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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 274

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DON'T BE A TIGER MOM
SEE PAGE 12

THE CIVIC MINDED ISSUE

ELECTION 2012

Active Santa Monica continues to beat odds in voter participation

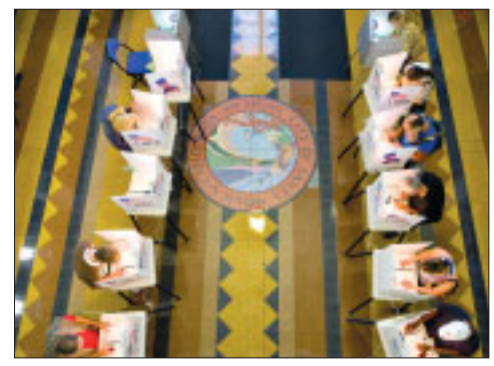
BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE "Santa Monica has a very engaged community …"

It's a phrase that's been used often — sometimes apologetically — in Santa Monica, usually by city and school district officials as they introduce new administrators to their positions.

Santa Monicans are undeniably active. Almost 160 of them volunteer for time-consuming, unpaid positions on boards, commissions and advisory councils throughout the city, according to City Hall's Sustainable City Report Card, which was released last

SEE VOTE PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

MAKING PICKS: **People fill the voting booths at City Hall during a recent election.**



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PAYING THE PRICE: **Frank Puente pays for his parking before an increase in rates went into effect this month.**

Feeling the parking pinch around town

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Does your wallet feel lighter?

That may mean you've tried to park in Santa Monica recently.

Rates at meters, beach lots and municipal parking structures all increased Oct. 1, the result of a July 10 ordinance passed by the City Council to manage parking demand Downtown.

Parking meters jumped from $1 to $2 per hour in Downtown and at the beach, and Downtown parking structures are only free for the first 90 minutes. After that, it's $1 for the next hour and then $1.50 every half hour

SEE PARKING PAGE 10

L.A. council votes to repeal pot dispensary ban

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles City Council reversed course Tuesday and repealed a ban on pot shops that it passed just two months ago to shutter hundreds of medical marijuana storefronts.

Council members voted 11-2 to negate its July decision to rid the nation's second-largest city of pot dispensaries. The repeal came after opponents gathered enough signatures to place a referendum on the ballot seeking to undo the ban.

Many cities have struggled with medical marijuana ordinances, but none has had a bigger problem than Los Angeles, where pot shops have proliferated.

Though dispensary owners can now remain open without fear of local authorities, they still run the risk of getting shut down by federal authorities who last week started targeting stores in Los Angeles they said were raking in huge sums of money and attracting crime. Pot remains illegal under federal law.

"What weighs heavy in my mind is that no matter what we do, the federal government will still come in and shut them down," said Councilman Ed Reyes, who voted for the ban in July. "It's a very confusing time for everyone. Those who chose to continue to open up for the right reasons are at risk and those who are doing it out of gamesman-

SEE BAN PAGE 9

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012

Debate party
Westside Democratic Hdqtrs.
1408 Third Street Promenade,
5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Watch the first of the presidential debates in the company of Democrats. Free food and beverages. Cost: $5 suggested donation. For more information, visit palisadesdemclub.org.

Candidates speak
Malibu City Hall
23815 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu,
6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, SMMUSD PTA Council and the city of Malibu are co-sponsoring a school board candidates forum. All six school board candidates will be present for this nonpartisan, educational, interactive candidates forum. It will be moderated by a member of the league and will feature a panel of representatives from the two co-sponsoring organizations.

Free movie
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
A fisheries expert is approached by a consultant in "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" to help realize a sheik's vision of bringing the sport of fly-fishing to the desert and embarks on an upstream journey of faith and fish to prove the impossible possible. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012

Welcoming an artist
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The city's Cultural Affairs Division will host an opening reception for Julia Morgan 2012: Contemporary Women Architects in Los Angeles — a new exhibition created as part of the Julia Morgan 2012 Festival, a statewide pilot project of Landmarks California which focuses on her life and work. Cost: free. For more information, visit annenbergbeachhouse.com.

Arizona on his mind
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 7:30 p.m.
Pico Youth & Family Center presents Jeff Bigger's "Welcome to Arizona," his take on the complex history of American immigration conflicts. The one-man show is based on his book, "State Out of the Union: Arizona and the Final Showdown Over the American Dream." For more information, visit www.jeffbiggers.com.

Friday, Oct. 5, 2012

Boom Boom in words
Barnes and Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade,
7 p.m.
Author Mark Kriegel will be on hand to sign copies of "The Good Son: The Life of Ray 'Boom Boom' Mancini." Mancini, who once claimed the title of boxing world champion, will also be in attendance.

Who likes the Beatles?
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
The Samohi Symphony presents its tribute to the Beatles with a night of takes on classic hits. The event is rounded out by an audience sing-along and a performance by rock band FKB. The performance will be held at Barnum Hall. Cost: $20; $10 for students. For more information, call (310) 739-3907.

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





Ashley Archibald *ashley@smdp.com*

BRENTWOOD ART CENTER

Brentwood Art Center re-opens

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

NOMA An art school on the verge of closure just a month ago opened its doors Monday for a successful first day of class, according to a member of its board.

The Brentwood Art Center almost folded in August when its owner of seven years, Sarkis Melkonian, sent out an e-mail to teachers, staff and students that the school's finances necessitated a closure.

A group of community members rallied to save the center, forming a nonprofit and working with Melkonian and the founders of the school — Linda and Ed Buttwinick — to facilitate a seamless transfer of ownership.

It worked, said Donald Burris, a local attorney whose wife has attended classes at the school for decades. He's now the vice chairman of community outreach for the nonprofit Friends of the Brentwood Art Center.

Despite the closure scare, most of the teachers and students have returned to the school for the first day of class, which took place Oct. 1.

"We own the Brentwood Art Center, and we're running it as a not-for-profit," Burris said. "We have plans for programs, joint ventures … and a lot of classes."

Burris and other board members hope to engage the center with the rest of the community by working with local schools, offering scholarships and partnering with other cultural institutions in town like Bergamot Station, one of the largest concentrations of art galleries in the country.

Space is open, and people can still join classes, Burris said.

Visit www.brentwoodart.com for more details.

ashley@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Santa Monica the place for singles

Maybe it's the ocean breeze. Maybe the top-notch dining options. Whatever it is, singles rate Santa Monica as the top spot to meet and date in the Los Angeles area, according to a survey released by dating site Match.com.

"It's no surprise singles love Santa Monica, a city that boasts the title of 'California's Most Celebrated Beach City,'" said Whitney Casey, relationship expert for Match.com. "With some of the hottest new restaurants and swankiest nightlife, all located on a beautiful coastline, Santa Monica provides the perfect setting for the urban dater."

The survey was the result of 1,000 singles weighing in on where to take — or meet — that special someone.

Deemed the best place for singles to be, 43 percent of respondents said they enjoy meeting potential dates in Santa Monica, while the neighboring community of Brentwood is deemed the worst. Some 43 percent of those surveyed also stated that more attractive singles reside in this section of L.A. than in any other neighborhood, and 46 percent of singles chose Santa Monica as their favorite neighborhood for dates.

Founded in 1995, Match.com claims to be the original dating website and pioneer of the online dating industry. Today, 17 years later, Match.com operates subscription-based online dating sites in 25 countries, eight languages and across five continents.

– DANIEL ARCHULETA

CITYWIDE

Ditch the car, not class

Students and staff with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are getting out their bikes, scooters, skateboards and walking shoes to take part in Bike It! Walk It! Day set for Wednesday (today) and Friday of this week.

Bike It! Walk It! Day encourages kids, their parents and others to leave their cars at home and get to school or work by bike, foot, carpool or bus.

Approximately 30 percent of SMMUSD students at 14 different schools participate in the event, avoiding approximately 12,000 car trips, officials with the school district said.

Parents and teachers will be joining students on "Walking School Buses" to Lincoln Middle School on Wednesday (today) and John Adams Middle School on Oct. 5 to show their support of the Santa Monica Safe Routes to School Program, which is intended to counteract the rise in childhood diseases, worsening air quality and congestion around schools by funding projects that improve safety by promoting walking and bicycling to school.

Participants, including members of the City Council and school board, will walk in groups to school.

Those who choose to take the bus can do so for free if they ride Big Blue. Officials with the bus company said students can print out passes via the Bike It! website — bikeitwalkit.org — for both days.

– KEVIN HERRERA

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

St. Monica welcomes Lacy into Hall of Fame

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

ST. MONICA Local coaching legend Norm Lacy was inducted into the St. Monica sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Saturday.

The late Lacy led St. Monica to a CIF-Southern Section championship in 1998.

Lacy later moved on to Santa Monica High School where he led the Vikings to a title in 2001. He served as Samohi's athletic director until his death in 2010 at the age of 56.

"He knew football inside and out," said Rick Bruce, St. Monica's athletic director. "He was the kind of guy who would show players what to do, not just tell them. He gained a lot of respect from his players that way."

Lacy played offensive line at USC in the mid-1970s.

USC baseball coach Frank Cruz was also inducted into the hall. He attended St. Monica before moving on to Santa Monica College and later Pepperdine.

ST. MONICA FOOTBALL HOSTS ST. GEN

St. Monica football will play under the Friday night lights at Santa Monica College as the Mariners host St. Genevieve in a Santa Fe League game.

St. Monica is coming off a 56-0 rout of Animo Leadership last week. The Mariners enter the game 4-2 overall and 1-0 in league. St. Gen is 4-1 overall and 1-0 in league.

The game begins at 7 p.m. at Corsair Field.

daniela@smdp.com

Animals get wild at doggy Halloween parties

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Fifteen dogs attended Sue Subkow's first Halloween party in 2005. Half wore costumes, half were naked and all went home in about an hour.

The next year, turnout doubled — this time with a potluck, "Pooch Parade" and awards ceremony. Today, her San Diego Golden Retriever Meetup Group includes more than 1,000 dogs and as many as 80 show up in costumes for her Halloween party.

"Halloween is our biggest shindig of the year," Subkow said.

As Halloween has grown in popularity across the country, pets haven't been left out.

SEE **PETS** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Now that it's a done deal

Editor:

Now that it looks like the main post office is gone, here are a few ideas for what to do with the building.

A food court like there used to be on Third Street near Santa Monica Boulevard with all different types of food; maybe a San Francisco Ferry Building-type store or even a new Brentwood Country Mart.

No matter what comes in, they should include a mini post office ... so that we don't have to cross the [Exposition Light Rail] tracks.

Alan Rosenblum
Santa Monica

Thanks, Mitt

Editor:

Romney criticizes the 47 percent who get government benefits, pay no taxes, etc. I guess he hasn't bothered to consider that a lot of people getting government benefits are getting them because he and the rest of his Wall Street cronies bought their companies and outsourced their jobs to China.

Mike Kirwan
Venice, Calif.







Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A legend in my daughters' minds

LATELY I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE THAT 12-year-old boy on whom all the girls in school have a crush: The more I offer them nothing besides my sheer indifference, the more their collective heart swells for me.

In this scenario, my daughters are the schoolgirls to my lothario. I'm not sure what I've done to become the sole object of their undying adoration, especially since I haven't a fraction of the acid-washed wardrobe of the New Kids on the Block, carefully sculpted mustaches and goatees of the Backstreet Boys, or Justin Bieber's cool hair. But I'm on the cover of their imaginary Tiger Beat magazine every week regardless, with the centerfold and the back page also devoted to my total awesomeness.

Every time I make an appearance, it's as if I've been gone for an eternity, and my return is as miraculous as Jesus' resurrection, complete with confetti, a smoke machine and a rainbow array of Peeps.

"Mommy!" my 4-year-old daughter, Petunia, exclaims with glee, rushing over to hug and kiss me. "I missed you so much! Did you have a good time in the bathroom?"

Peony, 1, waddles over to me like a penguin on crack, grinning from ear to ear and waving her arms inanely in a gesture indicating she must be held by me immediately lest she risk death by a thousand broken hearts. And that's just when I walk from one end of the room to the other and back.

I'm pretty sure Peony wants me because I'm kind of her security blanket, essentially the most consistent presence in her life in the 13 months since she was born. And I suspect Petunia's interest in me is in direct correlation to Peony's because whatever Peony has is exactly what Petunia wants, including and especially the air in her lungs (which would explain why Petunia so often seems to be trying to squeeze it out of Peony via her neck and chest).

My poor husband, Rick, is constantly doing a figurative microphone check to ensure his is on because lately he can't occasion so much as a grimace from either girl if I'm around. Or, rather, that's about all he can get.

The other night while I was cooking, I asked Rick to keep Peony entertained outside the kitchen to minimize her risk of getting splattered with the hot oil bubbling on the stovetop. He sat on the floor in the den and launched into his one-man-band routine — singing, dancing and acting out all the parts of Old MacDonald's Farm in a performance worthy of Oscar gold.

There were lights flashing, bells ringing and music playing. He was the equivalent of a hot tub in the cafeteria, and still, all Peony wanted was to be exactly where I was, hugging the back of my legs, burns and subsequent skin grafts be damned.

It was probably silly to have Rick even try, as no one-man-band, or any band, really, can compete with the Beatles, whom it appears as if I am to my girls, circa 1964. And when I push Petunia and Peony out of my arms because I have to do something more pressing, such as wipe myself or buckle them into a car seat, they're like those girls in the audience at "The Ed Sullivan Show" who fainted from the emotional trauma of being so near their heartthrobs and yet so far away.

The whole thing is flattering, yes, but only until you realize there's a fine line between reverence and felony stalking. It's not like Peony lacks for companionship. Rick enjoys nothing more than having her in his lap, her head resting on his shoulder, eating breakfast together and taking walks in the backyard exploring the flora and fauna. One sight of me, however, and it's all over. As soon as my eyes lock with Peony's, no matter how quickly I look away, she wants what she wants, and it's always mommy.

On our recent trip to Disney World, Petunia was so taken with me that she insisted I was the only one allowed to push her stroller — because even though she couldn't see me, she needed to know I literally had (or was at) her back.

I'm enjoying the attention and affection while it lasts — not to mention the zero effort I have to put forth to elicit my daughters' giggles, belly laughs, warm hugs and endless streams of kisses — because surely the day will come when I reach out to hold one of their hands or look in their general direction and they'll shoot ice bombs at me from their eyes as they steer clear of me like houses that give out toothbrushes and raisins on Halloween.

Yet while I know I should be loving feeling like a rock star and savoring every sweet minute of their infatuation, when I can't move from the kitchen table to the sink without at least one of my children literally hanging on my knees and threatening to draw tears like Gale Sayers in "Brian's Song" if I shake her off, it's still kind of hard to see the forest for the really, really clingy trees.

More at www.meredithcarroll.com.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

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

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

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

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

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Nathalyd Meza

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

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

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Heads up, taxpayers, incoming!

WHILE VOTERS' ATTENTION IS BEING diverted to the three major statewide tax increase measures on the November ballot (Propositions 30, 38 and 39), many taxpayers are about to be hit below the belt by local politicians, who are just as anxious to get their hands on more cash as are their Sacramento brethren.

Michael Coleman, the creator of CaliforniaCityFinance.com, has tallied the number of local tax hike measures that will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot. Voters will decide on 237 tax increases or extensions including 106 school bonds with a face value of $11.7 billion — about half of the eventual cost after interest is paid. Additionally, there are 25 measures to increase or extend school parcel taxes, property taxes that are placed on parcels of property without regard to the parcel's value. Then there are another 106 non-school related revenue measures that include 23 parcel taxes, 35 sales tax increases or extensions, and 42 special taxes — those earmarked for a specific purpose.

Although these are local tax measures, their overall impact cannot be separated from statewide efforts to increase taxes.

In good times and bad, both state and local agencies sing a sad song about lack of funds and the need for greater contributions from taxpayers, but the problem is not that taxes aren't already high enough. California already has the highest state sales tax in the nation (local sales taxes are extra), we are tied for highest gas tax, we are second in income tax rates, and even with Proposition 13 we are closer to the top than the bottom in property tax burden.

The real problem, and the primary reason that governments are not seeing a healthy flow of tax revenue, is that taxpayers are struggling. Taxpayers have less — our unemployment rate is nearly a third higher than the national average — and they have less to give to government. Already high taxes and stifling regulations are forcing businesses and the jobs they create from our state. Just this last week, two major firms, Campbell's and Comcast, announced the closure of facilities and layoffs of 1,700 employees. And if past is prologue — in 2011, 254 businesses either left the state or expanded their facilities elsewhere — there are more facilities closures to come.

Ironically, after Comcast issued a press release saying the layoffs were due to the state's dismal business climate, company officials were contacted by the Governor's Office and a new release was generated, saying their previous statement was in error; the facility closures were really done for reasons of efficiency. While the governor is campaigning up and down the state for his Proposition 30 tax increase, he must find it extremely embarrassing to read news reports implying the state's fiscal woes are due to Sacramento's bad policies rather than tax rates that are not high enough.

SO IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE FORTUNATE CALIFORNIANS WITH A JOB AND WHOSE EMPLOYER HAS NO PLANS TO MOVE OUT OF STATE, DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU ARE NOT ALREADY PAYING YOUR 'FAIR SHARE.'

So if you are one of the fortunate Californians with a job and whose employer has no plans to move out of state, don't be fooled into thinking you are not already paying your "fair share." If backers of tax increase measures cannot clearly and honestly demonstrate a vital need for more revenue to support a critical program, government officials must be sent a message that higher taxes are the wrong answer, especially when our state is wallowing in the depths of recession.

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.

The Q Line

Running together

A trio of Malibu residents are running for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Board of Education. Interestingly, the trio are running as a slate instead of operating as individual candidates.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think this is an effective strategy or do they dilute the vote by running somewhat together?

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



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Initiative raises penalties for human trafficking

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. California voters will consider toughening the penalties on human trafficking in a November ballot initiative funded almost entirely by a former Facebook official and opposed — somewhat surprisingly — by some advocates who are trying to stop the exploitation.

If it's approved by voters, Proposition 35 would more than double sentences for human traffickers and impose a life sentence for the sex-trafficking of children. It also would require sex offenders to provide email addresses and other Internet identifiers to law enforcement.

Former Facebook Chief Privacy Officer Chris Kelly has contributed nearly 90 percent of the $2.2 million raised in favor of the initiative. He said his goal, in part, is to replicate a crime-fighting program used in New York that requires sex offenders to reveal their online identities to police.

"It requires them to disclose an electronic address, the same way they have to disclose a physical address," said Kelly, who lost a bid for state attorney general in 2010. "It will be used to fight the biggest scourges and the biggest traffickers."

The initiative also broadens the definition of human trafficking and raises the penalties for offenders.

It is endorsed by the state Democratic and Republican parties, a host of law enforcement agencies and police unions, anti-trafficking groups and numerous newspaper editorial boards. But the initiative also faces opposition — perhaps unusually so — from some of the advocates who work with victims of human trafficking in the state.

John Vanek, a retired police lieutenant from the San Jose Police Human Trafficking Task Force, said Proposition 35 might be well-intentioned but could discourage prosecutors from charging cases under the state's human trafficking laws. He said, for example, it could limit the information they can use in court.

Vanek said he also opposes setting different penalties for sex and labor trafficking, and argues that a jury — not voters — should decide the severity of a case.

"It's sort of like this perfect storm of problematic and exceptionally complex law changes, coupled with huge funding, coupled with a slow, unorganized response by the experts," Vanek said.

The Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, which works directly with trafficking victims, said in a statement that the organization welcomed the attention the initiative had brought to the issue but worries that aspects of it could lead to unintended consequences. For example, it could decrease the amount of money available to survivors through civil remedies because of the increase in criminal fines.

When voters begin studying the initiative, the opposition cited in the ballot pamphlets will be sex workers who fear that broadening the definition of human trafficking will render them victims under the law.

Maxine Doogan, president of the Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project, said she is worried that the relatives of sex workers could be criminally charged as traffickers for receiving money or support from their family members' work.

"You're really anti-prostitution, but you're calling yourself anti-trafficking," said Doogan, who co-authored the ballot argument against the proposition.

Kelly and anti-trafficking advocates who support the proposition say it has strong backing. They cite poll numbers showing more than 80 percent of likely voter in favor.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates will cost several million dollars a year in prosecution and incarceration costs, but also will generate a few million dollars annually through new criminal fines.

No statistics were immediately available on the number of people in California who have been victims of human trafficking, according to the measure's proponents.

Daphne Phung, who founded the nonprofit California Against Slavery after watching a television documentary about sex trafficking victims, said she tried to get lawmakers to carry a bill to push for tougher penalties for traffickers a few years ago. She then sought to get an initiative on the ballot.

She paired up with Kelly after both efforts failed.

Phung, a corporate financial planner, said she hopes Proposition 35 will give law enforcement officers more tools to fight human trafficking, for example, by not requiring proof of force in sex trafficking cases involving children. More broadly, she believes the measure is raising awareness about human trafficking in the state, which she hopes will translate into increased services and funding for victims.

"We're going to send a message to everybody — to the victims, to the traffickers, to the average citizen — that this is a serious crime," Phung said.

Leah Albright-Byrd, who ran away from home at 14, said she was arrested nine times for prostitution as a minor. Each time, she was released without law enforcement agencies questioning her about why she was on the streets.

She now runs a nonprofit in Sacramento to help prevent other girls from falling prey to the same fate. The 28-year-old hopes that providing more training to police under the initiative might make a difference on the streets, where she said traffickers are well aware of the criminal penalties for selling drugs — and children.

"I can't even tell you how redemptive it is for me to see people go, 'Wait a minute.' We're not calling them prostitutes — we're calling them sex trafficking victims. And that's what it is," she said. "People are being moved with compassion. Hey, these are kids."



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

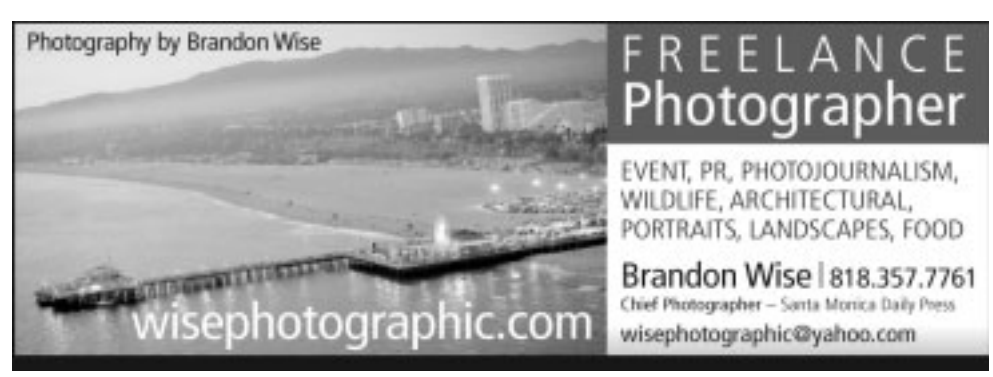
BID #4027 FURNISH AND DELIVER CHEMICALS FOR ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE SWIMMING POOL, AS REQUIRED BY CUSTODIAL SERVICES DIVISION. A mandatory job walk will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 10:30AM Pacific Time. Vendors are to meet at the Annenberg Community Beach House. Parking is available in the south lot entrance from Beach House Way. Parking passes will be distributed.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
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Submission Deadline is October 23, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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





Backers aim to widen ban on gay conversion therapy

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Gay rights advocates are making plans to get other states to join California in banning psychotherapy aimed at making gay teenagers straight, even as opponents prepared Monday to sue to overturn the first law in the nation to take aim at the practice.

After months of intense lobbying, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill late Saturday that prohibits licensed mental health professionals from using so-called reparative or conversion therapies with clients under age 18. Brown called the therapies "quackery" that "have no basis in science or medicine."

Two New Jersey lawmakers already are drafting similar legislation, while groups that helped get the California law passed are sharing research, witnesses and talking points with counterparts in other gay-friendly states, said Geoff Kors, senior legislative and policy strategist for the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights.

"There are lots of folks today who are looking at this, now that the governor has signed it," Kors said. "We'll be reaching out to all the state (gay rights) groups, especially in states that have had success passing LGBT rights legislation."

The law only applies to licensed therapists, not ministers or lay people who counsel teens to resist same-sex attractions.

Two Christian legal groups, meanwhile, said they would sue in federal court in Sacramento to prevent the law from taking effect on Jan. 1.

The lawsuits will be filed on behalf of therapists whose practices include efforts to help clients change their sexual orientations or reduce their attractions to people of the same-sex; parents who have sought such therapy for their children; and teenagers who currently are undergoing it, lawyers for the California-based Pacific Justice Institute and Florida-based Liberty Counsel said.

Liberty Counsel Chairman Mat Staver said his organization plans to argue in court that the law infringes on the First Amendment and equal protection rights of individuals to give and receive information that matches their personal and professional beliefs.

"What this law does is tell minors that they can no longer receive information about same-sex attractions that they have been receiving and that they find beneficial to them," Staver said. "It also puts counselors in a situation where they must present only one viewpoint of this subject."

The law Brown signed states that mental health providers who use sexual orientation change efforts on clients under 18 would be engaging in unprofessional conduct and subject to discipline by their respective state licensing boards.

Mainstream associations representing psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers have dismissed reparative therapy in recent decades as being ineffective and potentially dangerous to the mental health of teenagers and young adults who are led to believe their interest in same-sex partners is wrong.

As originally written, the bill introduced by state Sen. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, also would have required therapists to warn adult patients of the practice's risks and limitations and to obtain their written consent before engaging in it.

Lieu dropped the informed consent provision, however, after a number of mental health associations in California — including the California Psychological Association and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists — complained that it interfered with the therapist-client relationship.

Both groups, as well as the other leading professional groups, ultimately endorsed the ban for juveniles.

It remained unclear how many practitioners and patients the law would affect.

David Pruden, vice president of the California-based National Association for Research and Therapy on Homosexuality, a professional association that supports treatment for homosexuality, estimated there are two dozen therapists statewide who engage in efforts to change sexual orientation, and not all of them treat adolescents.

The association plans to be a plaintiff in the Liberty Counsel lawsuit, with its support based mostly on the law's symbolic effect than its consequences for large numbers of California teens and their counselors, Pruden said.

"If you said, realistically, how many hamburgers did you think you weren't going to sell at McDonald's because of the new pickle law, the answer is not very many," he said. "Then the question becomes should we be legislating pickles."

Staver thinks the law could impact hundreds of licensed Christian psychotherapists and their teen clients from religious families nationwide. Depending on how it's enforced, California therapists who treat clients in other states via Skype, and therapists in other states who conduct telephone sessions with California residents could be investigated for misconduct, he said.

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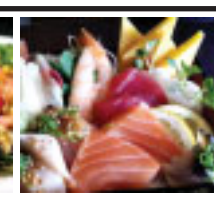
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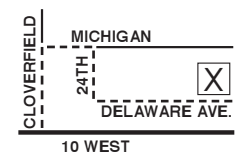
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Scott LaFleur, Director of Horticulture, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Sun., Oct. 7, 11 a.m. "Lush Landscapes,"
Richard Hayden, Principal Landscape Designer, Hayden Landscape Design

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Transport group heads north with about 200 pets

Norman was hog-tied and dumped in a San Bernardino school field.

The pit bull mix faced euthanasia at the city's overcrowded shelter.

Fortunately for him, the Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team sprang into action.

On Thursday, volunteers for the Los Angeles-based group will take Norman and nearly 200 other dogs and cats to Oregon and Washington. The animals will go to guaranteed homes or no-kill shelters.

Norman is headed for the Willamette Humane Society in Salem, Ore.

Riverside city and county officials say about 150 of the animals are from their shelters.

A mother, six puppies and thee pregnant dogs are being flown from the Chino Airport to Oregon. Two large transport vans will head for the Pacific Northwest with the rest of the animals.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH

Courthouse evacuated, no explosives found

Authorities evacuated a courthouse in Long Beach for about 90 minutes after finding an unattended briefcase in a hallway.

No explosives were found in the briefcase, and people were allowed back into the building shortly after 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Long Beach police spokeswoman Lisa Massacani says the building in downtown Long Beach was evacuated and the surrounding streets shut down at about 11 a.m.

She says the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's bomb squad determined the briefcase was harmless.

AP

SANTA CLARITA

Agriculture pest targeted

Agriculture officials are targeting crop-destroying Oriental fruit flies in Southern California's Santa Clarita Valley.

Mature Oriental fruit flies were discovered on Sept. 18 and Sept. 19 in various valley locations 30 miles north of downtown Los Angeles.

County agriculture commissioner Kurt Floren says in a letter to the Board of Supervisors that a California Department of Food and Agriculture eradication effort involves squirting pesticide in trees within a 16-square-mile target zone.

There are 600 bait stations in each square mile.

The bait treatments began Sept. 21 and are continuing every two weeks through December.

Oriental fruit flies lay eggs in more than 230 types of fruits and vegetables and maggots make the produce unfit for consumption.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Mom arrested after baby found in hot car

A Southern California mother is in jail after her crying baby was rescued from a parked car as temperatures soared into the 100s.

The woman had rolled up the windows and left the air conditioner running on her blue Nissan while she went into a North Hollywood supermarket on Monday.

KCBS-TV says a passer-by had noticed the crying girl inside the hot car in the Ralph's parking lot and notified Los Angeles police.

A police lieutenant says the air conditioner wasn't cooling the car's interior and the temperature outside was 104 degrees.

The woman, whose name hasn't been released, was arrested and booked for investigation of felony child endangerment. Bail is set at $100,000.

Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey says the year-old girl is in good condition at a hospital.

AP

LOS ANGELES

EPA to collect $167K from battery maker

Federal regulators say a Southern California battery manufacturer has agreed to pay $167,300 and will install more air filters that capture lead particles to resolve Clean Air Act violations.

In a release Monday, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Nahal Mogharabi says U.S. Battery Manufacturing Company of Corona failed to comply with proper emissions monitoring and reporting requirements.

The EPA discovered the violations after sending the lead acid battery manufacturing plant a request for information in 2010.

Operating since 1991, the plant is located within a mile of schools and homes. Lead poses a major health hazard to young children and pregnant women, and exposure can lead to a broad array of developmental problems.

AP

SAN BERNARDINO

County OKs Mojave water project

San Bernardino County officials have approved a plan to pump the Mojave Desert's groundwater to supply it to Southern California homeowners.

The Los Angeles Times and San Bernardino Sun report that county supervisors voted 4 to 1 Monday to allow Cadiz Inc. to draw more than 1 million acre-feet from the desert aquifer over 50 years.

The private company still needs permission to move the groundwater through the Colorado River Aqueduct, and it has not secured financing for the project, estimated to cost some $275 million.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Rdio to pay artists $10 per new subscriber

Music subscription service Rdio is looking to dispel the notion that streaming services underpay artists for their work. Starting Tuesday, it will start paying musicians $10 for every person they convince through social media to sign up for an Rdio plan.

AP

BAN
FROM PAGE 1

ship, out of opportunism, out of profit at the cost of our lives and the public safety in our communities will also be at risk."

The city's so-called "gentle ban" would have eliminated storefront pot shops but allowed patients and caregivers to grow medical marijuana. City officials have said more than 750 collectives have registered with the city and as many as 200 more could exist.

More than 175 California cities and 20 counties have banned retail pot shops, according to the medical marijuana advocacy group Americans for Safe Access.

In supporting the repeal, some council members said they needed better guidance from California legislators and urged them to address the inadequacies of a state law that allows the medicinal use of marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

"We need to get clarity on exactly where we stand," said Councilman Mitchell Englander.

The state Supreme Court is expected to address whether local governments can ban medical marijuana clinics, but a hearing hasn't been set by the high court.

Los Angeles passed an ordinance two years ago that was supposed to shutter hundreds of pot dispensaries while capping the number in operation at 70.

But a set of legal challenges against the city by dispensaries and the recent expiration of the ordinance due to a sundowner clause led to another surge of pot shops.

Federal authorities have targeted about 375 pot stores and growing operations in the Central District of California, which stretches from Santa Barbara to San Bernardino counties.

PETS
FROM PAGE 3

In 2010, 9 percent of dog owners surveyed by the American Pet Products Association said they bought a Halloween costume for their dog.

PetSmart Inc., one of the largest pet costume retailers, won't divulge how many they sold last year, but dog and cat apparel buyer Reyna Jew said they more than doubled their assortment this year. The most popular costumes are bees and pumpkins, Jew said.

In the Virginia Highland and Morningside neighborhoods of Atlanta, hundreds of neighbors, their kids and pets gather with local firefighters every year to celebrate. A fire engine from Station 19, Atlanta's oldest, leads a 400-yard people parade, said fire Capt. Eric Banaszek.

"We know the people here by name," he said. Much of the fun is the photos the firefighters take with the partygoers.

"People bring their dogs, cats and birds to this event," Banaszek said. However, he's only seen dogs in costume.

"Some people do get festive and are creative with Superman and silly stuff, bandanas and masks. Of course the dogs don't tolerate it too well, so many will just put a blanket over their backs," Banaszek said.

But hardcore partiers like Subkow have gotten more elaborate. One year Subkow made her four dogs costumes as three little pigs and "Jack the Wuff."

Subkow's parties have included bobbing for frozen hot dogs and apples. Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, who has written several books, including "Dog Parties: Entertaining Your Party Animal," has had animals bob for tennis balls.

Other tips from Whitman, who is PetSmart's Halloween party expert:

— When prepping a yard, because dogs can be territorial, there should be several water stations set up. For Halloween, Schlegel Whitman likes to hollow out pumpkins and use them as bowls.

— Every dog should be on a leash, and treats in different sizes, shapes and colors can be placed where only humans can reach and control them. Halloween-themed toys can be put in doggie bags or given out as party favors.

— One of the biggest hits at any dog party, no matter what the occasion, is a photo booth. It can have backgrounds and props or not, but the photographer should be on the ground, shooting dogs at eye level.

— For decor, rawhide bones make good props in a fake cemetery. Or carve the likeness of a dog in a pumpkin. People who can't draw can get sketches or stencils of almost any dog breed online.

And what do the humans do while the dogs are running, strutting, bobbing and celebrating Halloween?

"People stand around and tell stories about their dogs and why they love their dogs so much. The real beauty of these events is you are celebrating this community you have with other dog owners who understand the bond you have with your pet," Schlegel Whitman said.



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PARKING
FROM PAGE 1

after for a daily maximum of $14.

On Sundays, they're free from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

That's a big jump from the two hours free and $1 per hour after for a daily maximum of $9 in place prior to the switch.

At the Central Beach Lot, parking will cost $12 in the summer, but in the winter it will be split with $6 on a weekday and $8 on a weekend. Both the North and South lots will cost $8 on a weekday and $10 on a weekend during the summer and $6 on a weekday and $8 on a weekend during the winter.

The South Lot will be free after 4 p.m. during the winter.

Main Street was spared from the rate increases. Meters will remain $1 per hour, and the lots will cost 50 cents per half hour.

Only the Civic Center structure and the parking lot at the Main Library will actually see a price reduction. The first 30 minutes are free and each additional hour is $1, with a daily maximum of $5.

The rates have only been in place for two days, but not many people have complained, said Don Patterson, assistant director of the Finance Department.

"We did have all the ads, stories and signage in the lots and structures, and we previously met with all of the community and business groups, so it seems people got the word," Patterson said.

Not everyone is thrilled with the price increases, but at least one private business is offering to step in.

ParkMe, a company that helps people find the cheapest parking near them through a smartphone and computer application, is promising to pay for parking meters at every Farmers' Market in Santa Monica through the month of October.

If you see a person in a black ParkMe T-shirt, flag them down and say, "Hi," said Kevin Blomberg, of ParkMe.

ashley@smdp.com

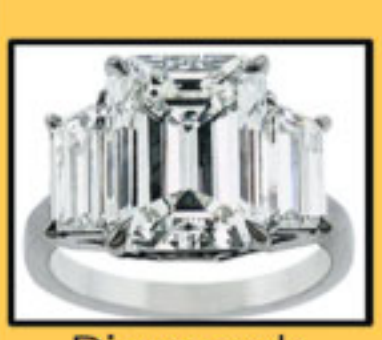


Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

FEEDING THE METER: **A woman uses one of the city's many solar-powered parking meters.**

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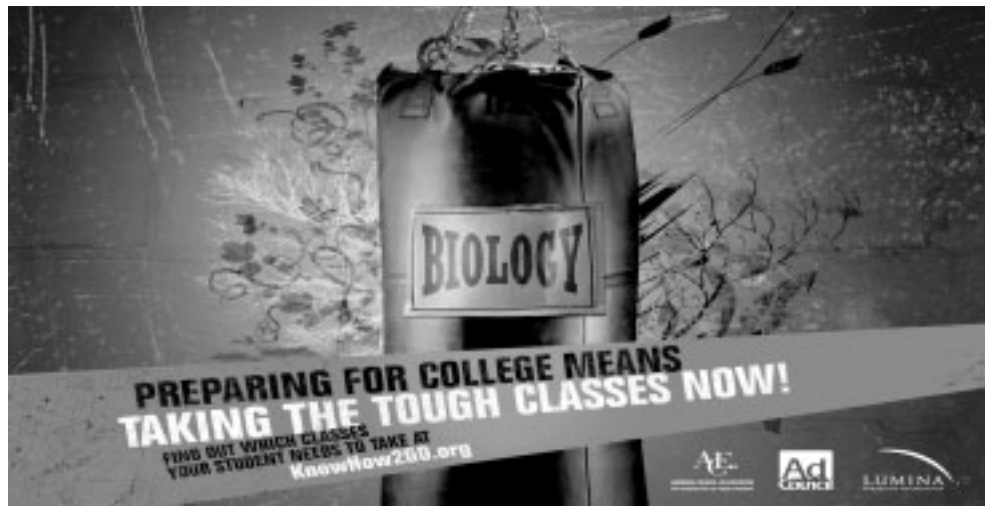
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VOTE
FROM PAGE 1

week.

That won City Hall an A- for civic engagement on the report card, the highest grade achieved in 2012.

Santa Monicans may show up to meetings, but another tangible indicator of their passion for democracy and policy is their voting record.

Voter turnout in the city is shockingly high. According to the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office, 65 percent of eligible local voters turned out for the November 2010 election.

That trumped City Hall's goal of 50 percent and surpassed Los Angeles County stats by 10 percent.

Typically, years in which voters can cast a ballot for the next president see significantly higher turnout. That was certainly true in Santa Monica, where 87 percent of eligible voters showed up at the polls.

They tend to fit the profile of a "likely voter" as defined by the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonpartisan research firm focused on social, economic and political issues.

According to PPIC, likely voters tend to be more affluent, older and educated (81 percent have a college degree). They're often homeowners and born in the United States.

The only place the Santa Monica population bucks those trends are in homeownership — roughly 71 percent of Santa Monicans rent.

"We don't usually worry about Santa Monica," said Lawrence Joe.

Joe is the project director for the California Participation Project, an organization that works with nonprofits to increase voter participation.

The California Participation Project targets the "unlikely" voter, people who are not yet registered to vote or otherwise engaged in the public process.

Otherwise, they often go ignored.

"Get out the vote" drives target registered voters, the same groups that get hit up by political pollsters and campaigns because they've already demonstrated a willingness to invest their time and energy in the election.

The project does so by working with nonprofit organizations to make voter registration resources available to their clients and lead classes to educate groups on issues that may influence their lives.

Some people believe that in California, a perennially Democratic state, it's pointless to cast a ballot during a presidential election, Joe said, while others mistakenly think that by registering to vote they'll put themselves on a list for jury duty.

"If you're driving a car, it's too late," Joe said. Jury duty lists are derived from a number of sources, including records from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Traditionally, people can pick up voting registration packets in libraries, post offices and the much-maligned DMV, but fewer and fewer people actually go to those three locations that used to be more of a lifeline.

That's why the California Participation Project works with nonprofits, to catch up with people trying to access anything from music lessons to health care.

The organization is hoping that by engaging people during the presidential election, they'll be able to push forward into elections with traditionally lower participation, like the municipal elections in early 2013.

"We're keeping up the momentum by connecting the other issues to their quality of life and livelihood," he said. "Hopefully that will help maintain kind of a new ethic around civic participation, even around election years."

The project conducted one such training in 2010 for the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition, a homeless services provider that works with groups in Santa Monica, as well as the Venice Community Housing Corporation.

Those organizations can include populations of potential voters that no one considers, like the homeless.

Nonprofits and community organizers often work with service provider OPCC to register homeless individuals to vote, said John Maceri, executive director at OPCC.

Although they don't have an address of their own, they're allowed to use the location of a residential program — if they're enrolled in one — or even the OPCC Access Center on Olympic Boulevard.

"For those who want to, they do see it as important," Maceri said. "When people lose their housing, it's one of the things they don't think about. It's about being a citizen, it's something important to them."

An organization has already reached out to OPCC to do a voter drive this year, but the details are not yet final, Maceri said.

Other Santa Monica-based organizations that have skin in the game this election season are putting on a full-court press to encourage voter registration and turnout on Nov. 6.

Santa Monica College has already held one voter registration drive which netted 608 eligible voters, and they're already planning another one for Oct. 15, said Brenda Benson, dean of Counseling and Retention.

Although the college sees it as part of its ongoing mission to educate students about voting, this year has been particularly energetic, Benson said.

"There's probably a little extra fire," Benson said. "We've got a lot at stake in this election."

Voters will have the opportunity to vote for Proposition 30, an education funding measure put on the ballot by Gov. Jerry Brown that — if passed — would prevent massive cuts to the higher education system.

It's a major difference between it and Proposition 38, another ballot measure that purports to fund education, but would only support K-12, Benson said.

"This college won't look the same if this proposition doesn't pass," Benson said. "Higher education in California won't look the same."

The first step is to educate students, many of whom are first-time voters, about the registration and voting process.

"For those of us who've been doing it awhile, it's like driving a car or riding a bike," Benson said. "Before you've done it, it can be intimidating … . We're trying to make it really simple and not intimidating."

Brown recently enacted legislation to make it even easier for California voters to participate in the public process, including a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) to allow same-day voter registration. But that may not be available until 2015, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

Voters can always register online by going to www.lavote.net. The deadline to register for the November election is Oct. 22.

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New book battles tiger mom syndrome with laughs

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK One mom lured her daughter to bed — at age 8 — with a trail of chocolate chips up her townhouse stairs. Another found herself on the floor of a plane screaming "Save the Jelly Bellys!" They spilled as she fed them to her preschooler to fend off in-flight earache meltdowns.

A third mom who avoids sweets and high fructose corn syrup like they were poison has her toddler begging for his "medicine candy" when it's time to take the dreaded Tylenol.

Don't go diving for your dog-eared parenting guides or Googling Dr. Sears on the above, but if you're looking for a little validation of your crappiest mom moments as not such a huge deal after all, hunt down "Sh-tty Mom," the unofficial companion to last year's best-seller "Go the (Bleep) to Sleep."

The latest in irreverent parenting books is part parody and part painful truth. It's written by four very busy, often tired working moms looking to offer some overdue laughs as counterpoint to today's parenting-to-perfection mania.

"Even the helicopter moms and tiger moms have their shitty mom moments. Maybe they missed their daughter's fifth ballet practice that week or were five minutes late to her piano lesson," said co-writer Mary Ann Zoellner. "The whole idea of the book is to just give yourself a break."

Zoellner and Alicia Ybarbo, both segment producers for the "Today" show, cooked up the idea with Karen Moline one night over margaritas about three years ago. One among them was avoiding her kids' bedtime madness back home.

The three were paired by an agent with Laurie Kilmartin, a joke master for "Conan" and single mom to a 5-year-old in Burbank, Calif.

"The target audience is women who are tired of books coming out that tell you you're kind of doing everything wrong and if you only did this, this and this you would be doing a better job and your kids would turn out better," Kilmartin said. "I think tiger mom put everyone over the deep end, and so it was sort of a pushback."

Written in guide format, the book includes easily consumed chapters and tips like these:

1) Send your daughter sick to daycare. Not bubonic plague sick. Just sniffle sick. And maybe a little fever, something you wouldn't know about because you avoid the thermometer to preserve deniability.

2) Pretend you don't know your son in the playground after a sand-throwing incident, leaving the discipline to the victim's mom because she seems really good at it.

3) Play dead while your daughter scream-whispers "Are you awake?" at 5 a.m., at least until you've trained her to head for daddy's side.

One chapter is titled "Stop Looking for a Great Babysitter and Settle for One Who Shows Up On Time." Another, "How to Deal with Moms Who Exercise," suggests — if you're in survival mode — limiting friendships to other "bare-minimum moms," avoiding those who throw their abs in your face.

There's "This Tradition Must Die: Handwritten Thank-you Notes" and "Unspeakable Evil: Private Birthday Party — with a Bouncy Castle — at a Public Park." Has your son stormed the castle uninvited? "Keep a low profile until your kid gets busted. It's best not to outwardly condone grifty behavior."

The book out in mid-September just hit the New York Times best-seller list at 12th in its category and the five co-writers are fielding supportive email, including one from Alicia Hunter in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

She has a 9-year-old and a 6-year-old and immediately recognized herself in print. Among her favorite book bits:

"The chapter on hating the zoo/playing with my kids in general when they ask me to use my imagination," Hunter said in an interview, "Let's play school! Let's play house! Let's play grocery store! Unless it's a board game WE actually like, please do not ask us to play a game that involves using our imagination. We used that up by the time we were 13."

Count Hunter, a beauty and weight-loss coach, among moms who never felt a kinship with those who read each piece of paper that comes home from school, have dry erase boards listing deadlines for homework and fulfill the teacher's wish list of supplies five minutes after said supplies are requested.

The two daughters of Jelly Belly mom Robyn Roth-Moise in Manhattan are grown now, but she bought several copies of the book for friends.

"I can remember having to go to the store and my daughter had chicken pox and there was no one to watch her," she said. "So I did what every mom does, wrapped her up and prayed no one noticed her. Did I feel guilty? Yes. Did I have another option? No."

Corporate trainer Liz Wolfe in New York has an 11-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl, the latter being the follower of chocolate chips — not, for the record, directly to bed but to the bathroom sink first to brush her teeth.

Wolfe is often frustrated by parenting experts and plans to hop on the "Sh-tty Mom" bandwagon.

"Here I am, a college educated business owner, making all kinds of good stuff happen in my life, and I still can't live up to the ideal mother image," she said. "I wish my kid loved to do homework, or was one of those kids who came when I called them etc., etc., but sadly they don't. Short of beating them into submission, I simply do the best I can."

For Ybarbo, who has four Emmys and two kids, best sometimes means locking herself in a closet for a work call while her kids are in front of the TV watching "Top Gear."

Zoellner, with three Emmys of her own and two kids, says having it all isn't a myth if it means having it all on alternating weeks — one filled with vegetables and the next with too many cupcakes.

"Some weeks you can do it all. Some weeks you can't do it all. Some weeks we're shitty moms. Some weeks we're shitty wives. Some weeks we're shitty producers," she said. "It's really all about laughing at those less-than-perfect moments."



Campaign travel providing Obama view of tough economy

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. Sometimes all President Barack Obama has to do is look out the window to get a firsthand look at the country's economic woes.

This week in this town, the presidential motorcade speeds past opulent homes lining manmade Lake Las Vegas as he heads to the sprawling luxury development where he's preparing for the upcoming debates with Mitt Romney. But many houses here are empty, victims of Nevada's foreclosure crisis, and others are worth far less than their purchase price.

Farther down the road, a golf course is abandoned — one of two shuttered in the neighborhood. A sparkling shopping center off the main drag has no shops to fill its storefronts.

And if Obama didn't get the message of pocketbook pain, the marquee at one business — one that is open if perhaps not thriving — spells it out: "President Obama, we need lower taxes."

Views like these from the window of his fortified Chevy Suburban or armored limousine give Obama an unvarnished look both at the country he runs and the challenges he faces in winning a second term amid a struggling economic recovery.

The president, often cloistered in the White House, says seeing the facts on the ground — in the battleground states that will decide the election — is an opportunity he relishes.

"It's good to get out of Washington," Obama frequently tells crowds on the campaign trail, whether he's in an economically-booming community or a struggling one in a nation where the unemployment rate hasn't dropped below 8 percent since January 2009 — the first month of his presidency.

Of course, the president sees much more than economic realities from the black limos and SUVs that ferry him to and from events several times a week in contested states from Colorado to New Hampshire to Florida. Clusters of protesters carrying signs castigating him and fans countering with expressions of thanks are staples along most motorcade routes.

Aides say the president takes notice of the world outside his motorcade as it speeds through the streets of big cities, small towns and leafy suburbs. He's particularly struck, they say, by the people who line the streets to watch his caravan pass. He insists on waving to the crowds through the tinted windows, even while he's on the phone or being briefed by advisers — and even if onlookers can't see him clearly.

During bus tours, Obama often points to aides when there are large pockets of supporters standing along the road. The driver slows down and Obama moves to the front so he can get a better look, and so the crowd can get a better look at him as well.

On Monday, crowds lined Lake Mead Parkway in Henderson as the president passed by on his way to a campaign rally in nearby Las Vegas. Many snapped photos or took videos on their cellphones. One young girl waved a small American flag, while an elderly couple waved enthusiastically to the presidential procession.

Small children peered over concrete walls separating their homes from the street and families gathered on their front lawns to watch as the motorcade zipped through the largely Hispanic, working-class neighborhood where Obama was heading to speak.

His mere presence makes waves, part of the reason why Obama chose to hold his intensive debate preparations in Nevada. It's one of a few states that will determine the outcome of the White House race, and aides are mindful that something as simple as seeing the president's motorcade can build voter enthusiasm and drive local media coverage ahead of the election.

Here, like elsewhere, Obama is getting plenty of reminders about the looming election.

An electronic billboard flashes information about voting, urging residents to register by the state's Oct. 6 deadline. Signs for local and state candidates dot the desert landscape.

At times, Obama also comes face to face with Romney backers.

Earlier this summer, some residents in Hunts Point, Wash., held Romney signs as Obama traveled to a fundraiser in the neighborhood. At another point, during a fundraiser in a largely Republican neighborhood in Tampa, Fla., several neighbors planted Romney signs in their front yard. Others made their own signs with messages for the president.

"Free markets, not free loaders," read one sign at the home across the street from Obama's event. "The bro has got to go," said another.

Indeed, there are often protests, from Republicans, Occupy Wall Street activists, even medical marijuana advocates.

But sometimes the White House tries to make sure those gatherings aren't in Obama's line of sight.

For example, hundreds of medical marijuana supporters flocked to a theater in Oakland, Calif., where Obama was headlining a July fundraiser. With law enforcement keeping the protesters confined to the front of the theater, Obama's motorcade simply dropped him off on the side of the building, ensuring he never caught a glimpse of the crowd.





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Record number of gays seeking seats in Congress

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK Of the four openly gay members of Congress, the two longest-serving stalwarts are vacating their seats. Instead of fretting, their activist admirers are excited about a record number of gays vying to win seats in the next Congress — and to make history in the process.

When the oaths of office are taken in January, Congress could have its first openly gay Asian-American, Mark Takano of California; its first openly bisexual member, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona; and its first openly gay senator, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin.

In all, eight openly gay candidates are running as major-party nominees for the House of Representatives, the most ever, including the two incumbents who are favored in their races — Democrats Jared Polis of Colorado and David Cicilline of Rhode Island. There's one gay Republican in the group, Richard Tisei, who is waging a competitive campaign for a House seat from Massachusetts.

A common denominator in all the races: Neither the gay candidates nor their rivals are stressing sexual orientation, and the oft-heard refrain is, "It's not an issue." If anti-gay innuendo does surface from lower echelons of a campaign, there are swift disavowals — even conservative candidates these days think twice about being depicted as biased against gays and lesbians.

"People know that bigotry is bad politics," said Democrat Sean Patrick Maloney, a former adviser to President Bill Clinton who is trying to oust one-term Republican Nan Hayworth from New York's 18th District in the Hudson Valley.

Maloney, who'd be the first openly gay member of Congress from New York, has assailed Hayworth for not supporting federal recognition of same-sex marriage, but says voters are focused on economic and health care issues, not on gay rights.

"The voters in my district care more about why my opponent wants to end Medicare and defund Planned Parenthood than about who I love," said Maloney, who is raising three children with his partner of 20 years.

The veterans departing from the House are Barney Frank, D-Mass., perhaps the most powerful gay in elective office who is retiring after 16 terms, and Baldwin, who is vacating her House seat after seven terms to run for the Senate. Recent polls show her running slightly ahead of her GOP opponent, former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.

Thompson has not made an issue of Baldwin's sexual orientation, and said it was "a mistake" for his political director to have sent emails with a link to a video of Baldwin dancing at a 2010 gay pride festival.

Chuck Wolfe of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which recruits and supports gay political candidates, said Thompson's response epitomized the changed atmosphere in which Republicans are less inclined to use sexual orientation as a wedge issue and anti-gay attacks are becoming taboo.

"We still have them happen in local races, but in the federal races we hope we'll get through them without seeing these kind of attacks," Wolfe said.

Baldwin's decision to run for the Senate prompted another openly gay Democrat, state legislator Mark Pocan, to enter the race to fill her seat from the 2nd District based in Madison, the liberal home to the University of Wisconsin. Pocan won a four-way Democratic primary in August and is a heavy favorite to win on Nov. 6.

In Arizona, Sinema and Republican Vernon Parker are squaring off in a newly reconfigured district in the Phoenix area that both parties view as winnable.

Sinema, 36, has been a staunch gay-rights advocate during eight years in the Legislature and is at ease acknowledging her bisexuality. But she responded sharply during her primary campaign after being told that her Democratic rival had suggested that a bisexual couldn't win the general election.

"It's true that I'm openly bisexual," she told the Washington Blade. "I have been my entire adult life, and I've managed to win four elections, and, meanwhile, he's lost two, so perhaps it was being straight that was the problem here."

Like Sinema, Mark Takano is considered a strong candidate in a newly redrawn and competitive district — the 41st District that includes Riverside, Calif. The GOP nominee, John Tavaglione, hasn't made an issue of Takano's sexuality

Takano, a 51-year-old high school teacher, ran losing races for Congress in 1992 and again in 1994, when he was routed by a GOP rival who sent anti-Takano mailers in shades of pink after Takano's sexual orientation became an issue.

"That became front-page news," Takano said. "Today, it's just an interesting part of my background as opposed to being a sensational story... People look back at what happened 18 years ago and say, 'I can't believe we ever did those things.'"

In Massachusetts, Tisei, a longtime state legislator, is running a vigorous campaign to unseat Democratic Rep. John Tierney. The National Republican Congressional Committee has included Tisei in its "Young Gun" program highlighting promising candidates.

There have been openly gay Republicans in Congress before — but they came out after being elected. Tisei would be the first Republican to enter Congress as an openly gay candidate.

Tisei is at odds with Republican Party orthodoxy on key social issues. He supports the Massachusetts law legalizing same-sex marriage and favors abortion rights. But he depicts himself as a fiscal conservative, and says the GOP's stance on social issues will moderate faster if people like himself work from inside.

"I've been very welcomed and encouraged by the national party leaders," he said in a telephone interview earlier this year. "As for issues of equality, you'll never have true equality until you have advocates on both sides of the aisle."

The other House races involving openly gay candidates:

• In Colorado, Polis is an overwhelmingly favorite to win re-election in the 2nd District that includes his liberal hometown of Boulder. He and his partner are raising a young son, which makes Polis the only gay member of Congress who's a parent.

• In Rhode Island, Cicilline, a former mayor of Providence, is seeking a second term in the House but faces a tough challenge from Republican Brendan Doherty, a former head of the state police. During the Democratic primary campaign, there were brief flare-ups over complaints that supporters of Cicilline's rival, Anthony Gemma, were engaging in anti-gay innuendo.

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Shootings expose cracks in U.S. mental health system

CARLA K. JOHNSON & PATRICK CONDON
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS Andrew Engeldinger's parents pushed him for two years to seek treatment for what they suspected was mental illness, but even though he became increasingly paranoid and experienced delusions, there was nothing more they could do.

Minnesota law doesn't allow people to be forced into treatment without proof that they are a threat to themselves or others. Engeldinger's parents were horrified last week, when their 36-year-old son went on a workplace shooting spree that led to the deaths of a Minneapolis sign company's owner, several of his employees and a UPS driver. Engeldinger then killed himself.

"They wanted him to get treatment. They wanted him to get help," said Sue Abderholden, the executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, who has acted as a family spokeswoman.

She added: "You're not going to convince someone they're ill if they don't want to believe it."

This is a problem faced by many friends and relatives of people suffering from mental illness, along with the police officers and health care providers to whom they turn for help. While a small number of people with mental illness commit acts of violence, the difficulty of securing treatment and ensuring it is successful — and the catastrophic consequences of failure — are common threads that often link such outbursts.

"These are not random acts of violence," said Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, a psychiatrist at the nonprofit Stanley Medical Research Institute in Maryland. "It is my personal belief that these episodes will increase in number and severity and will continue until we figure out what to do about it."

Engeldinger was never formally diagnosed with a mental illness, but his family was concerned enough by their son's behavior, which included claims that he was being followed, to enroll in a free, 12-week course for loved ones of people with mental illness before he cut off contact in late 2010.

His willful estrangement kept his parents from the basement of his small bungalow, where police said he stockpiled 10,000 rounds of ammunition and a second gun on top of the 9mm Glock semi-automatic pistol he used in Thursday's shooting. Without evidence that he was a threat to himself or others, they were unable to force him into treatment under Minnesota law.

A successful patients' rights movement in the 1970s made it difficult — and illegal in some states — to force a person into treatment unless he or she was homicidal or suicidal. Dr. Darold Treffert, a Wisconsin psychiatrist, coined the phrase "dying with their rights on" in 1974, after collecting stories of people who didn't qualify for involuntary commitment and later killed themselves.

In the years since, 41 states have added "need for treatment" standards to their laws that allow more individuals to be placed into court-ordered treatment programs. Minnesota is not among them.

"The pendulum is slowly returning to a reasonable balance," Treffert said. "I have comforted myself on this long mission with the realization that some things can be learned and can't be taught. We do seem to be learning slowly from tragedies."

A sly suggestion from a police officer led Kevin Earley's father to lie and say the young man was violent so that he would get treatment. Earley, then 23, was arrested after breaking into someone else's house to take a bubble bath.

"He said, 'Unless you tell them your son threatened to kill you, they won't admit him and we'll take him to jail, and you don't want that,'" said Pete Earley, an author in Fairfax, Va., who has written about his son's experience in the mental health care system.

Kevin Earley was seeing secret messages all around him, but his father never heard his clearly psychotic son threaten himself or others.

"I went in and I lied. And that got him into the hospital," Pete Earley said.

But just getting patients diagnosed or enrolled in treatment often isn't enough. Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho was ordered into outpatient treatment before he killed 32 people in 2007.

This summer, prosecutors say, James Holmes killed 12 people at a midnight premiere of a new Batman movie in Colorado. His attorneys say he had an undisclosed mental illness, and his psychiatrist tried to report him to a campus behavioral and security committee.

Experts say it can take years before patients agree to stick with a prescribed treatment. Elyn Saks, a law professor at the University of Southern California, has schizophrenia and, without medication, starts to believe she can kill hundreds of thousands of people with her thoughts. Until the mid-1990s, when she was in her 40s, Saks tried periodically to skip her drugs.

"I felt so ashamed," said Saks, a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" winner for her contributions to mental health law. "It's an internalized stigma. I wanted to be whole, I wanted to be well. Each time I tried to get off medication, I did it with great gusto and failed miserably." Now, she takes her pills. "Frankly, I'm sorry I wasn't smarter sooner."

Earley initially didn't stick with treatment after his father lied to get him into a hospital. He became violent — he was shot with a Taser by a police officer at one point — and was hospitalized five times before he realized he couldn't live without his medication.

"I know I have a mental illness and if I leave it untreated it will destroy me," said Earley, who now works full time as a peer counselor in Fairfax County, Va., helping others with severe mental illnesses. With treatment, he said, "I have my own apartment, a car ... I'm able to do things with friends and family."

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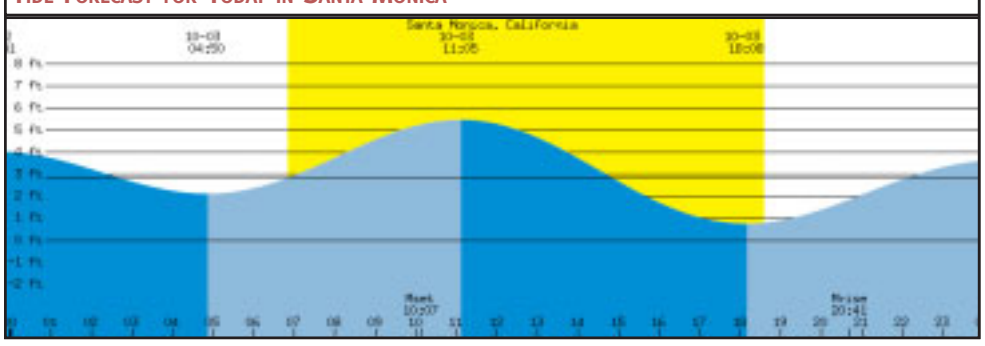
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Long Range Synopsis

Chest to head high waves at south facing breaks, waist high at south facing spots.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 16

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBBA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

Baseball autographs go hi-tech

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

Jim Nash is such a big Yankees fan that he named his son George Mattingly Nash, combining two of his favorite players: George Herman Ruth and Don Mattingly.

So when he noticed Mattingly was participating in a startup venture called Egraphs, which offered an autographed digital picture with a handwritten note and a personalized audio message, he didn't think twice about paying $50. Nash never would have walked up to the Los Angeles Dodgers manager and asked for his signature.

"It's much easier, especially for a grown man," the West Virginia native said. "It's much more personal."

Egraphs launched at the All-Star break, a technological breakthrough that extends the autograph business from the age-old methods of writing to stars, leaning across ballpark railings and hanging around hotel lobbies.

Now, power up the computer and get a prize from the likes of R.A. Dickey, Cliff Lee, Andrew McCutchen and Clayton Kershaw. Or even retired stars that include Pedro Martinez.

"It's actually kind of cool. It's like new age for me," Mattingly said.

David Auld, a former Microsoft employee who is the Seattle-based company's chief executive officer, started the venture last October and brought in former major leaguer Gabe Kapler as director of business development. Kapler was contacted by Auld's brother, Brian, the senior vice president of business operations for the Tampa Bay Rays, Kapler's team from 2009-10.

"Taking the cold out of the autograph experience with the celebrity made a lot of sense," Kapler said.

In an era in which players carry iPads and wireless has become more ever-present in clubhouses than smokeless tobacco, the idea seems to have caught on rather quickly. Among the early players to sign up were Tampa Bay's David Price and manager Joe Maddon.

The company's website, www.egraphs.com, lists about 130 players, with several sold out — including David Ortiz, Josh Hamilton, Prince Fielder and CC Sabathia.

Prices range from $25 to $100, depending on the player.

For the players, the process is relatively easy and speedy.

"We built a custom iPad application," said David Auld, who used engineers he knew from high school. "They record an audio message through the iPad microphone."

Consumers can share their Egraph on social networks and purchase a framed print with a certificate of authenticity. Each signature and recording is biometrically verified.

"It's cool. The best part of that is the audio," said New York Mets 20-game winner R.A. Dickey. "I get to give an audio message to a fan, which is pretty neat."

Each of Dickey's messages is different.

"It all depends on the note that they write and what they share," he said.

Among the audio messages thus far, St. Louis first baseman Matt Carpenter told a fan named Laura "if it wasn't for sugar-free vanilla pudding, I'd have no chance in the big leagues! Thanks for all your support — and Go Cards!"

And Texas slugger Hamilton recorded this for a fan named Nancy: "Glad to hear you are doing well from the cancer. Cancer has been very prevalent in my family so my prayers go out to you and your family as well. Praying for good health and long life and a long time coming to Rangers' games. Best wishes and God bless."

To make sure that the idea couldn't be copied within the sport, Egraphs obtained exclusive licenses with Major League Baseball and with Major League Baseball Advanced Media, its Internet division.

Howard Smith, MLB's senior vice president of licensing, was impressed when he listened to Auld's pitch.

"Every month I get a really cool idea and say, 'How are you going to do that?'" explained Smith, entering his 15th year with the commissioner's office. "The technology they have in terms of safeguarding for the athlete, in terms of merchandizing, it has extensions well beyond this, well beyond autographs, well beyond licensed products."

Auld won't divulge the volume of the company's sales. Kapler envisions an expansion to musicians and hopes for the day when Mariah Carey can send audio birthday greetings to fans. Auld sees minor leaguers getting involved to become better known to fans of their parent clubs and envisions international sports stars signing up.

For Brandon Steiner, whose Steiner Sports sells autographed photos and memorabilia costing hundreds of dollars and more, Egraphs is something "aimed at the lower end of the market" and a product "that doesn't have legs."

"I don't understand how that's a collectible," said Steiner, whose company began in 1987. "I don't understand why somebody would want that, a facsimile autograph. It's kind of like a replica jersey that people get when they're 6 years old."

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #3098 FURNISH AND DELIVER ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVING MIXES AS REQUIRED BY VARIOUS DIVISIONS.
BID #4036 PROVIDE GAC REPLACEMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline Is October 17, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Live Talks L.A.: An evening with Penny Marshall
8:00pm
Tickets only available at livetalksla.org

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

ParaNorman (PG) 1hr 33min
4:15pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
5:00pm, 9:55pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:45pm, 5:15pm, 8:45pm

Lawless (R) 1hr 55min
9:30pm

Robot & Frank () 1hr 30min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Words (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:15pm, 7:30pm

ParaNorman 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

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

Hotel Transylvania 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
12:10pm, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

Finding Nemo 3D (G) 1hr 40min
11:25am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:25pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:25am, 1:55pm, 2:35pm, 4:25pm, 5:15pm, 6:55pm, 7:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:20pm

Trouble with the Curve (PG-13) 1hr 51min
11:50am, 1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
11:40am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:15pm

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

Arbitrage (R) 1hr 40min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Just 45 Minutes from Broadway (R) 1hr 30min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Master (R) 2hrs 30min
3:50pm, 9:30pm

Waiting Room (NR) 1hr 21min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:55pm

186 Dollars to Freedom (NR)
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

House at the End of the Street (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:35am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
11:25am, 12:35pm, 2:15pm, 3:40pm, 5:10pm, 6:45pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

Dredd (R) 1hr 36min
11:55am, 4:55pm, 9:40pm

Dredd 3D (R) 1hr 36min
2:25pm, 7:15pm

Won't Back Down (PG) 2hrs 01min
11:45am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:25pm, 10:15pm

Resident Evil: Retribution (R) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 5:00pm, 10:05pm

Resident Evil: Retribution 3D (R) 1hr 35min
2:35pm, 7:35pm

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

Out late tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The more you express your flexibility, the more your associates might be willing to bend as well. When you work together, unusually creative and workable ideas pop up. Sometimes your ideas could be very similar. Tonight: Shop till you drop.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The Moon in your sign highlights you. Express your feelings to a receptive audience, and encourage a healthy exchange of feedback. People will want to honor your request. Tonight: Time for a child or loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ You might decide to retreat. Don't worry -- ideas will flow anyway. Get together with a generous, thoughtful friend. The process of getting away and centering yourself will prepare you for some hard work and play in the near future. Tonight: Get some extra Z's.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Should a question arise as to how you should interpret a statement or action, err on the side of optimism. News from a distance could shake you up, but ultimately it is very good. Tonight: Where the action is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ In the long run, sensitivity to those in charge will allow you to have greater independence. You quickly build others' trust. You possess many abilities and talents, but the most effective one is your ability to magnetize others. Tonight: Out late ... very late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your vision defines what will occur. Use this skill and incorporate it with your ability to communicate. Your imagination comes into play when dealing with a loved one. This person has a very artistic outlook and temperament. Enjoy the results. Tonight: Feed your mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Let someone else make the first move. You might be overreacting and say too much, which will cause yet another problem. What you perceive as the issue might be very different from what the other party thinks is wrong. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A friend means a lot to you -- and you to him or her. Be careful, as this person's feelings possibly could develop into more. Make sure this also is what you want. Extremes and idealism mark your thoughts. Tonight: Sort through possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen to news with an eye to applying this knowledge to your domestic life. A relative could reveal a family skeleton. Be careful about accepting this person's story. Check it out by doing your own research, if possible. Tonight: Roll with the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity remains high. Others often lure you into solving their problems. You might find that a lot of people want to tap into your ingenuity right now. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If you become confused, home in on the basics, with an eye to your personal life. Deal with a child or loved one directly. You will make a difference in this person's attitude. Tonight: Invite friends over.

PISCES (Feb. 18-March 20)
★★★★ Return calls and listen to others in regard to planning meetings and moving a project forward. A key associate attempts to make an impression in order to get some extra time with you. Tonight: Catch up on news with friends.

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 develop a tendency to keep a lot to yourself. At times, you might feel hurt by someone's comments or actions, and could cop an attitude as a result. Do not just assume that the other party intended to say or do something hurtful. You'll discover that some of your judgments could be wrong. If you are single, you could meet someone who is emotionally unavailable. Take your time getting to know this person. If you are attached, spending time alone could be more of a pleasure than ever before. TAURUS naturally gravitates to you.

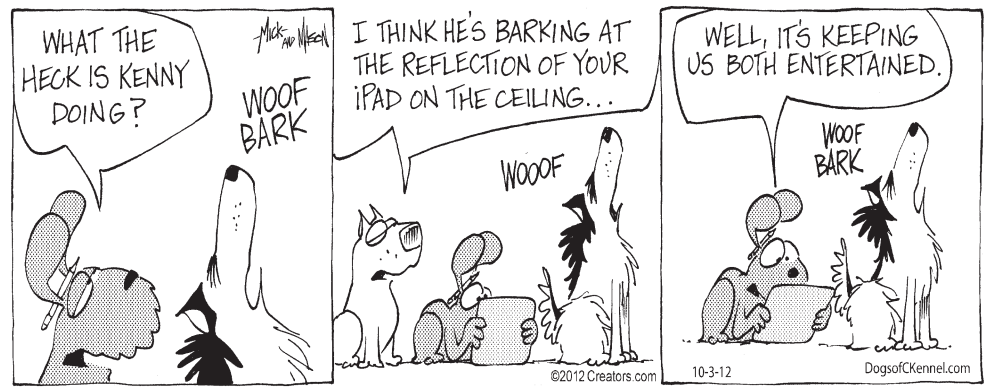
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



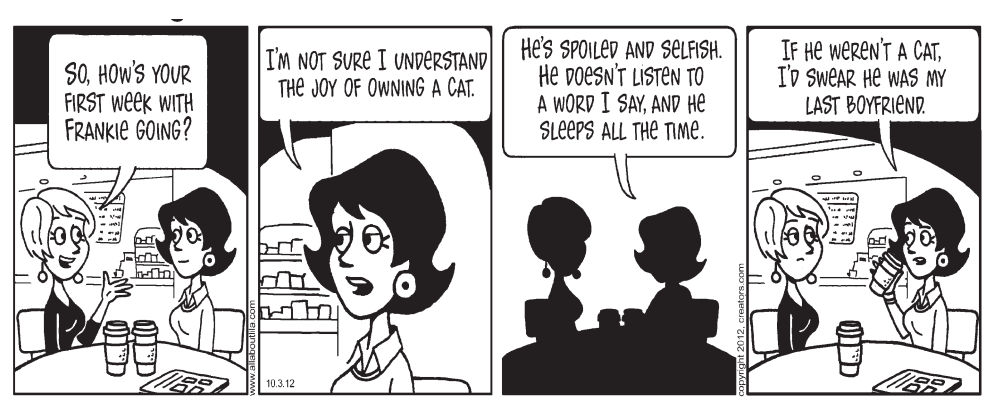
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 A lot of
5 Rock cover
9 "— With a View"
11 Yard container
12 Circus star
13 Rubber source
14 Hydrocarbon suffix
15 Straight path
17 Silhouette
19 Peaks: Abbr.
20 Nut part
21 Agreeable answer
22 Wonderland visitor
24 Game caller
26 Tuba part
29 Heir, at times
30 It rises and falls in fashion
32 Slogan
34 Simile center
35 Spanish farewell
36 Picture puzzle
38 Olympics symbol
39 Tree-lined walk
40 Casual tops
41 Mob pursuers

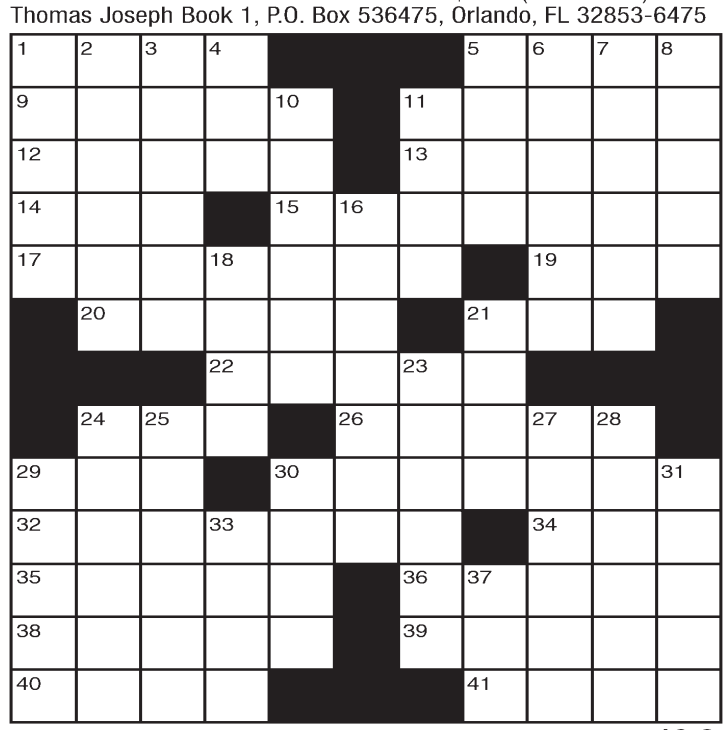
DOWN

1 San —, California
2 Miranda circles it
3 Verb in an O'Neill title
4 Garden tool
5 Repast
6 Punctual
7 Perfumes
8 Sides in an ongoing battle
10 Foe of Sluggo, on "SNL"
11 Hightail it
16 Pep up
18 Tree part
21 Cry
23 Shot taker
24 Concert worker
25 Train puller
27 Practical
28 Followed
29 Onset
30 Radiator sound
31 Moves cautiously
33 Sawmill sights
37 Pole worker

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

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



10-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/28
6 8 14 43 56
Meganumber: 28
Jackpot: $28M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 9/29
3 4 27 30 39
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/2
9 19 23 33 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/2
MIDDAY: 1 4 3
EVENING: 2 4 3

SANTA ANITA
Draw Date: 10/2
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:43.60

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

■ (1) Arrested in New York City in August on charges that he used a tiny camera in a folded newspaper to crudely peek up female subway riders' skirts: Dr. Adam Levinson, assistant professor at the prestigious Mount Sinai school of medicine. (2) Arrested in Beverly Hills, Calif., in July and charged in a string of vandalism incidents (shooting metal marbles from a slingshot at windows of dozens of businesses and homes): investment banker Michael Poret, 58, of the Rodeo Drive office of UBS Financial Services.

■ Carl Funk, 58, told Broward County, Fla., judge John Hurley (on a video feed from jail to a courtroom) that he is innocent of the seven-year-old charges (trespassing and open-alcoholic-container counts) and that, besides, he is now wheelchair-bound in pathetic medical condition and should be allowed to go home. The judge was skeptical, but finally, according to a South Florida Sun-Sentinel report, he offered to fine Funk only $50 on the charges, and Funk agreed to plead guilty. "Good luck, Funk," said Judge Hurley. At that point, Funk rose from his wheelchair and quickly walked away. Wrote the Sun-Sentinel: "Raising both hands, Judge Hurley declared, 'He's been cured.'"

TODAY IN HISTORY

1908 - The Pravda newspaper is founded by Leon Trotsky, Adolph Joffe, Matvey Skobelev and other Russian exiles in Vienna.

1912 - U.S. forces defeat Nicaraguan rebels under the command of Benjamín Zeledón at the Battle of Coyotepe Hill.

1918 - King Boris III of Bulgaria accedes to the throne.

1919 - Cincinnati Reds pitcher Adolfo Luque becomes the 1st Latin player to appear in a World Series.

WORD UP!

hamartia
**\ hah-mahr-TEE-uh ** , noun;
1. Tragic flaw.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Vacation Rentals
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- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
- Yard Sales
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- Fitness
- Wealth and Success
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- Personals
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DRE # 01218699

3.8% Tax on Some Real Estate Transactions
Beginning January 1, 2013

Beginning January 1, 2013, the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) imposes a new 3.8 percent tax on some investment income.

It's a complicated tax, so we Realtors won't be able to predict how it will affect every buyer or seller.
Your Tax Consultant/CPA should advise you on this.

This tax will not be imposed on all real estate transactions, a common misconception.

Rather, when the legislation becomes effective in 2013, it may impose a 3.8% tax on some income from interest, dividends, rents (less expenses) and capital gains (less capital losses).

The tax will fall only on individuals with an adjusted gross income (AGI) above $200,000 and couples filing a joint return with more than $250,000 AGI (adjusted gross income).

Applies to:
- Individuals with adjusted gross income (AGI) above $200,000
- Couples filing a joint return with more than $250,000 AGI

Types of Income:
- Interest, dividends, rents (less expenses), capital gains (less capital losses)

Formula: The new tax applies to the LESSER of
- Investment income amount
- Excess of Adjusted Gross Income over the $200,000 or $250,000 amount

If you are considering selling a property in the near future,
I highly recommend talking to your Tax Consultant well-before January, 2013

Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale As of Late September 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,709,500
North of Montana	=	$3,523,875
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,916,375
South of Wilshire	=	$839,600
Sunset Park	=	$1,497,889
Ocean Park	=	$1,557,667
Statistics updated every week		

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