant food, cracked down on smoking and promoted breast-feeding over formula.

The Board of Health approved the big-soda ban 8-0, with one member, Dr. Sixto R. Caro, abstaining. Caro, a doctor of internal medicine, said the plan wasn't comprehensive enough.

Others spoke forcefully of the need for action to deal with an obesity crisis.

"I feel to not act would really be criminal," said board member Susan Klitzman, director of the Urban Public Health Program at Hunter College. City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley called the rule "a historic step to address a major health problem of our time."

The restaurant and beverage industries complained that the city is exaggerating the role sugary beverages have played in making Americans fat.

"This is a political solution and not a health solution," said Eliot Hoff, a spokesman for an industry-sponsored group called New Yorkers for Beverage Choices, which claims to have gathered more than 250,000 signatures on petitions against the plan.

He said the group is considering suing to block the rule.

"We will continue to voice our opposition to this ban and fight for the right of New Yorkers to make their own choices. And we will stand with the business owners who will be hurt by these arbitrary limitations," Hoff said in a statement.

Enforcement will be carried out by New York City's restaurant inspectors. Violations will carry a $200 fine.

Complying might prove complicated for some establishments.

Starbucks is trying to figure out whether the regulations bar it from selling its calorie-packed Frappuccinos in the 24-ounce size.

Another issue could be iced coffee, which many cafes sweeten with liquefied sugar. Customers might have to add the sweetener themselves.

Fast-food restaurants with self-serve soda fountains will be prohibited from giving out cups larger than 16 ounces, but people will still be allowed refills.

Manhattan pizza shop owner Vinnie Siena said halting sales of large sodas will hurt his already thin profit margin, unless he raises prices.

"I'm having a tough time as it is. They don't want the little guy to survive, it seems," he said.

Fed unveils bold, open-ended steps to aid economy

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve unleashed a series of bold and open-ended steps Thursday designed to stimulate the economy by boosting the stock market and making it cheaper for people to borrow and spend.

The Fed said it will spend $40 billion a month to buy mortgage bonds for as long as it deems necessary to make home buying more affordable. It plans to keep short-term interest rates at record lows through mid-2015 — six months longer than previously planned. And it's ready to try other stimulative measures if hiring doesn't pick up.

"The idea is to quicken the recovery," Chairman Ben Bernanke said at a news conference. But Bernanke made clear that he thinks the economy will need the Fed's help even after the recovery strengthens.

Stock prices rose steadily after the Fed's announcement at 12:30 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up more than 200 points. Other stock averages also surged.

The Fed's policy committee announced the aggressive actions after a two-day meeting. Its moves pointed to how sluggish the U.S. and global economies remain more than three years after the Great Recession ended.

Thursday's announcement marked the Fed's latest dramatic intervention since the financial crisis erupted in 2008 and the Great Recession shot unemployment into double digits. The Fed cut its benchmark short-term rate to near zero and has kept it there for nearly four years. And it's bought more than $2 trillion in Treasurys and mortgage bonds to try to drive down long-term rates.

Yet for all that, the U.S. economy is still struggling. The unemployment rate is 8.1 percent. And the Fed estimated Thursday that the rate will fall no lower than 7.6 percent in 2013.

The Fed's latest actions come a week after the European Central Bank announced its most ambitious plan yet to ease Europe's financial crisis by buying unlimited amounts of government bonds to help countries manage their debts.

With less than eight weeks left until Election Day, the economy remains the top issue on most voters' minds. Many Republicans have been critical of the Fed's continued efforts to drive interest rates lower, saying they fear it could ignite inflation.

Asked at his news conference whether the Fed considered the impact of its actions on the presidential election, Bernanke said: "We make our decisions based entirely on the state of the economy... We just don't take those factors into account."

The Fed on Thursday also lowered its outlook for economic growth this year, though it's more optimistic about the next two years. It expects growth to be no stronger than 2 percent this year. That's down from its forecast of 2.4 percent in June.

It thinks the unemployment rate will be no lower than 6.7 percent in 2014. It also expects inflation to remain at or below 2 percent for three more years.

At his news conference, Bernanke made clear that higher stock prices are among the Fed's goals in buying bonds. Bernanke noted that stock gains increase Americans' wealth and typically lead individuals and businesses to spend and invest more.

But some economists said they thought the benefit to the economy would be slight.

"We doubt it will be enough to get the economy on the right track," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics. "It's only a matter of time before speculation begins as to when the Fed will raise its purchases from $40 billion a month."

The Fed's ability to increase home buying might be limited even if its bond purchases help lower mortgage rates. The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage is 3.55 percent. That's barely above the record low of 3.49 percent set in July.

While the U.S. housing market has improved, it has a long way to go to reach a full recovery. Some economists forecast that sales of previously occupied homes will reach about 4.6 million. That's well below the 5.5 million annual sales pace considered healthy.

Bernanke himself sought to lower expectations about how much the Fed's intervention might help the economy.

"We're just trying to get the economy moving in the right direction, to make sure that we don't stagnate at high levels of unemployment," he said at the news conference. "All that being said, monetary policy, as I've said many times, is not a panacea."

The Fed's statement was approved 11-1. The lone dissenter was Richmond Fed President Jeffrey Lacker, who worries about igniting inflation.

The Fed's new bond purchases, which will start Friday, amount to less per month than either of its first two bond programs. But by committing to buying bonds indefinitely, the Fed is seeking to assure investors and consumers that borrowing will remain cheap far into the future.

"In many ways, today's actions represent the beginning of a new phase in Bernanke's efforts to get the economy moving again," said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase Bank.

Some economists suggested that the Fed might continue to buy $40 billion a month in mortgage bonds for up to three years. That's how long some expect it will take for the unemployment rate to dip below 7 percent, toward a "normal" rate of 6 percent or less.

If the new bond buying lasts three years, Ashworth said it would add about $1.4 trillion to the Fed's purchases. That would be close to the $1.7 trillion the Fed spent in its first round of bond buying, which began in November 2008, at the height of the financial crisis. It ran until March 2010.

The Fed's second bond-buying program totaled $600 billion. It ran from November 2010 through June 2011.

Still, skeptics caution that further bond buying might provide little economic benefit because rates are already near record lows. Critics also warn that more bond purchases raise the risk of higher inflation later.

A spokeswoman for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign said the Fed's latest efforts to boost the economy are "further confirmation that President Obama's policies have not worked."

The Fed is under pressure to act because the U.S. economy is still growing too slowly to reduce high unemployment. The unemployment rate has topped 8 percent every month since the Great Recession officially ended more than three years ago.

In August, job growth slowed sharply. Employers added just 96,000 jobs, down from 141,000 in July and well below what is needed to bring relief to the more than 12 million who are unemployed.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Appeal 12-002 of Variance 11-025; 614 Grant Street. The appellant requests an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to deny a proposed roof deck and associated railing to extend above the building height limitation of the Ocean Park (OP-2) Zoning District. [Planner: Dennis Banks] **Applicant: Eva Sobesky, EIS Studio. Property Owner: Earnest and Sandra Spath.**

The Planning Commission will continue with their study session on Community Benefits, focusing on Tier 2 projects and related issues for the revised Zoning Ordinance, with presentation by consultant Vivian Kahn from Dyett & Bhatia. The study session began on August 22, 2012. [Staff: Jory Phillips]

The Planning Commission will hold a Study Session on draft development standards for residential zoning districts in the Zoning Ordinance Update, with presentation by consultant Vivian Kahn from Dyett & Bhatia. [Staff: Jory Phillips]

WHEN: **Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Project Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, and #9 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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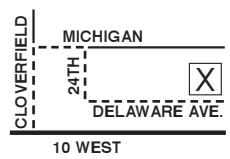
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #4034: PROVIDE TRAFFIC STRIPING CONTRACTER SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY STREET & FLEET SERVICES.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline Is October 4, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Regina.Benavides@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

Romney returns to criticizing Obama on the economy

BEN FELLER & DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. Republican Mitt Romney accused President Barack Obama on Thursday of "failing American workers" by ignoring Chinese trade violations, and seized on new Federal Reserve attempts to boost the economy as proof the administration's policies are not working.

Obama campaigned as commander in chief after the violent deaths of four U.S. officials at a diplomatic post in Libya. "No act of terror will go unpunished ... no act of violence shakes the resolve of the United States of America," he said.

The president spoke in Colorado and Romney in Virginia with less than eight weeks remaining in a close campaign for the White House in tough economic times. The two states are among a handful likely to settle the race, and most polls rate Obama a shaky favorite.

With campaign costs mounting, Romney and Obama competed for the most innovative fundraising appeal.

The Republican challenger's campaign emailed that anyone making a $15 donation would qualify for a chance to join "Mitt on board the campaign plane for an exciting day on the campaign trail — at 30,000 feet!"

Singer and actress Beyonce Knowles and hip-hop-artist-hubby Jay Z countered for the president. "Jay and I will be meeting up with President Obama for an evening in NYC sometime soon," she wrote. "And we want you to be there." As with a day aboard Romney's chartered jet, a donation was required for a chance to win.

Romney's focus on the economy followed a one-day campaign detour into a foreign-policy thicket that left him bruised and his quarry largely unscathed. He made little mention during the day of the events in Egypt and Libya that he had cited Tuesday as evidence of national security weakness on the president's part.

The issue intruded, though, when a heckler at Romney's rally yelled out, "Why are you politicizing Libya?" The crowd responded with chants of "U-S-A" and supporters tried to place a Romney/Ryan placard in front of the heckler's face.

"We're going to crack down on China," the former Massachusetts governor vowed in an appearance in the Virginia suburbs around Washington, D.C. He spoke after his campaign unveiled a television commercial claiming that China has outpaced the United States in new manufacturing jobs since the president took office. "Seven times Obama could have stopped China's cheating. Seven times he refused," it says.

The president pushed back.

White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters that all the actions the administration has initiated at the World Trade Organization to rein in China have been successful. The president's campaign said Obama has brought as many cases challenging China trade policies in 3 ? years as former President George W. Bush did in eight.

Inevitably, the Fed's new attempt to intervene in the economy became enmeshed in the campaign.

The nation's central bank said it will spend $40 billion a month to buy mortgage bonds for as long as it deems necessary to make home buying more affordable. It plans to keep short-term interest rates at record lows through mid-2015 — six months longer than previously planned — and made clear it's ready to try other measures to stimulate the economy if hiring doesn't improve.

"The idea is to quicken the recovery," said Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke at a news conference where he announced the latest attempts to jolt a slow-growth economy that has left joblessness at 8.1 percent.

Carney, the White House press secretary, declined to comment, citing a long-standing policy when it comes to Fed actions.

Not so Romney's campaign.

It released a statement in the name of Lanhee Chen, campaign policy director, that called the Fed's steps "further confirmation that President Obama's policies have not worked. After four years of stagnant growth, falling incomes, rising costs and persistently high unemployment, the American economy doesn't need more artificial and ineffective measures. We should be creating wealth, not printing dollars."

Romney, who has said he would not reappoint Bernanke to a new term, declined to respond to a question about the Fed's action. He has said previously that he opposes more measures along the lines that Bernanke announced during the day, but the written statement stopped short of saying so.

For his part, Obama vowed to do "whatever is necessary" to protect Americans serving abroad.

"We are going to bring those who killed our fellow Americans to justice," he said in Golden, Colo. as two U.S. warships head for the Libyan coast.

Halfway around the world, anti-American protests spread to Yemen.

Obama said the U.S. would not consider Egypt an ally, "but we don't consider them an enemy."

The government in Cairo receives roughly $1.5 billion in U.S. aid annually, most of it for the military.

The president said in an interview with the Spanish-language network Telemundo that Egypt is a "new government that is trying to find its way." And he warned that if the Egyptian government takes actions showing "they're not taking responsibility," then it would "be a real big problem."

Administration officials later said the president was not trying to downgrade the relationship between the U.S. and Egypt.



Analysis: Film mayhem a window into Islamist battles

BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates The violence across the heartland of the Arab Spring reaches far beyond the cries of anger against America and deep into one of the region's most high-stakes showdowns: ultraconservative Islamists seeking to challenge the new leadership struggling for stability in places such as Egypt and Libya.

Islamic absolutist factions such as Salafis have been largely kept on the political margins as more pragmatic Islamist groups — including the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi and the Ennahda party in Tunisia — rose to power from the wreckage of pro-Western regimes.

But the hard-liners have never been counted out.

In eastern Libya, attackers armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades fought under the black flag of the ultraconservative faction Ansar al-Shariah in Tuesday's assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that left the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans dead.

In Egypt's Sinai peninsula, Bedouin-style Islamic hit squads, believed inspired by al-Qaida, have forced Morsi to deploy tanks and post extra guards along the strategic Suez Canal.

This week's mayhem, including protesters breaching the walls of the U.S. Embassy in Yemen on Thursday, appears to be an opportunity seized by groups such as the Salafis, which follow an austere brand of Islam that has provided some of the dogmatic underpinnings for al-Qaida and other jihadi factions.

The rallying cries for the assaults on the U.S. diplomatic sites — which began on the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks — were the now-infamous YouTube clips of an obscure movie called "Innocence of Muslims" that denigrated Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

But they are unlike the reactions to other perceived offenses against Islam that touched off protests across the Muslim world, such as the outrage to a Danish cartoon of Prophet Muhammad in 2005. The core of the current violence has remained within the Arab Spring countries where hardline Islamists are trying to exert their clout after decades of repression under rulers such as Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, who saw the Salafis and others as direct challenges to the state.

Now, it's Morsi and other new Arab Spring leaders who must find a way to cope with the pressures.

The attacks on U.S. diplomatic sites "should not be seen in isolation, but are part of a broader list of challenges to the state," said Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Geneva-based Gulf Research Center. "The question is one of capability ... to establish their legitimacy as strong governments?"

For the West, it becomes a critical narrative for the next chapters of the Arab Spring. A rise in hardline Islamist influence brings an array of major complications for Washington and its allies. They include the stability of the elected governments in Cairo and Tunis, and whether Libya could follow Yemen as a foothold for al-Qaida-inspired militants.

Then there is the question of Syria, where the rebels are strongly backed by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations that favor conservative Islam.

Richard Murphy, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and former assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia, said the current show of force by the Salafis and others could add to the "already extreme caution" by Washington policy makers over how to deal with Syria's possible collapse into dozens of rival factions if President Bashar Assad falls.

"What we've seen over the past days shows the currents that have been there all along, but were kept bottled up by the regimes like Mubarak," said Murphy. "The Arab Spring let it all out and it's still unclear where it will all lead."

At the same time, the Gulf states including Saudi Arabia are frightened over a possible expansion of the Muslim Brotherhood — ironically inspired by the Arab Spring — that could challenge the region's ruling families.

At a small rally in Kuwait City, protesters chanted: "Obama we are all Osama."

Libya remains one of the huge wild cards. Benghazi and the eastern region — once the center of the uprising against Moammar Gadhafi — is now seen as potential fertile ground for Islamic radical groups such as Ansar al-Shariah. The elements are there: weak central authority and many weapons left over from the rebellion.

The leader of Ansar al-Shariah, Youssef Johani, denied any involvement in the Benghazi attack — even though his group's black flag was carried by the assailants.

The firepower and apparent military-style coordination used against the Benghazi consulate has raised speculation that it was not a spontaneous attack and could have been timed for the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Ehsan Ahrari, a Virginia-based political analyst and commentator, sees a bigger quandary for Washington, though. It's framed as the traditional hearts-and-minds puzzle: how to build ties with the new Arab Spring leaders while trying to reach out to people suspicious of the U.S. role in the region.

A 26-year-old protester outside the U.S. Embassy in Cairo showed how difficult that can be. Gomaa Abdel-Rahman Kajo backed Morsi's Salafist opponent, Hazem Abou-Ismail, who was bumped from the presidential race because his mother is American, which violated rules about any foreign ties for holders of Egypt's top office.

Kajo said Morsi "won't be able to rein in" protesters unless he clearly rebukes America over the film.

"American views us as slaves, and they are the masters," said Kajo. "We are telling them: We are the masters and they are slaves."

Morsi appeared to stumble with the crisis. Only two weeks ago, he emerged as a hero in the West and Arab world after going to Tehran and blasting the Iranians for their support of Assad. After the embassy assault, however, he left the U.S. hanging by not immediately condemning the attack and only issuing a bland statement on Facebook a day later pledging to protect diplomatic sites.

In an apparent bid to ease the sting with Washington — and avoid derailing a proposed $1 billion debt relief package — Morsi on Thursday condemned the movie for "provocations" against Islam but said it "cannot be taken as a justification for attacking embassies or consulates."

"If there's one big lesson from the Arab Spring, it's that the Islamists feel it's their turn after facing repression for decades," said Sami al-Faraj, director of the Kuwait Center for Strategic Studies. "Now comes the struggles for power and policy between moderates and extremists."









SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70.7°

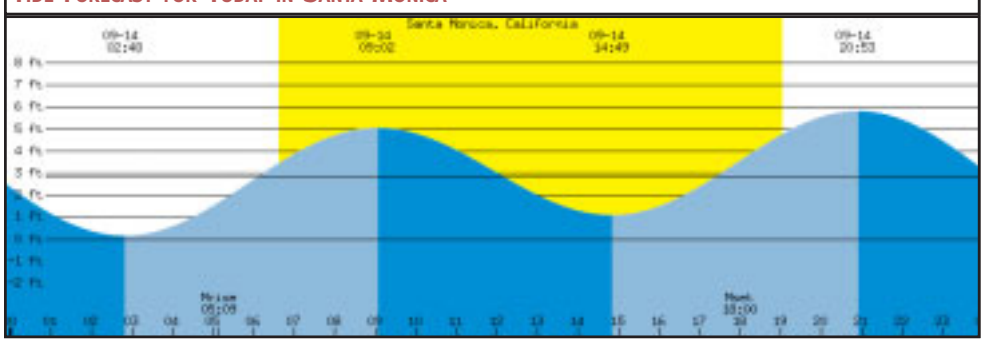
Swell Forecast

Chest high sets at south facing breaks. West facing breaks should run knee to waist.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see size drop to waist high at south facing breaks. West facing breaks should run knee high.

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 **September 5, 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.	B	as
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	as
Corbon 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 Los 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.	A	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.

Community Workshop



PARKING & CIRCULATION

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

The **City of Santa Monica** is pleased to announce another Zoning Ordinance Update community-wide workshop. This workshop will focus on how regulations related to parking and transportation demand management can work with other City transportation activities to enhance neighborhood character, improve quality of life, and achieve the Citywide sustainability objectives.

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th
Open House 6:30-8:30 PM

WHERE: CIVIC AUDITORIUM, EAST WING
1855 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA

Please join us at this meeting to discuss:

- **BACKGROUND:** How do parking regulations in the Zoning Ordinance affect the Land Use and Circulation Element vision for transportation in Santa Monica?
- **INNOVATIVE PARKING SOLUTIONS:** What tools are available to make automobile parking work better for Santa Monica? What has been successful in other similar communities?
- **ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY:** What other transportation-related programs and activities are happening in Santa Monica to lessen our impact on the environment?

Your input is needed for this important Santa Monica planning effort. To learn more about the project, please visit our project website at www.smgov.net/zoningupdate

Big Blue Bus Lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9 serve the Civic Auditorium. Bike and car parking available.

To request disability-related accommodations, please contact 310.458.8341.

City of Santa Monica

Esto es una noticia sobre talleres para planear el futuro de Santa Monica. Para mas información llame a Peter James al numero 310.458.8341.

MOVIE TIMES

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

When Harry Met Sally (R) 1hr 36min
My Blue Heavan (PG-13) 1hr 37min
7:30pm

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

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
11:55am, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Cold Light of Day (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

For A Good Time, Call... (R) 1hr 26min
11:50am, 2:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

2016: Obama's America (PG) 1hr 29min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Finding Nemo 3D (G) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Lawless (R) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Words (PG-13) 1hr 36min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Resident Evil: Retribution 3D (R) 1hr 35min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

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

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

Inbetweeners (R) 1hr 36min
5:35pm, 9:55pm

5 Broken Cameras (NR) 1hr 30min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Arbitrage (R) 1hr 40min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Planet of Snail (NR) 1hr 28min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:25pm, 7:40pm

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

Possession (R) 1hr 31min
11:50am, 2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:10pm

Expendables 2 (R) 1hr 42min
11:35am, 2:05pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

Hope Springs (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:05pm

Resident Evil: Retribution (R) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

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

At home tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Early-morning communication could be excessive, and you might be overwhelmed as a result. You -- a person who usually is so directed -- have difficulty knowing which way to turn. You might need to revamp your plans. Tonight: Flex once more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Tap into your creativity, and gain more insight into what might be possible. You often have to dream or conjure up an idea in order to make it work. Don't restrict your mental meanderings, though you might choose not to share them. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might want to stay close to home and not have a reason. Trust your intuitive sense, and you will be on top of a situation. Confusion surrounds many of your key interests or projects. A partner can help you reduce them. Tonight: At home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be seeing a personal situation a lot differently, given time and a sense of direction. A partner or associate might want to revamp plans, as he or she could be unsure of him- or herself. Let this person put some structure into the here-and-now. Tonight: You need a leisurely dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be aware of your expenses, as you easily could make a mistake counting change. Extravagance might seem essential, but be careful as to what this might be doing to your budget. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might change your plans, as you feel inspired and more energized than you have in a long time. Others could seem helpless and unable to convey what is going on in their minds. Tonight: Whatever feels good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You might want to play a situation low-key and handle it more directly. Your sense of humor plays a significant role when dealing with a perpetually changing matter. Your instincts guide you even more than usual. Tonight: Choose something for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You have a unique style and way of communicating. Unbeknown to others, you have a certain idea or sense of how a situation could unravel. Do not be surprised if there is a mishap out of the blue. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your ability to step right in will be tested, and, with the amount of mixed messages that surround you, you might not be sure which way to turn. Extremes mark others' behavior. Do not get involved with risky money matters. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You know what needs to happen. You might attempt to open up your thinking, as well as others'. Sometimes a vision might be too difficult to explain, which forces you to take the lead even if you might be uncomfortable with it. Tonight: Go where there is music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If a partner wants to assume the lead, make it OK. You could feel as if you do not have the control you want. Listen to news more openly. You could be changing certain judgments without realizing it. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might feel out of sorts when trying to make a decision that has many variables. Be aware of a friendship that is changing. Learn to grow with this person, and listen to him or her more often. Dismiss former judgments. Tonight: Follow a suggestion.

Happy birthday

This year you have a great deal of power behind your words. The New Moon is close to your birthday, which allows you to manifest your desires. You need to understand what you want to create in order to use this lunar power to the max. If you are single, you do not need to worry -- you will have many suitors. Your knee-jerk response will be the one you choose to listen to. If you are attached, the two of you relate well as always, though you might be accused of being too me-oriented. That criticism probably isn't too far off. Remember, a relationship is about two people. VIRGO can be critical.

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



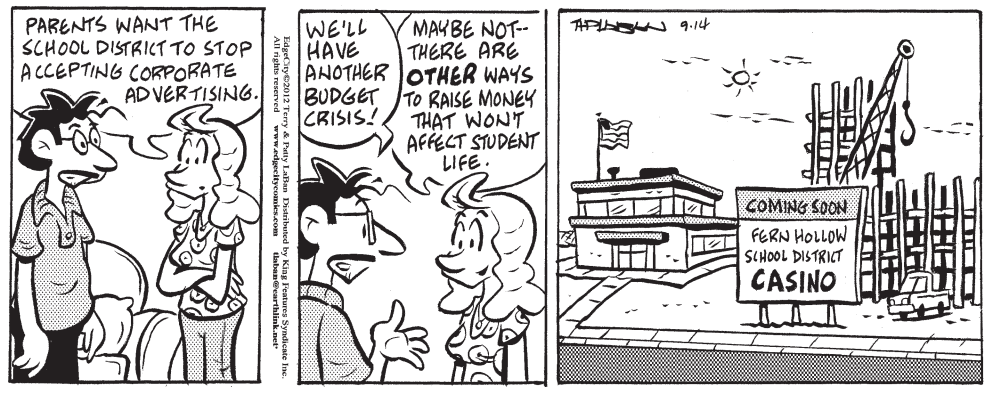
Strange Brew — By John Deering



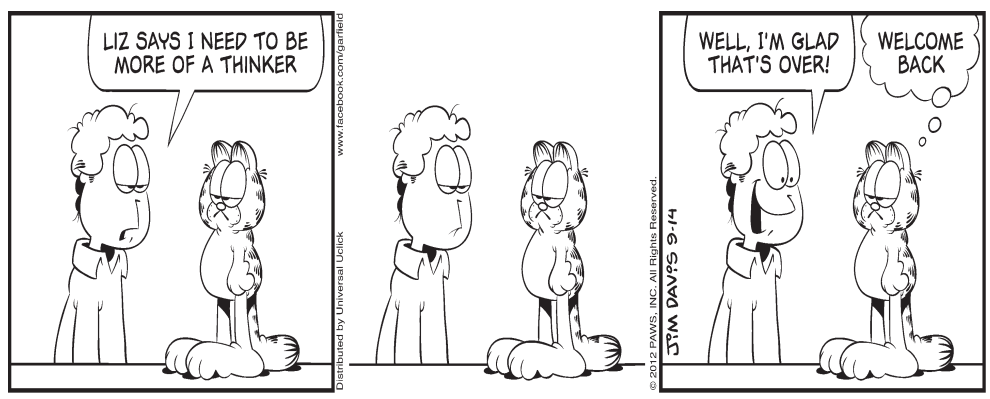
Dogs of C-Kennel — By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



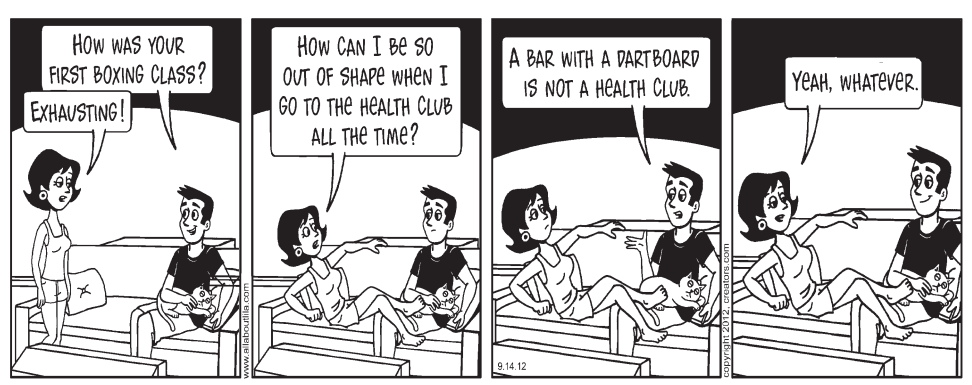
Edge City — By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com*. Hint: It's not the mural at Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Monk's hood
5 Congress creations
9 Studio sign
11 Collectively
13 Botch
14 Bewildered
15 Program that performs repetitive tasks
16 Deserved
18 Unity
20 Time of preparation
21 Takes to the sky
22 Miseries
23 To's opposite
24 Potent brew, slangily
25 Lactose source
27 Restrains
29 Role for Harrison
30 Blush
32 Foes
34 Seine summer
35 Snowy wader
36 Brighten
38 Sanctioned
39 Hamper
40 Unit of force
41 Quaker's pronoun

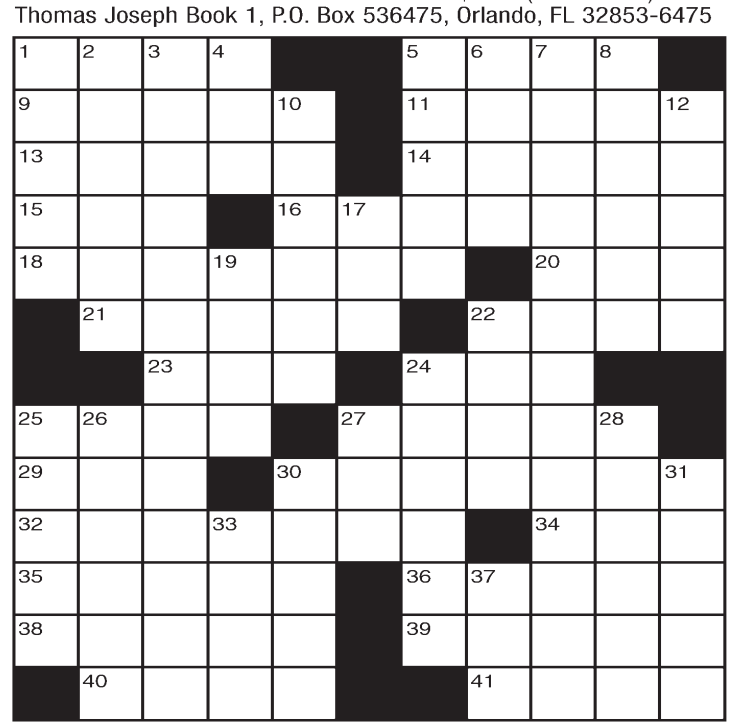
DOWN

1 Jazz group
2 Burger toppers
3 Useless effort
4 Pot part
5 Tale tellers
6 Nay voter
7 Useless argument
8 Shirt part
10 "Dawn of the Dead" director
12 Stows cargo
17 Two-way curve
19 — a one (none)
22 Tip off
24 Used colorful language
25 Potter's need
26 Like the man on one of the tarot cards
27 Pool item
28 Banquette's cousin
30 Cover words
31 Plow pioneer
33 Intend
37 Charter

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

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



9-14

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/11
5 11 20 33 36
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 9/12
7 8 14 23 41
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: $21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/12
3 7 10 28 31

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/12
MIDDAY: 8 2 2
EVENING: 1 2 3

SANTA ANITA DERBY
Draw Date: 9/12
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:47.49

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

■ Bill Dillon, 52, was featured in News of the Weird in May 2009 and April 2012 for having served 27 years in a Florida prison for murder after a fanciful conviction based largely on "testimony" of dog-handler John Preston's "wonder" German shepherd that seemingly found precise, impossible scents exactly where prosecutors needed to find them. It wasn't until 2009 that one central Florida judge challenged Preston -- and exposed the dog's incompetence. Dillon was exonerated, Florida's governor apologized, and the state legislature provided generous financial compensation. And on July 18, musician Dillon accepted an invitation from the Tampa Bay Rays to sing the National Anthem before a game, including the now-ironic lyric, "And the land of the free."

■ (1) Jacob Kost, 23, was charged with murder after allegedly running down a man with his truck in Cornelius, N.C., in June following a barroom altercation. According to police, the two men were challenging each other as to which one had the best truck. (2) Within the space of a month, in Deep Gap, N.C., and Park City, Utah, 4-year-olds were killed when gravestones fell over on them. The North Carolina girl was at play in June at a Bible study camp.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1998 - Telecommunications companies MCI Communications and WorldCom complete their $37 billion merger to form MCI WorldCom.

1999 - Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga join the United Nations.

2000 - Microsoft releases Windows Me.

2001 - Historic National Prayer Service held at Washington National Cathedral for victims of the September 11 attacks. A similar service is held in Canada on Parliament Hill, the largest vigil ever held in the nation's capital.

WORD UP!

**heliotrope \ HEE-lee-uh-trohp ** , noun; 1. A light tint of purple; reddish lavender. 2. Any of various other plants, as the valerian or the winter heliotrope. 3. Any plant that turns toward the sun.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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If you know someone familiar with the Westside who is very qualified, please ask them to contact me right away. Kate Bransfield. 310.395.1133 Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com

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p.akers@gmail.com

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Religion

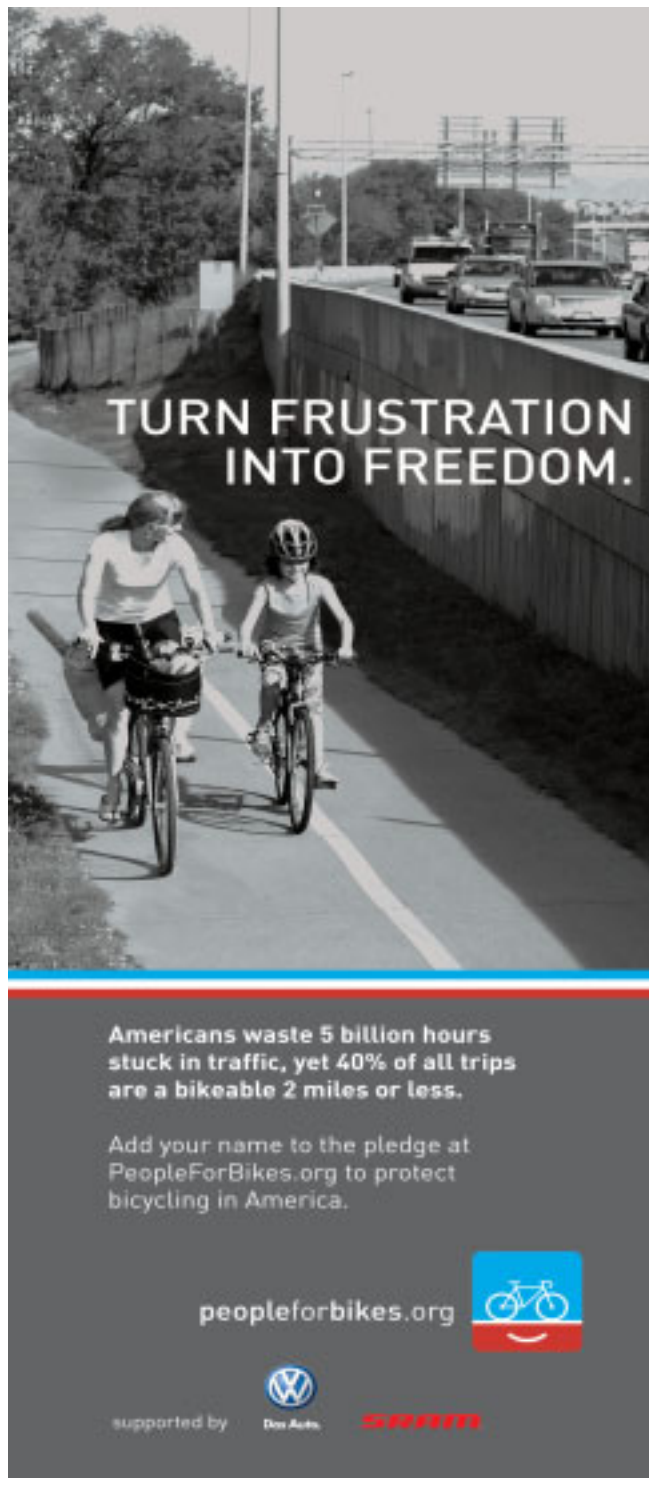
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†MSRP excludes destination and delivery charges, tax, title and registration fees. Dealer sets actual price. 2012 Forester 2.5X Limited pictured has an MSRP of $26,595.

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