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Volume 11 Issue 283

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WHO SERVES THE BEST FISH 'N CHIPS?
SEE PAGE 6

THE WON'T BACK DOWN ISSUE

Nativity backers file injunction to allow only seasonal displays

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A nonprofit suing City Hall to restore nativity scenes to their winter-season home in Palisades Park filed an injunction this week that, if approved, would only allow displays that celebrate seasonal holidays in the public space.

The motion is aimed directly at groups of atheists who applied for and won 18 of the 21 available spaces for displays in 2011, and used them to erect signs that some felt denigrated Christianity.

The signs — like one that juxtaposed Santa Claus, the Roman god Neptune and

SEE NATIVITY PAGE 12



GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Ariana Rubio, 2, and her mother Rosy pick pumpkins at A-1 Pumpkin Patch on Friday. A-1 Pumpkin Patch is located on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 14th Street.



Photo courtesy AIDS Walk L.A.

UNITED: **AIDS Walk L.A. takes place Sunday.**

Walking to remember

New Roads takes on HIV/AIDS with walk

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC BLVD This Sunday, hundreds of members of the New Roads School community will join thousands of other Angelenos in a 10-kilometer walk meant to raise money and awareness for a nonprofit dedicated to caring for those with HIV and AIDS.

The school has sent a contingent to AIDS Walk Los Angeles since 2001, raising thousands of dollars to support AIDS Project Los Angeles, which provides prevention education, bilingual services and leadership on HIV/AIDS policy.

Senior Justyce Martirosian has never missed a year.

"It's something I have to do," Martirosian said. "It brings the community together. …

SEE WALK PAGE 11

How would candidates' tax plans affect investors?

BY DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON With the outcome of next month's presidential election increasingly hazy, here's a shred of clarity that investors can cling to: The tax rates they pay on investment income like stock profits and dividends are almost certain to change.

Whether rates rise or fall could affect the prices of some dividend-paying stocks, experts say. Some, mainly Republicans, believe that lower rates would boost the economy and lift markets.

Under the current system, people pay the government 15 percent on most dividends

SEE TAX PAGE 13

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012

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

Digging for treasures
Barker Hangar
3021 Airport Ave. #203,
11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
The 17th annual Los Angeles Antiques, Art + Design Show features its most influential host committee to date, which includes leaders from the worlds of entertainment, culture, the arts and design, as well as the premier list of more than 60 international vendors exhibiting at the show. The show also takes place on Sunday from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m. For more information, visit losangelesantiqueshow.com.

Wild, wild night
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 8 p.m.
Wild Up is a contemporary classical music collective — a group of Los Angeles-based musicians committed to creating visceral, thought-provoking concerts. For this special evening, Wild Up has created a program of politically-inspired music by American composers. Works range from Bernstein and Sousa to Merle Haggard and John Lennon. They will also premiere a new composition inspired by the famous Jimi Hendrix performances of the national anthem. Cost: $25. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Long live the king
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
"All the King's Men" is the story of the rise and fall of a political titan in the South during the 1930s. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 1947, and in 1949, the film adaptation became Best Picture. More recently in 2006, it became a hit film starring Jude Law and Sean Penn. The production runs through Sunday. For more information, visit morgan-wixson.org.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012

Meet the candidates
Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill St., 6 p.m.
The Committee for Racial Justice is hosting the Santa Monica School Board and City Council Candidates Town Hall. This is an opportunity for voters to meet the candidates and hear their platforms on issues important to local ethnic and progressive communities. The event will also feature brief analyses of state propositions and Santa Monica's Measure ES. This event is free to all. Register online by sending an e-mail to churchop@aol.com or contact The Church in Ocean Park at (310) 399-1531.

Happy anniversary
Santa Monica Art Studios
3026 Airport Ave., 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Directors of Santa Monica Art Studios Yossi Govrin and Sherry Frumkin are pleased to announce the eighth anniversary celebration of their project of artist studios and exhibition space in an historic 22,000 square foot hangar. More than 35 painters, printmakers, photographers, sculptors and mixed media artists will open their studios for the event, which is also taking place Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

History lesson
Preservation Resource Center
Second Street and Norman Place
The Santa Monica Historical Society is celebrating 10 years with a free party at the old Shotgun House, soon to be home to the society's Preservation Resource Center. The event will feature docents describing the adjacent landmarks, as well as a self-guided tour of the Third Street Historic Neighborhood District and an architectural scavenger hunt for families. Register online by sending an e-mail to rsvp@smconservancy.org, or by leaving a message at (310) 496-3146.

Fun fundraiser
Pacific Park
Santa Monica Pier, 10 a.m.
With a "Stars 'N Stripes on the Pier" theme, Special Olympics Southern California is holding its annual Pier del Sol fundraiser. This year's event includes a VIP brunch with cuisine from more than 35 of L.A.'s top restaurants. Attendees will also enjoy arts and crafts; karaoke; entertainment from Square Dancers and barbershop quartets; and access to all the rides and games at Pacific Park. Cost: $45 and up. For more information, contact mbarclift@sosc.org or (562) 354-2605.

Meet the candidates
Church in Ocean Park

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM LIBRARY

More kids reading

The Santa Monica Public Library's summer reading program for babies through teenagers saw an increase this year of 6 percent, with 3,357 children and teens participating, city officials said Friday.

As a result, children and teens read for over 1.5 million minutes during the summer months. City officials said the increase may be attributed in part to the "Dream Big" theme and programming, as well as increased outreach efforts made to local schools, the Juneteenth Festival held in Virginia Avenue Park and, for the first time, Upward Bound House, a transitional housing facility for homeless families.

The Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library sponsored the 10-week program. The library offered over 400 story times and reading-related programs during the summer. It is anticipated that the library will continue to hold their top ranking in youth summer programming when compared to other Southern California cities with comparable population size, city officials said.

According to the American Library Association, numerous studies show that summer reading programs help ensure that children retain reading and learning skills over the summer.

"Study after study has shown that reading for pleasure (not assigned reading) is the best incentive to encourage lifelong learning," city officials said in a news release.

For more information about free library programs, visit smpl.org or call the Youth Services Department at (310) 458-8621.

– KEVIN HERRERA

SMC

Student newspaper wins big

The Santa Monica College student newspaper the Corsair won 14 awards — including online General Excellence — at the 2012 Southern California conference of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges held at Cal State Fullerton Oct. 5-6.

Corsair design editor Nathalyd Meza won four awards, including a first and second place for front page layout, and a first place award for the news judgment and layout contest held at the conference. Meza also won a third-place award for an ad she designed to promote the Corsair.

More than 330 students from 23 community college journalism programs attended the annual JACC regional conference. Students participated in several on-the-spot writing and photography contests and also attended workshops offered throughout the two-day event.

The Corsair dominated the video journalism contest by capturing both first and second place in the category, with first place going to multimedia editor Ian Kagihara and second place to news editor Andy Riesmeyer and photo editor Paul Alvarez Jr. Corsair photographer Amy Gaskin earned a first place for the bring-in photo contest where the assignment was to produce an image related to the election season. David Hawkins, who began serious study of photography a few short weeks ago, earned first place in the on-the-spot sports photo content.

The writing team of Riesmeyer, editor-in-chief Nathan Gawronsky and former news editor Fatou Samb earned first place in the mail-in news story category for coverage of the pepper spray incident at last semester's Board of Trustees meeting.

Saul Rubin is the Corsair advisor and instructor of the journalism class that produces the print and online editions of the Corsair, while instructor Gerard Burkhart is the photo adviser.

– KH

Speeding blamed for PCH accidents

BY ELANO PIZZICAROLA
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU A safety study of Pacific Coast Highway blamed speeding as the most frequent cause of accidents on the dangerous highway, and that five of the top six accident locations are in east Malibu.

The study also found that alcohol-related accidents have plummeted since 2000. The study is funded by a $300,000 grant from Caltrans and $75,000 contributed by Malibu City Hall.

Five of the top six accident locations since 2010 are in east Malibu, Petros said. Those include the intersections at Big Rock Drive, Las Flores Canyon Road, Carbon Canyon Road, Sweetwater Canyon Drive and Cross Creek Road.

The study investigates hard traffic and accident statistics, land use issues and public input on the entire stretch of PCH in Malibu, from Topanga Canyon Boulevard to the county line. Officials hope the study will identify cost-effective renovations that will make PCH safer.

"[It] will examine the current conditions, analyze and identify potential strategies to promote improved safety," according to a city staff report. "Ultimately, the study can be used as the basis for a master plan of safety improvements along PCH."

The statistics were presented last week at the final public input meeting for the city of Malibu's PCH safety study. The three previous meetings broke PCH in Malibu into three segments — east, central and west — and asked residents in those areas to weigh in on common problems.

Tony Petros of LSA Associates, an Irvine-based planning and engineering firm, presented the L.A. County Sheriff's Department statistics spanning back to 1990.

Petros found that speeding caused 35 percent of accidents along PCH, far more than those resulting from right of way violations, improper turning, unsafe lane changes and DUIs before they fell off the list. Unsafe speed, he said, includes driving too slow, too fast, or even stopping to wait for parking.

Petros then gave a PowerPoint presentation breaking down issues of concern on PCH in east, central and west Malibu.

He began with the Topanga to Cross Creek stretch, listing statistics relating to cars, bikes and pedestrians in that portion.

The number of cars driving that part of PCH ranged from about 45,000 to 47,500 a day, and jumped 8 to 10 percent during summer. Bicycle use skyrocketed on weekends, hitting 200 per hour, most of which was recreational and not commuting, Petros said. He added that PCH at Las Flores Canyon Road suffered a strong concentration of unsafe speed accidents from January to May of this year.

In central Malibu, defined as Cross Creek Road to Busch Drive, high foot traffic was recorded at both the Cross Creek Road and Paradise Cove Road intersections with PCH. Pedestrian traffic at Cross Creek surpassed 200 people an hour, while at Paradise Cove the figure was 150 people per hour.

Petros called attention to Paradise Cove's narrow shoulders that grow chock-full of parked cars and force pedestrians into the slow lane.

"We've experienced it. We have a host of photos," he said.

However, the top unsafe speed accident locations from January 2012 to May 2012 concentrated near Webb Way, not Paradise Cove. Roughly 31,000 to 42,000 vehicles cruise this stretch per day.

During summer, traffic was recorded at 8 to 10 percent higher than the rest of the year. Weekend bike traffic hit 130 an hour.

From Busch Drive to County Line, total traffic was much lower, but the traffic figures jumped much higher in the summer months. Vehicle traffic ranged from about 14,000 to 21,000 vehicles daily.

But its summertime traffic numbers surge 19 percent higher, a much stronger difference than the other sections.

Petros also found that DUI accidents declined sharply after 2000 when compared with the previous decade. He stressed that DUI accidents may still be occurring, just too rare to spark a trend. Nonetheless, he congratulated the room of about 15.

"That's a good job. That's a good thing," he said.

The public has until Oct. 13 to lodge their concerns by visiting Malibu.Metroquest.com and clicking "Show us."

news@smdp.com

This story first appeared in The Malibu Times

Feds: Passenger had murder directions on computer

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A teacher arrested at Los Angeles International Airport wearing a bulletproof vest and with checked bags containing knives, body bags, a smoke grenade and other weapons also had files on his computer detailing how to kidnap and kill people, federal authorities disclosed Friday.

In addition, Yongda Huang Harris had items on his computer revealing he has a "strong interest" in sexual violence against girls, including a video titled "Schoolgirls in Cement," Assistant U.S. Attorney Melissa Mills said.

One publication was entitled "Man Trapping" and showed how to hunt and trap humans, she said. He also had a document with schedules for schools in Japan showing when students arrived and left.

The prosecutor detailed the discoveries during a court appearance by Harris, 28, a Boston University graduate who had been working in Japan as a junior high school teacher.

The bespectacled Harris was shackled in handcuffs and wore a white prison-issued jumpsuit, along

SEE **ARREST** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Council should stay closer to home

Editor:

The City Council seemed to have ample time the other night to debate and then vote to support the repeal of existing state legislation: the support for a ballot measure to abolish capital punishment in California.

If the council wants to spend its time acting to repeal something many find objectionable, then it need only start with many of its own actions.

Indeed, the council could easily begin with the repeal of all the commercial and residential overdevelopment in the city. And in particular, the council could actually show some leadership qualities and repeal all the asinine traffic policies that reduce or eliminate traffic lanes, which only serves to exacerbate a traffic problem the council created when it approved overdeveloping the city.

Robert C. Luther
Santa Monica

Smoking kills

Editor:

Stacy just doesn't get it ("Clearing the air," Letters to the Editor, Oct. 7). Second-hand smoke killed my mother. Need I say more?

C. A. Bennett
Santa Monica

Blacklisted

Editor:

It seems to me that the proposed new smoking ban would constitute housing discrimination and an invasion of privacy. It would also brand and blacklist respectable citizens and visitors to our fair city.

Karen A. Baker
Santa Monica

Kick out Kronovet

Editor:

My fellow Santa Monica tenants, a vote for Robert Kronovet is a vote to keep the fox in the henhouse.

No group has less compassion for renters or more contempt for rent control and tenant protections than landlords, and Kronovet, who told me himself he's a Republican landlord, is the darling of the viciously anti-rent control organization Action Apartment Association. Their stated goal is to end rent control and tenant protections in the name of property rights. For Kronovet and his cronies, it's all about money. To them, tenants are a necessary annoyance, and rent control and eviction protections are the bane of their existence. If it were up to Action, tenants could be evicted for no reason at all and rents could be raised at a landlord's whim.

If you're a renter in Santa Monica, do yourself and the city you love a favor. Get Kronovet off the Rent Control Board and let those with tenants' best interests in mind serve our city!

Steve Schwab
Santa Monica

Keep water clean

Editor:

Do you drink water, do your children drink, bath, play in water? Don't you think it is a good idea to keep supporting clean water? Here are a few facts and thoughts to consider on the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act:

Clean water is a bipartisan issue with a long history of bipartisan support. Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 with the support of two-thirds of Congress. Congress passed it with the goal of ending the use of our nation's waters for discharge of pollutants by 1985. Clearly we have missed that goal by a long-shot, though we have made great progress in cleaning up our waterways for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

Still, industrial pollution, toxic dumping, sewage overflows, extreme energy extraction, and many more problems continue to threaten the waters on which our families and communities rely.

We must call upon our elected officials to renew our nation's commitment to the goal of ending the use of our nation's waters for the discharge of pollutants, and to work to make all our waters swimmable, fishable and drinkable. These fundamental goals of the Clean Water Act should have overwhelming bipartisan support, as the act's initial passage had, because they are crucial to public health, well-being, and local economies all across the nation.

Mary Hughan Rojeski
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lyra Halprin — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

The nativity and the trailer

WHEN I SAW THE NATIVITY, MENORAH, solstice and atheist displays in Palisades Park last New Year's Eve, I remembered a turquoise trailer that appeared every week at my elementary school.

I hated that trailer. That's where Christian kids from Franklin Elementary went on Fridays in the 1950s and early 1960s.

The only time I saw the inside of the trailer was with my friend Lisa. Lisa and I were among the few students from families who opted out of religious education at our public school. We spent those afternoons coloring while Protestant kids went to the trailer for Released Time Religious Education and Catholic children went to St. Monica's Catholic Church.

After school one Friday a woman invited Lisa and me into the trailer. Somehow the woman discovered one of us was Jewish. I remember she leaned down to our eye level and smiled. She stared into my eyes, and then looked at Lisa.

"I can always tell by the eyes — you're Jewish," she said, pointing to Lisa. Lisa looked at me and we both giggled.

"I'm Jewish," I said. I was glad the woman guessed wrong; she had no special powers.

The full effect of the Holocaust, and what it meant to families like mine whose relatives died in concentration camps, was not yet visible in 1960 America, but I felt its undertow. The woman's guess about who was Jewish was wrong — this time.

That's what I thought about the morning I took my mother for a walk in Palisades Park. In December 2011 there was an added attraction: For the first time in 60 years, non-church groups set up most of the stalls at the park's annual holiday displays. Many of those displays were signs mounted on tall stakes with quotations about the separation of church and state, or greetings from yoga masters or atheists.

There were several larger challenging displays like the one with a sign, "What Myths Do You See?" above images of Santa Claus, Jesus, and a devil.

Walking with my family, I felt a lightness I find hard to describe. Perhaps it was due to the fact I was born the first year of the nativity displays. As a child, those scenes said to me that the status quo was still white and Christian; few children of color attended my elementary school and I knew only two other Jews. These new displays reflected a different nation.

The 2011 holiday season was the first time the city had more requests for space than were available. Administrators set up a lottery; atheist groups drew a majority of the spaces. Church groups, used to setting up many nativity displays, were angry they got only two stalls. A Jewish display featured a menorah, while the atheist and solstice groups only decorated about a dozen of their 21 allotted stalls, leaving many spaces empty. I wondered if they'd run out of volunteers, or were fearful of reaction to their messages.

It's funny how little signs and dressed-up store mannequins can bring out profoundly different feelings in people. I heard about the controversy before my husband and I drove to Santa Monica from our home in Davis, 400 miles north. I wasn't surprised sparks flew between people who think Christmas should dominate December and those who don't want any public religious displays. I was a little startled, however, that some people, including members of my own not-very-religious family, objected to the displays for other reasons.

I walked with my son through the displays.

"I love this one," I said, pointing to a quote from the "Father of the U.S. Constitution," President James Madison. It read, "The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries."

My friendly son, a high school physics teacher, was surprised by my obvious delight.

"I thought the way the atheists went about getting the spaces wasn't right," he said. "They surprised everyone by applying for all those spaces. It feels a little sneaky."

I stopped and squinted at him in surprise.

"I'm just glad that for the first time in my life, I've seen something other than nativity scenes in this public space," I said, suddenly angry. "I was the kid who had to go to the library to draw because I was Jewish. I hated being singled out."

My daughter-in-law, who identifies herself as a "reluctant atheist," told me that she, too, objected to the way the atheists stated their beliefs.

"You can be an atheist and still respect the beliefs of others and their right to display their ideas during the holiday season," she said.

My sister also surprised me.

"They've got the same Wise Men they used in the 1960s," she exclaimed, pointing at the stiff yellowish-pink toned mannequins in one stall that looked like the ones from Henshey's Department Store where we got school clothes before the advent of the Santa Monica Mall or the promenade. The Mary figure had bright red chipped nail polish and matching lipstick. Her robe barely concealed her pointed breasts. The lamb in the manger was green and brown, had a hole near its hindquarters, and the ears were cracked and flaking.

My sister remembered the Released Time Religious Education afternoons of our childhood differently. "I liked staying in my classroom and doing art projects," she said. "The teacher paid more attention to the few of us, and we used big pieces of art paper. Oh, I couldn't wait!"

My memories of being separated from the Christian students mingled with others from the era. Our house was often the site of mom's music con-

SEE **MEMORIES** PAGE 5

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The Q Line

Putting out the fire

The City Council recently banned smoking for new tenants of condos and apartments and on the same day approved a moratorium stopping medical marijuana dispensaries from operating within city limits.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Did the smoking ban go far enough or should smoking be disallowed in all condos and apartments? Also, do you think they did the right thing by temporarily stopping pot shops and why?

Here are your responses:

"I THINK THE SMOKING BAN WENT FAR enough. I am a former landlord in the city of San Malicious and I know that smoke seeps through the walls. And regarding medical marijuana, I think they should allow it. Some people are sick unless they are allowed to smoke medical marijuana. As far as cigarettes go, I think they did the right thing. Both of my parents smoked. My mother used to give it up for Lent."

"SMOKING NEEDS TO BE BANNED anywhere a non-smoker can smell it. If that means smokers can't smoke in their apartments, so what? Breathing rights are more important. If the smokers don't like it, move."

"SMOKING CAN BE ALLOWED IF THE smokers go into a hermetically-sealed area. Therefore they can have all the smoke they want without bothering the rest of us."

"THE ONLY SMOKING THAT SHOULD BE allowed in condos and apartments is smoking marijuana for medical reasons and they absolutely did the wrong thing by stopping the pot shops. Besides, those people pay taxes. That helps the city."

"PUTTING OUT THE FIRE. WHAT ABOUT the smoke? Temporarily stopping pot shops and why, that's never enough. It's about time for the city to protect and serve, the same as cops should, from the corruption of greedy, evil-doers who are trying to kill our children. It's time for a change, a change for good. No more smoking in apartments, condos and no more pot shops to open – for good. Let's breathe the air that Santa Monica has coming from the beach."

"THIS IS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL TAKING of property rights. Apartment owners and condo associations always had the right to declare their property as smoke-free and tenants could've always moved into a smoke-free apartment if they choose. The Nazis who have ruled over our town for 32 years say our city will be entirely smoke free after tobacco and pot smokers all move or die off. This is communism and social engineering at its worst. They may decide next that vegetarians shouldn't have to smell their neighbor's roast cooking or fart since it smells bad. When will the people in our once nice city have enough and run these jerks back to communist Korea or Cuba?"

"THE CITY COUNCIL MADE A VERY huge mistake by approving a smoking ban. As a non-smoker, I realize that this is impossible to enforce. The big question here is, who's going to enforce it? As a landlord, I'm certainly not going to go into people's houses and enforce a non-smoking ban. It's totally impossible and I think it's unconstitutional. Smoking is a legal activity and people may do it where they are approved to do that in the public area, but not certainly in private homes, condos and apartments. It's a very wrong approach."

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MEMORIES
FROM PAGE 4

certs to support musicians, artists and writers, many of them Jews, who were forced to answer to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). As a child, I was confused by this frightening committee. What could possibly be un-American about our hardworking friends and family members?

Although the Holocaust was not discussed much in our household, I knew terrible things happened to Jews, including members of our own family.

Which is probably why as a child I understood the need to keep a low profile. My parents publicly spoke out against HUAC, but didn't challenge the religious education trailer near my school. I saw that Jews were a minority in Santa Monica. Even last December I wasn't sorry the atheists took the lead in Palisades Park. It's risky to be an innovator. It makes you a target.

Back at the park, I was glad to hear my sister's cheerful memories of coloring during religious education, and her less jaundiced experiences of the nativity scenes. The next morning, my husband, son and I returned to Palisades Park for a look at the ocean.

What we found were vandalized displays. Every one of the atheist and solstice displays was defaced with black spray paint. The gray mist of the day before was gone and the sun was shining brightly New Year's morning, but I was chilled to the bone. The undertow of the Holocaust I felt as a child was stronger than ever.

LYRA HALPRIN is a Davis, Calif. writer raised in Santa Monica whose work has aired on NPR, KQED-San Francisco and Capital Public Radio-Sacramento, and appeared in magazines, newspapers and online venues.







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Angling for the best fish 'n chips

THE BRITISH ARE COMING! ACTUALLY they've been in Santa Monica for quite awhile, along with the Irish, Scotts, Aussies and Kiwis. To no one's surprise they have opened a handful of pubs within the city limits. Offering the homesick a refuge from the beautiful weather with authentic pints, early morning Premier League football and a dark watering hole that makes the weary feel at ease. While British and Irish pubs have become staples of Santa Monica, the staple of any self-respecting pub is a good plate of fish and chips.

Which spot has the best fish and chips is up for debate. However, after devouring this signature dish at every single pub, as well as a couple of notable seafood restaurants here in town, there are some golden merits and deep-fried pitfalls to report on.

Willy O'Sullivan of O'Brien's on Wilshire Boulevard told me that the reason the British and Irish working class started batter-frying their fish in the first place was to make a little fillet go a long way. It also offered a welcomed break from the norm. The end result is that people love to deep fry their food. For many fish and chips, the secret is in the batter.

The carbon dioxide in beer brings out a lighter texture to the fish's batter. But the beer in the batter did change from place to place. British pubs like Ye Olde King's Head and Cock 'n Bull used Guinness stout in the batter. Irish pubs like Finn McCool's went with a Harp lager, while O'Brien's (Wilshire) went with Bass ale. Sonny McLean's opted for San Francisco's Anchor Steam. Places like McCabe's used no beer at all. The biggest surprise was O'Brien's (Main Street), which added Bud Light. And while Bud Light can barely be considered beer, it did render a crisp, golden crust. Overall, the lagers and Anchor Steam produced a lighter batter both in color and texture. The stouts lent themselves to a darker, heavier coating.

On the other side of the batter is the fish, and the one thing that every place had in common was their fish of choice — cod. Cheers to Sonny McLean's and Santa Monica Seafood for sourcing their fish from sustainable fisheries. Jeers to Britannia for apparently buying cut-rate fish at The Restaurant Depot (I have my sources). For the rest of the field, Iceland cod was pretty much the norm. Fresh or frozen, it can be tough to discern. Chances are if the fish served resembles a deep-fried brick, it was sitting in the freezer not too long ago. If the fish is fresh, it should almost melt in your mouth.

As for the chips, the thicker steak fry variety is the traditional accompaniment found at King's Head, Sonny's, O'Brien's (Main) and Finn McCool's. However the thin variety, especially the ones at Blue Plate Oysterette, which were fried and seasoned to perfection, were some of the best. All other chips pretty much followed suit. Although Cock 'n Bull's chips were quite bland, McCabe's added a generous and therefor superfluous amount of parsley, and Brittania (which can't catch a break) had fries that were unpleasantly soggy.

Standard accouterments to traditional fish and chips are salt, vinegar, tartar sauce, lemon, sometimes peas, and ketchup or HP Sauce for the chips. Whatever floats your boat. Coleslaw found itself on the plate at O'Brien's (Main and Wilshire) and Britannia. Sonny McLean's serves peas, which mercifully added color and something not deep fried into the mix. Their tartar sauce is thinner

SEE FOOD PAGE 7





Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

A TALE OF TWO FISH: **The fish and chips at Sonny McLean's Irish Pub (top) are the best in town thanks to the freshness of the fish and the use of Anchor Steam beer in the batter. The same can't be said about The Britannia Pub (bottom), which serves smaller portions of cut-rate fish and soggy fries.**

Helping kids get a complete education

BY JOANNE BARGE
Special to the Daily Press

LINCOLN BLVD Excited to have one of our own hosting the VIP reception at this Sunday's Taste of Abbot Kinney culinary event and fundraiser, I was delighted to interview Adam Gertler.

Gertler is a Food Network star, hosting the primetime series "Kid in a Candy Store." He's a talented chef and equally gifted television personality.

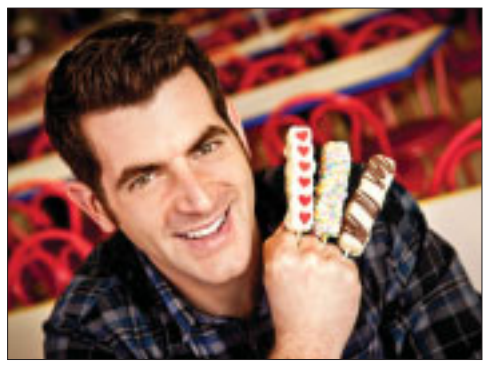
His preference is barbecue and smoking meats. At his bar and restaurant on Lincoln Boulevard —TRiP — he does specialty sausages. The spot just south of Pico Boulevard also features great beers and live music.

I asked Gertler about his involvement with Taste of Abbot Kinney and he said that he is hosting it for the second year because of its support for Inside Out Community Arts. Inside Out teaches the arts to underserved youth in the Venice area and beyond, providing award-winning, high quality after-school programs that teach youth to believe in the power of their own inner voices, hopes and dreams.

Gertler used to teach acting to kids himself when he had more time and plans to return to it. He himself was acting by the fourth grade and has always been a lover of the performing arts. He holds a bachelor's in fine arts from Syracuse University. Although he came to Los Angeles to be an actor, he found himself sidetracked with his cooking and after being discovered on the Food Network, he found the perfect way to integrate the two.

He was never scholastic and tended to daydream; acting helped him to find himself so he feels strongly about helping kids who don't have the same opportunities that he had.

As most of you know, the arts have been stripped away at many school, which makes organizations like Inside Out so important and necessary.



GERTLER

If you go

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I couldn't help but ask Gertler about his 20-year plus collection of comic books. He said that they "keep my imagination alive" and that for him, he got what others get from religion. He always identified with the good guys, the heroes, never the bad guys.

I plan to help Gertler in this event and the others who support Inside Out and anything that helps kids get exposure to the arts. I hope that you will too. Research has repeatedly proven that it enhances learning and helps to develop character.

So head on down to Abbot Kinney this Sunday and sample of the finest foods local restaurants have to offer, and help educate kids in the process.

For more information, visit www.inside-outca.org/ or www.tasteofabbotkinney.org.

news@smdp.com

FOOD
FROM PAGE 6

and has fresh dill, which is a nice alternative to the standard mayonnaise-like tartar.

The best side of all though is a pint of Guinness. Every pub did understand how to pour a proper pint of Guinness. For some peculiar reason it did taste best at Ye Old King's Head, maybe because it helped me forget how overpriced my meal was. (They sure like to stick it to the tourists.) On more than one occasion a pint of the dark stuff was the meal's saving grace.

Some intangibles go with the territory when dining out. McCabe's fish and chips stated they are served with peas and lemon slices, but none came with the order. Blue Plate Oysterette did not state that their fish had bones in them, but accidentally (I hope) a few too many bones were left in the fish. Finn McCool's fish and chips were great, but they were buried under a mound of fries trapping in steam and creating a chamber of soggyness. They were pulled from the rubble before it was too late, but certain factors like this cannot be planned for.

The winners: O'Brien's (Main), and all of Wilshire Boulevard. Who knew a Bud Light-battered $7.99 fish and chips lunch special at O'Brien's (Main) would not only be so good, but bountiful as well? And Wilshire Boulevard being home to Sonny McLean's, the other O'Brien's, and Santa Monica Seafood all did fish and chips right as well. Santa Monica Seafood's offering is fresh and sustainable, but perhaps a little bit pricey at $15 — you certainly get what you pay for. O'Brien's (Wilshire) is a friendly neighborhood spot with an outstanding plate of fish and chips to boot. Never mind the coleslaw and it is near perfect. Sonny McLean's takes home top honors though. Anchor Steam battered Canadian ling cod melts in your mouth. Seasoned steak fries, a house-made tartar sauce, and the only place that served up peas makes Sonny's not only the best in Mid-City, but all of Santa Monica as well.

The losers: Besides my cholesterol count, the loser here, hands down, is Britannia. Cut-rate, over-cooked fish mixed in with soggy undercooked fries is a losing hand. Not only was it bad, but the portions resembled something from the kid's meal. Granted, I did order the lunch special, but I expected something much more. I'd rather risk choking on the bones from the fish and chips at Blue Plate Oysterette instead of eating the deep-fried beer coasters they're serving over at Britannia.

What a whirlwind! Biking was the means of transportation, which may have knocked off a couple thousand calories to the 50 grand accumulated during this excursion. Just adding an extra layer of fat as Santa Monica temperatures will plummet into the 60s come wintertime. There are some gems as well as some duds, but overall the fish and chip scene is pretty good here in Santa Monica. Way better than Culver City.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at http://tourdefeast.blogspot.com/ or follow him on Twitter @greaseweek

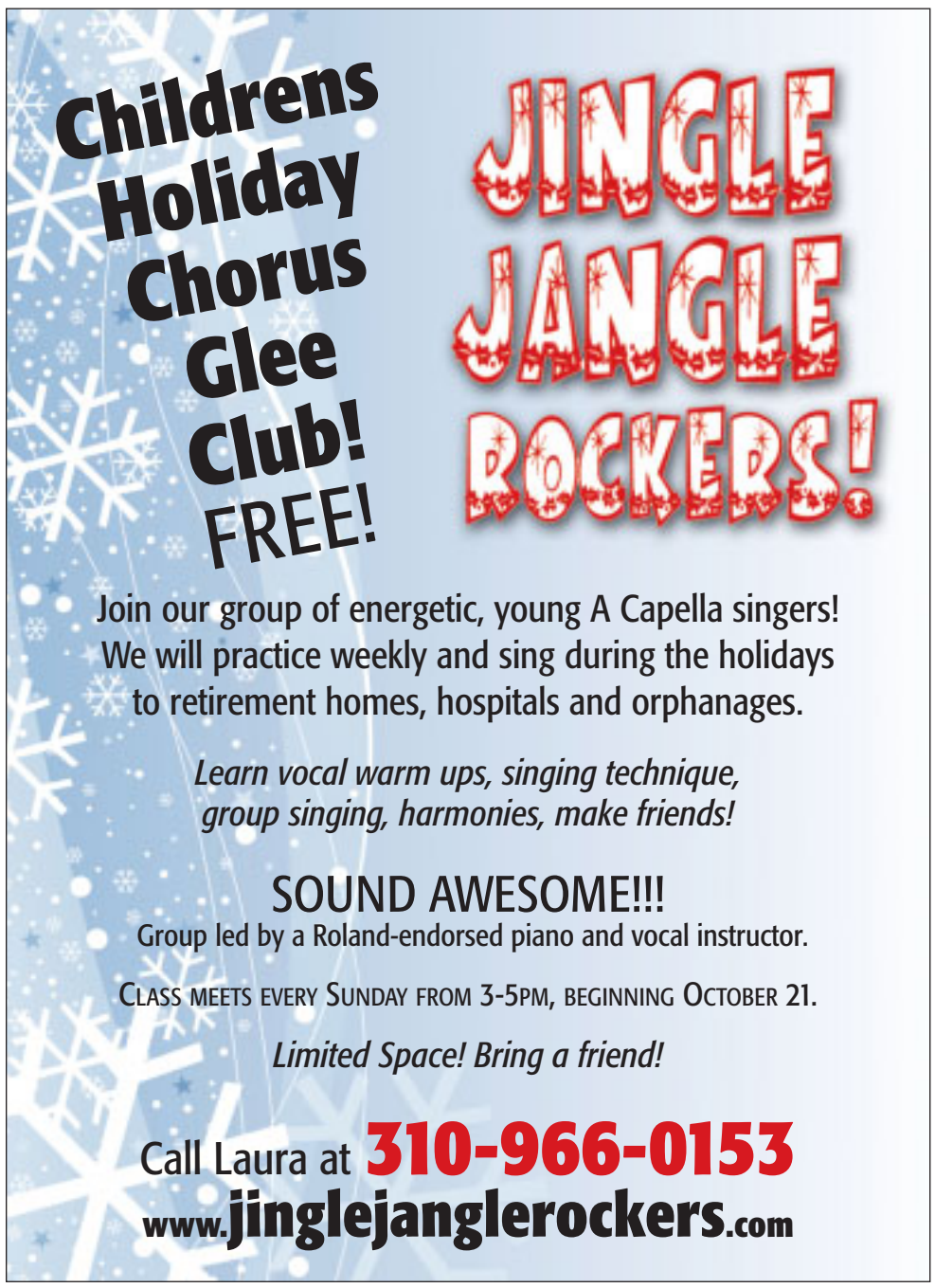
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Democrats seek boost from new legislative districts

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The path to a two-thirds legislative majority in the state Senate — the ability for Democrats to change tax policy and override gubernatorial vetoes — runs partly through California's Central Valley.

Thanks to the voter-approved independent redistricting panel, Democrats are close to achieving the supermajority they need to act without the support of Republicans, who have slipped to just 30 percent of registered voters statewide.

One of the key races for them to achieve that is the 5th Senate District, a moderate district that runs down the tip of the San Joaquin Valley from Galt to Modesto and is about equally divided between Republicans and Democrats.

Two members of the state Assembly, Republican Bill Berryhill and Democrat Cathleen Galgiani, tout their ability to cooperate across party lines even as they differ on issues such as funding the $68 billion high-speed rail system favored by Gov. Jerry Brown and a year-old law that transfers responsibility for lower-level criminals from state prisons to county jails.

Galgiani supports both, while Berryhill is opposed.

Democrats are counting on a win by Galgiani to gain their supermajority, even as she downplays the significance.

"I'm probably the most independent Democrat running for the Senate," she said. "I'm one of those who works both sides of the aisle."

But Berryhill said the possibility that a Galgiani win could be the key to bringing Democrats closer to supermajority in Sacramento is an attention-grabber for the district's voters.

"That scares a lot of people," he said. "It's almost virtually giving a dictatorship to one party."

Even if the Democrats did reach the threshold in the Senate, their prospects for doing the same in the Assembly are distant, so they would still need to find some Republican support.

Yet the ability for the November election to bring the Democrats a two-thirds majority in at least one house of the Legislature is the dominant dynamic of this year's state legislative races. Democrats are two seats shy in the Assembly and Senate, but are seen as having a better shot of achieving that in the Senate.

If they succeed, it would be the first time that one party has had a supermajority in either house of the Legislature since California voters passed Proposition 13 in 1978, which raised the vote threshold to pass tax increases to two-thirds.

The last time either house had a supermajority was the 1977-78 session, when Democrats held a 57-23 advantage in the Assembly, said E. Dotson Wilson, the chamber's chief clerk.

A supermajority would allow Democrats to approve tax increases, pass emergency legislation, reject gubernatorial vetoes or change house rules while ignoring Republicans.

Democrats could alter the state's tax system in a way that currently can be blocked by minority Republicans, said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. He said that could include broadening the tax base while lowering tax rates and creating incentives for high-wage manufacturers to build in California.

That's the sort of scenario that concerns Republicans, but they expect it also will resonate with voters who are unwilling to cede control to a Democratic Legislature and governor.

"We've got our base lathered up by, yet again, tax increases on the ballot," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar. "Republicans are seen as the adults in the room who can make the tough choices and keep things running smoothly."

Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown's Proposition 30 would raise sales and income taxes to avoid deeper cuts to schools and other programs. Proposition 38, backed by wealthy civil rights attorney Molly Munger and the state PTA, would devote an income tax increase directly to schools.

Whether the threat of higher taxes can stall the Democrats' march to a two-thirds majority is unclear in a state where Republicans have been losing support quickly. Democrats also are focusing on the 31st Senate District in Riverside County and the 27th Senate District in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Democrats have a voter registration edge of 7 percentage points in the 27th District but are tied with Republicans in the 31st.

"When you get down to a 30 percent Republican registration statewide, it doesn't matter how you draw the lines," said Allan Hoffenblum, publisher of the California Target Book, which analyzes legislative and congressional campaigns. "The problem is that there are so few Republicans."

Thanks to the state's other major political reform, the new top-two primary system, candidates from the same party are running against each other in several general election races, a dynamic that has led to some of the most negative campaigning this year. Of the 100 state legislative races this year, 20 are same-party runoffs.

An illustration of how the new primary system has affected the general election can be found in Riverside County's 67th Assembly District, where two Republicans are engaged in a lively campaign.

Melissa Melendez's campaign website calls fellow Republican Phil Paule a "political 'lap dog'" and "tool for big government." At a campaign rally last month, she urged supporters to "choose between leadership and lawlessness" while contrasting her "strong record" with what she described as Paule's criminal record — a decade-old drunken driving conviction.

"If we're going to elect someone to make laws for the state of California, that person should also be able to follow the laws of the state of California," the Lake Elsinore city councilwoman said in a telephone interview.

Dave Gilliard, Paule's political consultant, said the personal attacks are backfiring with voters.

Paule counters that Melendez is siding with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa over control of Ontario International Airport, a major issue in the economically struggling Inland Empire. Melendez said the dispute could lead to higher airport taxes and fees if elected officials aren't careful.

"We can talk about lap dogs, we can talk about 10-year-old arrests," said Paule, a district aide to U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa. "She hasn't explained why she voted against the interests of her own constituency."

In explaining the intraparty campaign attacks, Paule said, "It's the new rules and so you play by the rules."

SoCal home prices rise in Sept.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO Southern California home prices posted a sixth straight annual increase in September as buying shifted to more expensive houses along the coast and the supply of heavily discounted foreclosed properties dwindled, a research firm reported Friday.

The median price for new and existing homes and condominiums in the six-county region reached $315,000, up 12.5 percent from $280,000 the same period last year. It was the highest median price since August 2008, when it was $330,000.

There were 17,859 homes sold last month, 1.6 percent fewer than the same month last year. DataQuick blamed the decline on fewer business days last month than in September 2011 and fewer sales of distressed properties.

Sales of homes that were in foreclosure during the previous year accounted for 16.4 percent of September's existing home sales, down from 32.3 percent a year earlier and 56.7 percent in February 2009. Foreclosed homes tend to sell at steep discounts, dragging on the overall market.

"There's been a major change in the market mix, meaning fewer low-priced sales, fewer foreclosures re-selling, and more sales in middle and upscale markets," said John Walsh, DataQuick's president.

Sales of less than $300,000 slid 11.5 percent from last year, while sales between $300,000 and $800,000 jumped 11.5 percent, DataQuick said. Sales above $800,000 rose 5.2 percent.

Orange County, Southern California's most expensive with a median price of $450,000, witnessed the strongest sales increase, up 6.7 percent from last year. San Diego and Ventura counties also saw sales grow, while Los Angeles sales were flat.

The two least-expensive counties — inland areas that were hammered by foreclosures in recent years — were the only ones to see declining sales, according to DataQuick. San Bernardino, with a median price of $170,000, saw sales tumble 10.9 percent from last year. Riverside, with a median price of $212,500, had an 11.6 percent sales decline.

"Flipping" homes to turn a quick profit has become more common. DataQuick said the number of homes that sold twice within the last six months accounted for 5.5 percent of all sales, up from 3.3 percent a year earlier.

Absentee buyers — mostly investors — bought 27.3 percent of all homes last month, up from 24.6 percent the same period last year.

L.A. sues over Owens Lake dust control

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power sued in federal court Friday over demands that it start additional dust control efforts in Owens Lake, a remote body of water that went dry nearly 90 years ago after the exploding metropolis siphoned off the water to quench its growing thirst.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Fresno, marks the latest salvo in a bitter back-and-forth over water rights in the arid region that was set in motion in 1913, when Los Angeles began diverting water from the lake 200 miles to its north. The lake went dry in 1926 and has since been plagued with massive dust storms and poor air quality.

The scandal created by the diversion project was fodder for the 1974 film "Chinatown," and hard feelings persist in rural Owens Valley, where many locals see the utility as a parasitic neighbor.

Since a 1998 agreement, the city has spent $1.2 billion to tamp down the dust there as part of the nation's largest dust mitigation project, mainly by diverting water to put back into a 40-square-mile area of the lakebed. The utility is currently working to control dust in another 2-square-mile parcel.

But recent orders from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, the joint agency that oversees the project, to increase the dust mitigation area by 3 square miles are excessive and wasteful, the lawsuit alleges.

The utility does not believe dust from the area in question was caused by its century-old actions and says it is not responsible. The area is located above the lake level as it was marked in 1913 and therefore was already dried up before Los Angeles began taking water, according to the lawsuit.

Ted Schade, the control district's air pollution control officer, was in a meeting and did not immediately return a call or email seeking comment. In the past, he has said the exposed lake bed in its entirety is the utility's responsibility because the utility created the problem.

The project would cost the Department of Water and Power up to an additional $400 million — and ratepayers already pay $90 a year for dust mitigation at Owens Lake, said Ron Nichols, the department's general manager. The city uses 30 billion gallons annually — enough to fill the Rose Bowl each day to overflowing for one year — to keep dust down.

The utility will honor its commitment and maintain the work it's already done, but it wants a permanent agreement about where its responsibilities end, officials said.

The lawsuit asks the court for relief from the joint agency's "systematic and unlawful issuance to the city of dust control orders and fee assessments."

"We're pouring that onto the lake, and the issue is, it's just a colossal waste of water," Nichols said. "Our fundamental problem is that we are being singled out because of our customers and Los Angeles being considered as having deep pockets. They think we're the only ones who can pay for dust that we believe is occurring naturally."

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ARREST
FROM PAGE 3

with a blue surgical mask over his mouth due to a throat infection.

Before the detention hearing, he crossed and rubbed his arms, appearing to be cold. He often turned and spoke with his attorney Steven Seiden.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Abrams declared Harris to be a flight risk and ordered him held without bond until he stands trial.

Harris is charged with one count of transporting hazardous materials, for the grenade, and could face up to five years in prison if convicted. He did not enter a plea.

Seiden said the weapons Harris was carrying were meant for protection and necessary because Harris was once attacked on the streets of Boston.

"He may have interests that are not of the norm, but that doesn't mean he's carrying out any type of harm to anyone," said Seiden, who described his client as shy and timid.

Seiden also said Harris didn't have any previous psychological issues.

Harris was arrested on Oct. 5 during a stopover in Los Angeles on his trip from Japan to Boston. He was wearing the bullet-proof vest under a trench coat along with fire-resistant pants and kneepads.

His attire attracted the attention of law enforcement, and when his luggage was checked the weapons cache was found, authorities said.

The search of his checked luggage uncovered numerous suspicious items, including a hatchet, knives, collapsible baton, biohazard suit, billy clubs, handcuffs, leg irons and a device to repel dogs, authorities said.

The items "looked like a kidnap kit," prosecutor Mills said.

Seiden, who also represents the man believed to be behind an anti-Muslim film that roiled the Middle East, said the clothing worn by Harris when he was arrested is common in Asian countries and described the outfit as resembling martial arts attire.

He disputed the government's contention that body bags were found inside his client's luggage. Harris had a large duffel bag for moving items, the lawyer said.

Harris is a U.S. citizen whose permanent residence is in Boston and was traveling there because his stepfather recently died, Seiden said.

His flight originated in Japan and he got off in South Korea, where security officials screened Harris and his carry-on luggage. The smoke grenade made it onto the plane in his checked luggage, authorities said.

The grenade was X-rayed in Los Angeles and police determined the device fell into a category that is prohibited on passenger aircraft. The knives and items are permissible in checked bags, while the vest and pants are not listed among items prohibited in aircraft cabins.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737



WALK
FROM PAGE 1

Your voice is heard, you get to learn things and it's just one of those experiences that changes every time."

In a school like New Roads, which trumpets its message of social justice at every opportunity, participation in events like AIDS Walk Los Angeles is something you do.

Jeremy Arnold, a senior, isn't quite sure how he's avoided it so far, but he and his fellow student government leader Martirosian have been working hard to make the walk a success.

"We started organizing right off the bat when school started," Arnold said. "What's the number one thing on our agenda? AIDS Walk."

That fact is evident in subtle and not-so-subtle ways all across the campus.

Red paint in windows and on buildings asks "What's Oct. 14?" or simply proclaims it "AIDS Walk." Students conduct informal fundraisers every day, twice a day, hitting up their peers for money left over after a visit to the mobile food truck that stops by campus or other purchases.

Perhaps it makes sense in a school that devotes a once-a-week class to social justice issues, and where students take over Big Blue Buses on trips to occupy the UCLA campus to protest tuition hikes on 48-hours' notice.

But New Roads, a small private school that provides scholarships to half of its students, has a much more personal connection to the event than simple tradition.

In 2006, a young woman named Andraya Hunter graduated from New Roads in the blue gown she'd chosen for the event. Three weeks later, she died of complications related to AIDS.

Hunter was born with the disease. She was forced to leave her elementary school after it became public that she was HIV-positive, and until she reached high school Hunter kept knowledge of her illness under wraps.

New Roads was a different experience for her, said Mario Johnson, director of Volunteer Services at New Roads who knew Hunter while she was at the school.

"She was such an open individual, she talked about it all the time. I'd never met a young person like her," Johnson said.

Hunter helped "out" the topic, connecting it to things in her classwork. A biology teacher once told Johnson that Hunter had connected HIV/AIDS to a lesson on cells.

"He wasn't prepared for her to take immediate ownership of that, but she was so comfortable with it that it just became part of the lesson," Johnson said.

Hunter died in 2006, but her memory lived on at the school, which continues to participate in AIDS Walk Los Angeles in her memory.

Research funded through organizations like AIDS Project Los Angeles — the beneficiary of the event — has led to major breakthroughs for people like Hunter.

Transmission of the disease from mother to child has dropped from 25 percent to less than 1 percent through the use of drug cocktails for the mother and a six-week course of the drug AZT for the infant, said Dr. Lynne Mofenson, with the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

For those that do become infected, drugs costing roughly $1,200 per year by some studies can keep youth alive into their 20s, a big step up from just 20 years ago when between 25 and 30 percent of infants with HIV died before they turned 1, Mofenson said.

Although mother-to-child transmission rates have been cut drastically, young people are still manifesting the disease at high rates.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, young people between the ages of 13 and 29 accounted for 39 percent of all the new HIV infections in the United States.

Young men who have sex with men, especially those of minority races and ethnicities, are at a greater risk.

The CDC estimates that there are 26,400 people between 13 and 24 living with HIV. Of that number, nearly 60 percent are unaware.

"Right now, AIDS has essentially become a problem that's specifically related to social class and lack of education," Johnson said, which is a big reason that the New Roads community felt it was important to keep the disease as part of an ongoing school conversation.

The goal isn't to scare kids, but to engage them in conversation and make them aware of the facts of the disease so that they do not fall victim to it.

"You shouldn't be motivated by fear, but you should know that there are consequences to your interactions," he said.

If you want to support Team New Roads, go to www.aidswalk.net/losangeles and click on the "Go to Teams Page" link.

ashley@smdp.com











NATIVITY

FROM PAGE 1

an image of the devil and called them all myths — detracted from the nonprofit's message, said William Becker, an attorney representing the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee.

"Everyone's free to express whatever they want to express, they just don't have a right to counter a celebration policy with insults and protests," Becker said. "They can do it so long as it doesn't disrupt the activity or the event."

The call for the injunction follows a lawsuit filed Tuesday alleging that the City Council erred in shutting down the nativity scene displays because they did so to avoid controversy rather than out of concerns about its constitutionality.

In the injunction, Becker alleges that an ordinance enacted by the City Council in June showed "constitutionally intolerable preferential treatment to people who exhibited hostility" to the scenes, thereby forcing their ouster from Palisades Park.

The scenes have been allowed there between the end of November and beginning of January for 57 years.

The City Council ended the practice by refusing to exempt the signs from a wider city ban of unattended displays in public parks, a decision precipitated by a ruckus caused when the number of applications for spaces exceeded the number of spots available for the first time in the history of the tradition.

City officials created a lottery system that allowed single organizations to apply for up to nine spaces so they could make the selection without being accused of running afoul of the First Amendment by showing preference to one group over another.

Atheists, largely from outside the city, snagged the vast majority of the spots, leaving two for Christian churches and one for a Jewish organization.

Atheists put up signs quoting Supreme Court decisions about the separation of church and state and founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson deriding religion. Many spaces were left blank.

Supporters of the nativity scenes accused them of purposefully disrupting the tradition and called on the City Council to force them to give the unused spaces back.

In response, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie recommended that the City Council discontinue the whole process, citing the enormous cost on staff to run the lottery system and the impossibility of restricting the content of the signs without impinging people's free speech rights.

After considerable public process, the City Council voted unanimously to end the tradition. Councilmembers Bobby Shriver and Pam O'Connor were absent.

In his injunction, Becker counters that the restriction was too broad, did not give the churches an alternative to express themselves and did not serve "a significant government interest."

Furthermore, the change in policy was in response to protests by the atheists, which Becker describes as "the hecklers' veto."

Michael Khalili certainly doesn't consider himself a heckler.

Khalili is the president of Atheists United, a Los Angeles-based organization that was responsible for a sign that read "Love is within you."

In Khalili's mind, atheism is a positive message, and not one that can be excluded from a public forum like a prominent park in Santa Monica.

"Atheists United has several positive messages, and to say that we are disrupters is to ignore those messages," Khalili said. "If the program will continue, we will make every effort to be included in the program."

Even so, the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee may have an uphill battle ahead of them, said Charles Haynes, director of the Religious Freedom Education Project at the Newseum who writes and speaks extensively on religious liberty and religion in American public life.

Although Haynes did not rule out the possibility that the group could prevail in its injunction, he felt that City Hall was able to dictate what happened in its own park as long as it was even-handed and content neutral.

It's not up to the government to judge what "celebrates seasonal holidays" and what does not.

"That's the problem, people have the right to see these things from their own view," Haynes said. "That's why we have the First Amendment, to create a marketplace of ideas."

The injunction will go before a federal court judge, potentially soon enough to get the dioramas up in 2012 if it's approved.

"At the end of the day, freedom is messy, and free speech is messy," Haynes said. "If people don't like the messages, they can counter with messages they do like, but not keep out other messages."

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TAX
FROM PAGE 1

and capital gains, the profits from selling investments. Both candidates' proposals would divide taxpayers into two categories: Those who earn more than $200,000 per year — $250,000 for families filing joint tax returns — and those who earn less.

President Barack Obama would boost the rate on capital gains to 20 percent for higher earners and leave it at 15 percent for everyone else. Mitt Romney wants to maintain the 15 percent rate for wealthier people and eliminate the tax entirely for everyone else.

The differences are more dramatic when it comes to dividends. Obama would tax high earners' dividends as ordinary income, up to 39.6 percent for the wealthiest Americans. As with capital gains, Romney would maintain the 15 percent rate for richer people and eliminate the tax for people who make less.

The proposals reflect philosophical differences between the parties. Republicans think lower rates will encourage more people to invest, juicing the listless economy.

"It would encourage you to take more risks, put more capital into the economy and hopefully spur economic growth," says Taylor Griffin, who advises Republican campaigns and served in the Treasury Department under President George W. Bush.

Democrats say it's only fair that people who have succeeded in amassing wealth should pay a larger share of the nation's expenses. Higher rates did little to discourage investment during the 1990s, when Bill Clinton was in office and the economy boomed. During that period, Obama said last month while explaining his tax plan, "we created 23 million new jobs, the biggest surplus in history, and a whole lot of millionaires, to boot."

The election is not the final word on next year's tax rates. Both houses of Congress would have to approve any changes. Lawmakers have been deadlocked for years on taxes and spending, so any changes would likely be part of a broader bargain to postpone or avoid the so-called fiscal cliff at the end of 2012.

That's when automatic government spending cuts would take effect if lawmakers can't agree. In another blow, if no deal is reached, tax rates for everybody would return to the higher levels in effect before a series of cuts first passed during the Bush years.

Dividend rates for the highest earners would be almost three times as high, "a huge increase," says Raymond Radigan, managing director with U.S. Bank's wealth management division.

Retirees and others who rely on investment income, even if they're in lower tax brackets, could find dividend-paying stocks less attractive, says Adrian Day, whose Adrian Day Asset Management invests about $180 million for wealthy clients. To replace the lost income, they might buy riskier assets like junk bonds, Day says.

Yet raising the tax rate on dividends wouldn't necessarily hurt dividend stocks. Some companies might simply eliminate their dividends, says Cliff Caplan, a financial planner with Neponset Valley Financial Partners in Norwood, Mass.

Apple, for example, announced its first dividend in July, after running out of other uses for its colossal cash reserves. If the tax rate on dividends nearly triples, Caplan says, "I can see them saying, 'Screw it. Why pay it out when your investor is going to get killed on taxes?'"

If the universe of dividend stocks shrinks, people who need reliable income would rush into the remaining options. Those would include stocks like utilities, whose regulators sometimes require dividend payouts; and those that must pay out their profits to enjoy lower tax rates, like real estate investment trusts and some energy partnerships.

If many other companies stopped paying dividends, Caplan says, demand for utilities, REITs and energy partnerships could surge, boosting their share prices.

The proposed changes to capital gains rates are unlikely to have much effect on markets or on the economy, several experts said. Caplan calls that debate "a lot of hooting and hollering about nothing." Investment was strong when rates were much higher, before and during Ronald Reagan's presidency, says Caplan, who has managed money almost 35 years.

It's nearly impossible to plan for either possibility, experts say, because of the political uncertainty around tax policy. Day says that he and other investors are holding off on any tax-related buying and selling.

If it appeared likely that capital gains rates would rise to 20 percent from 15 percent, some people might sell stocks before the end of 2012 to take advantage of the lower rate. But that would only make sense only for people who are planning to sell an investment in the next 12 months, Day says, so the effect would be marginal.

The boost to 20 percent from 15 percent is "just not a huge enough jump," he says.

Eliminating investment taxes on people earning less than $200,000 a year would have little effect, experts agree, because those people tend to sock their available income in tax-protected retirement accounts.

As is the case with much of the campaign rhetoric so close to an election, Obama and Romney are playing up these differences to get voters' attention, said Daniel Alpert, managing partner at Westwood Capital LLC, a New York investment bank.

"The impact on the real economy of lifting capital gains taxes by 5 percent is about nil," Alpert says.



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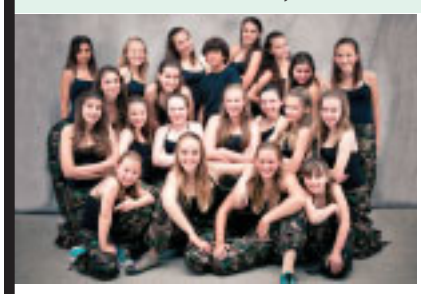
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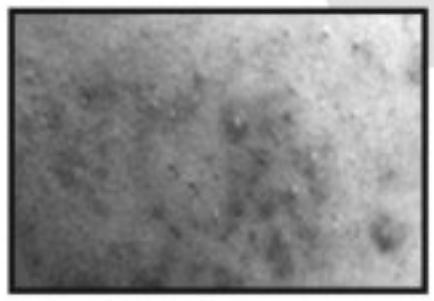
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Republican groups turning focus to congressional races

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON A late spending splurge by outside political groups helped Republicans take over the House two years ago. The floodgates are opening again, but this time Democrats say they're better prepared.

So far in 2012, Democratic groups have generally been able to keep pace with the competition. Outside groups have spent about $60 million trying to help GOP candidates since June 1 and about $49 million trying to help out Democratic candidates, according the Sunlight Foundation.

But some of the Republican support groups are just getting started. Beginning Saturday, Crossroads GPS, one of the deep-pocketed groups co-founded by Karl Rove, is launching a three-week, $8.1 million broadcast campaign in 11 House districts in New York to Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Nevada, Indiana and California, according to Nate Hodson, the group's spokesman.

The Chamber of Commerce launched an $8 million ad campaign last week on behalf of 20 GOP candidates in close House races in California, New York and Illinois. It also weighed in for two Democratic incumbents. Until then, the chamber had focused most of its spending on Senate races.

American Action Network and the Congressional Leadership Fund, two Republican support groups led by former Sen. Norm Coleman, have spent about $3.1 million so far on House races. This week they said they will spend at least $13.5 million more during the campaign's final month.

After focusing on the presidential and Senate races the past four months, Crossroads groups also are beginning to pour more resources into House races to assist Republican candidates.

Crossroads GPS dumped $716,000 in New York in late September for ads aimed at defeating Democratic Rep. Tim Bishop and re-electing Republican Rep. Chris Gibson. A spokesman said this week the groups were planning to spend tens of millions of dollars more over the next four weeks to "protect the majority in the U.S. House and promote a conservative agenda."

A Democratic official who tracks media buys said Thursday that Crossroads GPS has purchased nearly $7 million worth of broadcast and cable ads to run later this month in eight House races.

Americans for Tax Reform has purchased nearly $6 million in broadcast and cable ads in six House races, the official said on condition of anonymity. The group, led by Grover Norquist, had invested only $500,000 on one House race, in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District with the aim of defeating Rep. Mark Critz. Americans for Tax Reform presses lawmakers to sign a pledge promising not to increase income taxes. The organization did not return calls seeking comment.

Dan Conston, a spokesman for the American Action Network and Congressional Leadership Fund, said the late surge in spending by the Coleman groups is by design because many voters don't pay attention to political ads until late in the campaign.

"With a political environment this competitive, we're pleased at having spent some resources early but having the lion's share for the final weeks when hard-to-reach undecided voters tune in," Conston said.

Democratic officials say they're not surprised by the recent ad buys and announcements. They've been bracing for a late surge in outside spending after it proved so effective in helping the GOP win control of the House in 2010, when 87 GOP freshmen were elected.

"We've been expecting this all along," said Andy Stone, spokesman for the House Majority Pac, the leading Democratic super PAC in this year's races.

Stone said that the House Majority PAC prepared for the finals weeks by reserving about $20 million worth of television ad time in keys races early in the summer, locking in lower rates than those offered to current buyers.

Still, it remains an uphill task for Democrats to win back a net 25 seats to regain control of the House.

Stone pointed to California's 7th Congressional District as an example of how Democratic groups are better prepared to deal with a late surge in outside spending. The race features a rematch between Republican Rep. Dan Lungren and Democratic candidate Ami Bera.

In 2010, American Crossroads spent $682,000 on ads opposing Bera during the final two weeks of the campaign. That represented more than 80 percent of the outside spending that occurred in the entire race. Bera's momentum grounded to a halt after American Crossroads intervened.

"He was surging in the polls and becoming a very serious contender. The polls were going up and up and up," said Bera's current campaign spokeswoman, Allison Teixeira. "Then, big money came in from Karl Rove's super PAC and started airing all kinds of negative ads. It was still a tight race, but he (Bera) lost his momentum from that."

In the end, Lungren won by a margin of 50.1 percent to 43.2 percent. Outside groups have already spent more than $5 million on the race this year. Democratic-aligned groups have more than matched the nearly $500,000 the Chamber of Commerce has spent opposing Bera. The House Majority PAC has spent nearly $400,000 on ads opposing Lungren and the Service Employees International Union PAC spent a like amount. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees also spent $800,000 opposing Lungren in the final week of September.

National Democrats made two tactical decisions to minimize the impact of a late surge in outside spending from GOP groups. They decided to purchase air time early in the race and also placed more emphasis on raising money directly for House candidates rather than Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee itself.

Democratic officials explained that in some TV markets, candidates pay only one-third the rate that third-party groups are charged for ad time.

National Republicans said the outside money is welcome because it will help counter spending by labor unions.

"Labor has always been this shadow army for Democrats in elections and a lot of the money they spend on the ground and in mail and TV is not as noticed as a lot of outside groups, but it certainly makes an impact," said Paul Lindsay, communications director for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

The outside spending for House races has been heaviest in the Democratic strongholds of California, $24.3 million; Illinois, $15.5 million; and New York, $15.4 million.

Hundreds expected to attend Redneck Games of Arkansas

BY JEANNIE NUSS
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. If you throw toilet seats instead of horseshoes, you might be a redneck. And this weekend in Arkansas, you might not be alone.

Hundreds of people are expected to attend the second annual Redneck Games of Arkansas this weekend, when competitors will vie for glory in such non-Olympic events as lawnmower racing and a slog through an obstacle course called, "Get Daddy/Momma a Cold One!"

The games showcase the rise of the redneck in popular culture as people are increasingly tuning into reality TV shows like "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" and "Hillbilly Handfishin'." However, some question whether the games actually help redefine the term for poor, white rural Southerners in a positive way or whether they just perpetuate negative stereotypes.

Arkansas has strived to shed its image as a land of toothless, barefoot hillbillies by highlighting the accomplishments of some of its native sons and daughters, including former President Bill Clinton and legendary musician Johnny Cash.

Of course, Arkansas' hillbilly image never really disappeared, even before Jim "Trashman" Miller launched the state's version of the redneck games last year.

People still joke that Clinton's presidential library looks like a giant trailer. Others quip that the newly renamed Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport sounds too much like "hillbilly." Former Gov. Mike Huckabee didn't do the state's image any favors, either, when he lived in a triple-wide trailer while the governor's mansion was undergoing renovations.

Those images don't seem too far off from this weekend's redneck games in Clinton, a community about 70 miles north of Little Rock.

People will spit watermelon or pumpkin seeds in one contest. In another, they'll dodge furniture instead of hurdles as they race to get not gold, but silver — cans, that is, in "Get Daddy/Momma a Cold One!"

"My dad always sent me out to get him a beer," said Miller, 44. "And it wasn't like I just walked to the refrigerator. ... I had to go outside my trailer and I had to go out to the cold, dark night to the little pump house where mama had a dryer and daddy had his beer fridge. It was an obstacle course in itself."

While the event's organizers say it's all in good fun, the notion of repeating a stereotype can be offensive.

"There's a fine line between celebrating the culture and internalizing negative stereotypes," said J. Dennis Murray, a psychology professor at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa., and a former president of the National Association for Rural Mental Health.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Urgency Interim Ordinance Extending the Initial Forty-Five (45) Day Moratorium on the Approval of Any Land Use Entitlements, Business Licenses, and any other License or Permit for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries with Specified Exceptions

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Adoption of an Urgency Interim Ordinance that would extend for ten (10) months and fifteen (15) days the Initial Urgency Interim Ordinance which established a forty-five (45) day moratorium on the approval of any land use entitlements, business licenses, or any other permit or license for medical marijuana dispensaries, with specified exceptions, to allow the City an opportunity to (1) address community concerns regarding the establishment and operation of medical marijuana dispensaries, (2) study the potential impacts that medical marijuana dispensaries may have on the public health, safety and welfare, (3) review the legal authority that is available for the City to enact land use controls intended to regulate the distribution of medical marijuana in a manner consistent with the requirements of both State and federal law, (4) study and determine what local regulations may be appropriate or necessary for medical marijuana dispensaries, and (5) ensure that regulations authorizing medical marijuana dispensaries can be implemented in such a way as not to result in harmful effects to the businesses, property owners, and residents of the City.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012 AT 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Medical Marijuana Interim Ordinance
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Paul Foley at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at paul.foley@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7 and #9 service the City Hall and Civic Center.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 67.6°

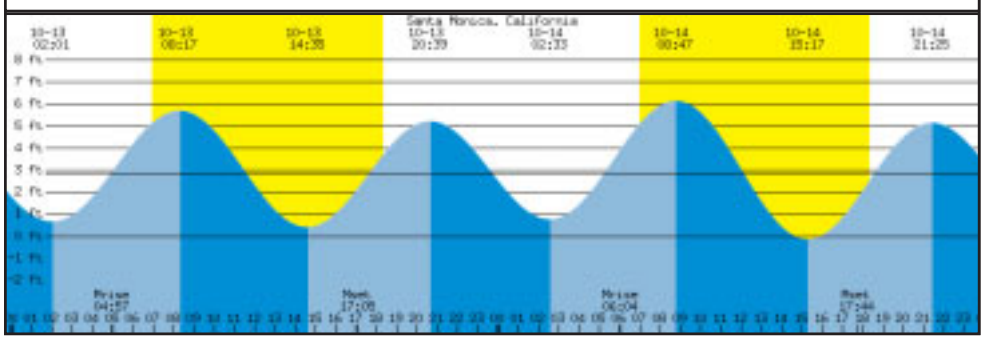
Swell Forecast

Should see a slight increase in NW swell to chest+ at west facing breaks, but knee to waist high at south facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

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Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **October 3, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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

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 Lechuza 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.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach 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 17308 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.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	B	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.	B	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- appoxite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	C	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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Fighting for Your Unemployment Benefits

In these tough economic times many people are finding themselves out of work, sometimes for the first time in their lives. More than three million Americans are fired each year. After the initial shock of being fired has worn off, the practicalities of having to navigate the unemployment insurance system come into sharp focus.

Generally, you are entitled to unemployment benefits if you are unemployed through no fault of your own, for example, if you were laid off, fired for a reason other than misconduct, or quit your job for good reason. Once the Employment Development Department (EDD) has received your application for benefits, it usually conducts a telephone interview with you, and also with your employer, to find out why you were fired.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous employers challenge their former employee's application for benefits even when that employee was fired through no fault of his or her own. In this case, the employer usually claims that the employee was fired for misconduct.

If your application for benefits is denied, you have 20 days to file an appeal. If you believe that your benefits were unfairly denied, it is very important that you file a timely appeal. You will receive a hearing date about 4-6 weeks later. Sometimes, the employer does not even bother to show up to the appeal hearing; they were counting on the fact that you wouldn't fight the denial of your benefits.

The hearing is your chance to explain your side of the story to an Administrative Law Judge. It is natural to feel nervous before the hearing, but you will feel better if you are properly prepared to present your case. You should ask to review the EDD's file on your case, which will include the interview notes with your employer. This means you will get a chance to see what your employer said about why you were fired. You can also send a written request to your employer asking to inspect your personnel file pursuant to Labor Code Section 1198.5. You can ask witnesses who can corroborate your version of events to come with you to the hearing. If they can't come, you can ask them to give you a written statement to take along with you. You can also ask the EDD to subpoena witnesses for you. Finally, you should familiarize yourself with the law that applies to your case. A good starting place is the "Benefit Determination Guide" on the EDD website: http://www.edd.ca.gov/UIBDG/default.htm.

You don't have to bring an attorney with you to the hearing, although you may feel more confident with the support of an attorney experienced in this area. The Legal Grind can put you in touch with an attorney who can help you through the process, from advice on preparation to representation at your appeal hearing.

Depending on the circumstances of your termination, you may also wish to seek legal advice to determine whether you have any legal claims arising out of your discharge. Although most workers in California are "at will" employees, which means they can be fired for any reason or for no reason at all, even "at will" employees cannot be fired in certain circumstances. For example, an employer cannot fire its employee for a discriminatory reason; or because s/he made a health and safety complaint; or because she took time off to perform jury duty. This is a complex area of the law, and an attorney can advise you on whether you may have grounds for a wrongful discharge suit.

Upon investigation of the circumstances of your termination, an attorney may also identify violations which took place during your employment. For example, you may have an overtime claim if your employer did not pay overtime pay (time and a half) for all hours over eight in a day, and forty in a week, or a claim for meal period premium pay if you were unable to take an uninterrupted 30 minute meal break per five hours worked. Exploring potential claims with an attorney may help to give you some peace of mind in this difficult time.

NINA BAUMLER IS AN ATTORNEY WHO PRACTICES EXCLUSIVELY IN EMPLOYMENT LAW. MS. BAUMLER CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR BY VISITING WWW.LEGALGRIND.COM.

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

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@ THE NOVEL CAFÉ, located at 2127 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica
Although our doors are closed during construction, we're still open!
CALL 310.452.8160 TO CONFIRM TIMES
Info@legalgrind.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Oct. 13
Sweet Smell of Success (NR) 1hr 36min
Don't Make waves (NR) 1hr 37min
7:30 pm

Sunday, Oct. 14
Doctor Zhivago (PG-13) 3hr 13min
7:30pm

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

Here Comes the Boom (PG) 1hr 45min
1:15pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
6:00pm, 9:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:45pm, 3:55pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
12:30pm, 3:15pm

Least Among Saints (R) 1hr 45min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

Frankenweenie in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Here Comes the Boom (PG) 1hr 45min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 10:55pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:20pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
11:35am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:25am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

House I Live In (NR) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 1hr 25min
1:10pm, 3:25pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Decoding Deepak (NR) 1hr 23min
11:00am

Just 45 Minutes from Broadway (R) 1hr 48min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Master (R) 2hrs 30min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

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

Frankenweenie (PG) 1hr 27min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:05pm, 6:40pm, 9:15pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
11:25am, 2:15pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Sinister (R) 1hr 50min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:05am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 11:10pm

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

Put your feet up and relax, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others dominate your day, your plans and much of your personal time. Though at first you might be upset or irritated by this, you will be grateful later for all the friends and loved ones who surround you. Tonight: Follow the drumbeats.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Whatever you planned, make sure to squeeze in some R and R. You might decide to be a couch potato, unless you really do want to be busy. Read a great book or rent a few movies. Whatever you choose, consider doing it alone. Tonight: Play it steady.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your playfulness intrigues a child, partner or potential new friend. You very rarely let your hair down in this manner. Others can't help but want to join in. Plans will be enhanced by your innate mischievous side. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Whereas many signs might not be happy staying at home, you are thrilled to do so. Invite friends over for a meal or throw a spontaneous get-together. Tonight: You do not need to go far.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by a neighbor's gossip. You might wonder why this person is sharing this information with you. Most likely, it is an attempt to confirm his or her own reaction. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ If there is a restriction other than time, it easily could be financial. You might be feeling overwhelmed. Understand your limits. You also could see a different path, or perhaps someone will make a suggestion that could work. Tonight: Fun does not need to cost money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You might feel as if you have the world in your hands. Be careful, as you could develop a big ego or a sense of entitlement. Respond to a key person. Tonight: Ever popular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Know when to pull back and not get involved. You also have a project you need to work on. Unfortunately, only you can handle this matter. Tonight: Remember, mystery is appealing to some people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Wherever you go, plan on being around friends and people in general. Your spirit is lifted when you relate. A conversation helps you zero in on what you most want. Remember, sometimes when you head down a new path, you close off an option. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ You might want to vanish, but responsibilities call. Check in with an older friend or relative before heading in a new direction. Think of how much this person cares about you and all the time he or she spends alone. A little effort goes a long way. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ News finally comes in from someone at a distance. You demonstrate enormous caring and flexibility. You also gain a new perspective on what originally seemed hard. Tonight: Only where there is music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Resist getting angry, and accept a situation for what it is. You could feel pushed beyond your normal limits. Understand what the other party (or parties) might be experiencing. Once you can empathize and get off your position, the situation will dissolve. Tonight: How about a cozy dinner?

Happy birthday

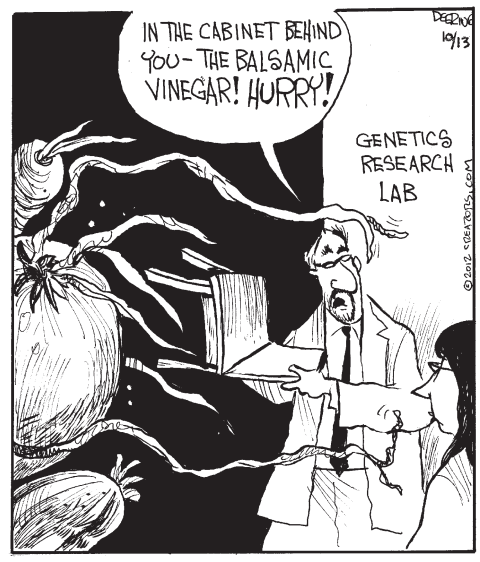
This year you are unusually free and relaxed. You feel rather centered, and your positive characteristics evolve. Others often gravitate toward you. If you are single, you really could get into the dating game, at least until you find someone who takes your breath away. If you are attached, your sweetie makes it clear how he or she feels about you. Bathe in the warmth of this bond. A fellow LIBRA understands you maybe too well.

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

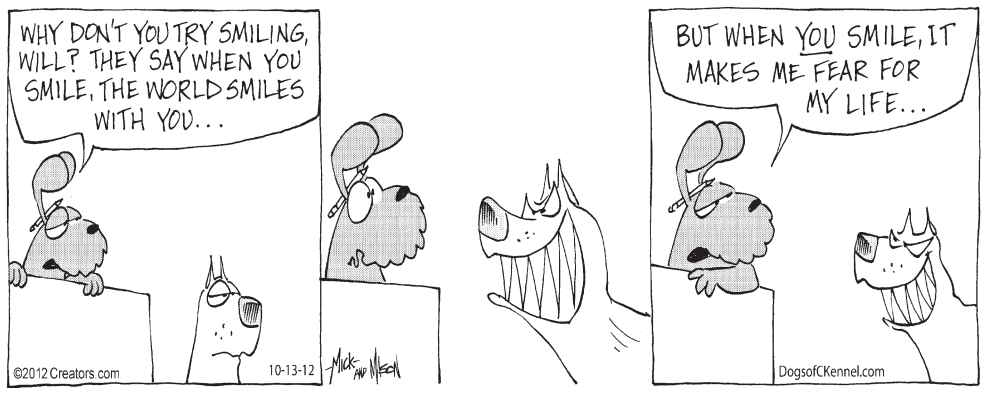


Strange Brew By John Deering



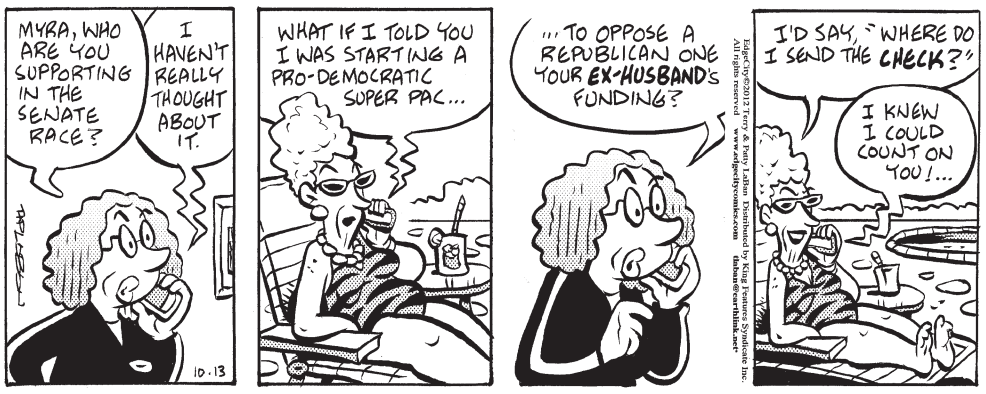
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



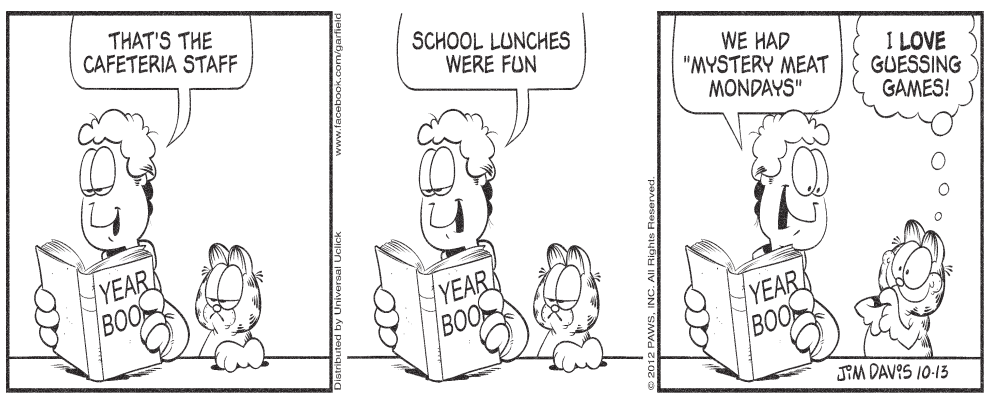
Edge City

By Terry & Patty LaBan



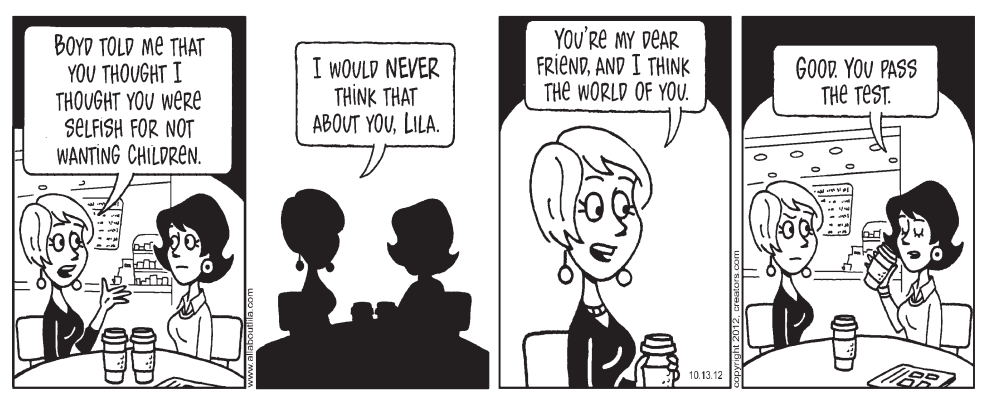
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

2	4	7	3	5	8	1	9	6
5	1	6	2	4	9	3	7	8
9	8	3	6	1	7	4	5	2
6	9	4	7	3	5	8	2	1
7	5	2	1	8	6	9	4	3
8	3	1	9	2	4	7	6	5
4	2	5	8	9	1	6	3	7
1	7	9	5	6	3	2	8	4
3	6	8	4	7	2	5	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 Niger neighbor
5 Exchange
9 Form
10 Mystic deck
12 Henry VIII had six
13 Clear
14 Summer cooler
16 Storage spot
17 P look-alike
18 OK, tell me more"
20 Jacket part
22 Sunup spot
23 "Childe Harold" poet
25 Liberate
28 Keys in
32 Club layer
34 Narc's org.
35 Bat wood
36 Having a snack
38 Position
40 Refinement
41 Skater Sonja
42 African lilies
43 Cherished
44 Tear

DOWN

1 Showily stylish
2 Deceive
3 Made fun of
4 Fortune
5 Real bargain
6 General activity
7 Egypt neighbor
8 Speculates
9 Eddy
11 Principle
15 "View of Toledo" painter
19 Flexed
21 Skeptic's comment
24 Commodore's insignia
25 News bulletin
26 Took ten
27 Odorless gas
29 Light pioneer
30 Leased
31 Wise guys
33 Subordinate to
37 Robust
39 Long of "Soul Food"

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

10-13



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ An unnamed passenger on the Russian rail company Krasprigorod won a lawsuit in September for his 2010 experience of being stuck in a crowded train station for two hours and having to endure "moral suffering" from exposure to other passengers cussing. The Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported that the lawsuit (which also noted physical injuries including having his feet stepped on) originally asked the equivalent of $1,550 but that the court in Krasnoyarsk awarded much less.

■ Ihor Stetkewycz appeared in court in Warren, Mich., in June to answer for an indecent exposure incident, brought on, he told the judge, because his pants, purchased by his mother, were "10 sizes" too large. According to police sources, Stetkewycz had also recently dumped large sections of a tree in the middle of a Detroit street; had protection orders against him from two Warren neighbors; was late to the hearing in June because he raced down Interstate 94 chasing his allegedly stolen car that he had spotted on the way to court; and told a female TV reporter inquiring about the tree stumps, "I don't take no orders from no woman, by the way." He did promise to go clean up the tree parts: "I'm Mr. Clean Up."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1970 – Fiji joins the United Nations.

1972 – An Aeroflot Ilyushin Il-62 crashes outside Moscow killing 176.

1972 – Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571 crashes in the Andes mountains, near the border between Argentina and Chile. By December 23, 1972, only 16 out of 45 people lived long enough to be rescued.

1976 – A Bolivian Boeing 707 cargo jet crashes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, killing 100 (97, mostly children, killed on the ground).

WORD UP!

zeugma \ ZOOG-muh \ , noun;

1. The use of a word to modify or govern two or more words when it is appropriate to only one of them or is appropriate to each but in a different way, as in to wage war and peace or On his fishing trip, he caught three trout and a cold.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Obituaries



MAX INFINITY Petrakos
aka Baxter Daniels
He was born 1/4/1999 -6/2/2012

There will be a funeral for him
10/13/12
At: Hollywood Forever
6000 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles, CA
11 am
an open mic will be avaliable
to any one who wishes to
share a poem or a few words

A Reception / Celebration of his life
Will Follow the Funeral and Take Place
at Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd
at 1 pm
All are welcome

Max Petrakos / Baxter Daniels
was a writer, director, poet,
and stand up comic
He directed short films and won awards
for his animation

He performed at Velvet Gorilla Cabaret
Coffee Cartel, Rapp Saloon and various
other venues in Santa Monica and
Los Angeles.

As well as filming many local poets
and performers for his website
internationalwordbank.org

He was working on his first novel
and his first feature film when
he was killed by a drunk driver
ANY QUESTIONS
CALL
BRENDA PETRAKOS
310-260-3931

Miscellaneous

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Announcements

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Employment

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