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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 263



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

ODE TO THE CONSTITUTION
SEE PAGE 4

THE ALL CLEAR ISSUE

Renter's insurance protects tenants, landlords

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL What you don't know can hurt you.

That seemed to be the message of the day after last week's Rent Control Board meeting in which Commissioner Robert Kronovet tried to explore the concept of requiring renters with pets to get renter's insurance, including cases of service animals.

Renter's insurance is a policy that tenants can take on to provide property and liability insurance to protect against theft, damage and certain kinds of lawsuits.

First of all, asking tenants with service animals to carry the insurance for those pets is not legal, the board's attorney Stephen Lewis was quick to point out.

In the case of service animals, like seeing eye dogs or "emotional support animals," it's actually against state and federal law for a landlord or anyone else to require that a ten-

SEE INSURANCE PAGE 8

Tweeters mock Newsweek's #MuslimRage cover

RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES If Newsweek intended its latest cover story to spark conversation, it certainly got what it was looking for.

The magazine's cover essay, "Muslim Rage: How I Survived It, How We Can End It," has spawned a huge response on Twitter.

The essay by Somali-Dutch activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali addresses the issue of free speech in light of deadly riots in the Middle East over an anti-Islamic film. The story is illustrated on the magazine's cover with a photo of two bearded protesters in the midst of a mob.

Newsweek created the hashtag (hash)MuslimRage to promote discussion of its cover story. But most of the tweets using it have mocked the subject, rather than adopt the article's serious tone.

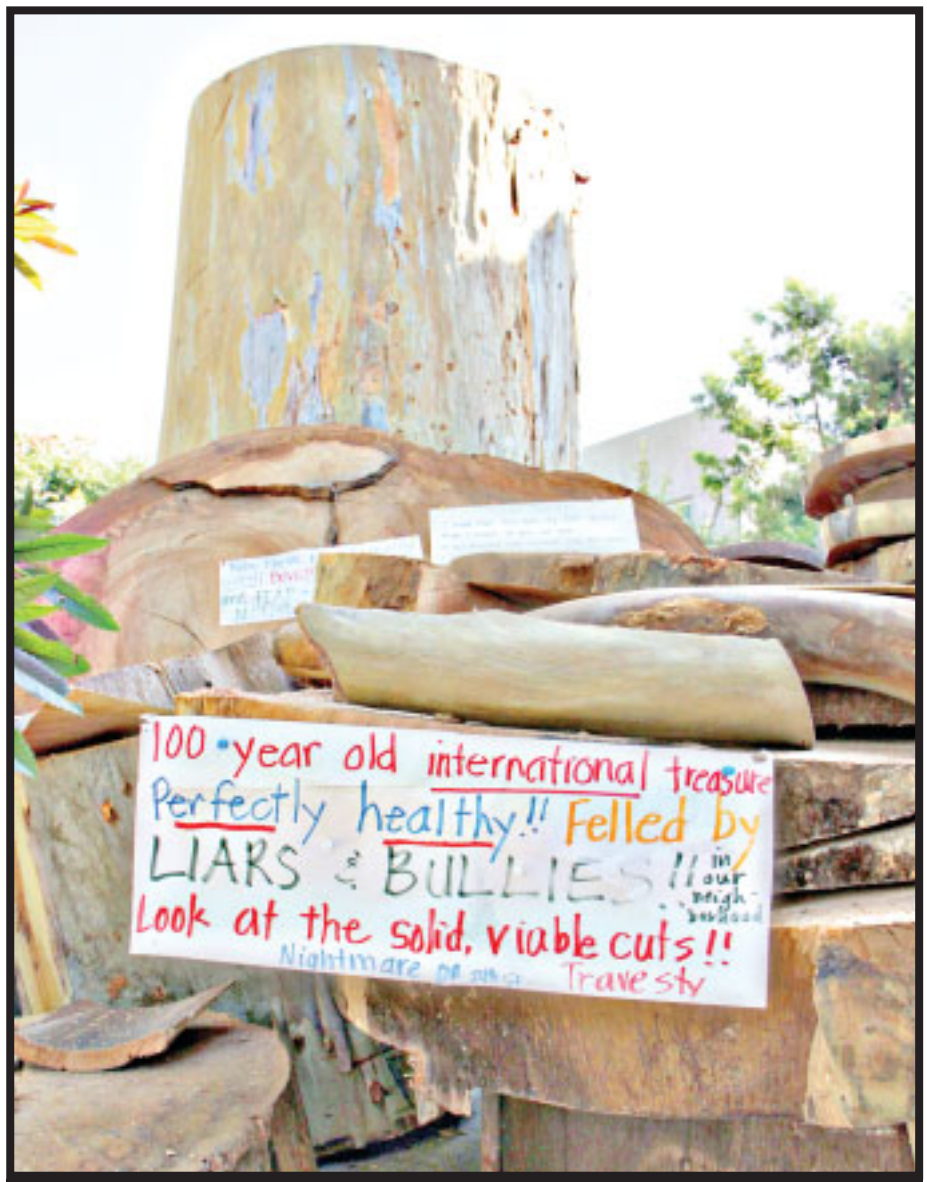
Many of those who poked fun at the article's headline appeared to be Muslim. "MuslimRage" was the sixth most-talked about topic — or "trending topic" — on Twitter among U.S.-based users early Monday. It was also a top trender in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Twitter conversation peaked Monday morning and by late afternoon there were about 75,000 tweets using (hash)MuslimRage hashtag, Twitter said, citing data from social media tracking firm Topsy.

One of the most popular posts came from "Hend," a user whose profile photo features a woman in a Muslim head covering: "I'm having such a good hair day. No one even knows. (hash)MuslimRage".

Another reads: "Lost your kid Jihad at the

SEE RAGE PAGE 8



IT'S GONE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A landmarked tree on 24th Street was ordered to be removed by city officials who believed that it posed a public threat. The final cut was made on Saturday, the city-mandated day to have the work complete. The family that owns the tree tried to have it spared, but to no avail. The family hopes to make the 10-foot-tall stump into a sculpture and create furniture and art made of the wood left over.

Bomb squad defuses antique grenade

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK Local police called in the Los Angeles Police Department Bomb Disposal Unit Sunday night to deal with a grenade and flares found amongst the belongings of a deceased veteran.

The Santa Monica Police Department was called in at 5:10 p.m. on Sunday evening to help with a suspicious box found by a building manager as she cleaned out a garage that had been rented by an elderly gentleman who died recently, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the SMPD.

"The elderly resident was a veteran and had used the garage to store his personal items as well as souvenirs and memorabilia from his military service," Lewis said.

That included flares and a "pineapple" grenade, an explosive device with an outer shell that becomes shrapnel when detonated, typical of the World War II or Vietnam eras.

"Once we observed the contents … either LAPD or the (Los Angeles Sheriff's Department) bomb squads are notified and respond," Lewis said.

The bomb squad got the call at 7:22 p.m., said Norma Eisenman, a spokesperson for the LAPD.

When they responded, they found an empty grenade with nothing explosive. It was "rendered safe" by 8:50 p.m. Eisenman said.

In the meantime, a small group of residents who lived adjacent to the garage were asked to evacuate for a short time.

The SMPD responds to a couple of calls for grenades and explosive devices each year, Lewis said.

"It was dangerous, but nothing malicious," he said.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012

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

The truth about bone health
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Saint John's Health Center is sponsoring a free community education forum dubbed "A Woman's Health — Orthopedics: Arthritis, Joint and Bone Health." An expert team of Saint John's clinicians will participate in the forum, which will include a question and answer panel. For more information, call (310) 829-8453.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012

Freshest of the fresh
Arizona Avenue at Third Street, 8:30 a.m.
Enjoy one of Santa Monica's Farmers' Markets, widely considered to be among the best on the West Coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of varieties of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Back-to-school safety
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Learn everyday safety tips from a real Santa Monica police officer. The class is designed for grades K-4. Parents are welcome at this free event. For more information, call (310) 458-8621.

Why do cities go under?
SMC, Bundy Campus
3171 S. Bundy Dr., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute will present a panel and audience discussion on why cities go bankrupt. California was stunned this year at the news that three of its cities were plunging into bankruptcy. Now, many are saying that San Bernardino, Stockton and Mammoth Lakes could be just the tip of the iceberg. For more information, call (310) 434-3429.

Benefiting the community
City Council Chambers
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
The Santa Monica Planning Commission will discuss community benefits when developers want to build beyond what the zoning code allows. This is a continuation of a study session held Aug. 22. For more information, go to www.smgov.net.

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



More than 100 Occupy Wall Street arrests in NYC

MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK Occupy Wall Street protesters celebrated the movement's anniversary on Monday by clogging intersections in the city's financial district, marching to the beat of drums that were a familiar refrain last year.

Protesters roamed around the lower Manhattan financial district all morning in groups of a few dozen each, from one intersection to another and back again, chanting loudly about the ills of Wall Street. In total, there were a few hundred protesters scattered throughout the city. More than 100 of them were arrested by midafternoon, mostly on disorderly conduct charges.

The day's events lacked the heft of Occupy protests last year, when protesters gathered by the thousands. But Occupiers were upbeat as they spread out in their old stomping grounds, giddy at the prospect of being together again. They brushed off any suggestions that the movement had petered out.

"This is a movement. It's only been a year," said protester Justin Stone Diaz, of Brooklyn. "It's going to take many years for it to develop and figure out exactly who we are."

But the movement is now a shadow of its mighty infancy, when a group of young people harnessed the power of a disillusioned nation and took to the streets chanting about corporate greed and inequality.

A familiar Statue of Liberty puppet was back, bobbing in the crowd above protesters' heads. Protesters in wheelchairs blocked a road and chanted "All day, all week, occupy Wall Street!" before they were steered off the road by police.

Zuccotti Park, the former home of the encampment, was encircled by metal police barricades lined with police officers standing watch.

Hamza Sinanaj, a 30-year-old airplane mechanic who works in upstate New York as a security guard, said he was among the first Occupy protesters last September.

"I felt that protest was long overdue, and I'm back today," he said, holding up a sign that read, "America Rise Up."

He was staying at his sister's home in the Bronx but wasn't sure he'd be there Monday night because he was "ready to be arrested, to sit on the street and be arrested."

Events were planned in more than 30 cities worldwide.

In San Francisco, local Occupy groups planned to occupy 10 banks across the city and then hold an evening rally honoring foreclosure fighters, people who've been helping residents stave off foreclosures by squatting or holding sit-ins, outside the Bank of America building in the Financial District, the site of previous protests. They then planned to march.

Last year, hundreds of protesters camped out for weeks at Justin Herman Plaza across from the city's Ferry Building, a magnet for tourists and in the heart of the Financial District, where nearby businesses were affected.

In Oakland, Calif., a metal fence surrounds the City Hall lawn that was the hub of several violent clashes between demonstrators and police during fall Occupy-inspired protests that attracted international attention.

Banks including Citigroup and Wells Fargo have said they're committed to having open dialogue and working with their customers during difficult economic times.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MID-CITY

Checkpoint nets two alleged DUIs

A checkpoint set Friday evening on the 2900 block of Wilshire Boulevard snagged seven arrests, police report.

A total of 1,405 vehicles passed through the Santa Monica Police Department's sobriety checkpoint.

Of those, 441 vehicles were screened by police, resulting in 46 field sobriety tests and two arrests on suspicion of driving under the influence.

The checks also picked up three felony arrests – a no-bail warrant, cocaine possession and a weapons possession – and two arrests for possession of marijuana.

Police caught one person driving on a suspended or revoked license, five unlicensed drivers, five vehicle impounds and issued another 14 citations of varying types.

The checkpoint was funded by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It was conducted by the Traffic Division of the Office of Special Enforcement.

By law, DUI checkpoints must be posted prior to enforcement and a route must be made available for drivers to avoid the checkpoint.

– ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

Santa Monica Daily Press

• Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218

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• **editor@smdp.com**



HOT WHEELS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Looking at a 1968 Ford GT Mustang owned by Ben Wagoner, judges and guests of the eighth annual Tony Sousa Memorial Car Show walk through the long history of Mustangs, Cobras and Shelbys at the Santa Monica Pier on Saturday. Hosted by the Los Angeles, California Shelby American Automobile Club, the car show is dedicated to the memory of Sousa who served the Mustang community for many years until his unexpected passing in 2005.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There is no God … in the Constitution

Editor:

I believe Mr. Barber errs in the original premise on which his arguments are based ("Godless Democrats," Your Column Here, Sept. 11). In a country whose founding principles prohibit establishing a religion, surely a political party should concern itself with policy, and not deities. Far from being godless, the Democratic platform, by providing for those in need, shows itself more closely aligned with the precepts of Christianity than do others who claim the label but practice greed and hatred.

For what it's worth, I just re-read the Constitution and did not see the word "God" in it.

Phyllis Elliott
Santa Monica

Keep it to yourself

Editor:

With all due respect, Mr. Barber, you stay with your beliefs, vote Republican and don't try to influence me about your beliefs ("Godless Democrats," Your Column Here, Sept. 11). I only deal with facts and not beliefs or faith. That's the way it should be in politics. I don't care what religion or God you profess to believe in. I only care about your politics.

Religion, in my estimate, does not belong in politics, work places, nor in war. It only belongs in your home and in your church.

Heaven to me is the wonderful sky this planet has, nothing more. God might exist or might not. Don't have proof yet, but I'm waiting.

Enjoy life, sir, as surely I, an agnostic, is.

Sergio Lira
Los Angeles





What's the Point?

David Pisarra — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Con law for the masses

MONDAY WAS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY. I BET you didn't know about it. It's not one of the major holidays where people head out of town for a three-day weekend or fire up the barbecue and indulge.

Yesterday was a little holiday for a very important piece of American history. It was Constitution Day. Frankly, I think Arbor Day gets more press. But then Arbor Day has more "Likes" on Facebook at 16,966 than the official U.S. government's Constitution page, which has only 4,795.

The law establishing the holiday was created in 2004 with an amendment by U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd to the omnibus spending bill. Before then, the holiday was known as Citizenship Day. In addition to renaming the holiday Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, the act mandates that all publicly-funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day.

I think it is rather sad that so little attention is paid to the Constitution and so few people are familiar with what it really says. This founding document is the basis for our entire government. From the hallowed halls of power at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. to the back-room deals at 1685 Main St., our government stems from what a gathering of 55 white men drafted 225 years ago. That's a long time for a document to stand up and be honored. I'm a divorce lawyer and I see marriage vows that don't last the weekend, let alone years.

The language still rings with lyric grace; "we the people" and "a more perfect union" are phrases that say so much in so few words. Which is very much the reason why the Constitution has withstood the test of time so well. The lack of wiggle room and the great difficulty in trying to twist the meaning of the words is why it is so very effective. Contrast that with the tax code, which has all manner of loopholes and escape hatches for those rich enough to hire wily accountants and tax attorneys.

But the U.S. Constitution is a road map of simplicity that outlines both a federal and state structure while expressing individual freedoms and responsibilities. As a city we like to push the boundaries of what constitutes individual freedom. From rent control laws that protect tenants and infringe on landlords, to smoking laws that protect waiters and waitresses at the expense of our smoking European tourists. We strive for balance and fairness.

Balance and fairness are two words often used, but the concepts they stand for are usually ignored in politics. This political season is no different. It's a mixed bag, like they all are, of fact and fiction, smoke and mirrors. From Republican contender Willard Romney's "I was for it, before I was against it" posturing, which sounds remarkably like Democrat John Kerry's position in 2004, to President Obama's gaffe that "you didn't build that."

In the heat of this political season, and with the many claims by each side of truth as to what the Constitution stands for, I'd like to see the candidates actually tested on it. I have to take a test to drive a car, why not a test for what is arguably the most powerful job in the world, running the equivalent of the largest corporation with the most diverse interests? I don't think that being able to give the same stump speech for 12 months is truly a test, and I don't believe that being able to sound good in 20-second sound bites and confuse the issues with smoke and mirrors is really a qualification.

I THINK IT IS RATHER SAD THAT SO LITTLE ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE CONSTITUTION AND SO FEW PEOPLE ARE FAMILIAR WITH WHAT IT REALLY SAYS.

That's why a man like President Obama, who is a constitutional scholar and taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago, is a better choice for president. When I had to take constitutional law it was an eye-opening experience into how our government works, and the real meaning of those phrases that are bandied about by the talking heads and surrogates who make speeches for the candidates.

It is only by education — real, in-depth education — about our government and our history that we can create "a more perfect union." So while you may have missed Constitution Day, hopefully this will be a reminder of the foundation of our country and perhaps spark you to go re-read the Constitution, because you have read it before, haven't you?

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



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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After the Bell

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Confidence is soaring for a decline

AS I WRITE THIS IN MID SEPTEMBER, THE market seems headed toward its all-time high. But confidence is plunging. We all know that what goes up must come down, but we don't know when, or what to do about it. So here are a few ideas:

• The most vulnerable stocks, if there is a decline, are those with no significant dividend. If a stock has a good dividend, and there are many right now even as high as the market is, that is at or around 3 percent. Many companies raised their dividends last year and this year, such as Amgen, Starbucks, Walt Disney and Microsoft. And Apple started to pay one!

The reason that dividend stocks feel less market shock is that when prices go down the effective dividend rate goes up. So the stock becomes a better buy and more investors buy it, driving the price back up to a reasonable level considering the return on investment. But there is no such cushion for stocks that don't pay a dividend.

Of course there is no guarantee that a company will continue to pay the same dividend. A few years ago bank stocks paid nice dividends, but many stopped when the financial crises hit. And General Motors suspended dividends in 2008 when the bad times hit. But if you have significant gains right now in stocks that do not pay a dividend, it might be a good time to take your profits.

• Consider alternative investments. As the market reaches a high point, real estate is still just coming up from a low point. If you do not need the liquidity of investing in stocks and bonds, some diversification into income producing real estate, particularly residential, can be a good hedge against losing value if the stock market declines.

• If you have a sophisticated financial advisor, consider using stock options to protect your gains. There are a number of different methods that can be employed to protect stock positions. But most depend heavily on your personal tax position. Sometimes it is a good idea to sell stock and take the gains, and replace the potential of continued upside by buying calls, but you pay tax on the gains from the sale of the stock. Sometimes it is a good idea to sell the stock and also sell puts just below the price as the stock sale. That way you take your profit on the stock plus the profit on the sale of the put, but you re-acquire the stock at a lower price if it goes down. And sometimes you can sell calls while still holding the stock, to collect in some premium income but automatically sell the stock if it moves up to the price you would like to sell at. These strategies are not so complicated, but should be followed by someone who knows what he or she is doing.

• A lot of people suggest buying gold at a time like this. I don't. I'm a follower of the Warren Buffet school that says when you buy a pound of gold and hold it, 10 years from now all you have is a pound of gold. But if you buy stock in Apple, you are likely to have an improved company with wonderful products and enhanced value based on something tangible, not just psychology. Still, just in case, I did buy an exchange traded fund (ETF) called GDX, which is a basket of stocks in the gold mining industry. It hasn't done all that well, but my idea is that if the market goes down there will be a rush to gold and those companies that produce it will have enhanced value.

• Consider selling stocks and using the proceeds to buy ETFs. These funds are much like mutual funds, but they don't have the costs to the investors of many mutual funds, and they can be more closely tailored to special segments of the market. There are ETFs on about anything you can think of, countries (I hold them in Japan and Brazil, but no profit yet) banks, particular commodities such as coffee or gold or corn, housing, consumer products, etc.

The reason it is safer to hold EFTs if you fear a market decline is that it is more diversified than any one stock. In a decline a particular company can be hit hard, and if you hold stock in that company you will be hit hard. But if you hold an ETF that has invested in 20 such companies, some might be hit hard but others might do well.

• And finally, there is always the advice to just hang in there and not worry too much. Unfortunately the "buy and hold" strategy has not worked well for the past 10 years. Those that pick carefully, take profits on a regular basis, watch the values of the companies in which they have invested and stay diversified have done better than others. I believe this will continue to be true.

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

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To ban or not to ban?

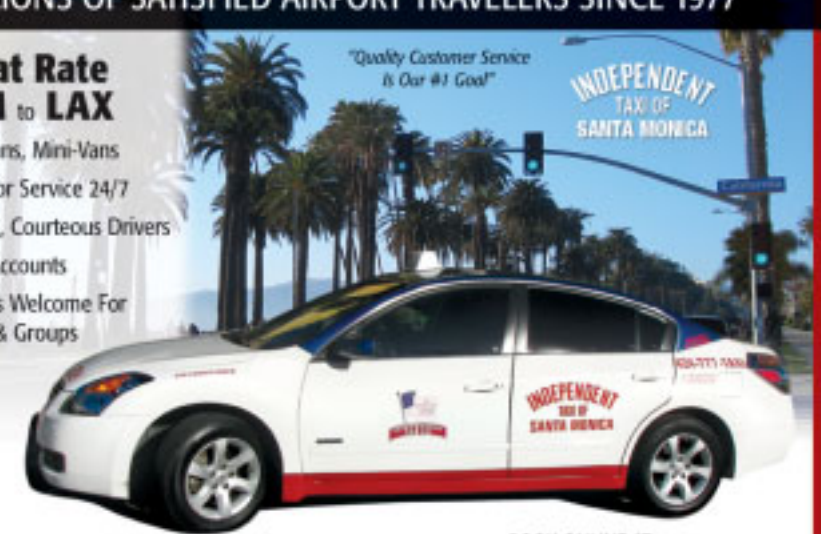
New York City last week OK'd a ban on big, sugary drinks at restaurants.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it's a good idea to ban sugary drinks or did the government go too far?

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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Report: Scouts failed to report sex abuse suspects

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Boy Scouts of America failed to report hundreds of suspected child sex abusers to authorities and often helped cover up the accusations over two decades, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

In a review of 1,600 of the organization's confidential "perversion" files dating from 1970 to 1991, the newspaper found that Scout leaders helped suspected molesters push the allegations under the rug in about 400 instances.

The Scouts have fought to keep the files confidential, but they emerged as part of a lawsuit against the organization, the Times said. The files date back to 1919 and were kept as a type of "blacklist" of people unfit to serve in the organization.

While the Scouts found out about most suspected molesters after the allegations were reported directly to authorities, in about 500 instances leaders were notified directly by parents, boys and staff members.

In most of those cases, Scout leaders failed to report the suspicions to police.

In a 1982 Michigan case, a camp director told police that he did not immediately report accusations about a staff member because higher-ups told him they wanted to protect the Scouts' reputation and the staff member.

In another 1982 case in Virginia, a camp director wrote a letter to the Scouts' top lawyer, saying something needed to be done about a veteran employee suspected of a "lifelong pattern" of abuse who had never been reported to police. Instead, the director wrote that the accused employee had simply been asked to resign.

In 1976, five Boy Scouts filed detailed complaints against a Pennsylvania scoutmaster, accusing him of rape and other sexual abuse. The scoutmaster resigned, saying he had to travel more for work. A troop leader wished the man luck and said he accepted the resignation with extreme regret.

In a statement, Scouts spokesman Deron Smith said the organization today requires members to report any suspicion of abuse directly to local authorities and has always fully cooperated with police.

That reporting policy was instituted in 2010. Before that, the organization told leaders they had to comply with state laws about reporting suspected abuse.

The Times found several instances where leaders did not appear to comply with state law. New Jersey, for example, has required the reporting of sex abuse allegations since the early 1970s, but nothing appeared to have been done about several complaints listed in the files.

In some cases, Scout leaders' lax treatment of the alleged offenders allowed them to keep abusing children, the Times said.

In 1984, Arthur Humphries was arrested in Chesapeake, Va., on child molestation charges. Scout leader Jack Terwilliger told a local newspaper that no one had suspected Humphries of abuse, but in 1978, Terwilliger ordered that a 12-year-old Scout be interviewed about Humphries' sex acts with him.

Terwilliger later gave Humphries a glowing job reference and Humphries went on to abuse 20 Boy Scouts before his arrest in 1984. Both Terwilliger and Humphries are dead.

The Oregon Supreme Court in June ordered more than 1,200 more confidential files to be released soon.

Illegal immigrants ask for school records

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Thousands of illegal immigrants have inundated the nation's second-largest school district with requests for copies of records that might qualify them for the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the district said Monday.

Under the program, people who are 30 or younger will be allowed to stay in the United States and work for up to two years if they prove they've lived in this country continuously since June 2007.

Applications can be renewed every two years.

An estimated 200,000 current and former students in the Los Angeles Unified School District might be eligible for the federal program, said Lydia Ramos, a special assistant to Superintendent John Deasy.

"We looked at the birth years that this program covers and there were about 200,000 students that listed another country of origin," Ramos said. "We have probably the highest number of students who would be eligible for this."

The Board of Education last week ordered that all current requests be handled within 35 days and future ones within seven days.

"I feel like doors are opening up for me," said 17-year-old Bell High School senior Saul Berrera, who was 10 when his mother brought him to the United States from El Salvador.

The school district already had a backlog of at least 2,300 requests for transcripts or diplomas before Aug. 15, the first day applicants for the Obama program could submit forms to the federal government, the Los Angeles Times (lat.ms/QTKDF8) reported.

"We are being inundated," Bell High School Principal Rafael Balderas said, adding his school was two weeks behind in providing documents. The school received about 200 requests for transcripts last year, but that total had been exceeded by July.

District officials notified schools on Friday that applicants can make requests online or fill out forms at schools for forwarding to the district's central office.

"We're doing this to relieve individual school sites from having to complete these when they already have reduced resources," Ramos said.

Records will be provided for free or at nominal cost. The federal government charges applicants $465 for each deferred action request.

Officials say there's a sense of urgency among applicants who worry about their window closing should Obama fail to win re-election in November.

"There are political considerations for some families," Ramos said.

The financially strapped school district expects to spend at least $200,000 in staff costs as well as an undetermined amount of overtime for employees who have worked to improve the records request system.

STATE BRIEFS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

Space shuttle Endeavour stuck at home in Florida

Space shuttle Endeavour apparently doesn't want to leave home.

NASA's youngest shuttle was supposed to depart Florida's Kennedy Space Center on Monday for its permanent museum home in Los Angeles. But stormy weather along the Gulf of Mexico nixed the travel plans.

NASA aimed for a Tuesday bon voyage. But that ended up getting scrapped as well. Endeavour's departure is now set for Wednesday morning. It's bolted to the top of a modified jumbo jet.

Endeavour was supposed to stop off in Houston, home to Mission Control, and fly low over NASA facilities en route. Now all that is in jeopardy. Los Angeles International Airport is expecting the shuttle on Thursday.

Endeavour, which retired last year, will go on display at the California Science Center.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Romney makes fresh appeal to Latino voters

Republican Mitt Romney is making a fresh appeal to Latino voters and trying to cut into President Barack Obama's advantage with a key portion of the electorate.

Romney, in Los Angeles to address the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, says he'll work with both parties to address immigration and push economic policies to help small-business owners. He accused Obama of "playing politics" by pursuing a temporary measure to exempt from deportation immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Romney says he will pursue "permanent immigration reform."

In a video address, Obama got applause when he talked about the temporary measure for young immigrants. He said he pursued it because Republicans blocked legislation giving a pathway to citizenship to the young immigrants.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Coptics, Muslims denounce Middle East violence

Coptic Christian and Muslim leaders are condemning the violence in the Middle East that was sparked by an anti-Islamic movie that has ties to a Southern California filmmaker who has since gone into hiding.

The leaders joined together in downtown Los Angeles on Monday to collectively denounce the movie "Innocence of Muslims" that denigrates Islam. They also condemned the violence that has resulted from the film being made.

Federal authorities have identified the filmmaker as Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, a Southern California man and a self-described Coptic Christian.

Nakoula went into hiding after he was interviewed by federal probation officers over the weekend.

Authorities were investigating whether the filmmaker, who has been convicted of a bank fraud charge, has violated the terms of his five-year probation.

AP

CERRITOS

Filmmaker's family leaves home overnight

The family of a filmmaker linked to an anti-Islamic movie has left their California home in the middle of the night.

A spokesman with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says Nakoula Basseley Nakoula's relatives left their Cerritos home about 3:45 a.m. Monday. Deputies gave them a ride and they were reunited with Nakoula, then taken to an undisclosed location.

Nakoula wore heavy apparel to disguise his appearance when he left his home over the weekend. He was interviewed by federal probation officers, who are reviewing a 2010 case in which he was convicted of bank fraud.

Federal authorities have identified Nakoula as the key figure behind "Innocence of Muslims," a film denigrating Islam that ignited violence against U.S. embassies in the Middle East.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Students write essays on gay marriage

High school students had to write essays on gay marriage views for admission to a Southern California school play based on the legal wrangle over anti-same sex marriage Proposition 8.

The Los Angeles Times says the Los Angeles Unified School District campus production may have been the first time the play "8" was performed by a high school cast.

Author Dustin Lance Black attended the El Camino Real Charter High School performance and participated in a discussion afterward. The school is in the Woodland Hills area of the west San Fernando Valley.

About 250 students wrote essays and there was overwhelmingly support on gay marriage.

Many of them described painful family and cultural divides.

Students opposed to homosexual marriage cited religious values.

AP

DELANO

Filipinos win settlement in English-only case

Dozens of Filipino hospital workers in Central California have won nearly $1 million to settle a lawsuit claiming they were targeted by a rule requiring them to speak only English at work.

The settlement announced on Monday involves nearly 70 nurses and medical staff who accused the Delano Regional Medical Center of banning them from speaking Tagalog and other Filipino languages while letting other workers speak in their native languages, including Spanish.

The complaint was filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2010.

Hospital workers said they were told by hospital management in 2006 to speak only English while at the hospital, even on their breaks.

The workers allege they were targets of undue discipline, harassment and threats.

AP

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INSURANCE
FROM PAGE 1

ant spend more money on provisions for the pet, be it an additional security deposit or something like renter's insurance.

"You can advise tenants to get such insurance, but you cannot require that a policy of insurance be purchased," Lewis said.

More generally, it would be fine for a landlord to require new tenants to carry the insurance as part of the lease.

"It's not uncommon, and it's a good idea because renter's insurance is fairly affordable," Lewis said.

Affordable, and it also covers some fairly unexpected things, said Pete Moraga, spokesperson for the Insurance Information Network of California, or IINC, a nonprofit, non-lobbying media relations organization supported by the property-casualty insurance industry.

"It covers your belongings and gives you liability coverage," Moraga said.

If that doesn't sound important enough, consider this, Moraga said.

When an apartment building burns down or some other kind of damage occurs, a landlord's insurance only covers the physical structure, not belongings of individual tenants.

That means your television, stereo system, computer, smartphone and other pricey devices are at risk, he said.

"Most renters are under misinformation and think that the landlord will cover them if something happens to the building," Moraga said.

As Kronovet tried to imply, Fido can be an even bigger problem.

In 2011 alone, dog bites cost insurers $479 million nationwide, or roughly one-third of all liability claims.

California accounted for $92.7 million of that total, with 2,400 claims statewide. The average amount per claim came in at $29,396.

"That's sobering," Moraga said.

In a practical sense, renter's insurance protects both the tenant and the landlord.

Landlords can be included in dog bite lawsuits, even in situations over which they had no control.

"If you don't have the insurance, even though it's your dog because it's in the building that's owned by the landlord they can be included in these lawsuits," Moraga said.

That was part of Kronovet's motivation to get the board to at least discuss the item last Thursday.

"It still has teeth, it's still a danger," Kronovet said of service animals in advance of the meeting. "How can an owner be liable if he has no power?"

On Thursday, he couched it in more tenant-friendly terms, characterizing the insurance as a way to protect tenants against unknown dangers.

Although none of his fellow board members seconded his motion, which should have precluded conversation on the item, the board spent 12 minutes going back and forth between Lewis' legal advice and Kronovet's attempt.

"I don't think it's a Rent Board issue," said Chair William Winslow.

Boardmember Todd Flora was slightly more charitable, acknowledging the need to think outside the box in order to best address the various needs of renters in the community.

"We've already made progress on this simply in having the discussion," Flora said.

ashley@smdp.com



RAGE
FROM PAGE 1

airport. Can't yell for him. (hash)MuslimRage".

Yet another tweet laments: "Head & Shoulders still hasn't made a beard conditioner. (hash)MuslimRage".

"On a plane and people mishearing me when I say I'm a 'tourist'. (hash)MuslimRage," reads another post.

Los Angeles-based author Reza Aslan, a frequent writer on Muslim issues, hailed what has come to be called the "hijack" of the Newsweek hashtag: "Memo to those few violent MidEast protesters, this is how you fight Islamophobia. You make fun of it. (hash)MuslimRage".

Newsweek spokesman Andrew Kirk said the magazine's covers and hashtags "bring attention and spark debate around topics of major global importance. The Internet is an open forum for people to continue their own discussion."

The essay's author, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, also became a trending topic on Twitter, although the comments were more pointed and critical.

Ali describes in the essay how she cooperated to make the short film "Submission," which criticized the treatment of women in Islam. Her co-filmmaker, director Theo van Gogh, was murdered in 2004 by a man who left a note called a "Jihad Manifesto" that also threatened Ali.

Despite the levity expressed on Twitter, violent protests continued across the Muslim world. The death toll has reached 14, including 10 protesters and 4 Americans who died in last week's attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

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AIDS Walk Los Angeles ads are on L.A. buses right now – just as similar ads were on San Francisco buses this summer and New York buses last spring. Sadly, the unelected executives at Santa Monica City Hall have it wrong. And they have a record of avoiding meetings with constituents.
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This ad was designed and paid for by Santa Monicans for AIDS Walk L.A. No funds from AIDS Walk Los Angeles or AIDS Project Los Angeles were used.

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Confusion in wake of Wisconsin union ruling

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. Wisconsin school and government employee unions on Monday were considering whether to seek new contract talks after a state court threw out a controversial law that restricts public workers' collective bargaining rights.

At least one major union representing about 4,700 teachers in Madison said it will demand new contract negotiations, while others said they were weighing their options.

A Dane County judge ruled Friday that the law, passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature in 2011, violates the school and local employees' constitutional rights to free speech, free association and equal representation. Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said he will ask a court on Tuesday to put the ruling on hold while he prepares an appeal.

The law, championed by Republican Gov. Scott Walker to address budget problems, has been the focal point of a broader clash between conservatives and unions over worker rights.

The ruling came in one of a number of lawsuits that are expected to determine the legality of curtailing employees' collective bargaining.

The law limits bargaining on wage increases to the rate of inflation. Other issues, such as workplace safety, vacation and health benefits, were excluded from collective bargaining.

Unions covered by contracts reached under the new law are considering whether to demand negotiations now that the law has been struck down. But the prospects for new action may remain unclear for some time as the appeals courts consider how to handle the legal challenges and lower court decisions.

"There are hundreds of questions about what this means for local school districts at this time and I don't think anybody has the answers," said Miles Turner, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators. "This is going to take some time."

John Matthews, the Madison teachers union's executive director, said the district should begin talks immediately on a two-year contract that would take effect starting July 1, 2013.

"There is time now where it's legal for the school district to bargain with us," Matthews said. His union represents about 4,700 employees in the Madison district, the state's second largest with about 27,000 students.

The district's superintendent, Jane Belmore, said the board of education will discuss the issue Monday night. The state's largest teachers' union, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, advised its local affiliates to act in its members best interests.

Van Hollen, who derided the ruling as "woefully legally deficient," said he had not decided whether he will ask the state's conservative-leaning Supreme Court to take the case directly, rather than have it go to the appeals court first.

Legal experts said they expect higher courts to stay the Dane County ruling.

"I would be shocked if it was not granted so that all these bargaining units don't have to deal with the fallout while it's in litigation," said Janine Geske, a former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice who is now a law professor at Marquette University.



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Older drivers face confusing array of state license laws

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON Jerry Wiseman notices it's harder to turn and check his car's blind spots at age 69 than it was at 50. So the Illinois man and his wife took a refresher driving course, hunting tips to stay safe behind the wheel for many more years — a good idea considering their state has arguably the nation's toughest older-driver laws.

More older drivers are on the road than ever before, and an Associated Press review found they face a hodgepodge of state licensing rules that reflect scientific uncertainty and public angst over a growing question: How can we tell if it's time to give up the keys?

Thirty states plus the District of Columbia have some sort of older-age requirement for driver's licenses, ranging from more vision testing to making seniors renew their licenses more frequently than younger people. At what age? That's literally all over the map. Maryland starts eye exams at 40. Shorter license renewals kick in anywhere from age 59 in Georgia to 85 in Texas.

The issue attracted new attention when a 100-year-old driver backed over a group of schoolchildren in Los Angeles late last month. That's a rarity, but with an imminent surge in senior drivers, the federal government is proposing that all states take steps to address what the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration calls "the real and growing problem of older driver safety."

Here's the conundrum: "Birthdays don't kill. Health conditions do," said Joseph Coughlin, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AgeLab, which develops technologies to help older people stay active.

Healthy older drivers aren't necessarily less safe than younger ones, Coughlin points out. But many older people have health issues that can impair driving, from arthritis to dementia, from slower reflexes to the use of multiple medications. There's no easy screening tool that licensing authorities can use to spot people with subtle health risks. So some states use birthdays as a proxy for more scrutiny instead.

Senior driving is a more complicated issue than headline-grabbing tragedies might suggest. Older drivers don't crash as often as younger ones. But they also drive less. About 60 percent of seniors voluntarily cut back, avoiding nighttime driving or interstates or bad weather, said David Eby of the University of Michigan's Center for Advancing Safe Transportation throughout the Lifespan.

Measure by miles driven, however, and the crash rate of older drivers begins to climb in the 70s, with a sharper jump at age 80, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Only teens and 20-somethings do worse.

That rising risk reflects the challenge for families as they try to help older loved ones stay safe but still get around for as long as possible, which itself is important for health.

The good news: Fatal crashes involving seniors have dropped over the past decade, perhaps because cars and roads are safer or they're staying a bit healthier, said the Insurance Institute's Anne McCartt.

Yet the oldest drivers, those 85 and up, still have the highest rate of deadly crashes per mile, even more than teens. More often than not, they're the victims, largely because they're too frail to survive their injuries.

And seniors are about to transform the nation's roadways. Today, nearly 34 million drivers are 65 or older. By 2030, federal estimates show there will be about 57 million — making up about a quarter of all licensed drivers. The baby boomers in particular are expected to hang onto their licenses longer, and drive more miles, than previous generations.

Specialists say more seniors need to be planning ahead like Jerry Wiseman and his wife Sandy.

"Absolutely we want to be as good drivers as we can possibly be for as long as we can," said Wiseman, of Schaumburg, Ill.

At an AARP course, Wiseman learned exercises to improve his flexibility for checking those blind spots. He takes extra care with left-hand turns, which become riskier as the ability to judge speed and distance wanes with age. He knows to watch for other changes.

"We'll be ready when it's time for one of us to stop," he said.

Where you live determines what extra requirements, if any, older adults must meet to keep their driver's license.

Among the most strict rules: Illinois requires a road test to check driving skills with every license renewal starting at age 75 — and starting at age 81, those renewals are required every two years instead of every four. At 87, Illinois drivers must renew annually.

In Washington, D.C., starting at age 70, drivers must bring a doctor's certification that they're still OK to drive every time they renew their license.

New Mexico requires annual renewals at 75.

Geographic variability makes little sense, said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety advocacy and research. "Either I'm safe to drive or I'm not. Where I live shouldn't matter," he said.

Yet when Iowa drivers turn 70, they must renew their license every two years instead of every five. Neighboring Missouri lets the 70-year-olds renew every three years instead of every six.

Some states introduce age requirements after high-profile accidents. Massachusetts now requires drivers to start renewing licenses in person at age 75, with proof of an eye exam. The change came after an 88-year-old driver struck and killed a 4-year-old crossing a suburban Boston street in 2009.

This summer, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposed a national guideline for older driver safety that, if finalized, would push states to become more consistent. Among the recommendations: Every state needs a program to improve older driver safety; doctors should be protected from lawsuits if they report a possibly unsafe driver; and driver's licenses should be renewed in person after a certain age, tailored to each state's crash data.

Still, many states say their main focus should be on inexperienced teen drivers and problems such as texting behind the wheel.

"Teens are risk takers. Our older drivers are risk avoiders," said Alabama state Rep. Jim McClendon. Alabama drivers renew licenses every four years, with no older age requirements.

New Hampshire last year stopped requiring road tests when 75-year-olds renewed their licenses. The law was repealed after an

SEE DRIVERS PAGE 13

DRIVERS
FROM PAGE 12

86-year-old legislator called it discriminatory.

It's not the only state worrying about age discrimination.

"You don't want to go around and say, 'This person is 85. We've got to take them off the road.' That wouldn't be fair," said Assemblyman David Gantt of New York, where licenses last for eight years.

On the other side is the family of a Baltimore college student who died last year after being run over by an 83-year-old driver who turned into his bike lane. Maryland next month begins issuing licenses that last longer — eight years instead of five — despite an emotional appeal from the mother of Nathan Krasnopoler that that's too long for the oldest drivers.

"You should be looking at your drivers to be sure they're able to safely drive. There's plenty of research that as we age, things do change and we may not be aware of those changes," said Susan Cohen, who now is urging Maryland officials to study adding some form of competency screening, in addition to the required eye exams, to license renewals.

"Do we have to lose a 20-year-old with an incredible future ahead of him in order to determine that this particular driver shouldn't be driving?" she asked.

Traffic challenges change for older drivers, who are less likely than younger ones to be in crashes involving alcohol or speeding. Instead, they have more trouble with intersections, making left turns, and changing lanes or merging, because of gradual declines in vision, reaction times and other abilities, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Scientists are hunting screening tests to check for such things as early warning signs of cognitive problems that might signal who's more at risk. But such screenings are a long way from the local license office. In a closely watched pilot project, California tried a three-step screening process to detect drivers who might need a road test before getting their licenses renewed — but it didn't reduce crashes, sending researchers back to the drawing board.

Today, AAA's Nelson said in-person renewals are "the single most effective thing states can do to improve safety."

That's because workers in the driver's license office can be trained to look for signs of confusion or trouble walking as people come in — two big clues that they may have trouble behind the wheel — and refer those drivers for a road test or a medical exam to see if there's really a problem.

Virginia, for example, lets even the oldest drivers hold a license for eight years, but starting at 80 they must renew in person and pass an eye test. California has five-year renewals, and starting at 70 they must be in-person with both a written test and eye check.

Those eye tests can make a difference. In senior-filled Florida, 80-year-olds renew their licenses every six years instead of every eight, with a vision check each time. A study found highway deaths among Florida's older drivers dropped 17 percent after the vision test was mandated in 2003.

How long between renewals is best? There's no scientific consensus, but Nelson recommends every four to six years.

Another big key: Programs that make it easy for doctors, police and family members to alert licensing officials to possibly unsafe drivers of any age, so the experts can investigate. But in states that don't allow confidential reporting, families in particular hesitate in fear of backlash if upset relatives learn who turned them in.

Utah adopted confidential reporting in 2008 "to encourage more people to report problematic drivers without the risk of retaliation of repercussion," said Chris Caras of Utah's Department of Public Safety.

Nor should the question be only whether someone should drive or not: Iowa is leading a growing number of states that customize license restrictions to allow people to stay on the road under certain conditions. People with early-stage Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, for instance, may qualify for a one-year license; people with other health conditions may be allowed to drive only during the day or within a few miles of home.

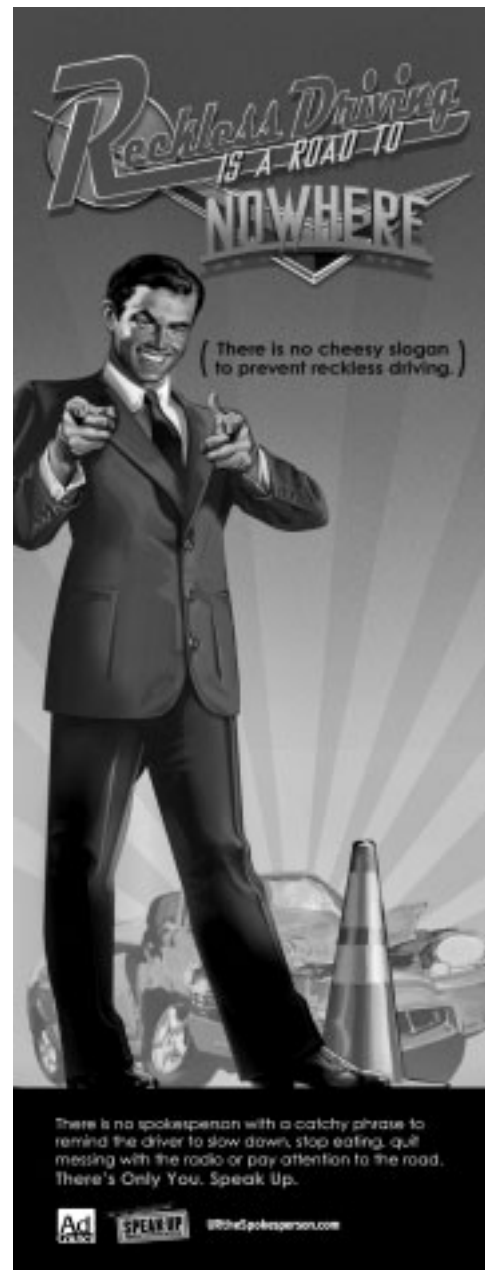
In California, older drivers who fail a regular road test sometimes get a re-test on familiar neighborhood roads to qualify for a restricted license. State traffic researchers expect demand for that option to grow, and are preparing to study if that tailored testing really assures safety.

Meanwhile, how can people tell how they do on the road?

• The University of Michigan developed an online self-test to help drivers detect safety changes: http://um-saferdriving.org/.

• AAA and AARP offer websites with similar tools and links to driving courses: seniordriving.aaa.com/ and www.aarp.org/home-garden/transportation/driver_safety.

But ultimately, "the only way you can assess any driver at any age is to sit in the seat next to them and watch them drive," said Coughlin.



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My Personnel File: Why Do I Want it and How Do I Get a Copy?

The permanent record from our youth may have been a ruse cooked up to keep children in line, but these days, we are close to having permanent records due to our rapidly all encompassing digital world. Thankfully, personnel files are not yet in digital format. While we still can, we should at least always be prepared to have access to these records to check and to fix any wrong information. We may also want access when we think we should get a raise and want to use former evaluations, client letters, or training records to get it.

The Why:

More often than not, employees do not even know how to access this information until they talk to a lawyer. And if you are talking to a lawyer about work, something's already gone wrong. Lawyers want to see what your performance record is, any personnel actions and the basis, or any other records that could help determine whether, say, a termination was legally wrongful or justifiable in light of the bigger history. Most of these employment cases turn on performance, the reason the employer gives for the termination, versus whatever you as a plaintiff will show. For example, one good way to maintain better records in your file is to put in writing what you disagree with, such as in a negative evaluation. Later when these are reviewed, and the employee has these notes, it will be more difficult for a bad employer to justify their wrongful behavior through performance issues.

Another reason to keep track is that personnel records can be subpoenaed by a third party, which is something that could happen in any type of legal action where you are involved. The law does require that you are given a notice and opportunity to object to the subpoena. If any of it is relevant to whatever legal action is happening, not necessarily even an employment case, then usually the subpoena is allowed.

The How:

There are no federal laws about these records, but California has very clear laws. Still, some employers do not know them or follow them properly so it is better to know your rights and educate your employer if needed. Here are the types of records that you are legally entitled to get: Pay Records: Employers have to keep for at least three years of your pay records and give their employees a copy within 21 days of request or face civil penalties (Labor Code 226). Personnel Files: Employers have to keep records and give you access to them within a reasonable time (Labor Code 1198.5). All documents you signed: These are the ones signed at hire or as continuing term and condition of employment (not documents signed in the course of conducting business). (Labor Code 432).

Tips: Though these requests do not have to be in writing, it is usually better so that you can keep track of the response time.
Employers may have part of your personnel file in different offices. Be sure to know where yours is kept so when the time comes you know how to find it without being given the run around.
Ask for or make copies of all personnel documents as they come up and hold on to the hiring paperwork so that you have your own set for comparison later.

Unemployment Benefits: Do I Qualify?

The news is not getting better about the economy and the unemployment office has to be really picky when it comes to claims. You were not laid off, but instead quit or were terminated. How can you file for unemployment and be approved? This is one of the most often asked questions from my clients. Some who are still working want to know if they should quit or wait to be terminated. The decision will vary from person to person to situation. The decision can also be personal or health related or that you just want to be out of there. Here are some legalities to consider in your decision.

The Quit:

In a situation with a quit, there is generally just one type of circumstance that will get you these benefits. If you can show that you quit because the work conditions were such that no reasonable person could be expected to work there, then you can still qualify for the benefits. This is a high standard limited to what the law requires of the workplace, such as safe conditions, free from harassment, being paid, and free from retaliation. This is not an easy showing to make and so arguments based on personality, rudeness, bad bosses, etc, will not fly.

The Termination:

Most people think that if you have been terminated, there is no unemployment for you. However, there are exceptions to this. Of course, if you have been terminated based on policy violations, gross misconduct, and other severe actions, then you are disqualified. One way to overcome that, if the facts are there, is the exception that the conduct may not have been appropriate but it was an isolated instance of poor judgment, or something excusable that happened the one time for a good reason. Criminal activity at work or assault or harassment is never excusable.

The Wrongful Termination:

If you have been "wrongfully terminated" in the legal sense, you may still qualify for unemployment. Most employees who file lawsuits have been terminated. If the facts are there for a lawsuit, then they should be there to qualify you for unemployment. You need to show that the termination was not based on whatever the employer is claiming, but because of some legal violation they have committed. For example, if you complain of sexual harassment, then a week later, you are terminated for some work issue that happened two months ago, then the termination was retaliation. When an employer retaliates for your report of a prohibited workplace activity, that employer just violated anti-retaliation laws.

Tip: If you are unemployed but develop a disability and you can't work, then you no longer qualify for unemployment. At this point, apply for State Disability Benefits. Again, these is not easy to get and you will need medical proof, but it is one safety we are lucky to have here in California.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY SARA ELIOT, AN EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEY. SHE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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American stocks slip; Apple hits new high

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK After surging over four days to near pre-recession highs, stocks slipped further from that goal Monday following a new sign of a slowdown in the U.S. economy and worries over Europe's struggle to keep its currency union intact.

All three major indexes were down, though barely. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 40.27 points, or 0.3 percent, to 13,553.10.

U.S. stocks are coming off a surge last week that sent the S&P 500 to its highest level in nearly five years. Investors bought stocks on news that the Federal Reserve planned to buy mortgage bonds in an effort to get people to borrow and spend more.

Dampening investor spirits was an Empire State Manufacturing Survey suggesting that conditions for New York manufacturers continued to weaken in September. That followed news from the Fed on Friday that U.S. industrial production fell in August by the largest amount in more than three years.

"We're not completely out of the woods economically, and that's weighing on markets," said Wasif Latif, vice president of equity investments at USAA Investments. He added that, as indexes hover at multi-year highs, "psychological barriers and technical barriers may be tough to breach."

Apple rose $8.50 to $699.78, a new high for the stock market's most valuable company. The company said advance sales for its iPhone 5 available later this week are running at double the rate for its previous version of the phone.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 4.58 to 1,461.19. The Nasdaq composite lost 5.28 to 3,178.67.

Six of the ten major industry sectors in the S&P 500 fell, led by materials stocks, down 1.5 percent. Banks and other financial companies were also hit hard, down 1.1 percent.

Energy stocks lost 0.8 percent, climbing back from steeper losses in the afternoon following a plunge in oil that left traders guessing as to the cause. Benchmark crude fell to $96.62, a loss of $2.38, or 2.4 percent, the biggest fall since late July.

Stocks dropped since the opening bell, following overseas markets lower. In Europe, benchmark indexes fell 0.8 percent in France and 0.9 percent in Italy.

Investors in Europe sold partly on signs that setting up a new authority overseeing European banks could take longer than expected following a disappointing meeting of the region's financial ministers over the weekend. The new authority would be able to bail out banks directly. Investors are worried that collapsing banks in the region could spread panic, leading to a breakup of the monetary union.

After the surge in U.S. stocks last week, the Dow Jones industrial average came with 4 percent of its all-time high of 14,164 on Oct. 9, 2007. Two month later, the Great Recession began, as did a painful spiral down in stock prices to 12-year lows.

In the Empire State survey, the general business conditions index slipped five points to minus 10.4, its second consecutive negative reading. The new orders index fell nine points to minus 14.0, its third straight negative reading. Both reached their lowest levels in almost two years.

Also on Monday, China filed a World Trade Organization case challenging U.S. anti-dumping measures on billions of dollars of kitchen appliances, paper and other goods, further straining trade relations as global demand weakens.

Earlier, the Obama administration said it would file its own WTO case this week. It says China improperly subsidizes exports of cars and car parts.

Among stocks making big moves Monday, Office Depot Inc. rose 13 cents, or 5 percent, to $2.60 after an investment firm pushing for changes at the office-supply chain announced it had become the retailer's largest shareholder. Office Depot has struggled recently because businesses have cut spending at its stores as the economy slowed.

Iris International Inc., a maker of medical test products, jumped $6.12, or 46 percent, to $19.54 after its board agreed to sell the company to Danaher Corp., a health care and industrial manufacturer.

More than two stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was light at 3.2 billion shares.

On Tuesday, the National Association of Home Builders releases its survey for September sales. The government follows on Wednesday with data on both housing starts and existing home sales.



As U.S. troop 'surge' ends, setbacks are piling up

ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON The end game in Afghanistan is off to a shaky start.

Just as the last U.S. "surge" troops leave the country, trouble is breaking out in ways that go to the core of the strategy for winding down the U.S. and allied combat role and making Afghans responsible for their own security. At stake is the goal of ensuring that Afghanistan not revert to being a terrorist haven.

Nearly two years after President Barack Obama announced that he was sending another 33,000 troops to take on the Taliban, those reinforcements are completing their return to the United States this week. That leaves about 68,000 American troops, along with their NATO allies and Afghan partners, to carry out an ambitious plan to put the Afghans fully in the combat lead as early as next year.

But the setbacks are piling up: a spasm of deadly attacks on U.S. and NATO forces by Afghan soldiers and police, including three attacks in the last three days; an audacious Taliban assault on a coalition air base that killed two Marines and destroyed six fighter jets; and a NATO airstrike that inadvertently killed eight Afghan women and girls.

The Pentagon on Monday identified the two Marines killed at Camp Bastion on Friday as Lt. Col. Christopher K. Raible, 40, of Huntingdon, Pa., and Sgt. Bradley W. Atwell, 27, of Kokomo, Ind. Raible was commander of the Harrier squadron that had six of its planes destroyed in the assault.

Tensions over the anti-Islam movie produced in the U.S. that ridicules the Prophet Mohammad also spread to Kabul, where demonstrations turned violent Monday when protesters burned cars and threw rocks at a U.S. military base.

Those events help the Taliban's aim of driving a wedge between the Americans and their Afghan partners. They also show that the Taliban, while weakened, remains a force to be reckoned with, 11 years after the first U.S. troops arrived to drive the Taliban out.

The extra troops began moving into Afghanistan in early 2010, pushing the total U.S. force to a peak of 101,000 by mid-2011.

The U.S. troop surge was supposed to put so much military pressure on the Taliban that its leaders — most of whom are in Pakistan — would feel compelled to come to the peace table. That hasn't happened. Preliminary contacts began, but have been stymied.

When he announced his decision in December 2009 to send the 33,000 extra troops, Obama said it was aimed at seizing the initiative in a war that was "not lost, but for several years ... has moved backwards."

Battlefield momentum was regained but doubts persist about how long-lasting the progress will prove to be.

Stephen Biddle, a professor of international affairs at George Washington University and an occasional consultant to U.S. commanders in Afghanistan, said Monday he's grown more pessimistic about the handoff of security duties to the Afghans in 2014.

"It looks like what we're going to be handing off is a stalemated war," he said in a telephone interview Monday, "which means the U.S. Congress will be asked to write these checks (to support Afghan forces) for years and years and years with no plausible argument that we're going to bring this to a successful conclusion, at least on the battlefield."

Troubling is piling up so rapidly that some analysts wonder where it will lead.

"We've had this series of unfortunate events, the grand total of which it's really hard to read in any remotely positive manner," said Douglas Ollivant, a former Army officer who served in Iraq during the 2007-08 American troop surge and in 2010-11 was the senior counterinsurgency adviser to the U.S. commander of the eastern sector of Afghanistan. He is now a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, a think tank.

Worries about Afghan soldiers and police turning their guns on their U.S. and allied partners have reached the point where Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. commander there, directed lower-level commanders on Sunday to review security protections and to limit some partnered operations with the Afghans temporarily.

And it prompted Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to say Sunday that insider attacks have become a "very serious threat" to the war campaign. "Something has to change," he declared. He also suggested that the Afghan government needs to be more aggressive about making those changes.

But Defense Secretary Leon Panetta struck a different tone by saying Monday that the insider attacks are a "last gasp" by a weakened Taliban. Whatever the connection between these attacks, which so far this year have killed 51 allied troops — mostly Americans — and the Taliban, they were not a problem when the surge began.

In just the past three days there have been at least three insider attacks, killing two British and four American troops. The third attack, on Monday, wounded at least one civilian contractor but resulted in no fatalities.

Obama also directed that the reinforcements start coming home by July 2011, and he ordered that all return by this month.

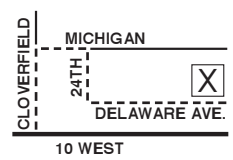
U.S. and coalition officials say the overall war plan remains on track, with Afghan forces taking more of a lead role in fighting the Taliban insurgency over the next two years. The combat role for international forces is scheduled to end in December 2014, although some thousands of troops are to remain in various support roles.

Often forgotten is that U.S. troop levels increased more in Obama's first year in office — from about 32,000 to about 68,000 — than during the surge. Portions of those early increases were leftover requests from U.S. commanders for reinforcements that President George W. Bush did not act on before leaving office.

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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 68.9°

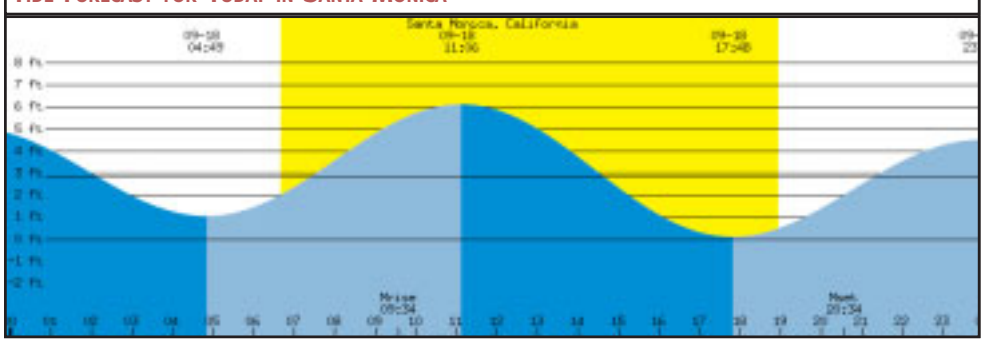
Swell Forecast

Should see chest high southern hemi ground swell at south facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see chest high southern hemi ground swell at south facing breaks. West facing breaks should run waist 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 12, 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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 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+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

LEGAL NEWS

Former U.S. national swim coach Schubert faces suit

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

A swimming coach and philanthropist claims she was wrongfully fired by former U.S. national coach Mark Schubert after she became aware of abuse allegations within his Southern California club, another embarrassing turn for a sport that has taken steps over the last two years to combat widespread claims of sexual misconduct.

The lawsuit, set to be filed Monday in Orange County Superior Court, claims Dia Rianda was brought in by Schubert to work at Golden West Swim Club last year while he was dealing with personal issues. It says she became aware of sexual abuse allegations against his close friend, Bill Jewell, and strongly objected to him working at the club.

The suit alleges Rianda was fired on July 11 after she tried to keep children from being around Jewell, said Ed Vasquez, a spokesman for her attorney Robert Allard. It does not publicly name a dollar amount she is seeking, but Vasquez said a financial settlement is not the primary goal. He noted that Rianda and her husband, Mike, are well off financially and have donated more than $100,000 to the USA Swimming Foundation, as well are more than $400,000 to purchase a pool for Carmel High School in California.

"This lawsuit is not about money but rather about making change at the top and protecting kids from predator coaches and those in USA Swimming leadership positions that enable these predators," Vasquez said.

Schubert did not immediately respond to a text message seeking comment. USA Swimming was trying to get a copy of the lawsuit before issuing a response.

Allard has filed several prominent suits against USA Swimming, exposing dozens of coaches who were involved in inappropriate relationships with underage swimmers. The cases led to the national governing body grudgingly revealing in 2010 that 46 members had received lifetime bans, mostly for sex abuse allegations — including the former director of the national team.

USA Swimming has since mandated training and set up an enhanced screening system for all coaches, officials and volunteers. At its national convention in Greensboro, N.C., last week, the organization revealed it has trained more than 31,000 non-athlete members, conducted background checks on nearly 36,000 and added 16 people to its banned list since the new program went into effect.

According to Vasquez, the lawsuit claims Rianda received complaints about Jewell from both parents and swimmers, passing on the information to Chuck Wielgus, the executive director of USA Swimming, and Susan Woessner, the organization's director of safe sport. The suit says no action has been taken against Jewell even though he has been under investigation more than a year.

Schubert is a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and took over as U.S. national coach after the 2004 Athens Olympics. He guided the team through the Beijing Games, where Michael Phelps set an Olympic record with eight gold medals, but was mysteriously fired by USA Swimming two years ago. No reason has been given for his dismissal.

Since then, Schubert returned to the deck at Golden West, rekindling his partnership with former Olympic champion Janet Evans, perhaps his most famous athlete. At age 40, she attempted a comeback after 16 years away from competitive swimming, but didn't come close to making the team for London during the U.S. trials this summer.

The suit also touches on a sordid affair allegedly involving Jewell and Schubert. According to Vasquez, Schubert hired a private investigator to take photos of another prominent coach, Sean Hutchison, engaged in improper sexual activities while working with the FAST program in Fullerton, Calif. Vasquez claims Schubert received a $625,000 payment from USA Swimming to keep from going public with the information.

Jewell was in charge of the FAST program and revealed to the AP in December 2010 that he had received complaints against Hutchison, though he stressed that no wrongdoing was found. Hutchison denied he was involved with one of his swimmers, but he left the club and was not known to have worked with any prominent athletes leading up to the London Games — a stunning downfall for a coach who had been a rising star of the profession.

LUNCH SPECIALS




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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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(310) 260-1528

Call theater for information.

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

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:50pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

Cold Light of Day (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

For A Good Time, Call... (R) 1hr 26min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

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

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

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, 10:20pm

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
11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

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

Royal Opera House's: Tosca Encore (NR)
7:30pm

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, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

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

Hang with a friend tonight, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others seem to be out of control. You will note that considerable tension builds before a meeting. Be aware that your innate judgments might be the source. In the end, the reality is not so bad. Try to see each situation for what it has to offer. Tonight: Deal with someone directly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your focus tends to be on what some call networking and others refer to as socializing. The words you use to describe the activity can vary -- it just depends on your station in life. Tonight: Make time for a friend or loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Let your creativity funnel into efficiency. You'll need a lot of it, as you have a lot of ground to cover. You could be taken aback by a key person's response, which does not make sense to you. Tonight: Keep your eye on the big picture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You have been withdrawn, but you'll give up that role today. A loved one draws you out. Your sense of humor allows you to open up and be more present. Someone around you has been off lately. This person is in the midst of a transformation and is feeling the pressure. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to take a hard look at your daily schedule. A change might be in order, or perhaps you are doing something that no longer serves you. Consolidate, and make room for more of what you want from life. Tonight: Make it an early night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Listen to news before following through on an important project. You could be overserious about funds. You will see a change in how you view your finances, as a result. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Be aware of how much you are spending, before you have a problem. You could opt to change your home or revamp it in some manner. You might not be sure of the details now, but you will. Tonight: Treat yourself to that special item.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your magnetism and energy become obvious, yet within, you might be working through an issue. Your imagination allows you to express a more positive outlook and draw others closer. Tonight: You cannot lose; just be yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Kick back and do some thinking about your goals. You will consciously need to dedicate time to this process. Affirm what you want, and you will be able to create just that. Tonight: Visit with a long-trusted friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Much goes on around a meeting or a group of friends. A suggestion might feel difficult to implement, but you can do it. Be spontaneous, yet follow through on what is important to you. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You will have to bend to someone's will, especially if this person has authority behind his or her requests. You might feel the need to spend a little on your image in order to impress someone. Tonight: Up late. You decide the reason.

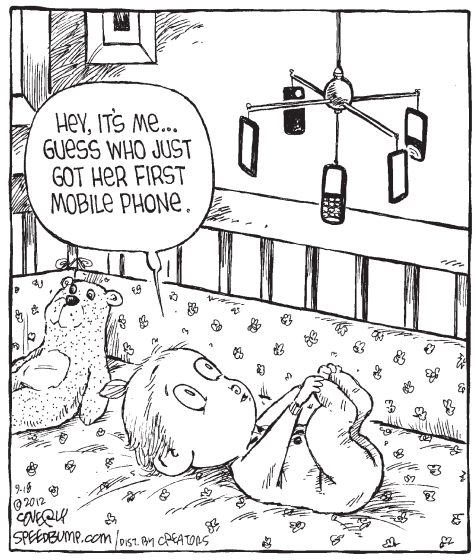
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could feel as if someone you counted on has changed his or her tune. You might be disappointed or confused, but at the same time, you'll sense a new opportunity on the horizon. Detach, and choose not to give in to a knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: Relax your mind and listen to music.

Happy birthday

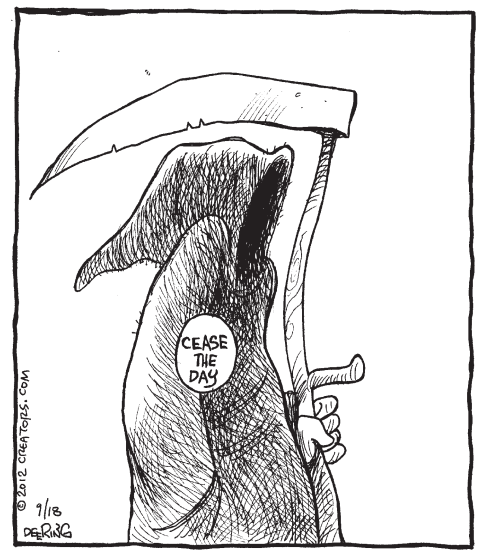
This year you often are an instrument of change for others, but as a result, you will have to transform yourself as well. Sometimes you might wish that this cycle would end. You express yourself with clarity and charm. If you are single, you might see that many suitors tend to flock toward you. The person you choose today might not work so well in several months. Avoid making any quick commitments. If you are attached, as a couple you enjoy each other's company even more than in the past. SCORPIO often plays devil's advocate.

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

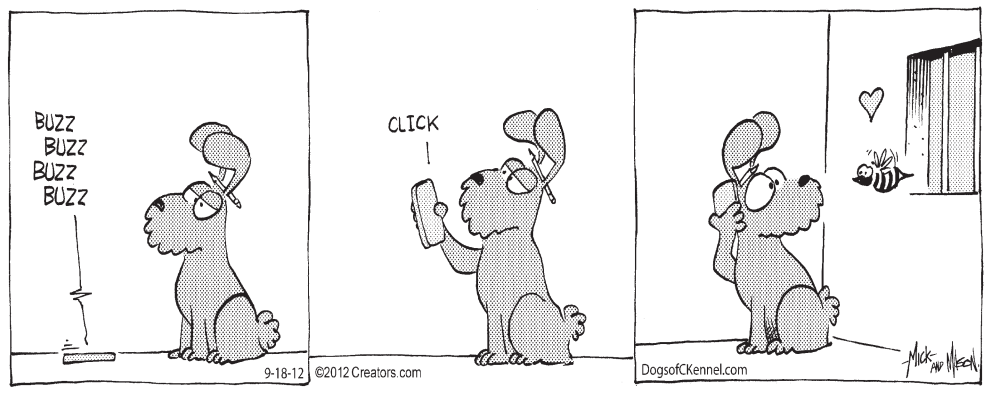
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



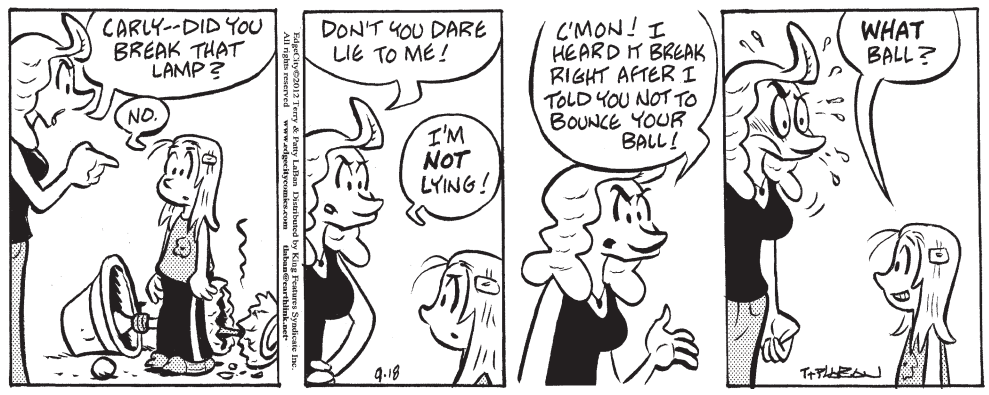
Strange Brew
By John Deering



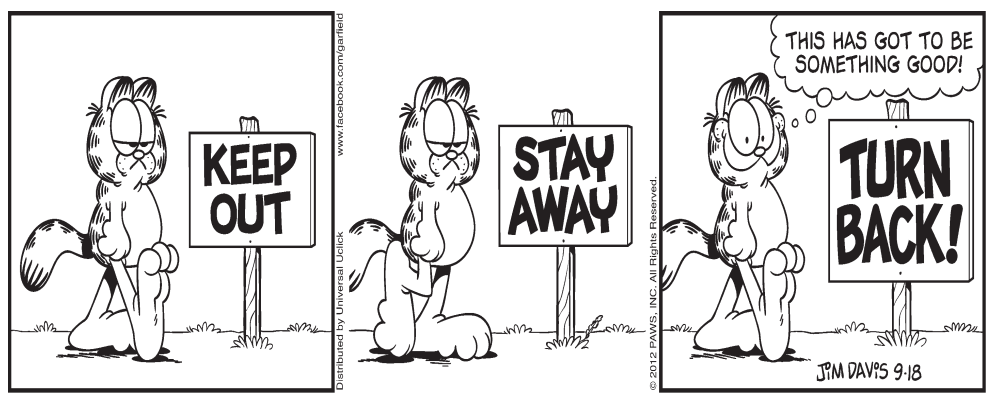
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



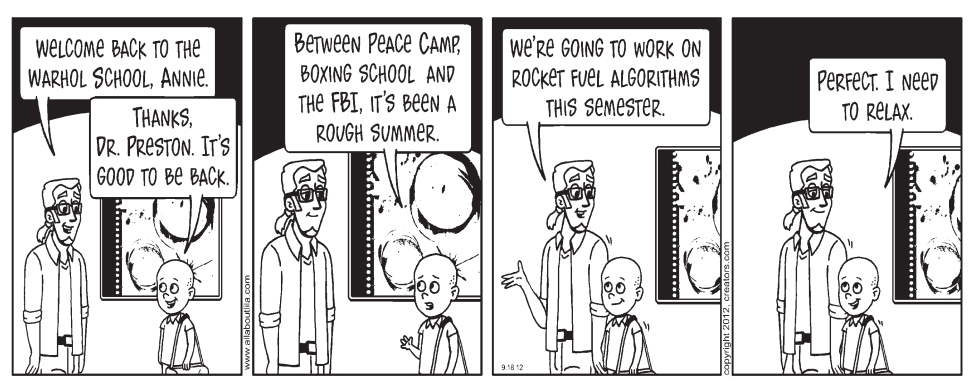
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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).

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

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

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

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Friend of Porthos and Aramis
6 Confuse
11 "Lorna —"
12 Slugger Roger
13 Florist's creation
15 Skillet
16 Junior, to senior
17 Marlin's home
18 1965 Beatles song
20 Used a chair
21 "— we there yet?"
22 Enormous
23 Like stuffed animals
26 Watergate evidence
27 Gorillas and gibbons
28 Arg. neighbor
29 Cloth scrap
30 Copier features
34 Seventh Greek letter
35 Old hand
36 By way of
37 Court proceeding
40 Marsh grass
41 Old World herb
42 Finals, for example
43 Playful mammal

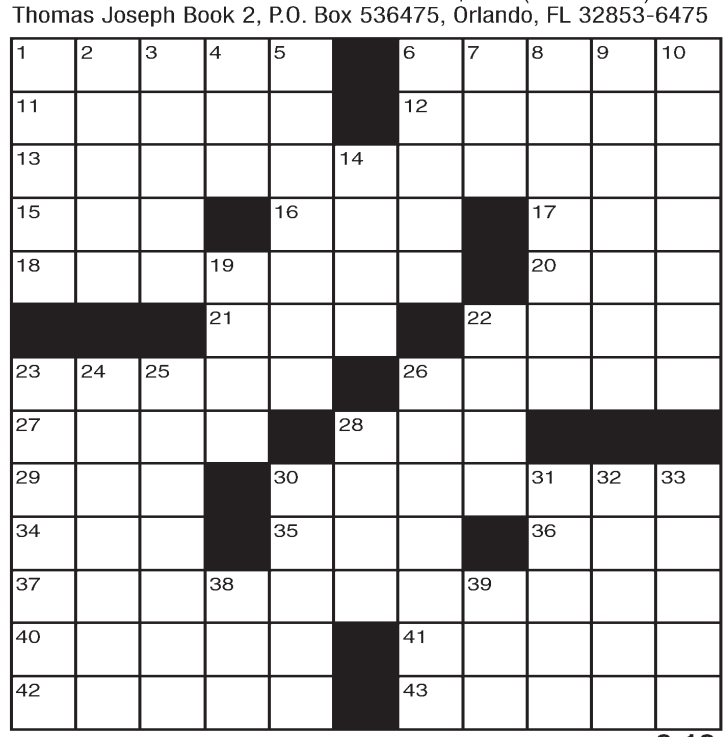
DOWN

1 Make suitable
2 Temple text
3 Music's Lena
4 "Put — happy face"
5 Kind of overload
6 Make better
7 Block up
8 Little girl's game
9 Pedigree
10 Fancy homes
14 Clinton's veep
19 History class topics
22 Sentry's order
23 China's region
24 Cornered
25 Looks at
26 Raptors' home
28 Tennis legend Bjorn
30 Secret agents
31 Happening
32 Washer cycle
33 Nymph chaser
38 FBI worker: Abbr.
39 Small rug

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



9-18

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MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/14
16 17 21 40 51
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $15M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 9/15
1 6 7 19 36
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/17
11 23 30 33 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/17
MIDDAY: 0 9 2
EVENING: 1 4 9

SANTA ANITA DERBY
Draw Date: 9/17
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:49.71

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Fine Points of the Law:** (1) Italy's highest court ruled in July that one man's telling another, in front of others, that he has "no balls" can be criminal conduct that warrants payment of damages. Said Judge Maurizio Fumo, such a comment places at issue male virility as well as competence and character. (2) In August, after an eight-day trial, a court in Hamburg, Germany, awarded money damages to a man who called another an "asshole" ("arschloch") in a parking-space dispute and fixed the payment at the equivalent of about $75,000. (Courts in Germany can base the amount of damages on the transgressor's income.)

■ A Saudi Arabian agency is raising the equivalent of about $130 million to break ground in 2013 on an entire city to be managed and staffed by female employees, with three more such cities being contemplated. Raising women's employment rate is a goal of the kingdom, where until last year, nearly all jobs were held by foreigners and Saudi males, including jobs as sales clerks in women's lingerie shops.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1992 – An explosion rocks Giant Mine at the height of a labor dispute, killing 9 replacement workers.

1997 – United States media magnate Ted Turner donates USD 1 billion to the United Nations.

1998 – ICANN is formed.

2001 – First mailing of anthrax letters from Trenton, New Jersey in the 2001 anthrax attacks.

2007 – Buddhist monks join anti-government protesters in Myanmar, starting what some called the Saffron Revolution.

2009 – The 72 year run of the soap opera The Guiding Light ends as its final episode is broadcast.

WORD UP!

diapason

**\ dahy-uh-PEY-zuhn ** , noun;

1. A full, rich outpouring of melodious sound. 2. The compass of a voice or instrument.

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Religion

Ahavat Torah Congregation, the little Shul with the big heart, is located in Brentwood, very central for City, Valley and Beach communities. Join us for the High Holyday services. We have exciting events planned for the upcoming year.
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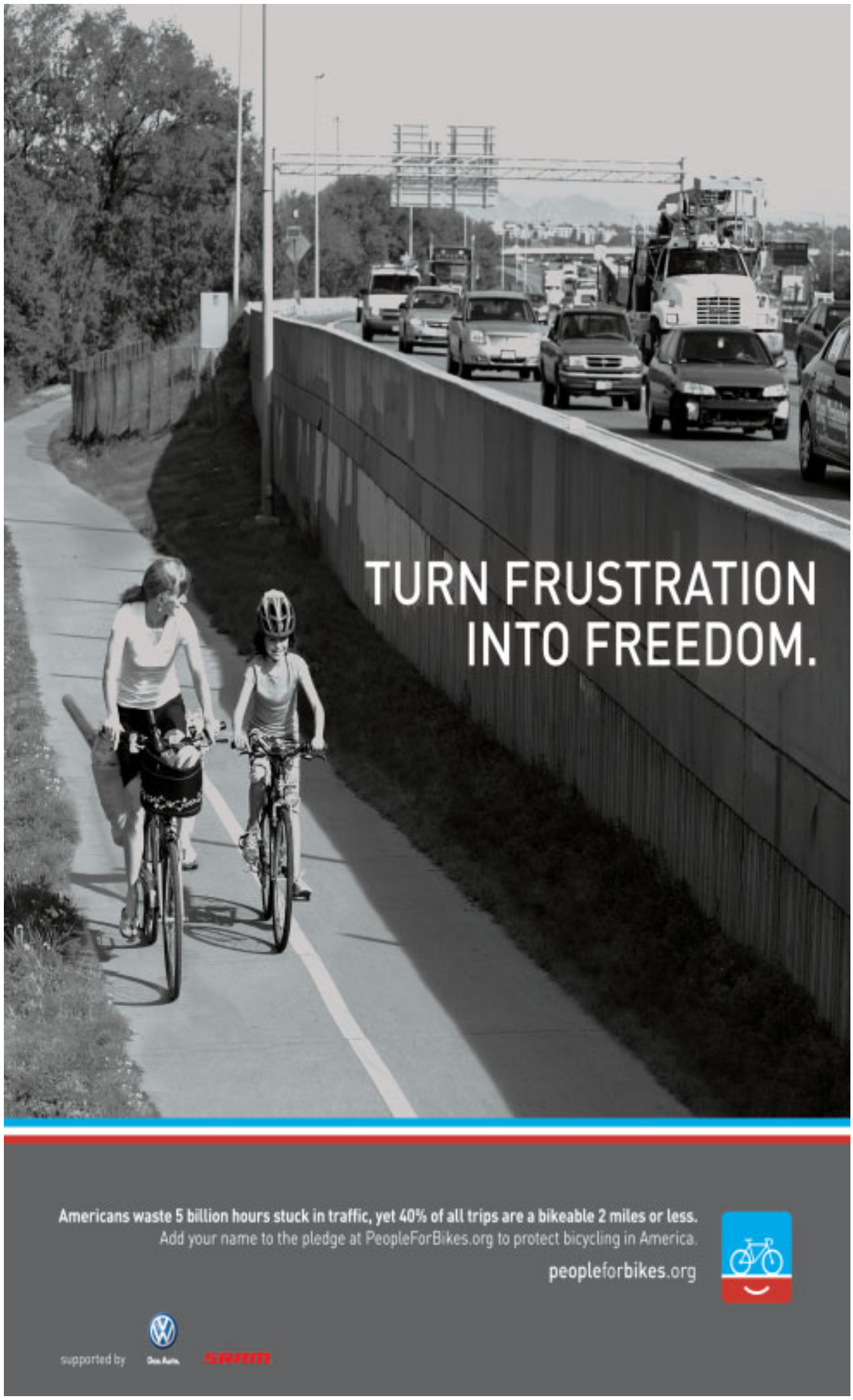
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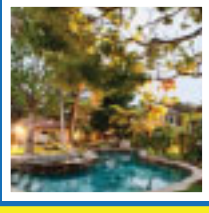




317 Marguerita Ave

Sold!

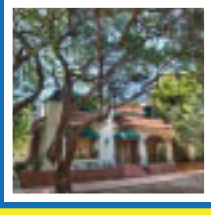
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$4,200,000



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North of Montana

- Raw land or teardown, west of 10th Street up to $4,000,000
- Minimum 5 bedrooms up to $5,000,000
- Minimum 3 bedrooms up to $3,500,000

Kate Bransfield Proud Sponsor Of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Roosevelt Elementary School

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE

Santa Monica GIRLS FASTPITCH

Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale As of Mid September 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,083,071
North of Montana	=	$3,588,476
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$3,224,625
South of Wilshire	=	$898,500
Sunset Park	=	$1,455,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,714,000
Statistics updated every week		

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.