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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 272



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

REKINDLING THE MAGIC
SEE PAGE 3

Durkee scandal rocks local political campaigns

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE A disgraced treasurer that serviced several hundred Democratic campaigns in California also allegedly took money from local candidates and causes, court documents show.

Kinde Durkee, of Durkee & Associates, was arrested in early September on suspicion of mail fraud and removing nearly $700,000 from the money market account of Solorio for Assembly 2010, a political action committee established for State Assembly candidate Jose Solorio.

The problem now appears to be larger.

A legal action filed by First California Bank alleges that millions of dollars from 398 accounts were stolen and or swapped around to various accounts by Durkee or another representative.

The remainder of the money left in those

SEE CAMPAIGNS PAGE 10

Locals had summer of clean beaches

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM BEACH For the second straight year the beach at the historic Santa Monica Pier, once known for having some of the dirtiest water in the state, earned a much-improved A grade on Heal the Bay's end of the summer Beach Report Card, which was released Tuesday.

Researchers with the Santa Monica-based environmental watchdog said a combination of water quality improvement projects — including a new storm drain, better stormwater runoff diversion and the installation of nets underneath the pier to keep birds from nesting and defecating in the surf — may have contributed to the drastically improved grade at the iconic landmark.

The Beach Report Card is based on the routine monitoring of beaches by local health agencies. Water samples are analyzed for bacteria that indicate pollution from numerous sources, including fecal waste. Heal the Bay analyzes the data and assigns grades to each beach. The better the grade a beach receives, the lower the risk of serious gastro-intestinal and respiratory illness to ocean users.

The report card does not measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches. Heal the Bay reminds people not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for three days after a rainstorm. After a rainfall, bacteria counts at beaches throughout the state usually far exceed acceptable limits.

SEE WATER PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

SPLASH: **A report by Heal the Bay reveals that water quality near the Santa Monica Pier was good this summer. The pier is enjoying high marks after years of being dubbed a 'Beach Bummer.'**

Turbulence at flight school workshop

Safety, pollution vie against right to work

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Flight school owners and residents squared off in a sometimes contentious workshop Monday night meant to "begin a conversation" about how the two groups could live in peace.

It got off to a rough start.

The relationship between the six flight schools that operate out of Santa Monica Airport and the residents of Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Venice and portions of West Los Angeles that live nearby have been tense, particularly since the Aug. 29 accident when a student pilot using a plane from Justice Aviation crashed into a house on Navy Street.

The workshop had been planned prior to the accident, but galvanized the community, causing newly-appointed Chair Richard Brown to thank the two flight school representatives who presented for showing up to a "hostile environment."

"I understand there was some trepidation," he said.

The evening was formatted to allow three presenters — Sunset Park resident John Fairweather, Joe Justice of Justice Aviation and Jay Elder of American Flyers — to present their sides of the issue.

Fairweather presented information from studies conducted by himself and other resi-

SEE SMO PAGE 8

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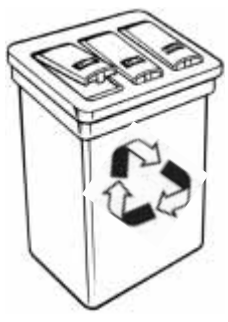
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011

Protecting the bay
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Join Heal the Bay in celebration of Southern California's new Marine Protected Areas. Staff scientists will provide a primer on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and how they benefit the ocean ecosystem, illustrate where the newly designated areas are located and outline how the public can get involved. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. For more information, call (310) 393-6149, ext. 106.

For your benefit
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
WISE & Healthy Aging was awarded a grant to develop a benefits center to help seniors enroll into public programs that can help improve their quality of life. The center will focus on Medi-Cal, Medicare programs, food stamps and low-income home energy assistance. Must be a Senior Center member to participate. Free membership open to all ages over 50. For more information, call (310) 458-8544.

Let's dance
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
Children ages 6 through 12 can learn dances from around the world in this workshop given by Santa Monica's Dance Studio No. 1. Cost: free. Held in the Children's Activity Room. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Get active
Friends Meeting Hall
1440 Harvard St., 6:30 p.m.
Join the Activist Support Circle for its monthly meeting. Members will share their fears, frustrations and hopes regarding the 2012 presidential campaign. The Activist Support Circle is an emotional support group for progressive activists that has been holding ongoing open gatherings since February 2005 to help guard against activist burnout. For further information call (310) 399-1000, e-mail ActivistSupportCircle@earthlink.net, or visit www.activistsupportcircle.org.

Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011

'Hell on Two Wheels'
REI Santa Monica
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
In June 2009, 28 ultra-distance cyclists set out from a pier in Oceanside, Calif., to race their bikes nonstop across 14 states to the finish line in Annapolis, Md. During a multimedia presentation, three-time Ironman finisher Amy Snyder will share her experiences tracking their progress on their 3,000-mile journey over the Rockies, the Ozarks, and the Appalachians, while matching their pace in her mini-van. For more information, call (310) 458-4370.

Comedy, generally
The Electric Lodge
1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 8 p.m.
Live comedy show kicks off the sixth annual Broad Humor Film Festival, where women tickle your funny bone. Top female comics on the slate for this show include Laurie Kilmartin, Erin Foley, Lisa Landry, Jessi Campbell, and Aparna Nancherla. After-party included in the price of the ticket. For more information, call (310) 403-2882.

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

CITY HALL

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SM Alerts is free (other than the rates charged by your cell phone provider) and available to all who live, work, attend school or play in Santa Monica.

Go to www.smalerts.net to sign up. People without access to the Internet may register their home phone by contacting the Office of Emergency Management at (310) 458-2263.

KEVIN HERRERA

SM PLACE

Retail therapy to fight breast cancer

Those who love to shop can do so this week and in the month of October without feeling guilty.

That's because some retailers at Santa Monica Place will be offering various promotions and giveaways with some proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Bloomingdale's cardholders are invited to join the fight during Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) by opting to "Give Pink Get More," a $15 donation on their Insider card that goes to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. As an incentive to join, from Sept. 28 through Oct. 31 all customers who pay the enrollment fee and spend a minimum of $250 on their card will earn a $25 gift card.

Bloomingdale's will also offer many exclusive items with a designated portion of sales benefiting breast cancer research. This includes Bloomingdale's merchandise as well as items from designers such as Movado, Links of London, Paige Premium Denim, True Religion and Cuisinart. When customers purchase The Pink Gift Card, 10 percent of the card's value is donated to the foundation and when redeemed, 10 percent of any spending exceeding the card's value is also donated.

Customers can also purchase the Little Pink Bag, a reusable tote inspired by Bloomingdale's Little Brown Bag for $20 with $2 going to the foundation through Oct. 31. Additionally, a pink umbrella is available for $12 with $6 going to the foundation. The Little Pink tote and umbrella are available both in-store and online.

Visit Nordstrom from Oct. 20 through Oct. 22 and receive a tote with the purchase of $50 or more on lingerie. For every bra purchased from a participating brand at the event, $2 will be donated to the Komen foundation.

For more information on the specials, go to www.santamonicaplace.com or call (310) 260-8300.

KH



GOING UP?

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Samohi senior Greta Schmittdel spikes the ball against El Segundo on Tuesday at home. Samohi won the match in straight games; 25-21, 26-24 and 25-17. Next for Samohi is a road Ocean League game against Culver City on Oct. 5.

Obama wants to recapture campaign magic

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Remember when Barack Obama first ran for president and people were really into him?

Obama remembers it, too, but not the same way some of his supporters do.

Bidding for re-election in tough economic times, Obama says there is some "revisionist history" going on about how great that first race was.

His strategy is to bring disillusioned supporters back into the fold by addressing their feelings of discouragement head-on and reminding them they signed up for something tough to begin with — even if now they just remember the "hope" and "change" posters.

And he's telling them bluntly they will have to be even more determined and find different sources of inspiration this time around since he is not the fresh face.

"I'm grayer, I'm all dinged up," Obama told a Hollywood fundraiser crowd Monday night. "And those old posters everybody has got in their closet, they're all dog-eared and faded. And so the energy of 2008 is going to have to be generated in a different way."

The approach is one Obama almost has to take if he's to reconcile memories of his historic 2008 campaign with the dispiriting realities of governing a divided country amid a sagging economy and unemployment topping 9 percent.

On Tuesday Obama was traveling to Denver, the city where he accepted the Democratic presidential nomination three years ago before an adoring crowd of 80,000. Tuesday's event, a speech at a high school to promote his jobs plan, isn't an attempt to recreate that spectacle or recapture that energy.

But the contrast does underscore how much harder it can be to inspire as president than as candidate. On Tuesday Obama was to push for a nearly $450 billion jobs plan that has little if any chance of getting through a divided Congress.

It's a far cry from three years ago in Denver when the president told the huge crowd, "It's time for us to change America."

It would have been tough for the realities of the Obama presidency, with its deal-making and compromises, to compete with the inspirations of the Obama campaign under the best of circumstances. He's encountered far from the best, with the tough economy and Republicans attacking him at every turn.

But for Obama, the disillusionment goes even deeper

SEE **OBAMA** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looks good on paper

Editor:

No truer headline was ever printed than the one in the Sept. 21 issue of the Daily Press ("Report: Santa Monica crime on the decline"). The lead sentence was, "Crime reports in Santa Monica held largely stable from 2009 ... ."

In our security complex with 30 low-income apartments, we never can get an SMPD report. Just three days ago a stranger was screaming "I'm going to shoot you" into my door. I called the police, as others have done at least four times recently about this guy.

As always, the SMPD absolutely refused to write a report despite my insistence on a proper record.

The other side of the coin is that after 10 trouble-free, quiet years at this address, a group living here illegally has charged me with several strange crimes. Every time the SMPD refused to write a report, thereby denying me any record of the incidents.

The police here can certainly avoid lawsuits and probably apply for grant money if they never commit any incidents to paper, but as an accused criminal and a repeat victim recently, I have no documents or evidence that anything ever happened at all. Sure looks good on paper, though.

Joe Lindquist
Santa Monica

A different truth

Editor:

In the Sept. 20 "Your Column Here" ("Realities of Lap-Band surgery"), the author writes that getting the Lap-Band is "one of the safest procedures available for weight loss." This is self promotion by a surgeon whose livelihood is performing such a surgery.

As a gastroenterologist specializing in nutrition, I find a different truth. The safest procedure is clearly a weight loss program couched in a high protein and healthy fat (e.g., omega-3) diet for appetite control, eliminating processed foods (sugar, carbohydrates that raise insulin levels resulting in hunger from hypoglycemia) and promoting exercise with its calming endorphin effect.

The New England Medical Center (in Boston), which performs 1,000-plus procedures yearly, has a well-integrated program with psychologists, social workers and other support staff. They have discontinued the Lap-Band surgery in favor of the more effective gastric bypass and sleeve gastrectomy. They require a three-month orientation period for education, support and commitment to weight loss prior to surgery. The gastric bypass disrupts the neurohumeral pathways that are key in appetite control. Hunger is eliminated more effectively than with the Lap-Band.

Another reality is not mentioned: the Lap-Band can be completed in 20 to 30 minutes versus two to three hours for the gastric bypass while reimbursements are similar. Bariatric surgery can be a life saver and is a lifelong endeavor. The best bariatric program offers options as to surgery with support before and after the surgery.

Jerome P. Helman, M.D.
Venice





The Taxman

Jon Coupal — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Whack-a-Mole and defending Prop. 13

FROM THE MOMENT CALIFORNIA VOTERS passed Proposition 13 more than three decades ago, it has been subject to attack. Scarcely before all the ballots were counted (which, by the way, ran two to one in favor of 13) a lawsuit was filed in the California Supreme Court seeking its invalidation. That lawsuit lost, of course, but the attacks continue to this day unabated.

The chief architect of Prop. 13, Howard Jarvis, knew early on that, as in battle, you can't give up ground for which you have so valiantly fought. He therefore founded an organization that, today, carrying his name, exists for the primary purpose of defending Proposition 13 against these relentless assaults.

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has, for 33 years, won far more battles in the defense of Proposition 13 than we have lost. But it has not been easy. The attacks are not only mounted by very powerful tax-and-spend interests, they have also been advanced in several different arenas. As modern wars are now fought on three fronts — on the land, sea and air — so too are the battles to defend Prop. 13: At the ballot box, in the Legislature and in the courts.

Fighting these challenges has resembled the arcade game of "Whack-a-Mole" which features plastic "moles" that pop up from their holes at random. The object of the game is to force the individual moles back into their holes by hitting them directly on the head with a mallet. But the very phrase "whack-a-mole" has gained the colloquial usage of a repetitious and never-ending task: each time a challenge is "whacked," it only pops up again from another direction.

Whack-a-Mole pretty much describes the attacks on Prop. 13. They always pop up and must be struck down firmly with force — over and over again. So, what are the current assaults on Prop. 13? Let's count them.

First, in the Legislature, schemes to lower the two-thirds vote for tax increases are perennial favorites and proposals to by-pass the same requirement by calling taxes "fees" or "charges" are legion.

Second, in the courts, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has, at any given time, more than a dozen pending cases dealing, not only with direct assaults on Prop. 13, but also other fiscal and property issues which must be litigated to protect the interests of California taxpayers.

Third, at the ballot box, HJTA must play both offense and defense. Propositions 62 (1986) and 218 (1996) were HJTA sponsored initiatives to plug loopholes in Prop. 13 created by the courts and the Legislature. On defense, constant vigilance is required against direct assaults on property owners and taxpayers by leftist backed initiatives to repeal or weaken Prop 13.

LAST WEEK, THE FIELD POLL REPORTED THAT SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 13 HAS HIT A NEW RECENT HIGH OF 63 PERCENT.

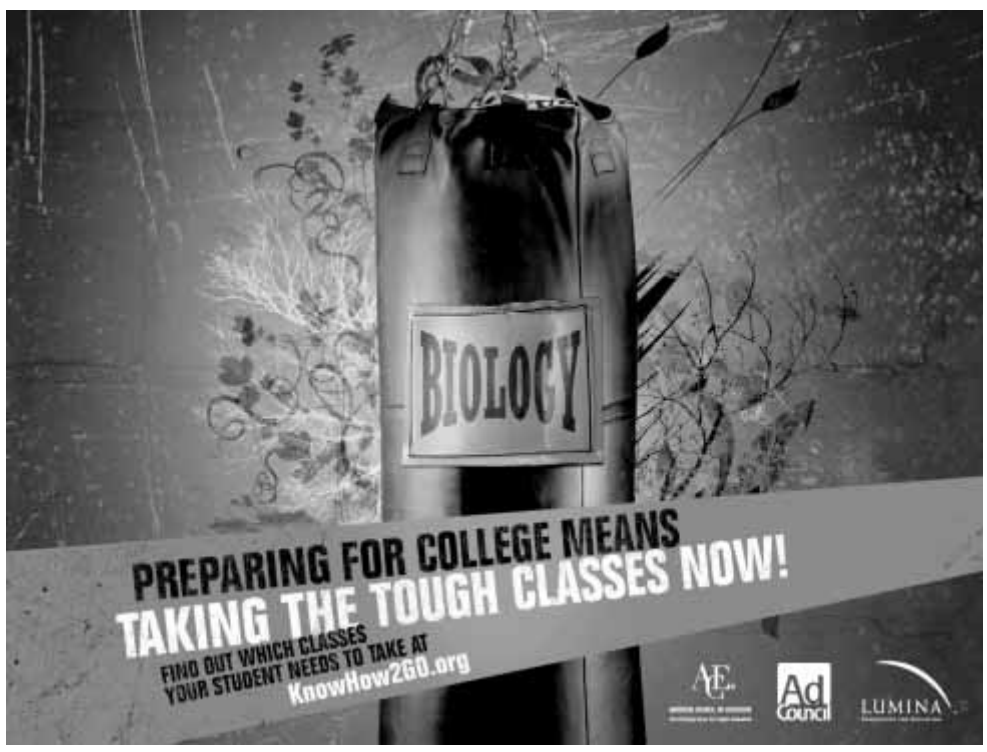
What makes fighting these challenges worth the effort is the knowledge that the vast majority of Californians agree with us. Last week, the Field Poll reported that support for Proposition 13 has hit a new recent high of 63 percent. (It had been as low as 50 percent several years ago). Those who would vote against Prop. 13 today account for only 29 percent of voters.

While support for Proposition 13 is, happily, again on the ascendancy, taxpayers must take nothing for granted. The detractors to Prop. 13 will never rest and all the challenges will, if anything, accelerate, not subside.

But, for now, taxpayers can take some small degree of satisfaction that the majority of California voters are on their side and don't want any changes or weakening of Prop. 13.

As for the moles, they will surely keep popping up. That's OK. Because we have a mallet and we know how to use it.

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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Your column here

Dr. E. Kristen Peters
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Breeding the best wheat

I SPENT THIS PAST SUMMER TRUDGING through 6-mile treks each weekend with two good friends. We walked along the edge of wheat fields outside of town. (My friends and I qualify as middle-aged ladies, so the walks counted as significant exercise. Sad but true.) One of the interesting things about the walks was simply observing the growth and ripening of the wheat fields by which we passed.

We depend on wheat for bread, pasta, animal feed, noodles and — perhaps most importantly — fresh-baked cinnamon rolls. Watching a whole field of wheat grow up, turn from green to gold, and finally be harvested is a magical production that never grows old, at least for us hayseeds.

In the old days wheat grew tall, some of it to a height of 6 feet. But around the time I was born wheat researchers launched the "Green Revolution" that created wheat with much shorter stature. That was important because it meant farmers could pour on as much fertilizer and water as they were able without leading to wheat so tall it would topple over. In total, the Green Revolution roughly doubled the amount of wheat available worldwide — quite an accomplishment, but one of the truly astounding aspects of technical progress to which we adapt so quickly we soon take it for granted.

Recently I had the good fortune to talk with a wheat breeder who knows the history of the Green Revolution and who is immersed in the next wave of research promising new progress for wheat production. Professor Kulvinder Gill is an ag researcher who made time to help this rockhead learn about both what the Green Revolution accomplished and one unfortunate side-effect it may have introduced into many strains of wheat.

"We believe that what reduced the height of the wheat also compromised a plant hormone called gibberellic acid (GA for short)," Gill told me. "One way of putting it is that we want a different way of dwarfing the wheat plant that leaves the GA alone."

One of the great challenges many wheat farmers face is growing wheat where rain is scarce. (Think of the Dakotas or west Texas. My eyes smart from the dust just cogitating on what a July afternoon there can be like.) About 85 percent of American wheat comes from low rainfall areas — places where what's called "desert wheat" would be a big help to farmers and therefore to all of us whom farmers feed.

One way to help wheat grow well in low-rainfall areas is to plant it two to three times deeper than you would elsewhere. Water is indeed down at that level in the soil, but of course if you plant at depth it means the little seedlings have to have the "oomph" to grow to the surface and emerge.

"We also want a big root system for dry conditions," Gill told me. "More roots so that each wheat plant draws in more moisture."

Beyond that, it's good to have roots that go downward, rather than spread laterally. Competing with a neighboring plant by having the first wheat plant send its roots laterally into a neighboring plant's domain doesn't do either of them any good. So downward growing roots are what Gill and his colleagues hope to promote.

There's a lot of painstaking work involved in breeding wheat. Researcher and their assistants use small scalpels to remove part of the reproductive organs on heads of wheat, then wait and finally cross-fertilize them with another strain.

The offspring of wheat produced this way has to be raised for four or five succeeding generations in order for it to breed true. Even in greenhouses where wheat will grow year round, that involves a couple of years in itself.

"But I'm sure that in 5 to 10 years we'll have 'desert wheat' that's ready to be planted by farmers," Gill told me.

In many parts of both the U.S. and the developing world, wheat that can flourish with little rain would be most welcome.

A lot more than cinnamon rolls are at stake.

DR. E. KIRSTEN PETERS, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. Follow her on the web at rockdoc.wsu.edu and on Twitter @RockDocWSU. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

The Q Line

What to do ...

A Walgreens proposed for the corner of Pico and Lincoln boulevards has created quite a stir. The Planning Commission held off on making a decision until it has seven voting members.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the Walgreens should be approved, or do you think it's a bad idea?

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) 458-7737 ext. 102.**





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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Doctor convicted in cancer fraud case

A doctor who said she could cure late-stage cancer and other diseases through an herbal supplement has been convicted of defrauding more than 50 patients across the nation out of $1 million.

Christine Daniel, 57, of Los Angeles was found guilty Monday of 11 counts, including wire fraud, tax evasion and witness tampering. She faces up to 150 years in prison and $5.5 million in fines when she's sentenced on Dec. 5.

Daniel used her position both as a doctor at the Sonrise Wellness Center and a Pentecostal minister to entice people from across the nation to take her herbal product. She charged as much as $150,000 for a six-month treatment program that she said could cure cancer, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease and diabetes.

In court documents, authorities contend Daniel took advantage of patients who desperately sought alternative measures after enduring draining rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

She claimed the supplement's success rate was between 60 and 100 percent for metastatic or terminal cancers. However, at trial experts called by federal prosecutors said chemical tests of the product showed it contained beef extract flavoring and a sunscreen preservative among other ingredients.

Many of her patients, relying on her product, died from complications of cancer within three to six months after taking the supplement. In all, authorities believe Daniel siphoned about $1.1 million from 55 families between 2001 and 2004.

Prosecutors said Daniel tried to influence the testimony of at least two witnesses who were called before a grand jury. She was acquitted of one count of witness tampering.

The trial, which began in March, took a four-month hiatus after the daughter of Daniel's defense attorney died in May. The lawyer was relieved and Daniel represented herself for the remainder of the trial. A phone listing for Daniel, who is free on bond, could not be found.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FERNANDO

Man charged with killing neighbor

Los Angeles County prosecutors say a Canyon Country man has been charged with the shotgun death of his next door neighbor.

Authorities say 51-year-old Paul Tracey was charged Tuesday with one count each of murder and assault.

Prosecutors allege Tracey killed 51-year-old Anthony Jay Davis on Sept. 24 because of an ongoing feud that spilled over when Tracey installed infrared lights on his property and pointed them at his neighbor's home, causing problems with Davis' video surveillance system.

Prosecutors say Tracey shot Davis twice when the victim unplugged the lights, then pointed the shotgun at the victim's wife.

Tracey is expected to have an attorney with him when he appears later Tuesday for arraignment.

Recommended bail is $1.1 million. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Sisters struck in marked crosswalk

Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics say three sisters were seriously injured when they were struck by a car in a marked crosswalk in the Echo Park area.

Fire Department spokesman Matt Spence says the girls are 5, 10 and 16 years old.

Spence says the teen was walking the two younger girls to school.

The driver told City News Service she did not see the girls and had just dropped off her own child at school.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Jail deputy allegedly took FBI bribe

A person familiar with the matter tells The Associated Press that the FBI paid a $1,500 bribe to a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who smuggled a cellphone to a jailed inmate.

The person, who was not authorized to speak about the case and so requested anonymity, said the bribe was paid as part of a months-long probe the FBI has been conducting into the state of Los Angeles County's sprawling jail network, the largest in the country.

Sheriff Lee Baca has slammed the investigation, saying there already are plenty of independent oversight agencies to ensure jail conditions are adequate.

Baca is meeting with U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte to discuss the matter Tuesday.

The investigation was first reported by the Los Angeles Times.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Beaten Giants fan goes outside

Relatives of the San Francisco Giants fan nearly beaten to death outside Dodger Stadium says he went outside for the first time in nearly six months as he shows more signs of improvement.

Bryan Stow's family wrote on their website that the father of two looked toward the sun Friday and said "It's magical."

Stow over the past week also made jokes, recognized family members and recalled memories from his childhood. The family says the 42-year-old paramedic speaks just a few words at a time rather than full conversations.

San Francisco General Hospital chief neurosurgeon Dr. Geoff Manley last week said doctors were encouraged by Stow's improvements but that he has far to go as he recovers from the traumatic brain injury inflicted in the March attack in Los Angeles.

AP

Jackson's own voice part of prosecutor's opening statements

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES First, prosecutors showed a photo of Michael Jackson's pale and lifeless body lying on a gurney. Then, they played a recording of his voice, just weeks before his death.

Slow and slurred, his words echoed Tuesday through a Los Angeles courtroom at the start of the trial of the doctor accused of killing him. As a worldwide audience watched on TV and Jackson's family looked on from inside the courtroom, a drugged Jackson said:

"We have to be phenomenal. When people leave this show, when people leave my show, I want them to say, 'I've never seen nothing like this in my life. Go. Go. I've never seen nothing like this. Go. It's amazing. He's the greatest entertainer in the world.'"

Prosecutors played the audio for the first time during opening statements as they portrayed Dr. Conrad Murray, 58, as an incompetent physician who used a dangerous anesthetic without adequate safeguards and whose neglect left the superstar abandoned as he lay dying.

Defense attorneys countered that Jackson caused his own death by taking a drug dose, including propofol, after Murray left the room.

Nothing the cardiologist could have done would have saved the King of Pop, defense attorney Ed Chernoff told jurors, because Jackson was desperate to regain his fame and needed rest to prepare for a series of crucial comeback concerts.

A number of Jackson's family members were in the courthouse, including his father Joseph, mother Katherine, sisters LaToya and Janet, and brothers Jermaine, Randy and Tito. LaToya Jackson carried a sunflower, her brother's favorite flower.

Murray, who arrived at court holding hands with his mother, is charged with involuntary manslaughter. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison and the loss of his medical license.

Speaking for more than an hour, prosecutor David Walgren relied on photos and audio recordings to paint Murray as an inept and reckless caretaker.

Walgren showed a photo of a lifeless Jackson on a hospital gurney. He juxtaposed the image with those of Jackson performing. Walgren also played the recording of Jackson speaking to Murray while, the prosecutor said, the singer was under the influence of an unknown substance roughly six weeks before his death.

Jackson trusted Murray as his physician, and "that misplaced trust in Conrad Murray cost Michael Jackson his life," Walgren said.

The recurring theme was Jackson's never ending quest for sleep and propofol, the potion he called his "milk" and that he believed was the answer. Jurors were told that it was a powerful anesthetic, not a sleep aid, and the prosecutor said Murray severely misused it.

The prosecutor said while working for Jackson, the doctor was shipped more than four gallons of the anesthetic, which is normally given in hospital settings.

Chernoff, the defense attorney, claimed the singer swallowed several pills of the sedative lorazepam on the morning of his death and that was enough to put six people to sleep. After taking propofol, Jackson did not even have a chance to close his eyes, Chernoff said.

Chernoff, who had long hinted that the defense would blame Jackson for his own death, added a surprise. He claimed that Jackson died not because his doctor continued to give him the drug but because he stopped it, forcing Jackson to take extreme measures.

"What we will hear is that Dr. Murray provided propofol for two months to Michael Jackson for sleep," Chernoff said. "During those two months, Michael Jackson slept. He woke up and he lived his life.

"The evidence will not show you that Michael Jackson died because Dr. Murray gave him propofol. The evidence is going to show you Michael Jackson died when Dr. Murray stopped," the attorney said. He said Murray was trying to wean Jackson off of propofol and had been giving him other sleep aids known as benzodiazepines trying to lull him to sleep.

On June 25, 2009, the last day of Jackson's life, Chernoff said, he was in the third day of a weaning process and it didn't work.

"Michael Jackson started begging. He couldn't understand why he wasn't sleeping.... When Michael Jackson told Dr. Murray 'I have to sleep. They will cancel my performance,' he meant it," Chernoff said.

Murray, in a recording of his interview with police detectives, acknowledged that he relented and agreed to give Jackson a small dose of propofol.

Walgren said Murray's claim that he gave the singer a minuscule dosage, enough to keep him asleep perhaps five minutes, was not true. He also accused Murray of deception when he hid from paramedics and hospital emergency staff that he had given Jackson propofol. He said they were desperately trying to revive him but didn't know about the drug.

He returned repeatedly to the fee Murray was to be paid — $150,000 a month — and pointed out that he first had asked for $5 million.

"There was no doctor-patient relationship," Walgren said. "... What existed here was an employer-employee relationship. He was not working for the health of Michael Jackson. Dr. Murray was working for a fee of $150,000."

Chernoff countered with a description of Murray's history of treating indigent patients for free. At times during the defense attorney's opening statements, Murray appeared to be crying and wiped his eyes with a tissue.

Jackson's family members appeared pained as Walgren described the singer as a vulnerable figure, left alone with drugs coursing through his body.

"It violates not only the standard of care but the decency of one human being to another," he said. "Dr. Murray abandoned Michael when he needed help."

Following opening statements, Jackson's choreographer and friend, Kenny Ortega, testified that Jackson was in bad shape physically and mentally less than a week before his death.

He said he sent a message to Randy Phillips, producer of the "This Is It" concert, telling him that Jackson was ill, probably should have a psychological evaluation and was not ready to perform.

"It's important for everyone to know he really wants this," he wrote. "It would shatter him, break his heart if we pulled the plug. He's terribly frightened it's all going to go away."

In response to the e-mail, Ortega said, a meeting was called at Jackson's house where Ortega clashed with Murray, who told him to stop playing amateur psychiatrist and doctor.

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SMO
FROM PAGE 1

dents armed with binoculars and decibel meters to demonstrate that 61 percent of SMO's air traffic stems from flight school activity.

That number is not available from federal statistics, which break down the numbers of take offs and landings by other criteria.

Some of Fairweather's numbers are blatantly wrong, contended pilot Howard Israel.

Some of Fairweather's data had Israel's plane landing at an inaccurate time and completing moves Israel swears he had never done with the plane.

The issue could be solved with a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, but it would be pricey, Israel said.

"It's easy to do, but it will cost $6,000 to $8,000," Israel added, challenging Fairweather to bet him the cost of the public records request who was right — Israel's logs, or Fairweather's observations.

Either way, residents contend that the planes are noisy and fly constantly over their homes between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., when they are legally allowed to do so.

At the same time, the only fuel approved for use in the airplanes is leaded diesel fuel, which residents say adds to general pollution as well as dangerous levels of lead in the blood.

A similar charge has been levied by California State Sen. Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), who has asked the state to investigate the air pollution and lead levels in the blood of those that live around SMO.

The presence of a large number of student pilots traversing the airspace over heavily-populated areas also stirred fears of the consequences of another crash.

Justice and Elder countered that the flight schools had the right to operate under both federal and local law, and that each school did its best to keep noise down to a minimum.

Pilots try to follow a voluntary flight path meant to minimize the impact of the noise on residents, Justice said.

Many times, if a pilot flies directly over homes, it's because the control tower instructed them to, often to get out of the way of a coming jet.

He also noted that even as the amount of traffic, and therefore noise, decreases as a result of the weak economy, the number of complaints filed by residents has only increased.

Elder, whose company helps people get commercial licenses, argued that pilots need to train in the kinds of areas they will eventually be flying in so that they can handle the situation when they're flying much larger planes.

To the point of noise, he wasn't sympathetic.

"Do you buy a house next to the train tracks and complain about the train?" he asked.

It is true that at least Santa Monica residents near the airport reap a major cost savings on their homes compared to the rest of the city.

According to Altos Research, the median home value in Santa Monica is $1.68 million compared to $1.2 million for a home in Sunset Park.

It creates an opportunity, said real estate agent Kate Bransfield.

"Houses around the airport still very much sell because Santa Monica and Santa Monica schools," Bransfield said.

Price aside, the question of flight school operations comes down to a quality of life issue, said Commissioner Stephen Mark.

"The question is can you conceive of a way for you to operate your schools differently to ameliorate what the people are describing?" Mark asked.

It might be possible to reduce the number of hours that students can fly by requesting that they come in before curfew, Justice said.

"But we need to make sure we don't push ourselves out of business, because we have a place here, too," Justice said.

Flight schools are not new to the airport.

Airport Director Bob Trimborn presented a truncated history of SMO, noting that in its general aviation heyday, there were 350,000 take offs and landings and up to 14 to 20 planes flying loops around the airport at any given time.

In 2010, that number has dropped to 104,950, the lowest point it's been in a decade.

"The number of flight schools is based on market demand," Trimborn said.

Commissioner Ofer Grossman offered another perspective.

"This is not by accident," he said. "It's by design."

Grossman said that at least two of the approved flight schools had enjoyed support from members of the community that had hoped that an influx of slower, smaller biplanes would clog up the runway and make the area less hospitable to jets, the hot issue at the time.

"Now, the tide has turned," Grossman said.

ashley@smdp.com





Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

BETTER AND BETTER: **Water quality near the Santa Monica Pier has again earned a high grade.**

WATER
FROM PAGE 1

It is the fifth consecutive summer of excellent water quality in California, with an estimated 92 percent of the 447 beaches along the state's coast that were tested for bacterial pollution from Memorial Day through Labor Day receiving A or B grades, according to Heal the Bay.

"We continue to see water quality improvements at California beaches," said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay. "A sustainable source of beach monitoring funding is critical to ensure that we continue to capitalize on these gains and safeguard the public health of millions of ocean users statewide."

The situation is also looking up for some of the state's most polluted beaches. All the sites tested in the port city of Long Beach appeared clean, and the city of Avalon on Santa Catalina Island is expected to spend $5 million to repair a deteriorating sewer system that has been contributing to high pollution levels.

Meanwhile, legislators approved a bill that would replace funding for water testing that was cut in 2008 due to the budget crisis. Since that time many coastal communities relied on local general funds or volunteers for reduced testing. The state water board had provided funding through 2011, but there was no secured state funding for next year.

The bill, which is awaiting Gov. Jerry Brown's signature, would funnel permit fees collected by the state water board to fund beach water quality monitoring.

Most bacterial contamination occurs during winter, when heavy rains overload storm drains and sewage systems, washing waste into the sea. Swimming in such pollution can cause gastrointestinal, respiratory and other illnesses.

Los Angeles County, which consistently has the worst water quality in the state, showed marked improvement this summer. Some 85 percent of beaches received A or B grades, up from last year's 79 percent, thanks in large part to historically troubled Long Beach scoring its best summer water quality grades to date, according to the report card.

On the downside, poor water quality persists at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro. The harborside beach near the restrooms has earned F grades the past eight summers. The city of Los Angeles has completed several improvement projects totaling $15 million without much luck, according to the report.

Other beaches in L.A. County earning F grades this summer: Marie Canyon at Puerco Beach, Escondido Creek, Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach, Surfrider Beach, Malibu Pier, Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon and Topanga State Beach.

Orange County once again enjoyed great water quality this summer, with 94 percent of beaches receiving an A grade, slightly lower than last summer. Poche Beach once again received an F grade, but Dana Point's perennially troubled Doheny Beach jumped to an A grade from last season's C.

San Diego and Ventura counties once again rose to the head of the water quality class and exhibited uniformly excellent marks. All of San Diego's 73 monitored beaches earned an A or B grade (72 A's and one B). In Ventura, all 40 monitoring locations received A grades.

Water quality at beaches in Santa Barbara County was fairly good this summer, with 87 percent of monitored beaches scoring an A or B grade. Gaviota Beach (C) and Arroyo Burro (F) were the only locations that did not earn an A or B grade.

Beachgoers can view Heal the Bay's report from any computer, or download a Beach Report Card mobile app for their iPhone or Android, at www.beachreportcard.org.

The new, free Beach Report Card app provides access anytime and anywhere to a comprehensive, weekly analysis of coastline water quality. The mobile app provides A through F grades, weather conditions and user tips for more than 650 beach locations in California, Oregon and Washington at the fingertips of those who swim, surf and play at the beach.

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OBAMA
FROM PAGE 3

than the political reality that governing is harder and uglier than campaigning.

Obama's campaign was premised on the notion of uniting the country and changing the very way Washington worked. But that's something he's acknowledged he failed to do.

So now, as he asks voters to send him back to Washington for another four years, it's no longer as a potentially transformational figure campaigning for unity, but as a battle-scarred politician campaigning, as politicians do, against the opposition.

"He is, of course, like any savvy campaigner, trying to lower expectations and motivate the base by underscoring his need for and want of campaign energy," said Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a senior fellow at the University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development.

Obama, with his approval ratings sinking into the 40s, appears to recognize as well as anyone the disconnect between the lofty rhetoric of then and the partisan reality of now. It helps explain why he finds himself needing to yank supporters out of wishful memories of the way things were.

Addressing supporters in a wealthy Seattle suburb Sunday night, Obama remarked of 2008: "There is a lot of revisionist history that says our campaign was perfect and we never had any problems, and it was all just the big 'hope' posters, and everybody was feeling good, Bruce Springsteen singing.

"That wasn't how it felt when I was in the middle of it," Obama said. "So this stuff is always hard. But this is going to be especially hard, because a lot of people are discouraged and a lot of people are disillusioned."

In fact, on the night he won election in 2008, Obama tried to caution even his most elated supporters to brace themselves for a hard period of governing.

"The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep," Obama said that night from Grant Park in Chicago. "We may not get there in one year or even one term."

This time around, he tells supporters, he will be focused on painting a clear contrast between his vision of America and the GOP approach, which he charged would "cripple" the country over the long term. That one pivot — from campaigning on hope and unity to attacking the GOP — sums up just how different things are this time around for Obama.

And yet, Obama is trying, too, not to abandon his initial message. He has his own hope — that supporters can find some of their excitement from his historic campaign.

"All that 'hopey, changey stuff,' as they say, that was real," he said in New York last week. To supporters in Seattle Obama added: "I hope that all of you end up, despite the ups and down inevitable in a campaign, that you guys will be just as excited on inauguration day of 2013 as you were inauguration day 2009."

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CAMPAIGNS
FROM PAGE 1

accounts — including those for local campaigns including Terry O'Day for City Council 2010, Braun for Rent Control 2010, Santa Monicans for Quality Government and the Committee to Protect Community and Schools — is approximately $2.5 million.

Those accounts were frozen after Durkee's arrest, and account holders, like City Councilmember Terry O'Day, couldn't find out how much money was left in their own campaign accounts.

The bank would take down his name and phone number and promise a return phone call, which never came.

The court filing, however, lists each campaign account next to the current balance reported by the bank.

According to the filing, O'Day's account contained $152.51, down from the $16,333.76 that he reported on the last campaign finance form for the reporting period that ended on June 30.

"This is the first bit of information on what might have been taken from my account specifically," O'Day said.

The Committee to Protect Community and Schools, which backed the half cent sales tax increase, which funds schools and local government, lost $14,498.46, according to their most recent filing, although a representative said it was more like $10,000.

Durkee had never shown any signs of being untrustworthy, said Tom Larmore, a local land use attorney who was active on the Y and YY campaign.

"She was recommended by our campaign consultant who'd worked with her many times and had a good experience with her," Larmore said. "We had no reason to suspect her."

All invoices that Durkee paid were authorized through Larmore. The final expenditure he recalls was a minimal one to the firm itself for its services.

"Nothing jumped out at me as a problem," he said. "If the money was siphoned out of the account, it must have happened this year."

The additional money would have been used to pay bonuses to campaign workers that had gone above and beyond, Larmore said.

"It's not like we're being hung out to dry," he said.

Those who had money stolen from them will have the opportunity to fight for the little that can be recovered, but for local campaigns, the dollar amount is too small to justify the legal bills needed to get it back.

"Ours was such a small amount compared to what's gone, so there probably isn't a point," Larmore said. "We'll monitor the situation and see if there's something we can do."

The other two funds, Braun 2010 Rent Control Board and Santa Monicans for Quality Government, were significantly less impacted.

Braun's account dropped by $30.77, while the Quality Government account increased by $1,557.33, according to the last filings compared to the remainder in the account.

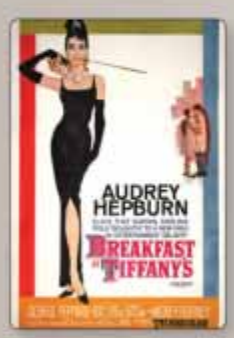
The picture is more bleak for those individuals planning to run for office in 2012, like O'Day.

He described the situation as a "setback," but nothing that couldn't be overcome for the 2012 City Council campaign.

"This was an advantage that we had going into the 2012 campaign, and it's eliminated, but we have many more advantages," O'Day said.

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Stock market continues three-day winning streak

CHIP CUTTER
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks rose broadly Tuesday on hopes that Europe was moving closer to resolving its debt crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 146 points as industrial and materials companies led the market higher.

Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel said her country would do whatever it could to help Greece regain investors' confidence. Greece's finance minister also said that country would receive the next round of bailout loans in time to avoid a default. Greece was at risk of running out of money by mid-October if it did not receive the funds.

"Europeans are finally starting to understand that they need to act with some force to get ahead of the European debt crisis," said John Briggs, a fixed-income strategist at RBS.

The Dow rose 146.83 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at 11,190.69. It had been up as many as 325 points earlier. The Dow has added 419 points over the last two days, making up more than half of its 737-point plunge last week.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 12.43, or 1.1 percent, to 1,175.38. Materials stocks led the S&P higher. Specialty metals company Allegheny Technologies Inc. rose 7.4 percent, the most in the index.

The Nasdaq composite rose 30.14, or 1.2 percent, to 2,546.83.

The gains were broad. Five stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. All 10 company groups that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose. Volume was slightly higher than average at 4.9 billion shares.

Small companies rose more than larger ones, a sign that investors were moving money into riskier investments. The Russell 2000 index, a benchmark for small-cap stocks, rose 2.2 percent.

European markets also closed sharply higher. Germany's DAX rose 5.3 percent, France's CAC-40 5.7 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 4 percent.

The encouraging signs from Europe also sent commodities prices higher. Investors fear that a blowup in Europe's debt crisis could drag down economic growth across the globe. That would reduce demand for raw materials such as crude oil and copper.

Oil soared 5.3 percent, copper 4.8 percent. That helped the stocks of energy producers and mining companies. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. rose 3.1 percent and Exxon Mobil Corp. rose 1.7 percent. Gold rose 3.6 percent, its first gain in a week.

Analysts cautioned that even a small dose of bad news from Europe or the U.S. economy could push stocks right back down again.

"This is a news, rumor-driven rally," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati. "This is still a very, very risky market."

That was evident late in the day when the Financial Times reported that a split had emerged among European leaders over the bailout terms for Greece's debt. The Dow had been up nearly 300 points shortly before the FT published the report on its website at 2:48 Eastern. Within an hour, those gains faded and the Dow closed up 147 points.

Worries about Europe have weighed on the stock market for months. The S&P 500, a benchmark for many U.S. mutual funds, has fallen 13 percent since July 22, shortly after spiking yields on Italian and Spanish bonds brought fears that the region's debt crisis could spread beyond peripheral countries like Greece and Ireland.

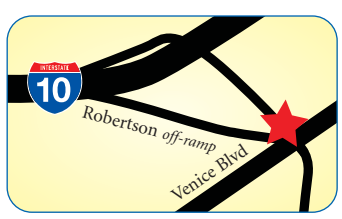
Analysts say more needs to be done to fight Europe's debt crisis. Finance ministers have been pushing to increase the size of Europe's rescue fund. Economists also want the European Central Bank to lower interest rates to help spur the economy.

In the U.S., the threat of another budget crisis was averted late Monday when the Senate passed legislation to avoid a government shutdown.

Home prices rose for a fourth straight month in most major U.S. cities in July. A report on Tuesday also showed that consumer confidence improved slightly in September after plummeting in August.

Walgreen Co. fell 6.3 percent, the most in the S&P, after the drugstore operator said it is ending its relationship with Express Scripts Inc. That deal is worth $5.3 billion per year, but Walgreen said Express Scripts was not paying it enough money to fill prescriptions.

Blackberry maker Research In Motion Ltd. jumped 4.5 percent after rumors spread that billionaire investor Carl Icahn has bought a stake in the company, suggesting that the company could be in play.

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Florida welfare applicants less likely to use drugs

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Preliminary figures on a new Florida law requiring drug tests for welfare applicants show that they are less likely than other people to use drugs, not more. One famous Floridian suggests that it's the people who came up with the law who should be submitting specimens.

Columnist and best-selling author Carl Hiaasen offered to pay for drug testing for all 160 members of the Florida Legislature in what he called "a patriotic whiz-fest." Several of the law's supporters say they're on board.

"There is a certain public interest in going after hypocrisy," Hiaasen said Tuesday, two days after he made his proposal in a Miami Herald column.

"Folks that are applying for DCF (Department of Children and Families) money normally wouldn't be standing in that line, and on top of that humiliation they now get to pee in a cup so they can get grocery money for their kids," Hiaasen told The Associated Press in an interview at his Vero Beach home.

Gov. Rick Scott and other supporters of the law — the only one of its kind currently on the books in the U.S. — say the tests will save the state cash by weeding out people who would use welfare money on drugs. Critics say that just a few months after it went into effect, the law has already refuted the idea that people receiving public assistance are more likely to use drugs.

Preliminary figures show that about 2.5 percent of up to 2,000 applicants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families have tested positive since the law went into effect in July. Another 2 percent declined to take the test, Department of Children and Families officials say.

The Justice Department estimates that 6 percent of Americans 12 and older use illegal drugs.

The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging the law, saying it violates welfare applicants' constitutional right against unreasonable searches. For that reason, a federal appellate court struck down a similar Michigan law in 2003.

The state hasn't said how much it believes it has saved by requiring the drug tests, but some of the law's most ardent backers say they're willing to take Hiaasen up on his offer.

"Tell him to write the check," said Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Bennett. "I'll be the first one to take it."

The Bradenton Republican said he'd even sponsor a bill that would require legislators to get urine tests — and require Hiassen to pay for them.

"Half the citizens of the state of Florida probably think half of the Legislature is on drugs, anyhow," Bennett cracked. "Nobody knows which half. That's the problem."

Rep. Jimmie Smith, an Inverness Republican who sponsored the measure, is also happy to accept. He's a retired staff sergeant who ran an Army testing program as his unit's drug coordinator.

Some legislative opponents of the law leaned against Hiaasen's idea, including Senate Democratic Leader Nan Rich of Weston. She had suggested — tongue-in-cheek — that lawmakers themselves agree to drug tests when the legislation was debated.

"I personally would be willing to be drug-tested, but again I don't think you should be testing anybody unless there is a reasonable suspicion that they are taking drugs," Rich said in an interview.

"It's not a good return on investment ..., a waste of Carl Hiaasen's money," said Sen. Eleanor Sobel, a Hollywood Democrat who voted against the legislation. "He should use the money to help the homeless."

Hiaasen, though, said he thought the tests would be well worth the cost: $10 to $25 each.

"It would have an incredibly high entertainment value for me, and I'd probably get another column out of it," he said.

He said he'd also pay for a drug test for Scott.

The Republican governor not only urged lawmakers to pass the drug testing requirement, but ordered agencies under his control to test all new hires and do random testing of existing employees. He put the policy on hold, except for the Department of Corrections, due to a separate court challenge.

Scott spokesman Lane Wright noted that the governor's office had a random drug testing policy for its employees before Scott was elected. He said the governor himself has not been tested since taking office in January but is "willing to be drug tested now."

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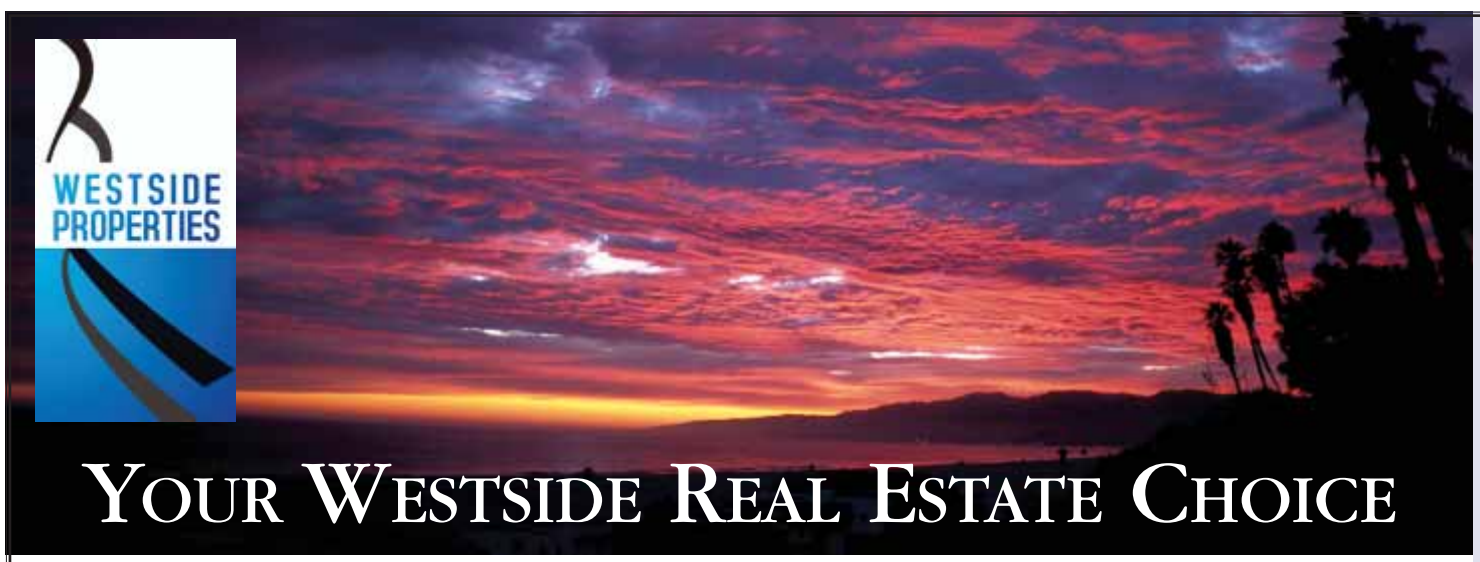
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Markets ditching self-checkout

STEPHANIE REITZ
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, Conn. When Keith Wearne goes grocery shopping, checking out with a cashier is worth the few extra moments, rather than risking that a self-serve machine might go awry and delay him even more.

Most shoppers side with Wearne, studies show. And with that in mind, some grocery store chains nationwide are bagging the do-it-yourself option, once considered the wave of the future, in the name of customer service.

"It's just more interactive," Wearne said during a recent shopping trip at Manchester's Big Y Foods. "You get someone who says hello; you get a person to talk to if there's a problem."

Big Y Foods, which has 61 locations in Connecticut and Massachusetts, recently became one of the latest to announce it was phasing out the self-serve lanes. Some other regional chains and major players, including some Albertsons locations, have also reduced their unstaffed lanes and added more clerks to traditional lanes.

Market studies cited by the Arlington, Va.-based Food Marketing Institute found only 16 percent of supermarket transactions in 2010 were done at self-checkout lanes in stores that provided the option. That's down from a high of 22 percent three years ago.

Overall, people reported being much more satisfied with their supermarket experience when they used traditional cashier-staffed lanes.

Supermarket chains started introducing self-serve lanes about 10 years ago, touting them as an easy way for shoppers to scan their own items' bar codes, pay, bag their bounty and head out on their way. Retailers also anticipated a labor savings, potentially reducing the number of cashier shifts as they encouraged shoppers to do it themselves.

The reality, though, was mixed. Some shoppers loved them and were quick converts, while other reactions ranged from disinterest to outright hatred — much of it shared on blogs or in Facebook groups.

An internal study by Big Y found delays in its self-service lines caused by customer confusion over coupons, payments and other problems; intentional and accidental theft, including misidentifying produce and baked goods as less-expensive varieties; and other problems that helped guide its decision to bag the self-serve lanes.

Wearne, 39, a Tolland resident who owns a power-washing service, reluctantly used a self-serve lane at the Manchester Big Y to ring up granola bars and a 12-pack of Miller Genuine Draft but had to wait while a clerk checked his identification.

If he hadn't seen the clerk standing there immediately ready to help, he said, he would have used the traditional lanes, as he usually does.

But for time-crunched Greg Styles, a self-described "get-it-and-go type of guy," the top priority is paying and leaving without lingering in a checkout lane.

Styles, a 47-year-old South Windsor resident, says the convenience of the self-serve lanes fits into his busy life as a college lacrosse coach and father of 7-year-old twins.

"I'm not happy about it, not at all," Styles said of the change, ringing up baked goods and chicken breasts on a recent afternoon at Big Y's Manchester store. "I like to get in and get out. These lanes are quick and really easy, so I use them all the time."

He's not the typical shopper, though, according to research.

While some chains are reducing their self-serve options, others say they're keeping it in place along with the traditional lanes because they think giving shoppers that choice is an important part of customer service.

"Our philosophy is giving customers options. People shop in different ways and we want to accommodate their preferences," said Suzi Robinson, a spokeswoman for Stop & Shop Supermarket Co., which has self-serve lanes in about 85 percent of its nearly 400 stores in the Northeast.

Another chain, Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons LLC, has said it's phasing out self-service lanes. Kroger says it's keeping the self-service option because customers like it, although one remodeled store replaced it with another quick-checkout method that uses a cashier.

Phil Lempert, a Santa Monica-based food industry analyst, noted that supermarkets have a few other motivations to get rid of the self-serve lanes beyond customer service.

They will eventually need to replace their checkout computers to read newly emerging types of bar codes, so there's little business sense in keeping and replacing those self-serve machines if they're not well-used anyway, he said.

Perhaps more important, he said, the growing trend toward using bar code-reading programs on smartphones is likely to change everything in supermarket shopping over time.

Some scholars who follow the retail food industry say decisions by Big Y and others to do away with the self-serve checkout lanes aren't necessarily the death knell of the trend. Home Depot and some other businesses, which cater to customers with a do-it-yourself mentality, report success with their self-serve lanes.

But not all supermarket shoppers share that mentality, and whether they embrace or reject the self-serve option may come down to demographics — such as whether they're in a tech-savvy region — and other factors that the supermarkets cannot control.

"I think some of the stores are just deciding that, on the balance, it's a negative. Other stores, because they have a different composition of shoppers, are deciding to keep it," John Stanton, a professor of food marketing at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, said of the self-serve option.

Missouri may keep its early primary

CHRIS BLANK
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. Missouri is poised to hold an early presidential primary next year, a move that could inject more confusion into the 2012 election calendar by prompting other states to elbow to the front of the campaign line.

Lawmakers are moving closer to the end of a special legislative session without rescheduling the primary now set for Feb. 7, as national party officials would prefer. The February date would make Missouri's vote the second presidential contest in the nation, a day after Iowa's caucuses and before the New Hampshire primary.

Saturday is the deadline for states to schedule their 2012 primaries. The prospect of action by Missouri lawmakers before then appears slim.

The Democratic and Republican parties have pressed states not to crowd into the early weeks of 2012 and threatened to subtract half the national convention delegates of those doing so. Missouri was preparing to move its primary back but the effort has faltered.

"Sadly, a few senators may be willing to throw the entire national nominating process into disarray," said Missouri Republican Party Chairman David Cole, adding that presidential campaigns could boycott Missouri.

The executive director for the Missouri Republican Party said later Tuesday that it wants to avoid disrupting the national nominating process.

"We continue to explore all of our options, including those that do not require legislative action," said Lloyd Smith, the Missouri GOP executive director. "It is becoming obvious that we, as a party, will take necessary steps to select our delegates to the national convention in a way other than the primary."

If Missouri's February date holds, both Iowa and New Hampshire and potentially other states could move their presidential contests even earlier to maximize their role in the early campaign. Already, Arizona and Michigan have set presidential primaries for Feb. 28. And a Florida commission may decide Friday to set its primary earlier than March.

Tim Albrecht, spokesman for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, vowed that no state will get ahead of Iowa. "There is no doubt that Iowa will remain as the first contest. We will do whatever we can to keep Iowa first in the nation," he said.

The scramble could set up a repeat of the 2008 elections in which a rash of early contests led Iowa to hold its caucus on Jan. 3 amid the holiday season bustle. By early February, about half the states had voted. Five states were penalized delegates for holding contests too early.

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BOOK REVIEW

'Tag Man' will grab readers' attention

MARY FOSTER
Associated Press

Never have so many dysfunctional people combined for such a riveting read as in Archer Mayor's "Tag Man."

One is dealing with guilt and lost love, one with a physical handicap and a skewed view of life, and one has so many phobias, anxieties, complexes, compulsions and other mental disorders that he struggles to stay functional.

Joe Gunther, head of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, is trying to recover from the murder of his latest love, a problem compounded by the guilt he feels about it. An interesting case and a return to work begin to pull him out of his funk.

Willie Kunkle, one of the VBI investigators, has lost an arm and has a long, dark history that makes it hard for him to be around others, and vice versa. A newborn daughter begins to soften him.

And there is Dan Kravitz, a brilliant man with so many mental problems, he lives far outside the so-called normal world. His 15-year-old daughter is his anchor. She keeps him functional, but cannot prevent some of his forays.

Brattleboro, Vt., is undergoing an unusual crime spree.

Someone is breaking into the homes of the rich, bypassing their high-tech security, their state-of-the-art locks and then making himself at home. The intruder doesn't seem to steal anything except some food. At each break-in, he leaves the remains of his snack out and a note posted next to the bed where the owners are sleeping. One word is written on the note: Tag.

Problems begin for the elusive Tag Man when he takes some material from the home of a mobbed-up man. The danger increases when a trip through a beautifully furnished mansion turns up a secret basement room.

In that room, the Tag Man discovers the horrifying secret of a man who is the most dysfunctional of them all. A suitcase filled with evidence of a string of murders soon has the Tag Man running for his life.

Mayor writes an intelligent mystery. His characters are real, the things that happen to them are logical, and the plot is believable. It's a pleasure to find a story that captures readers' attention, makes them care about the characters — and offers such dark chills.

"Tag Man" isn't a traditional mystery. Readers know early on who did what. The mystery is who will survive and if Gunther and his crew will untangle the strands soon enough to save a man whose crimes were the least of those committed.

Fans will be sorry to see "Tag Man" come to an end, but they will be delighted by its outcome.

Andy Rooney exiting '60 Minutes'

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK With 1,096 essays for "60 Minutes" under his belt, Andy Rooney will deliver his 1,097th on Sunday's broadcast. And it will be his last as a regular contributor.

The 92-year-old Rooney will announce his departure at the end of the program, where he has been featured since 1978, CBS News announced on Tuesday. It will be preceded by a segment in which Rooney looks back on his career with "60 Minutes" correspondent Morley Safer.

"There's nobody like Andy and there never will be," said Jeff Fager, chairman of CBS News and "60 Minutes" executive producer.

He called Rooney's contributions to the program "immeasurable," and added, "It's harder for him to do it every week, but he will always have the ability to speak his mind on '60 Minutes' when the urge hits him."

Rooney began speaking his mind on "60 Minutes" in July 1978 with an essay about misleading reporting of automobile fatalities on the Independence Day weekend.

"Car for car," argued Rooney, "it's one of the safest weekends of the year to be going someplace." In fact, fewer people die of all causes on that weekend than at most other times, his research told him. And since "fewer people are watching television over the Fourth," he added, "I suppose fewer die of boredom."

He was a tender 59 years old, and, that fall, he became a regular contributor, delivering sometimes folksy, sometimes peppery observations on ordinary life under the title, "A Few Minutes With Andy Rooney."

Rooney had been a contributor to "60 Minutes" since the show's debut. During its first season in 1968 he appeared a few times in silhouette with Palmer Williams, "60 Minutes" senior producer, in a short-lived segment called "Ipso and Facto."

He also produced "60 Minutes" segments during the broadcast's first few seasons.

Rooney joined CBS in 1949 as a writer for "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts," a hit show of that day. He also wrote for "The Garry Moore Show" (1959-65), a popular variety show. At the same time, he was writing for CBS News public-affairs broadcasts such as "The Twentieth Century" and "Calendar."

He wrote his first television essay in 1964, "An Essay on Doors." Continuing the collaboration with CBS News correspondent Harry Reasoner as on-camera narrator, Rooney composed contemplations on such subjects as bridges, chairs and women.

With "An Essay on War," which aired on PBS in 1971, Rooney made his first appearance delivering his words.

But his skills as a writer and producer, not as the talking head he also famously became late in life, were the roles he said he always valued most.

"I obviously have a knack for getting on paper what a lot of people have thought and didn't realize they thought," he reflected in an interview with The Associated Press in 1998. "And they say, 'Hey, yeah!' And they like that."



NFL

Gov. Brown signs bill to speed up L.A. stadium plan

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The developer behind a $1.2 billion plan to build a football stadium in downtown Los Angeles got a key boost Tuesday with a law that will help it avoid lengthy court fights.

Billing the measure as a job creation push, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill (SB 292) at a Los Angeles Convention Center ceremony with executives from Anschutz Entertainment Group, which is proposing to build a 72,000-seat stadium next to the convention center.

With California's unemployment rate in double digits, Brown said the stadium, to be called Farmer's Field, would create 12,000 construction jobs and 11,000 permanent jobs.

"This is the way we get people working," he said.

The bill would expedite resolution of legal challenges to AEG's project, sending lawsuits over its environmental impact directly to the California Court of Appeal and bypassing the Superior Court. The appeals court would have to make a ruling within 175 days.

AEG would thus avoid a protracted and costly court battle that could hold up construction of the stadium, which could break ground as early as June if it passes environmental muster and secures an NFL team.

In return, AEG, which owns the Staples Center and L.A. Live entertainment complex next to the convention center, pledged to build a "green stadium" and make it public-transit friendly.

Brown also signed AB 900, a companion bill that would allow other large projects to apply for similar expedited court rulings while preserving environmental standards.

The AEG bill's co-author, state Sen. Alex Padilla, a Los Angeles Democrat, said creating jobs while maintaining environmental protections was key in hammering out the measure.

"With unemployment over 12 percent and over 13 percent in the Los Angeles region, we do need to act with a sense of urgency," he said.

A rival group, Majestic Realty, has proposed building a stadium in the City of Industry, outside Los Angeles. It obtained its own earmarked bill in 2009 when legislators gave it an exemption from some environmental laws and protection from lawsuits over environmental issues.

The AEG bill did not go as far as that measure. "We're going to protect the environment," Brown said. "But there are too many damn regulations. I've got some power now. Let's cut the barriers and regulations and move ahead."

AEG President Tim Leiweke said the legislation shows the NFL that the stadium has statewide backing.

"We now have a bill that gives us certainty that this stadium will be built," Leiweke said. "Now we put on our best effort and get the NFL back here."

Leiweke said he has spoken with several teams about moving to Los Angeles, but declined to specify which ones. He said he plans to follow the guidance of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell about which teams would be candidates.

The company hopes to unveil the stadium in time for the 2016 season, but is prepared for a 2017 launch if necessary, he said.

> **"THIS IS THE WAY WE GET PEOPLE WORKING."**
>
> Gov. Jerry Brown,
> California

Some environmentalists said they supported the AEG bill after the developer agreed to submit a full environmental impact report, purchase carbon credits locally to offset emissions and take measures to lessen the impact of traffic for the life of the stadium, among other items.

Warner Chabot, chief executive of the California League of Conservation Voters, said he was pleased those measures were included in the bill since it already had the votes to pass.

"We don't like the principle of doing special legislation for a single project," Chabot said. "It sets a bad precedent, but it would have set a worst precedent for the community without these things."

Padilla said public works projects are often granted similar protections. "It's not anything new or unprecedented," he said.

The Planning and Conservation League's legislative director, Jena Price, said her group continued to oppose the bill, largely because it was ramrodded through the Legislature, bypassing committee review and going straight to a floor vote.

Still, she noted that the bill reflected a compromise that did not give AEG the same wide-ranging exemptions given to Majestic Realty.

"An eleventh hour bill is never a smart one," she said. "It's one more step in taking away the voice of local communities."

In a related development, KCAL-TV reported Tuesday that the city is awarding a $1 million federal community block development grant to the architectural firm designing the stadium so it can relocate from Santa Monica to a downtown office.

Advocates for the poor told the station that they were incensed the grant is not being used to help the needy and complained to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers the money.

HUD told them the move was legal as long as the firm, Gensler & Associates, creates 29 new jobs, with more than half going to low-income workers.

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

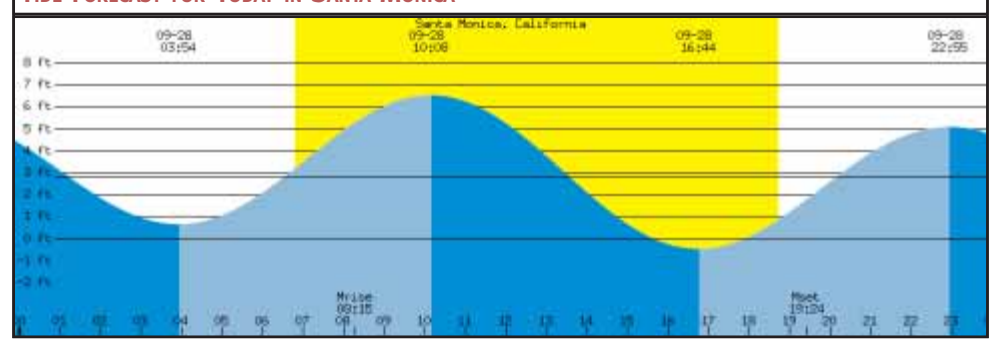
Swell Forecast

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **September 21, 2011**

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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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 Lechasa and Las Alisa 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.	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	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.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	C	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.	B	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 D&W 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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Colossus: The Forbin Project (NR) 1hr 40min
7:30pm
Discussion following with actor Eric Braeden.

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

Warrior (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
12:15pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) 1hr 47min
4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Moneyball (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 10:10pm

Finding Kind (NR) 1hr 17min
12:00pm, 2:00pm

Contagion (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm

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

Lion King (G) 1hr 27min
11:15am, 1:40pm

Debt (R) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Dolphin Tale 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
1:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Dolphin Tale (PG) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 4:35pm

Moneyball (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:55am, 3:10pm, 4:05pm, 6:15pm, 7:20pm, 9:30pm

Contagion (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Lion King 3D (G) 1hr 29min
12:40pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

Killer Elite (R) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Jane's Journey (NR) 1hr 47min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Circumstance (Sharayet) (R) 1hr 47min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

Guard (R) 1hr 36min
7:30pm

Senna (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Our Idiot Brother (R) 1hr 30min
4:40pm, 10:00pm

Archie's Final Project (NR) 1hr 45min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Faust: Live from the Royal Opera House (NR) 4hrs 15min
11:00am

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

Straw Dogs (R) 1hr 45min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Help (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:55am, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 10:15pm

Abduction (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:15am, 11:50am, 1:45pm, 2:45pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:05pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:30pm

Drive (R) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

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

Do your own thing tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ If need be, review and revise some of your feelings toward a key associate or partner. This person knows how to draw strong responses. He or she often closes down and might do so again. Just remain open. Tonight: Go with another person's idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Juggle what you must, knowing you need to make time to concentrate on a key project or issue. A brainstorming session could be quite fruitful. Avoid a controlling situation if possible. Your creativity comes forward. Tonight: Put your feet up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Knowing what you want could be instrumental in the long run, as we all know. Sharing your desires and putting your ideas out there could start a complete conversation. Confirm a meeting. Tonight: Take a midweek break. Have fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ If you can work from home, do. You will be more comfortable there. Some of you might be concerned with domestic matters. You express yourself in a genuine, caring manner. Others hear you. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Consider your options before you dive into a situation. You might not be sure which way to go, but once you have a discussion with those involved, a clear idea and direction evolve. Tonight: Visit with favorite people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be sensitive to what your budget allows as well as what you want to spend. Play Ralph Nader, and do some price comparison before making a purchase. Remember, you have a lot to offer and have many different talents. Use them. Tonight: Out on the town.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Be positive as the day begins, even though there could be a last-minute hassle. Be smart, and bypass a power play. Act on an inspired idea; listen to your sixth sense. Jump over several pebbles tossed in your path. Tonight: Whatever fits your fantasy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to approach a situation differently, especially if there is a problem that keeps tripping you up. Look to changing the manner in which you express your needs. That might be part of the issue. Tonight: Do your own thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone you care about. If you're unsure about a matter, toss it on the table and get feedback. You will be happier after getting a consensus. Don't take others' comments personally. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take charge of a situation, as you want a matter handled your way. You might need to be unusually stern to get your point across. You look at many ideas and issues differently from how many people do. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Try to think outside the box. Get past your immediate reaction. You cannot help how you react, but you can choose your responses. Understand where you are coming from and why you might be triggering. Tonight: Choose a mind and body relaxer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ If another person is overly serious, understand where he or she might be coming from. A new beginning is possible, but it doesn't come from being demanding. A friend might give you advice. You are your own person. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you feel empowered. You will learn not to feed negativity or controlling people. Though you often might hold your feelings back, you learn to express them once more, more often. You can have what you want -- that is, if you know what you want. If you are single, you draw potential suitors like honey attracts bees. The art of choice could be very significant. Know to bail out quickly if a bond isn't working. If you are attached, the two of you could flow even more together, but you need to be a little less me-oriented. The world doesn't revolve around you and only you! SCORPIO could be possessive.



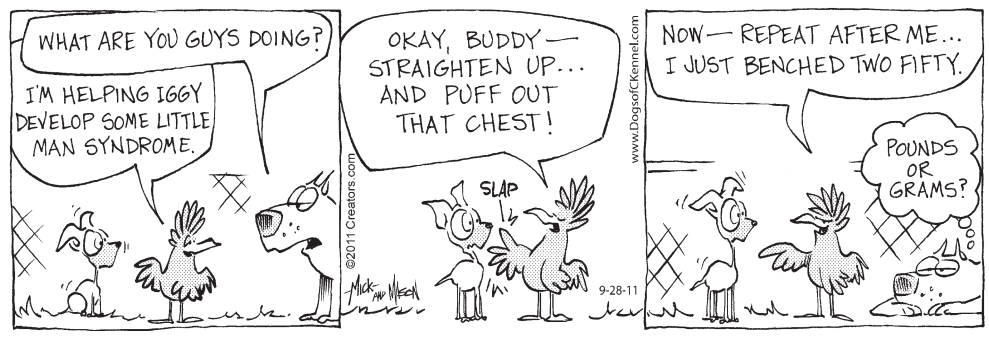
MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

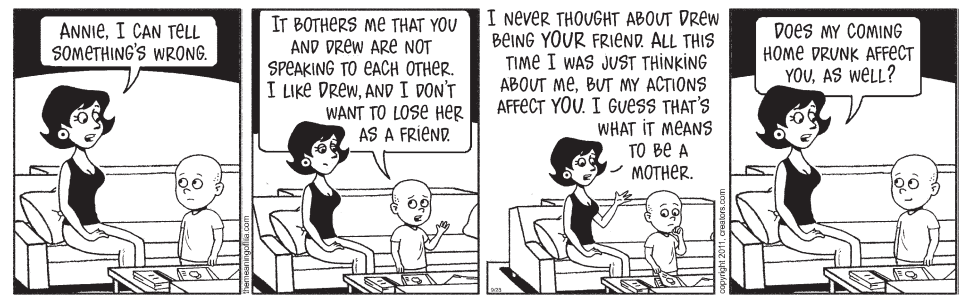
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



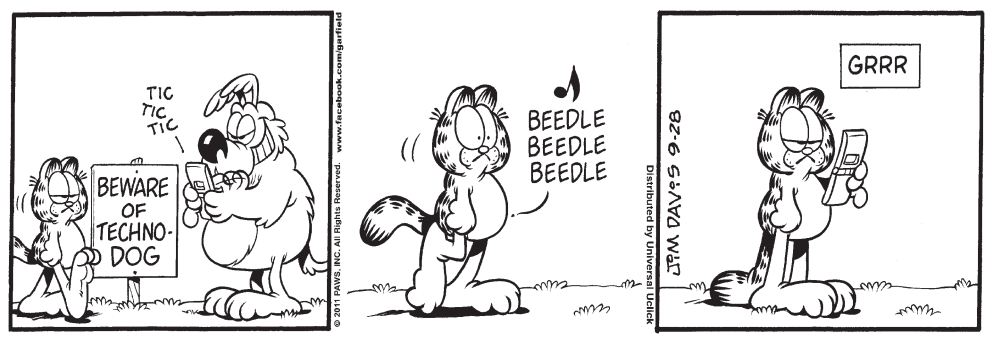
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



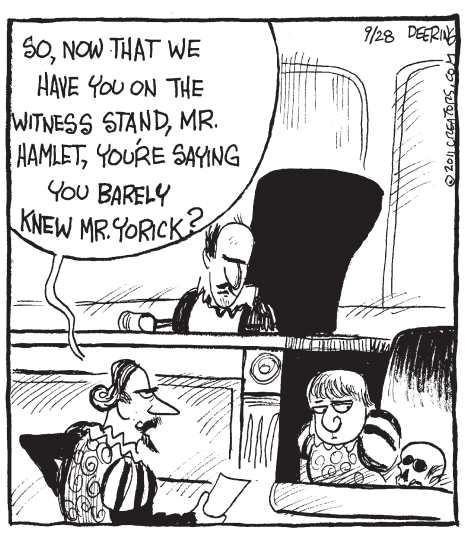
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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 ★★★

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Exile isle
5 Bubble shape
11 Olympus leader
12 Trill
13 Highway exit
14 Incite
15 Pitcher's pride
16 Speaker's stand
17 Issues
19 Soap unit
22 Dangerous gas
24 Pact
26 Molecule part
27 Storybook monster
28 Compete with a lance
30 Summoned to the phone
31 Fitting
32 Burning
34 Gold-filled Fort
35 Banned pesticide
38 Riddle asker
41 Tart
42 Baseball's Reese
43 Hold power
44 Plant pests
45 River of Hades

DOWN

1 Poet Pound
2 Tragic king
3 Disappointed
4 Nile viper
5 Hunker down
6 Stickler, of a sort
7 Crones
8 Apple sampler
9 Antique auto
10 Directional suffix
16 Clamor
18 Apple-pie bakers
19 Headed for the hills
20 Realty unit
21 Oboe feature
22 Indian prince
23 Resting on
25 Stadium sound
29 Like many lifeguards
30 Films, slangily
33 Hunt quarries
34 New Zealander
36 Properly
37 "Jurassic Park" beast
38 Massage setting
39 Vigor
40 Snicker sound
41 Fourth-yr. students

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

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15			■	16				■	■	■
■	■	17	18				■	19	20	21
22	23				■	24	25			
26				■	■	■	27			
28				29	■	30				
31			■	32	33				■	■
■	■	■	34				■	35	36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

9-28

ARITHMO™
CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

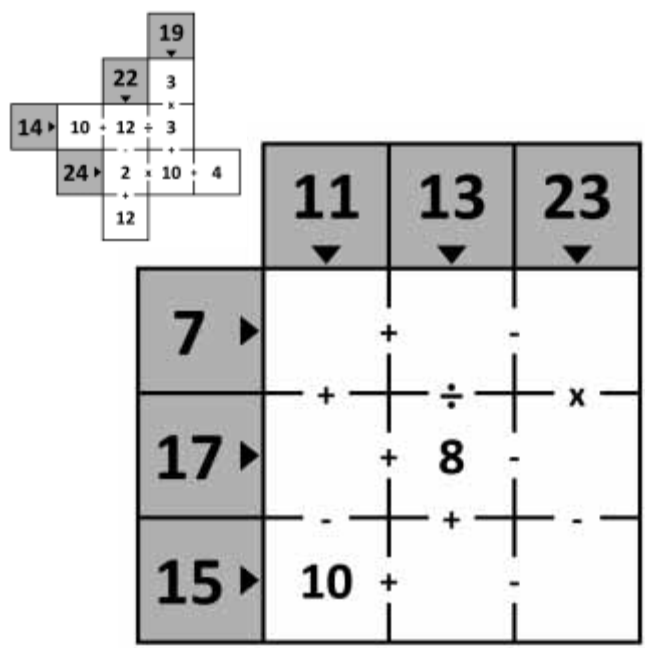
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 12

Solution for Task 563



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 21 27 32 40 52
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: $96M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 8 14 29 43
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5: 7 15 27 34 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 0 7
EVENING: 3 5 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:46.04

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

■ Madrid's Getafe soccer club, struggling for customers, startled Spain this summer by commissioning a porn movie, with zombies, hoping to attract more fans. As if that were not quixotic enough, it then tied the movie to a campaign to solicit sperm-bank donations. Explained the film's producer, Angel Torres, "We have to move a mass of fans to seed the world with Getafe supporters." A promo for the film follows a Getafe fan, armed with a copy of the movie for his viewing pleasure, as he disappears into a clinic's private cubicle to fulfill his donation.

■ "Do You See the Blimp Who Robbed You?": In August, 400-pound Eric Kenley, 48, won a new trial for his two New York City robbery convictions after appeals court judges realized that the police lineup that identified him was unfair, in that he was apparently much fatter than the other men in his lineup. The police had attempted to compensate by using larger-than-average men and by presenting them all seated, to minimize the weight difference.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1958 France ratifies a new Constitution of France; the French Fifth Republic is then formed upon the formal adoption of the new constitution on October 4. Guinea rejects the new constitution, voting for independence instead.

1960 Mali and Senegal join the United Nations.

1961 A military coup in Damascus effectively ends the United Arab Republic, the union between Egypt and Syria.

1962 The Paddington tram depot fire destroys 65 trams in Brisbane, Australia.

1971 The Parliament of the United Kingdom passes the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 banning the medicinal use of cannabis.

1973 The ITT Building in New York City is bombed in protest at ITT's alleged involvement in the September 11, 1973 coup d'état in Chile.

1994 The car ferry MS Estonia sinks in Baltic Sea, killing 852 people.

WORD UP!

gadabout
\GAD-uh-bout\ , noun;
1. Someone who roams about in search of amusement or social activity.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Beauty

HAIRSTYLIST AND MANICURE station for rent Santa Monica (310) 449-1923

Handyman

Reasonable rates, 25 years home repairs & maintenance
No job too small! Call Bill 310-592-1559

Miscellaneous

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (866)453-6204.

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from home. Medical, Business, Paralegal, Accounting, Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial aid if qualified. Call 800-494-3586 www.CenturaOnline.com

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DISH NETWORK PACKAGES start $24.99/mo FREE HD for life! FREE BLOCKBUSTERÂ® movies (3 months.) Call1-800-915-9514

Have you scraped your car against the short pillars in Santa Monica parking structures? laurelt1@msn.com

Announcements

HYMAN KOSMAN PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

"KING OF CHICAGO"

Employment

*** Financial Job. No experience needed. Visit www.getajobinfinance.com for details.***

COMMISSION SALES rep needed part time with internet marketing experience. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

MYSTERY SHOPPERS! Earn up to $150 daily. Get paid to shop pt/ft. Call now 800-690-1272.

PROCESS Mail! Pay Weekly! FREE Supplies! Bonuses! Genuine! Helping Homeworkers for 2-decades! Call 1-888-302-1521 www.worksfromhomeguide.com

PT Data Entry, Filing, Organizing. Email mike@peprinting.com if interested. $10.75/hr. Must have refrences.

Upscale assisted living community looking for PT and FT cooks to prepare delicious meals for senior clientele. Experience preferred. Pre employment drug test and fingerprint background check required. If interested, fax resume to (310) 314-7356 or come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application. EOE

Help Wanted

$2,000 MONTHLY POSSIBLE GROWING GOURMET MUSHROOMS FOR US. Year Round Income. Markets Established. Call /Write For Free Information. Midwest Associates, Box69 Fredericktown, OH-43019 1-740-694-0565

2011 POSTAL Positions $13.00-$36.50+/hr., Federal hire/full benefits. Call Today! 1-866-477-4953 Ext. 150

AAA-$$$ UP TO $1,000 WEEKLY PAID IN ADVANCE! Mailing Brochures From Home. 100% Legit Income guaranteed! No Selling! Free Postage! Full guidance & Support.www.MailingBrochuresForCash.com

ACTORS/MOVIE EXTRAS - $150-$300/Day depending on job. No experience. All looks needed. 1-800-281-5185-A103

EARN $1000'S WEEKLY Receive $12 every envelope Stuffed with sales materials. 24-hr. Information 1-866-297-7626 code 14

PAY IT Forward! No Selling! Work from Home, WEEKLY INCOME and Tax Benefits, While Contributing to a GREAT CAUSE! Call 301- 703-2003 Now or visit www.ArdyssCares.org

Adoption

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? You choose from families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6292, 24/7 Void/Illinois

For Sale

2001 John Deere 4600, 4X4, Cab, Loader, Diesel, Priced to sell $5500 contact me for details at kath58ey@msn.com / 310-626-4362

Wanted

WANTED DIABETES TEST STRIPS Any kind/brand. Unexpired up to $18.00. Shipping Paid Hablamos espanol 1-800-266-0702 www.selldiabeticstrips.com

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Sunny Fall Specials At Florida's Best Beach-New Smyrna Beach Stay a week or longer. Plan a beach wedding or family reunion. www.NSBFLA.com or 1-800-213-9527

For Rent

3bdrm/ 2 bath $2795. Prime Location, North of Wilshire. Spacious Upper, Front Apt w/ Patio. Hardwood Floors. Close to beach, shopping, transportation.(310)666-8360

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For Rent

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011094845 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/08/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JFJ INTERNATIONAL. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ZANETTI 11800 W. Olympic Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)08/15/2011. /s/: Jack Banafsheha. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/08/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011093112 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/01/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MONKS INK. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Saint Andrews Abbey Inc. 31001 N. Valyermo Rd. Valyermo, CA 93563. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)07/06/2011. /s/: Lui Toilolo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/01/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011093085 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/01/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MR. LOS ANGELES LEATHER AKA MR. LA LEATHER, MR. LEATHER LOS ANGELES AKA MR. LEATHER LA. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Terry Leftgoff 514 Huntley Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90048. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Terry Leftgoff. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/01/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011096421 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/08/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CHILDRENS LAW CENTER OF LOS ANGELES, CHILDRENS LAW CENTER OF SACRAMENTO. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Childrens law Center of California 901 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 203 Monterey Park, CA 91754. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)07/15/2004. /s/: John Moll. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/08/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011098048 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/12/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FRANKLIN LINCOLN ENTERPRISES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Alexander Soofer 507 N. Rexford Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90210. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Alexander Soofer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/12/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011095739 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/07/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as INSITE INTERNATIONAL, WORLD CUP RAMBLE. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Joseph Trevino 26 Westminster Ave., #8 Venice, CA 90291. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Joseph Trevino. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/07/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 09/21/2011, 09/28/2011, 10/05/2011, 10/12/2011.

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