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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 267

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

GARDENING HAVEN
SEE PAGE 9

THE GOOD BLUFFS ISSUE

SMPD dealing with released prison inmates

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Santa Monica police officers have made more than 200 arrests of felons who have been released early from prison since a state law went into effect in 2011 to ease overcrowding at 33 correctional facilities across California, records show.

The early release of felons classified as nonviolent or nonserious offenders has forced the Santa Monica Police Department to keep tabs on 43 people who have registered Santa Monica as their last place of residence, said SMPD Lt. Richard Lewis. As of June 2013, parolees assigned to Los Angeles County equaled 12,988.

"If they're not in jails, they're out in the streets," Lewis said. "They come and visit Santa Monica like every other person."

In 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 109, also called the Public Safety Realignment Act, which moved nonviolent and nonserious inmates from state prisons into county jails with the offenders becoming the responsibility of local law enforcement agencies. The bill was Brown's response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that prison overcrowding is a violation of inmates' Eighth Amendment rights protecting them from cruel and unusual punishment. The judges ruled that overcrowding was the cause of inmates' inadequate medical and mental health care.

SEE RELEASE PAGE 6

UC medical workers allege unfair practice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. A complaint has been filed on behalf of thousands of University of California hospital workers who claim they were threatened when they went on a two-day strike in May.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents some 13,000 hospital pharmacists, nursing assistants, operating room scrubs and other health care workers, took the claims to the state Public Employment Relations Board.

Last week, the board issued a complaint to force UC to answer the allegations.

The complaint outlined alleged instances when UC administrators questioned workers about their participation in the walkout, told them their absence during the strike would be considered unauthorized, and threatened disciplinary action.

UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein said Tuesday the administrators believe they acted in accordance with the law.

"We have negotiated tirelessly and we are going to respond appropriately to this," Klein said about the complaint.

The union organized the strike at medical facilities in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, San Francisco and Sacramento.

The union was battling the university system over staffing and pension issues.

Nurses did not strike and emergency rooms were open, but the walkout prompted the postponement of non-essential surgeries.

A settlement conference will be held to resolve the allegations made in the complaint, Klein said. If the case can't be resolved, an evidentiary hearing will be held before an administrative law judge.



Photos by Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

TAKING IT ALL IN: A beach visitor takes pictures of the waves just north of the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday afternoon.

Study: Tsunami danger low for Santa Monica

Experts say bluffs, large beach provide natural protection

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE What would happen if a tsunami hit Santa Monica?

Not much thanks to natural protection.

Experts say the city sits above sea level with a large swath of beach and bluffs acting as natural barriers protecting residents, but cautioned people to stay prepared in

SEE TSUNAMI PAGE 7



JUST IN CASE: Tsunami warning signs are posted along the Santa Monica Pier. They inform the public to flee to higher ground if large waves approach the shoreline.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013

Day at the market
Third Street Promenade
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Visit one of Southern California's finest Farmers' Markets for the freshest of the fresh. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Story time
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Story series for children 3 to 5 years old. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Career counseling
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Decide which careers you want to explore with Carina Lin, professional career counselor.

Planning Commission meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a development agreement for the Bergamot Transit Village Center. The proposed mixed-use project would include 471 rental housing units, more than 350,000 square feet of creative office space and up to 15,500 square feet of restaurant space.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013

LEGO party
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Use your creativity to create something remarkable. Children age 4 and up are invited to join the LEGO block party.

Health matters
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
3590 Grand View Blvd., 7 p.m.
Join Los Angeles Times advocacy and health columnist David Lazarus for an evening discussion on the ins and outs of the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid. A Q&A will follow the talk. Suggested donation is $5.

Author talk
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 7 p.m.
Author Chuck McFadden discusses his Jerry Brown biography, "Trailblazer." A book signing and sale will follow the program. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Book club
Virginia Avenue Park
Teen Center
2200 Virginia Ave., 7 p.m.
Discuss John Green's "The Fault In Our Stars" for September's meeting on classic and contemporary books. The group will temporarily meet at the Virginia Avenue Park Teen Center while the Pico Branch Library is under construction.

Reinvent yourself
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St., 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy the September edition of Shine, the monthly series featuring professionals and amateurs who come together to share inspiring true stories. This month's theme, "The New Me," highlights stories of people reinventing themselves. Participants and audience members will enjoy a relaxed community atmosphere, powerful entertaining stories, refreshments, mingling and live music.

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**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

SM Fire receives PETA award

Santa Monica fire fighters who rescued a dog from a burning apartment building and then revived her using a special oxygen mask have received the Compassionate Fire Department Award from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA.

"Santa Monica's fire fighters are truly heroes because they don't consider their job done until all residents – both human and non-human – have made it to safety," said PETA Senior Vice President Daphna Nachminovitch in a news release issued Tuesday. "PETA hopes the compassion and know-how shown by these firefighters will inspire others always to come to the aid of animals in need."

Fire fighters responded to an apartment fire Saturday at the corner of Second and Hill streets where neighbors told them that a dog was inside an apartment that was on fire. The fire fighters found the dog, named Stella, hiding behind a couch and rushed her outside where they placed the oxygen mask over her mouth. Stella soon regained consciousness and was taken to an animal hospital. She was expected to make a full recovery.

PETA encourages all those who have pets to place a sign on doors or windows to alert rescue workers to the presence of dogs and cats. People can order stickers from the PETA catalog or make their own at home.

The SMFD will received a framed certificate, a letter of appreciation and a box of vegan chocolates from PETA, a spokesperson for the organization said.

For more information on PETA, visit peta.org.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation Tuesday. An official with the fire department said the cause could be electrical.

– KEVIN HERRERA

SM PLACE

Win tickets to Latin Grammy Awards

Santa Monica Place is inviting shoppers to enter a sweepstakes for two tickets to the Latin Grammy Awards.

Competition winners will be flown to Las Vegas on Nov. 21 to attend Latin Music's Biggest Night and a Universal Music Latin Entertainment afterparty.

Participants, who must be 21 and older, can submit entries until Oct. 15.

To enter the competition, visit www.mallsweepstakes.com or call (310) 260-8300 for more details.

– GREG ASCIUTTO

West L.A.

Sepulveda Boulevard closure

Sepulveda Boulevard will be closed in both directions between Montana and Church Lane, starting 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, and continuing until 5 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23.

The closure is required so that heavy equipment can be staged to begin installation of support beams for the northbound Sunset Boulevard off-ramp, which is now under construction.

If traveling north on Sepulveda, take a left on Montana then a right on Church Lane, which circles under the freeway back to Sepulveda. Take a left on Sepulveda. Reverse these instructions if traveling south.

For more information, visit www.metro.net/405.

– GA

Poverty rate stuck at 15 percent

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The nation's poverty rate remained stuck at 15 percent last year despite America's slowly reviving economy, a discouraging lack of improvement for the record 46.5 million poor and an unwelcome benchmark for President Barack Obama's recovery plans.

More than 1 in 7 Americans were living in poverty, not statistically different from the 46.2 million of 2011 and the sixth straight year the rate had failed to improve, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. Median income for the nation's households was $51,017, also unchanged from the previous year after two consecutive annual declines, while the share of people without health insurance did improve but only a bit, from 15.7 percent to 15.4 percent.

"We're in the doldrums, with high poverty and inequality as the new normal for the foreseeable future," said Timothy Smeeding, an economics professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in income inequality. "The fact we've seen no real recovery in employment and wages means we've just flatlined."

Mississippi had the highest share of its residents in poverty, at 22 percent, according to rough calculations by the Census Bureau. It was followed by Louisiana, New Mexico and Arkansas. On the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had the lowest share, at 8.1 percent.

The last significant decline in the national poverty rate came in 2006, during the Bush administration and before the housing bubble burst and the recession hit. In 2011, the rate dipped to 15 percent from 15.1 percent, but census officials said that change was statistically insignificant.

For the past year, the official poverty line was an annual income of $23,492 for a family of four.

The Census Bureau's annual report offers a snapshot of the economic well-being of U.S. households for 2012, when the unemployment rate averaged 8.1 percent after reaching an average high of 9.6 percent in 2010. Typically, the poverty rate tends to move in a similar direction as the unemployment rate, so many analysts had been expecting a modest decline in poverty.

The latest census data show that the gap between rich and poor was largely unchanged over the past year, having widened since 2007 to historic highs.

On Monday, Obama called attention to what he described as economic improvements — the nation's gross domestic product did rise by 2.8 percent last year — and said congressional Republicans would reverse recent gains if they took uncompromising stands in connection with looming budget deadlines.

Some GOP conservatives have been demanding a delay of Obama's new health care law as the price for supporting continued federal government spending. The House is also expected to consider a bill this week that would cut food stamps for the poor by an estimated $4 billion annually — 10 times the size of cuts passed by the Democratic Senate —

SEE **POVERTY** PAGE 5



KIDS VS. FACULTY

Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School girls' soccer coach Jimmy Chapman hits a ball back over the net during the first annual faculty vs. students volleyball game. The students went on to win all three sets; 25-11, 25-18, 25-12.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Remember Sandy Koufax?

Editor:

After reading your article in the Friday edition ("Samohi makes familiar trip to Palisades," Sept. 13), I needed to vent my feelings about the Samohi-Palisades [football] game being played on [Yom Kippur]. You mention how a scheduling conflict over the use of Corsair Field forced Samo to play the game at Pali for the second straight year. It did not have to be that way.

While there may not be many Jewish players on either team, why put them in a situation where they had to choose between their team and their religion (remember Sandy Koufax)? Did anyone ever consider playing the game Thursday night or Friday afternoon? (I should note that my great nephew quarterbacks a Westside city high school and they played on Friday at 3 p.m.)

Coach [Travis] Clark mentions how the rivalry between these two schools has been going for a long time. Why deprive the Jewish students at these schools and the Jewish supporters of these two teams the opportunity to attend this rivalry game? The administrators at these schools did many a disfavor when they scheduled the game on such an important Jewish holiday and I can only hope that it does not happen again.

Mark Kaiserman
Santa Monica



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The Taxman

Jon Coupal

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No comments from the peanut gallery

SOME YEARS AGO, AT A MEETING OF the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, a controversial suggestion by one of the council members resulted in startled murmurs from the audience. Annoyed by this unsolicited feedback, the council member blurted out, "No comments from the peanut gallery." (For those younger than the baby boom generation, it should probably be mentioned that the Peanut Gallery was what the audience of preschoolers was called on the 1950s "Howdy Doody" TV show.)

This was a disrespectful and demeaning comment by a public official, and no doubt the perpetrator quickly regretted his honesty because it confirmed what anyone who has spent time around government insiders knows: This is precisely how most bureaucrats and elected officials regard the public. Citizens are like children and thus "should be seen and not heard."

This attitude of superiority and disdain for the public helps explain politicians' extreme hostility to the initiative process. As I have written before, government insiders find it annoying that average citizens have the option to place measures on the ballot which can run counter to their plans.

It also explains why the Legislature just passed Assembly Bill 857, currently sitting on the governor's desk, which is the most direct assault on direct democracy in California in the last 100 years. This attack makes it more difficult for most citizen groups to qualify measures for the ballot. The bill is sponsored by two of the biggest labor organizations in Sacramento, the Labor Federation and the California Professional Firefighters, entities that have long viewed the ballot box as a threat to their interests, especially as it relates to pension reform. One of its key provisions is to impose a requirement that 10 percent of the signatures for a statewide measure be collected by non-paid signature gatherers. However, the measure would exempt nonprofits, including public employee unions.

In any event, that requirement is facially arbitrary. The bill does not articulate the policy justification for the restriction, let alone the cutoff of 10 percent. The requirement is also very likely to be stricken as unconstitutional.

If that wasn't bad enough, this bill is nothing short of a lawyer's dream. A section of the bill allows any elector to file a civil action invalidating signatures if the circulator intentionally misrepresents the legal effect of the petition. But this new right to sue is replete with ambiguities. What is an "intentional misrepresentation" as opposed to normal political discourse? The First Amendment is designed to permit a free exchange of ideas, especially in the political arena. Are those who collect signatures now going to have their free speech rights chilled for fear of saying something that is not technically accurate about a measure?

IF AB 857 PASSES, THE CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH HAD BEST BRACE ITSELF FOR A FLURRY OF NEW 'HE SAID, SHE SAID' LAWSUITS.

Moreover, this provision would make it way too easy for an interest group like a labor organization to intentionally sabotage an initiative by claiming that they were told something inaccurate about a proposed ballot measure. If AB 857 passes, the California judicial branch had best brace itself for a flurry of new "he said, she said" lawsuits.

Other provisions of AB 857 are just downright confusing and will do nothing to inform voters, such as the requirement for different colored paper with different content depending on who is gathering the signature.

AB 857 passed out of the Legislature last week and is now before Gov. Brown. We hope he sees this for what it is, a blatant union power play that allows special interests to play politics at the ballot box to the detriment of all Californians who overwhelmingly support direct democracy. AB 857, with its arbitrary thresholds and unfair special interest exemptions, deserves a quick veto.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.



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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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POVERTY
FROM PAGE 3

and allow states to put broad new work requirements in place for recipients.

"This lack of improvement in poverty is disappointing and discouraging," said John Iceland, a former Census Bureau chief of the poverty and health statistics branch who is now a Penn State sociology professor. "This lack of progress in poverty indicates that these small improvements in the economy are not yet being equally shared by all."

Ron Haskins, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who specializes in poverty, agreed.

"Everything's on hold, but at a bad level; poverty and income did not change much in 2012," he said. "So child poverty is still too high and family income is still too low. The recession may be over, but try to tell that to these struggling families. Don't expect things to change until the American economy begins to generate more jobs."

The official poverty level is based on a government calculation that includes only income before tax deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as home ownership.

As a result, the rate takes into account the effects of some government benefits, such as unemployment compensation. It does not factor in noncash government aid such as tax credits and food stamps.

David Johnson, the chief of the Census Bureau's household economics division, estimated that unemployment benefits helped keep 1.7 million people out of poverty.

If non-cash government aid were counted in the official formula, the earned income tax credit would have lifted another 5.5 million people above the poverty threshold. Counting food stamps would have boosted 4 million people, lowering the poverty rate to 13.7 percent.

The slight dip in Americans without health coverage meant 48 million people were without insurance. The drop was due mostly to increases in government coverage, such as Medicaid and Medicare. The number of people covered by employer-provided health insurance remained flat.

The decline in the uninsured was modest compared to a bigger drop in 2011, which occurred due to increased coverage for young adults under the new health care law.

Because the main provisions of the Affordable Care Act don't take effect until 2014, the latest census numbers offer a baseline number of uninsured by which increased coverage and effectiveness of the law will be measured. Many conservative Republicans remain committed to repealing the law.

Starting next year, the government will offer tax credits for people without access to job-based health insurance to buy private coverage through new markets, called exchanges, in each state. Open enrollment starts Oct 1. The new health care law also expands Medicaid to cover millions more low-income people, but so far only 24 states plus Washington, D.C., have gone along with the expansion.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that by next year, the health law will reduce the number of uninsured in the U.S. by about 25 percent. By 2017, it is projected that 92 percent of eligible Americans will have health insurance, a 10 percentage point increase from today's level.

OTHER CENSUS FINDINGS:

• Poverty remained largely unchanged across race and ethnic groups. Blacks had the highest rate at 27.2 percent, compared to 25.6 percent for Latinos and 11.7 percent for Asian-Americans. Whites had a rate of 9.7 percent.

• Child poverty stood at 21.8 percent.

• Poverty among people 65 and older was basically unchanged at 9.1 percent, after hitting a record low of 8.9 percent in 2009.

The Q Line

To reform or not to reform?

The state Legislature recently passed a bill that allows the undocumented to receive driver's licenses, a first for California. This could be a boon for those who work and live in Santa Monica who are here illegally.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it is time for more sweeping immigration reform and why?

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


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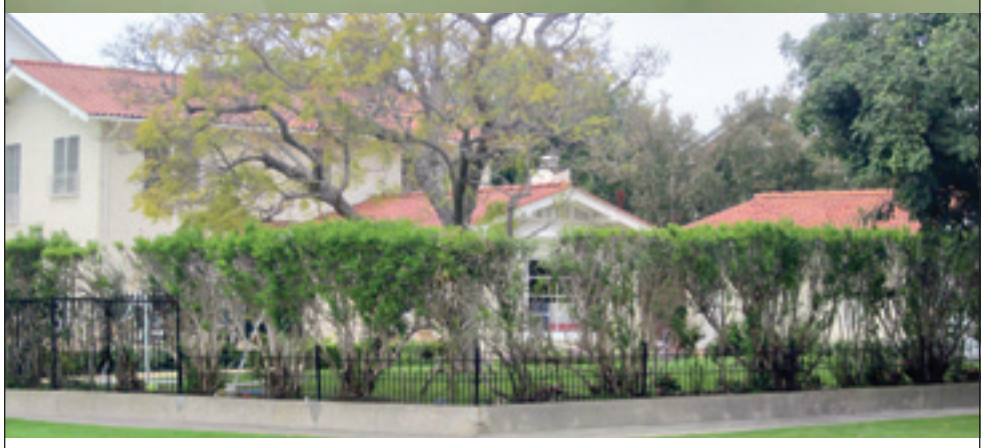
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RELEASE

FROM PAGE 1

Brown is still struggling to reach the reduction goals and said earlier this year that the state would be unable to fully meet the court's order. He has instead proposed a series of measures with the goal of being within 2,570 inmates of the required 137.5 percent maximum capacity, which include sending more inmates to firefighting camp, housing state inmates out of state, medical parole, and leasing private prisons.

Realignment implemented a divided post release supervision policy for inmates released from California prisons. Inmates were either released to parole supervision by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) or post-release community supervision (PRCS) by their county of last legal residence.

PRCS is county probation, said Dana Simas, spokesperson for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Offenders who are under PRCS tend to be nonviolent, nonserious, non-sexual offenders, she said. PRCS is a term used under the law to determine who would be monitoring the inmates after the release.

She said offenders serve their full-term in state prison and in the process before, they would all go to parole. She said if they're serving a term for a nonviolent, nonserious, non-sexual offense, then they report to county probation to serve their post release monitoring.

"Before, all of them served on parole," Simas said. "Only difference is who monitors them. It only affects them by who monitors them after they serve their time."

The Los Angeles Police Department is feeling the pressure in keeping tabs on thousands of felons living in Los Angles after their early release from prison. The Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union representing LAPD officers, wrote in its blog this summer "that the department has had to assign up to 170 full-time officers to keep tabs on some 5,400 felons living in Los Angeles."

> **IF THEY'RE NOT IN JAILS, THEY'RE OUT IN THE STREETS."**
>
> **Lt. Richard Lewis**
> Santa Monica Police Department

The union estimated that $18 million of the LAPD budget will be spent this fiscal year on those officers. The union claims the LAPD has arrested 57 percent of these felons on suspicion of committing new crimes or for probation violations.

The SMPD hasn't shifted resources like the LAPD, but its resources are being used to monitor the 43 PRCS subjects and doing compliance checks, Lewis said. A lot of the PRCS subjects are on probation, so detectives go out and do provision checks on them.

"We document everything," he said. "There have been people released in PRCS who have had violent crimes in their past."

Simas said police departments aren't encountering "a new kind of offender."

"The thing is they'd be on parole anyway," Simas said. "If you have a serious, violent or sex crime in your past and you commit a new crime, you come to state prison."

Property crime in Santa Monica is up, but the department is still tracking numbers on whether that's related to PRCS or AB 109, Lewis said.

Matthew Rice, spokesperson for the Police Officers' Association, the union that represents the rank and file, said the police department is the "hand that catches the criminal."

"People need to realize if they [criminals] are out, that's what they do for their livelihood," Rice said. "They commit crimes and steal things, that's how they earn their money."

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TSUNAMI
FROM PAGE 1

case of a tsunami, or a series of ocean waves generated by changes in the sea floor, most likely because of a major earthquake.

In a study released earlier this month by the U.S. Geological Survey, researchers looked at what effects a tsunami would have on the Californian coastline by simulating a 9.1 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Alaska. The study was a partnership between federal, state, academic, and private organizations to develop a statewide tsunami scenario.

For Southern California, the scenario could cause major flooding in parts of Long Beach and Orange County.

Rick Wilson, senior engineering geologist at the California Geological Survey, who was involved in the study, said the cliffs that are around Santa Monica Bay help protect a lot of the inland areas.

"We can't predict when something like this will happen, but if we look at the patterns in historically large earthquakes around the Pacific, this has a chance of happening every couple hundred years," Wilson said. "If you think about it like a 0.5 percent chance, which is really low, per year, but it could happen any time. It's important we plan for the worst and hope for the best."

Despite a natural barrier against high waves, a downside is it doesn't take much of a tsunami to flood the beach, said Wilson. That means bad news for visitors.

On any given day at the Santa Monica State Beach there can be thousands of people enjoying the sun and surf. On holidays, those numbers tend to double or triple.

"That's a really high population to evacuate in a short amount of time," Wilson said.

The study examined tsunami heights or surges that could reach 7 to 8 feet above high tide conditions along Santa Monica's coast, Wilson said. High tide is usually about 3 feet high.

There could be inundation for some of the areas to the south of Santa Monica, where there are no bluffs, Wilson said, based on the scenarios on the state tsunami inundation maps.

The tsunami in the scenario is unlikely to overtop the historic Santa Monica Pier, officials said.

"It's not clear what kind of damage might occur to the piles and foundation of the pier from this scenario or other future tsunamis," Wilson said. "However, it is likely the local emergency managers would call for an evacuation of the pier during the tsunami until inspections are completed after the tsunami.

Lucy Jones, lead scientist for the study, said a lot of the piers in California are "high up." She did caution there would be "really strong currents," which the pier would be fine against, but half of the floating docks in California would be destroyed.

Santa Monica was designated as "TsunamiReady" and "StormReady" in June from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

That means Santa Monica meets certain criteria including having an alert system in place and a functioning emergency operation center, said Paul Weinberg, emergency service coordinator in City Hall's Office of Emergency Management.

Tsunami hazard zone signs are posted along the beach and its parking lots. The blue and white evacuation route signs designate that visitors north of the pier should head for the bluff. If visitors are south of the pier, in an abundance of caution, they are directed to head east of Fourth Street.

> **"WE CAN'T PREDICT WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL HAPPEN, BUT IF WE LOOK AT THE PATTERNS IN HISTORICALLY LARGE EARTHQUAKES AROUND THE PACIFIC, THIS HAS A CHANCE OF HAPPENING EVERY COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS."**
>
> **Rick Wilson**
> Senior engineering geologist at the California Geological Survey

Weinberg said there are two types of tsunamis. A distance tsunami is like the simulated tsunami in the study, which would give officials several hours to implement the evacuation. The second type of tsunami is local, or when a strong earthquake takes place in Santa Monica or nearby. In that case the earthquake will be the warning, Weinberg said.

"The city won't have a capability to send out an alert," Weinberg said. "If you feel strong shaking, get to higher ground."

Officials said residents should consult the tsunami pamphlet on the Office of Emergency Management website on how to survive a disaster and live through the aftermath.

"[You're] making sure where to go to be safe and making sure you have communications with your family," Wilson said.

Folks should also have a kit and emergency numbers jotted down among family members, said Lt. Robert Almada, emergency services manager for the Office of Emergency Management.

Residents and employees are also encouraged to sign up for SM Alerts, which can notify them of an emergency and provide important information, such as road closures or where to receive medical treatment.

On Oct. 14 at the RAND Corp. headquarters in the Civic Center the Office of Emergency Management and other partners, including the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, are hosting a free workshop to prepare employers for a tsunami, active shooter or earthquake, Weinberg said.

Depending on the business, they have different levels of compliance on what they do, Weinberg said. For example, the hotels along the beach are almost "a small city responsible for a number of residents for that night and work closely with us."

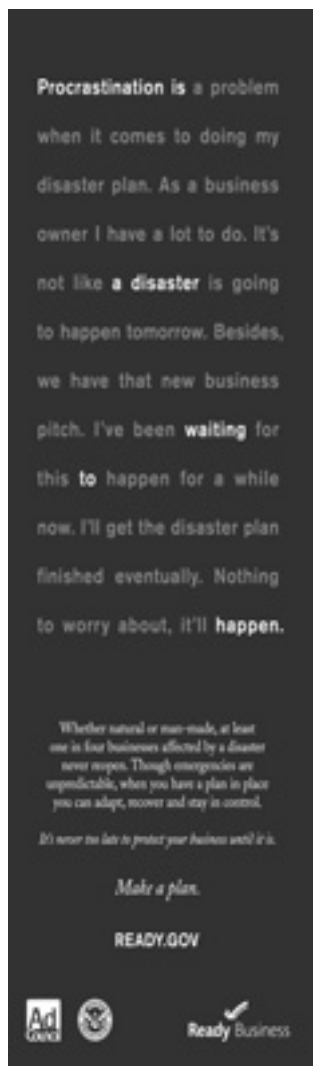
When Santa Monica's tsunami plan was approved, the office took pamphlets to all the hotels and did a presentation, Weinberg said.

For more information on how to prepare for a tsunami or to register for the workshop, visit smgov.net/departments/oem.

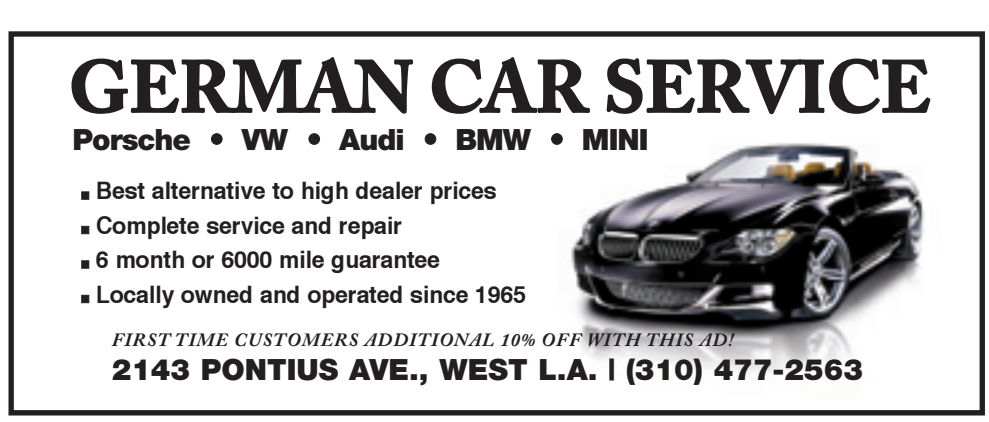
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Curb appeal: Design options abound for drab driveways

BY LISA FLAM
Associated Press

The driveway that came with the 1921 Craftsman-style house that David Ulick bought five years ago was the original concrete one, marred by cracks and with tree roots starting to break through.

"I didn't like the driveway," said Ulick, of Pasadena, Calif. "I wanted something a little bit nicer."

He looked through books and drove through the Craftsman-rich neighborhoods of Pasadena to get ideas before deciding on a concrete drive with an antique finish, accented with reclaimed red bricks from the 1920s.

"I wanted this to look like the original driveway, an original, nice driveway, and using used bricks gives it a nice old-fashioned look," Ulick said.

"It really makes it a grand entrance for the house," he added, noting the brick walkway up one side. "I figured I'd treat the Craftsman the way it deserves to be treated, and maintain its design style and heritage."

While a driveway may still be a utilitarian afterthought for many homeowners, others like Ulick are adding some serious curb appeal to their homes by moving beyond basic options like grass or gravel, asphalt or concrete.

"The driveway is commonly overlooked," conceded Michael Keenan, an adjunct assistant professor of landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota. "Driveways are not cheap necessarily, but they are completely functional and necessary if you have a car and a garage."

Doing up the driveway, Keenan said, is a chance to "celebrate the function because it is a piece of the property you do use every day."

The design options have grown in the last decade or so, he said, as pavers — made from precast concrete, clay and natural stone like granite — are being turned out in a range of colors and sizes. Some have rounded edges for an older look; others are mottled to add color variation to the driveway.

Installing a customized driveway is a way to put your own stamp on the hardscape and set your house apart from the rest. Depending on the neighborhood, the materials and the quality of the craftsmanship, Keenan said, a driveway also could increase a home's resale value.

"It does become a point of distinction," he said. "It is something people notice. It is elegant."

The least expensive paved driveways are made of asphalt, which cost about $12 to $15 a square foot, and concrete, costing about $14 to $18 a square foot, Keenan said. Though concrete is more resilient and lasts longer, both materials will crack over time, he said.

Pavers, which start at about $20 to $25 a square foot, should last a lifetime, Keenan said. "The key is the fact that the pavement acts as flexible fabric and it can move with the earth, and isn't a rigid system and isn't prone to cracking," he said.

Pavers can be used to make traditional patterns like basket-weave or herringbone, or be fashioned into a custom look.

For a less traditional look, use a paver that comes in three or four sizes and lay them out at random, Keenan said. Or get a custom design without breaking the bank by using concrete pavers accented with more expensive natural stone pavers.

Keenan is also the co-founder and design director of reGEN Land Design in Minneapolis. He works with homeowners to find the best driveway for their home. People are most concerned with the color, which might be chosen by looking at the home's roof, siding or trim color.

"I don't think you can make a value judgment on which one is the best," Keenan said of driveway designs. "It's got to fit the building that you're paving next to."

He might recommend, for example, a traditional red-brick driveway to go with a light blue Colonial home. For a contemporary, environmentally "green" home, he might choose light-colored, permeable pavers — a more environmentally sound choice because they let water back through to the earth under the driveway, rather than forcing it to run off and collect debris on the way to bodies of water.

In Naples, Fla., landscape architect W. Christian Busk installs "living driveways" that feature real grass interspersed among pavers. That reduces heat and glare and provides some drainage.

"We blur the lines between where driveway ends and where landscape begins," says Busk, president of Busk & Associates. "It always looks beautiful."

Back in Pasadena, the concrete-and-brick option that Ulick chose is popular among the many Craftsman and other historical homes in the area, said Mark Peters, the chief estimator for Boston Brick & Stone, which helped create Ulick's driveway.

"It's a very rich feel and it's understated," Peters said.

Since he got his driveway in 2009, Ulick said, he has received many compliments.









Gardening Without Guesswork

Arnulfo Bahena
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gardening in an ocean breeze

ALL CLIMATES HAVE THEIR GARDENING challenges, but if someone were to describe Santa Monica's, most garden lovers would be verdant green with envy. Here, the ocean rules, moderating temperatures and seasons and moistening the air with light humidity. The extremes that can make gardening difficult elsewhere simply don't exist here — sticky humidity (lots of bugs and diseases), dry winds and extreme heat.

There are three signature signs that Santa Monica is a gardening paradise: year-round harvests of edibles, tropical houseplants used as landscape plants, and tender perennials that are rarely without vibrant color.

Southern California is a Mediterranean climate (there are only five in the world: the others are the Mediterranean area itself, the cape of South Africa, western Australia, and coastal Chile). Santa Monica is more Cap Ferrat than Siena, meaning that we have a warm-summer Mediterranean climate rather than a hot-summer one such as the San Fernando Valley.

This distinction opens exciting possibilities and reduces challenges. Gardening in Santa Monica is a joy for everyone and an exceptionally good area for beginning gardeners. You're certain to be rewarded for every effort.

The coming fall season (considered the "first season" or "spring" in Mediterranean climates), is the very best season to install permanent plants. The warm, post-summer ground and cooler air combine to create optimal growing conditions. Roots grow fast and top growth slows, preparing plants for an "ahead of the game" response come next spring: lots of new growth and optimal flowering or fruiting. You've gained a year.

Following are some underused and lovely trees, shrubs and perennials that will thrive in Santa Monica gardens, even on the coastline with its salty ocean winds.



Photo courtesy Armstrong Garden Centers

PRETTY BLOOMS: Common thrift (Armeria maritima) is an easy, no-care, almost all-year bloomer in Santa Monica's mild climate.

TREES

Holly oak (Quercus ilex) is ideal for many things: it's a shade provider, great for hedges and even formal shapes. Melaleuca quinquenervia, or Cajeput tree, is a stunner: gorgeous gnarled trunks and finely-cut evergreen foliage. California laurel, a native, is a beautiful evergreen tree that's extremely adaptable to soils and moisture. It will thrive in shade but will also provide shade as it grows to its usual small garden size, about 25 feet tall. Avoid planting near native oaks, as it is a carrier of a fungus that can kill them (but won't harm the laurel.)

SHRUBS

Dusky bells and ivory bells Australian fuchsias (Correa hybrids) are lovely spreading, grey-leaved shrubs with fuchsia-like bell flowers in deep red or cream over an extremely long period. Rugosa roses are once-bloomers with beautiful quilted foliage and incredible fragrance. But don't deadhead them (remove the old flowers) because they'll provide you with spectacular red fall hips, or berries.

Coprosma, a New Zealand native, is becoming hugely popular with garden designers in Santa Monica. The reason? Beautiful, very shiny, evergreen leaves in wonderful colors. Coppery-red and gold foliage turns bright copper and orange-red during fall and winter, depending on the variety. Protea compacta is a florist favorite and rarely grown in the U.S. It's an erect grower, 6- to 10-feet tall, with exotic, rose-pink flower heads that are 4-inches in size.

PERENNIALS

Common thrift (Armeria maritima) is an easy, no-care, almost all-year bloomer in Santa Monica. Grass-like mounds of foliage sport thin stems with a tight cluster of rose, white and pink flowers. Cape rush (Chondropetalum) is a stunning, architectural, reed-like plant that forms a clump 5-feet tall and wide. It provides mesmerizing movement in ocean breezes.

There are many beautiful new euphorbia hybrids that grow well in Santa Monica. The leaves of Efanthia turn burgundy in autumn. Blackbird has dark, velvety purple foliage and chartreuse flowers. The flower color of Ascot rainbow consists of cream, lime, and green while the foliage displays tones of cream, green/blue with stunning red-pink coloring throughout cooler months.

ARNULFO BAHENA, CCNP, is the manager for Armstrong Garden Centers located at 3226 Wilshire Blvd., in Santa Monica. E-mail him your gardening questions to growingdialogue@armstronggarden.com or call (310) 829-6766. Visit Armstrong Garden Centers online at armstronggarden.com.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Private donors offer to fund LAPD lapel cameras

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff has privately raised roughly half the $1 million he says is necessary to equip 1,500 Los Angeles Police Department officers with lapel cameras.

A week after taking the helm of the LAPD civilian oversight board, Soboroff said Tuesday he has promises of $250,000 from media giant Casey Wasserman and an undisclosed sum from DreamWorks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg. Soboroff says he hopes the department will adopt the lapel cameras within a year.

Since the 1991 beating of Rodney King, the LAPD has worked to bring cameras to its vehicles, but has only managed to equip 300 of its 1,200 patrol cars with the technology. Chief Charlie Beck says a plan will be before the commission in two weeks to add 400 to 500 more vehicle cameras.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Billionaire Broad says museum will be free

For years Eli Broad has said he wants to make his vast, collection of contemporary art accessible to the largest number of people possible.

What better way to do that, the billionaire philanthropist said Tuesday, than to make admission free to the $140 million museum he's building in downtown Los Angeles.

When it opens next year, Broad said during a hard-hat tour of the half-completed building, people will be able to walk in and view works by Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha and scores of others without paying a cent.

The three-story, block-long structure is planned as a work of art of itself.

When completed it will be covered by a glistening, porous shell that will even allow passers-by to see some of the works inside from the street.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

Porn group lifting HIV-prompted filming moratorium

An adult film trade group will lift its second production moratorium of the past month, saying that an HIV scare has passed.

The Free Speech Coalition announced that the two-week moratorium will end Friday.

The coalition also said Monday it will require more frequent testing of actors for sexually transmitted diseases – every 14 days instead of the previous schedule of 28 days.

"Our industry protocols are designed to be conservative and our doctors support a conservative approach, for the health and well-being of the performers," said Diane Duke, the coalition's CEO.

Critics of the industry have said producers are not protecting performers. The industry has challenged a law passed last year by Los Angeles County voters that required actors to wear condoms during shoots.

In a written statement, the coalition promised to increase its safety protocols.

"We can do more to help our performers learn how to protect themselves, on screen and off," Duke said.

The group called a weeklong moratorium last month after a 28-year-old tested positive for HIV. After that production ban was lifted, a second actor was found to have HIV, and another work stoppage was called Sept. 6.

A third performer also tested positive. The coalition says all three appear to have contracted the virus in private life and all of their on-screen partners have tested negative.

A similar work ban was enacted last year after nearly a dozen performers were infected with syphilis.

– AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Judge rules for city in mortgage suit

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit over a Northern California city's plan to use eminent domain to seize underwater mortgages.

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Charles Breyer ruled Monday that the lawsuit was premature because the city of Richmond had not yet approved the plan.

Wells Fargo & Co., Deutsche Bank AG and The Bank of New York Mellon sued Richmond after city officials began discussing plans to use eminent domain to seize the mortgages and offer them back to homeowners at cheaper rates. The banks want to stop Richmond from seizing the loans.

John Ertman, an attorney for the banks, tells the Contra Costa Times that the judge's ruling only postpones the day that Richmond will have to defend the eminent domain plan in court.

– AP

PASADENA

Man who spent 14 years in prison wins appeal

A federal appeals court has upheld a decision that freed a Los Angeles man who spent nearly 14 years in prison for a crime he denied committing.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday affirmed a lower court ruling that ultimately released Daniel Larsen in March, pending the appeal.

Prosecutors argued that Larsen missed a paperwork deadline in his bid for freedom. But the court of appeals said Larsen had a strong case for being innocent, and that trumped the deadline.

Larsen, who's 46, was convicted in 1999 of carrying a concealed dagger. He was sent to prison for 28 years to life under California's three-strikes law.

Attorneys for the California Innocence Project found witnesses who testified seeing a different man throw away the knife.

– AP

Immigrants prepare for reform, watch out for fraud

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. Immigration reform is stalled in Congress but that's not stopping immigrants from contacting lawyers, filling out paperwork and making other preparations in hopes of getting a head start should laws change.

That's got some advocates concerned that immigrants, who have been duped before by unscrupulous attorneys and others, could be snookered again. California lawmakers last week passed a bill to ban the practice of charging fees for services related to immigration reform before Congress passes an overhaul.

Immigrant supporters are warning people to be wary of anyone — lawyers, immigration consultants or "notarios" — who offers to help fill out paperwork for a still-non-existent legalization program. Yet many are also urging immigrants to make sure their personal documents are in order now, saying there could be long lines at consular offices for passports and other paperwork.

"If you start planning for it the day it passes, you are probably going to be too late," said Daniel Sharp, legal director at the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles.

Immigration is one of President Barack Obama's top priorities for his second term, but a reform bill faces an uncertain future in Congress. With an estimated 11 million immigrants in the country illegally, a broad overhaul could mean millions of people would be seeking legal services and consular documents and filing paperwork with the U.S. government.

Immigrants, especially those who are newcomers and speak little English, have been conned in the past, most infamously by so-called "notarios," who try to earn their trust with a term that carries hefty legal weight in many Latin American countries. Such scams not only sap immigrants of their hard-earned cash but could even wind up getting them deported.

To steer immigrants clear of fraud, the Mexican government has started a free hotline to provide information about the immigration debate. And in Los Angeles, officials said they are investigating websites that claim to help immigrants get their legal papers even though no legislation has passed.

The California bill, if signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown, would also crack down on those billing themselves as "notarios."

"Everybody wants to be first in line but there's no line to get in," said the bill's author, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego.

The State Bar pushed hard for the legislation, over the cries of immigration attorneys, fearing the rampant fraud that has long been a problem in immigration services could bankrupt a fund created to compensate clients duped by crooked lawyers.

Should an immigration bill pass, advocates say, immigrants may only have a year to submit an application. Some advocates say it's too soon to see a lawyer, and certainly too early to shell out large sums of money to get ready for immigration reform.

Immigrants can better spend their time obtaining their children's school records and collecting documents to prove their residence like rental agreements and car loans, said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a spokesman for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles.

Lawyers say they can help now by running background checks and potentially find that immigrants are eligible for other benefits, which has occurred with young people trying to stay in the U.S. legally under an Obama administration program, said Reed Trautz, director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's practice and professionalism center.

Ric Inzunza, a former deputy commissioner for the Immigration and Naturalization Service who now lives in Mississippi, said he doesn't see a problem with getting started now.

Inzunza said he started RIA International five years ago to be the go-to place for legalization services once immigration reform passes, adding that many immigrants turned in ill-prepared paperwork during the 1980s-era legalization.

For now, he collects a non-refundable $300 fee from immigrants to prepare an internal application that outlines their history in the country. If reform passes, it would take another $2,700 for his company to finish and file their application with federal authorities.

"You can't send an application to Homeland Security or a program that isn't implemented yet, but that doesn't mean you can't get your ducks lined up," Inzunza said, adding that the Starkville, Miss., company has signed up 13 clients to date.

In California, should Gonzalez's bill become law, immigration attorneys say they want to ensure they can still run background checks for clients before reform passes, insisting it is crucial for immigrants to know where they stand with federal authorities regardless of what happens in Congress.

Agustin Hernandez, who came here from Mexico about 25 years ago, has asked a lawyer to pull his records because he was detained briefly by police at the scene of a brawl but to his knowledge was never charged with a crime.

"I want them to pull my records to know what my situation is," he said. "To see if I can qualify once the reform does pass."

James Rudolph, an immigration lawyer with offices in San Diego and Tijuana, said he regularly hears from immigrants who have questions about the reform bill, and often recommends they check their records. Beyond that, there's not much he would, or could, do for them right now, he said.

"Everyone asks me, will my case be approved when the reform passes?" Rudolph said. "And of course the answer is: Who the hell knows?"

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Congress looks to relax mandatory prison terms

HENRY C. JACKSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Every weekend, Cindy Martinson treks from her home in Mason City, Iowa, about 160 miles roundtrip to Waseca, Minn. She visits the federal prison there, where her daughter Mandy Martinson, a first-time offender, is in the middle of 15-year prison sentence.

Cindy Martinson knows her daughter made mistakes and broke the law. Mandy Martinson was at a low point in her life, her mother said, addicted to methamphetamine when she allowed a drug dealer she was dating to move in with her. Within weeks, police raided her house.

"She hurt herself and her family. And she knows that. But it is just not fair," Cindy Martinson, 64, said. "It's got to change not just for her. Everything is so overcrowded and it is just wrong."

Concerns about both the fairness and the costs of cases like Mandy Martinson's have been growing in Congress, and the issue is gaining new speed as an unusual coalition of tea party conservatives and liberal Democrats push for the largest overhaul of federal sentencing guidelines yet.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing this week on minimum sentences. The committee is considering two bills, each sponsored by a liberal Democrat and a tea party Republican, that would allow judges to waive mandatory minimum sentences in many circumstances, particularly for some drug crimes. Wednesday's hearing is the first step in legislation that advocates and lawmakers in both parties say stands a chance of winning enactment by the end of the year.

Attorney General Eric Holder has shown interest in working with Congress to make permanent changes in sentencing laws. Holder last month instructed federal prosecutors to stop charging nonviolent drug offenders with crimes that carry mandatory minimum sentences.

Sentencing reform lands in an area of rare common ground between liberals and conservatives. Just a few years ago, it was an issue shunned by many politicians in both parties, lest they be labeled soft on crime.

Now it's made unlikely teammates of tea party libertarian Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, a liberal Vermont Democrat. They're co-sponsoring one of the two sentencing bills now before the committee. Co-sponsoring the other one are Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, another conservative championed by the tea party, and the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, liberal Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois.

The four senators make similar cases for sentencing reform: Many of the sentences are unfair, prisons are overcrowded with nonviolent drug offenders, and it's costing taxpayers too much money.

Prison costs have ballooned in the past 30 years, with the Bureau of Prisons budget now around $6.8 billion, or about 25 percent of the Justice Department's total. The yearly cost of housing a federal prisoner ranges from $21,000 to $33,000, depending on the prison's level of security, and is steadily rising.

The United States has the largest prison population in the world with more than 1.5 million prisoners in 2012, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, including more than 218,000 federal prisoners. About half of federal prisoners are drug offenders, nearly all of whom faced some form of mandatory minimum sentencing. They include Mandy Martinson.

Police raided her house in Mason City in January 2004. She was 27 at the time. They found 10 pounds of marijuana, two pounds of high-purity methamphetamine known as "ice" and two guns, components of a northern Iowa drug ring run by her then-boyfriend, whom court documents identify as Justin Dana.

Cindy Martinson said her daughter knew Dana was a drug dealer, but she was a drug addict and under Dana's control.

A local judge released Mandy Martinson on her own recognizance after her arrest and she eventually sobered up and resumed a job as a dental hygienist for several months.

But at trial, it became clear Mandy Martinson would serve a long sentence, Cindy Martinson said. Dana testified against his girlfriend, saying she performed menial tasks, like counting money, helping his drug operation. He also testified one of the guns found in the raid belonged to him but said Mandy sometimes carried it.

Like the local judge, the federal judge, James E. Gritzner, acknowledged that Martinson posed little threat. But Gritzner said his hands were tied by sentencing guidelines.

He sentenced Mandy Martinson to 15 years in prison for drug and weapons charges. She had never been arrested for anything prior to that. Now 35, Martinson's term is three years longer than Dana's because he agreed to testify against her and others.

Julie Stewart, the president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, said prisons are filled with inmates like Martinson. A former staffer at the libertarian Cato Institute, Stewart made sentencing reform her cause after her brother was arrested for growing marijuana and sentenced to a long mandatory sentence.

She said this is the most momentum she's seen behind efforts to change sentencing laws.

"Let's put it this way: I've been doing this for 22 years and this is the first time since 1993 I have felt significant attention from Congress on this issue," she said.

"There's a new era of bipartisanship on this issue," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, another champion of conservative groups and a leader on the issue in the Republican-held House.

Chaffetz, R-Utah, introduced a bill in the House that is co-sponsored by several Democrats. It would put in place a post-sentencing "risk assessment system" allowing some prisoners to earn credits toward different living arrangements, such as a halfway house or house arrest.

"There are smarter, cheaper ways to deal with this than what we've been doing," he said. "And we have no choice," because of costs.

Leahy and Paul's bill in the Senate would expand a "safety valve" provision, which currently allows a small number of low-level federal drug offenders to avoid mandatory minimum penalties, to all federal crimes with mandatory minimum sentences if certain conditions were met.

Durbin and Lee's bill would expand the "safety valve" to more drug offenses, but not all federal crimes with mandatory minimum sentences.

Experts predict sluggish global economic recovery ahead

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON A robust recovery for the global economy remains well out of reach.

That's the view that emerges from a survey of economists just as the Federal Reserve is expected this week to reduce its stimulus for the U.S. economy.

Europe has finally emerged from recession. Japan is growing after two decades of stagnation. And the United States is trudging ahead. Yet an Associated Press survey of more than two dozen economists suggests that global growth will remain below full health this year and next.

Persistently weak growth would make it harder to resolve many of the world's biggest economic challenges. They include historically high unemployment in Europe, sluggish spending by consumers and businesses in the United States, heavy government debts in Europe and Japan and unstable economies in some emerging nations.

The economists think the 17 nations that use the euro will grow at an annual rate barely above 1 percent in the second half of 2013 and in 2014. From April through June, the eurozone eked out its first quarterly growth after 18 months of contraction — a 1.2 percent annual rate. No acceleration is foreseen in the next year and a half.

The United States and Japan are expected to fare only slightly better.

The economists think the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.3 percent annual rate in the second half of 2013 and 2.6 percent in 2014. Japan is expected to grow 2.2 percent next year — far weaker than its 3.8 percent growth rate from April through June.

Normally, a healthy expansion in advanced economies produces annual growth of 3 percent or better. The United States expanded at an average pace of 3.25 percent from 1976 through 2007. But it hasn't grown at a 3 percent rate or faster since 2005.

"Most economies are growing so slowly... you don't know one day from the next if it's getting better or getting worse," said Susan Sterne, an economist at Economic Analysis Associates.

The AP survey collected the views of private, corporate and academic economists on a range of issues. Among their views:

— The Fed will start reducing its $85 billion in monthly bond purchases after its latest policy meeting ends Wednesday. The initial cut in purchases will be small — $10 billion a month. The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to keep long-term loan rates low to induce people to borrow and spend. Though U.S. hiring and growth remain soft, some Fed officials don't think the bond purchases are doing much good anymore.

— "Tapering," as the Fed's expected pullback in bond purchases has come to be known, won't significantly disrupt the U.S. stock and bond markets. "That's because it's been so well-telegraphed," said Jerry Webman, chief economist at OppenheimerFunds. Investors have already driven up the yield on the 10-year Treasury bond about 1.2 percentage points beyond its level in late May, when Chairman Ben Bernanke first suggested that the Fed could slow its purchases by year's end.

— The biggest obstacles to faster U.S. growth vary — from tepid job and pay growth to the lingering squeeze from a Social Security tax increase and government spending cuts to doubts about whether Congress will raise the government's borrowing cap. If the cap isn't raised, the United States could default on its debt by mid-October. That would risk a downgrade of U.S. credit.

— The U.S. unemployment rate won't return to a range associated with a healthy economy — roughly 5 percent to 6 percent — before 2015 and perhaps not until 2016 or later. The rate is now 7.3 percent. It rose as high as 10 percent during the recession and has been falling steadily. But the rate has been falling, in large part, for a discouraging reason: More people have stopped looking for work. Once people without a job stop looking for one, the government no longer counts them as unemployed.

— Congress should not increase the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour. Some economists warn that a higher minimum wage could lead some employers to hold back on hiring lower-wage workers. That could escalate unemployment, they say.

The economists' dim outlook for the recovery in many advanced economies coincides with a slowdown in some key emerging economies after years of powerful growth.

China's growth, for example, slowed in the second quarter to 7.5 percent — explosive by the standards of developed countries but the slowest pace for China in two decades. The economists surveyed by the AP foresee little change through 2014.

The economists note that aging populations may be holding back growth in Japan and Europe. As older workers retire in greater numbers than younger workers can replace them, workforces shrink and economic growth tends to slow.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has sought to revive Japan's moribund economy by boosting government spending and pushing the Bank of Japan to launch its own bond purchases. Those efforts led to a burst of growth in the first half of the year. But economists worry about the effects of a higher consumption tax that's set to take effect next year.

In 1997, Japan raised taxes on consumers — a move that many economists think stifled a nascent economic recovery.

"People are a little spooked about what that means this time," Webman said.

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **66.4°**

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Modest S-SSE and SW swells; NW swell mix;
plus sets for standout spots in the western part of the county

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Modest blend of Southerly swells and NW windswell eases

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Modest blend of Southerly swell and NW traces

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Modest blend of Southerly swell and NW traces

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 11, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 4
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 0
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	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
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 DBW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

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NCAA FOOTBALL

No. 13 UCLA has Pasquale in mind moving forward

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The UCLA Bruins have emerged from an emotional week after receiver Nick Pasquale's death, and they're determined to make the remaining weeks of their season count.

Just one day after the 13th-ranked Bruins scored 38 straight points in a remarkable win at Nebraska, they all attended a memorial service for Pasquale in his Orange County hometown last weekend.

UCLA (2-0) is now focused on seizing its opportunity for a remarkable season, starting Saturday against New Mexico State.

Bruins coach Jim Mora wants his players to work on simple tasks while preparing for a team that hasn't had a winning season in 11 years. UCLA's schedule gets tougher in October, and Mora seems room for improvement.

But the Bruins will keep Pasquale in their thoughts all season, quarterback Brett Hundley says.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF GRANTS AVAILABILE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

The City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division provides grants to Santa Monica schools and nonprofits for transportation to and from cultural activities. Funds are provided by the County Proposition A Local Return program. Trips must be accessible to the public and destinations accessible to the disabled. Grantees may use private or SMMUSD buses, Big Blue Bus or other public transport.

Applications are now available for trips between Oct 2013 and June 2014. **Application Deadline: Friday, November 22, 2013 at 5 pm.** To apply visit www.smgov.net/arts/transportationgrants or email nathan.birnbaum@smgov.net

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Au Nom Du Fils (NR) 1hr20min
7:30pm

Discussion after the film with actress Astrid Whetnall and producer Lionel Jadot.

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

Planes (PG) 1hr 32min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm

This Is The End (R) 1hr 47min
9:45pm

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

Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Grandmaster (Yi dai zong shi) (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

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

Elysium (R) 1hr 49min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm

Family (R) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

We're the Millers (R) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:10pm

Closed Circuit (R) 1hr 36min
11:25am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm

Insidious: Chapter 2 () 1hr 45min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 10:45pm

Riddick (R) 1hr 59min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

One Direction: This Is Us - Extended Fan Cut 3D (PG) 1hr 46min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:10pm, 6:55pm, 9:45pm

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

Unacceptable Levels (NR) 1hr 30min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:50pm

Austenland (PG-13) 1hr 37min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Spectacular Now (R) 1hr 35min
4:20pm, 10:00pm

Way, Way Back (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:40pm, 7:30pm

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

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

AT HOME TONIGHT, SAG

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Your hard work and effort will pay off far more than you might've thought possible. You could find an instrumental partner to be overserious. Do not take this person's attitude personally. Tonight: Not to be found!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Everything from your gait to the way you carry yourself exudes resilience and confidence. A partner could be jealous, and he or she might be very cold toward you as a result. Don't let this behavior get to you. Tonight: Rearrange your plans, if need be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You have a strong sense of what needs to be done, and it is unlikely that you will settle for anything less than what you want. Money might flow out of your account as quickly as it goes in. Take a break in the afternoon in order to pace yourself. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You are in the position to make one of your long-desired dreams a reality, yet there might be some fear around realizing this wish. You could trip yourself up unless you are willing to root out the issue. Tonight: Buy tickets to a concert.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You have pushed so hard lately that your energy seems to be waning, even though your enthusiasm remains high. If you would take just an hour for relaxing, and then delegate what you can to others, you will feel revitalized. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's request.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You tend to let others take the lead. Some people might not realize that you make a conscious choice to defer to them; otherwise, they could be taken aback. A meeting that transforms into a friendly get-together will be the highlight of your day. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Emphasis is on routine and daily matters. You might want to make a situation more exciting. You are likely to tease someone whom you've put on a pedestal. Tonight: Put your feet up and watch a favorite TV show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to express concern about someone's interpretation of a situation. Perhaps you feel as though this person is way off. Realize that it could be just your wild imagination. Tonight: Adapt to a friend's request.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ If you can play it low-key, you'll feel better by the end of the day. A partner could come through for you in a major way. You might not believe everything you hear. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Emphasize your priorities. You know what will happen if you are able to get your way. Unfortunately, you might not have that opportunity, as a partner will be so charming that people naturally will gravitate toward his or her way of thinking instead. Tonight: Go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might notice that you have a need to catch up with others financially. The good news is that this attitude is temporary. Your values could be considerably different from those around you. Try not to point out the differences, but do respect them. Tonight: Indulge a little.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are in your element. You would have to work very hard in order to displease someone in your life. You naturally say and do the right thing. You might not even be aware of the number of admirers you seem to have. Tonight: Be yourself, and let the good times roll.

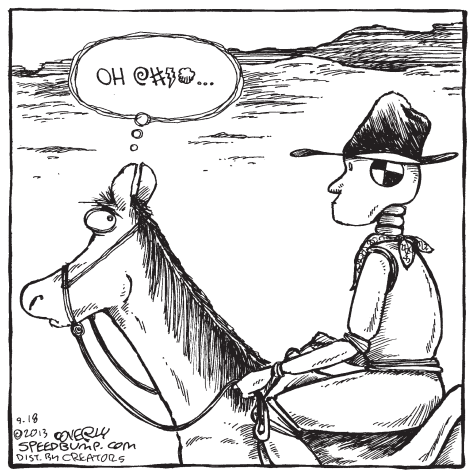
Wednesday, September 18, 2013

This year you will learn to bend gracefully toward others' way of thinking without harboring resentment. You will come to an understanding as to how easy it is to respect differences and learn from them. If you are single, you will discover someone very special in your immediate environment. The attraction will be strong, but you might realize that you are very different people. Before making a commitment, get to know each other completely. If you are attached, the two of you act like a seesaw, in the sense that you each take turns leading and being right. PISCES appeals to you.

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

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
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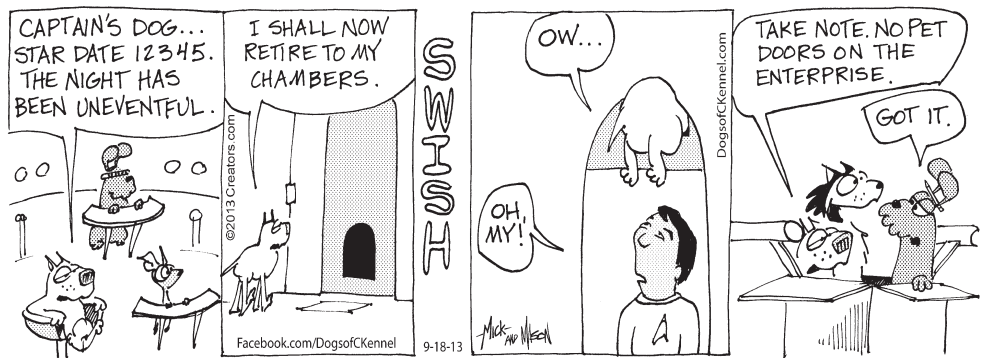
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



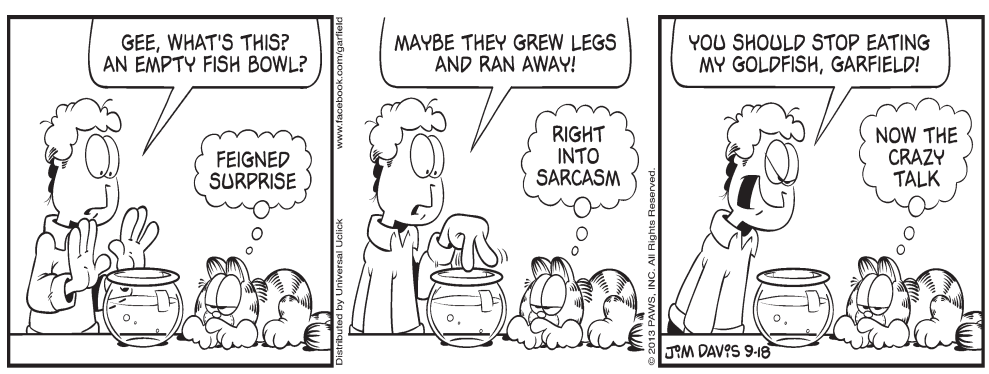
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Rude look
6 Urge on
10 Labrador explorer
11 Kitchen come-on
12 Rust, for one
13 Caravan creature
14 Cloth tatters
15 Impair
16 Magic org.
17 Pool unit
18 Dissenter's vote
19 Divvied
22 Exile isle
23 Washer unit
26 Added excitement to
29 Cork sound
32 To's opposite
33 Singer Tormé
34 Asylum seeker
36 Opera set in Egypt
37 Math comparison
38 Showed over
39 Skimpy swimwear
40 Make a speech
41 Painter Holbein
42 Apartment sign

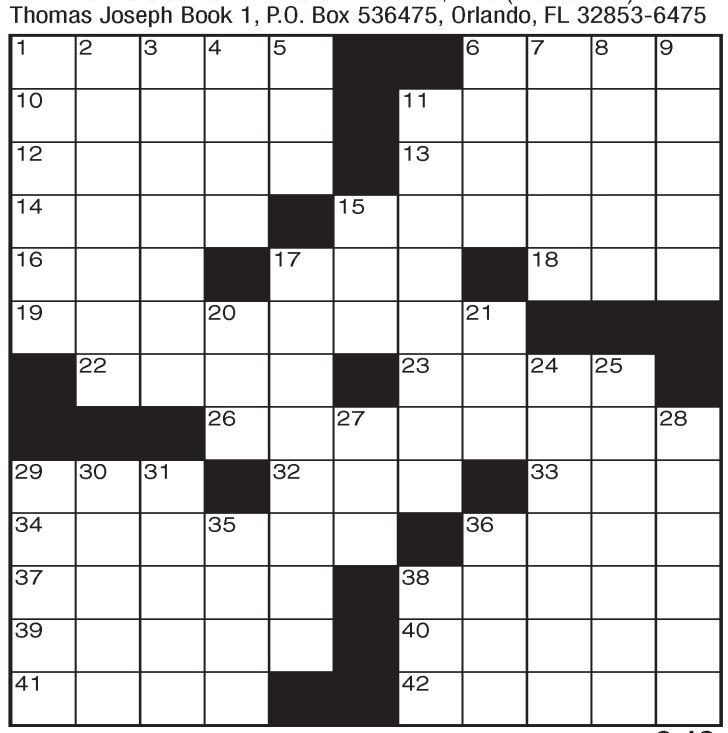
DOWN

1 Derides
2 Like luxury goods
3 John Adams's wife
4 Reactor parts
5 Summer on the Seine
6 Tot transport
7 Eternal City resident
8 Last letter
9 Big name in Chicago
11 Mexican resort
15 June honoree
17 Vaulting game
20 "Survivor" network
21 "The Bells" writer
24 Fleet leader
25 Obstetrician's calculation
27 Hot blood
28 Sun circler
29 Australia city
30 Nebraska city
31 Climber's spike
35 Cotton seeders
36 Streamlined prefix
38 Go bad

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

Yesterday's answer

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



9-18

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/14
1 17 25 37 44
Power#: 20
Jackpot: $400M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/13
9 22 28 48 54
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: $130M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 9/14
7 15 17 33 35
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/17
11 16 22 35 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/17
MIDDAY: 9 0 8
EVENING: 6 9 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 9/17
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:46.07

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Costa Rican government announced recently that it would close all its zoos, effective March 2014, and free animals either to the wild or to safe "retirement" shelters. Since the country is known for its expansive biodiversity (500,000 unique organisms, despite occupying barely more than 1/100th of 1 percent of Earth's area), it is time, the environment minister said, to allow the organisms to interact instead of imprisoning them. Costa Rica is also one of only four countries to ban the exploitation of dolphins.

■ In July, following sustained criticism, Thomson Reuters business information company suspended an advance-release service for the crucial monthly "consumer confidence index" that has been known to signal stock markets to abruptly "buy" (driving up prices) or "sell" (sending them lower). The University of Michigan prepares and distributes the index promptly at 10 a.m. Eastern time on its release date, but Thomson Reuters offers two advance peeks. It pays the school about $1 million a year to see the index at 9:55 a.m., to share with its best customers. The suspended program gave an even earlier tip-off -- at 9:54:58 -- and high-frequency trading firms paid $6,000 more a month for those two seconds, which allowed their computer robots to execute hundreds of thousands of trades before other professional traders had access to the index.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1928 – Juan de la Cierva makes the first autogyro crossing of the English Channel.

1931 – The Mukden Incident gives Japan the pretext to invade and occupy Manchuria.

1934 – The USSR is admitted to League of Nations.

WORD UP!

fleer
\ fleer \ , verb;
1. to grin or laugh coarsely or mockingly.
2. to mock or deride.

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Announcements

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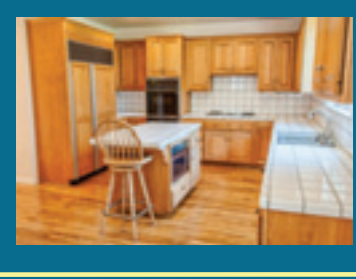
$3,200,000

Open House
Sunday, September 22nd
2:00pm - 5:00pm









Buyers' Needs

I am working with fully qualified buyers who are looking for the following:

- Single Family Home (Fixer OK) - Westside Pavilion Area - Up to $900,000
  Minimum 2 + 1.75 - Walking Distance to Shops & Restaurants
- Single Family Home - Crestwood Hills - Minimum 3 + 1.75 - Up to $1,800,000
- Income Property/Tear Down - Santa Monica or Brentwood - Up to $5,000,000
- Major Fixer/Tear Down - Anywhere on Westside - $700,000 - $1,100,000

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid September 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	**$ 2,769,571**
North of Montana	=	**$ 4,361,118**
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	**$ 2,675,516**
South of Wilshire	=	**$ 947,200**
Sunset Park	=	**$ 1,516,000**
Ocean Park	=	**$ 2,471,500**
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