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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 290

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

IT'S A MYSTERY
SEE PAGE 14

THE FIT TO PRINT ISSUE

School district: Tests show Malibu High mold not hazardous

BY KNOWLES ADKISSON
Special to the Daily Press

SMMUSD HDQTRS Preliminary results from mold testing performed at Malibu High School showed "no unusual findings," according to a statement released by the Santa Monica-Malibu School District on Friday.

The testing, performed at the request of teachers concerned about health problems among the faculty, was performed on Sept. 20 and Oct. 4 in building E, the main middle school building on campus. Classrooms 2, 3, 10 and 14 were examined.

The environmental consultant, Arcadia-based Executive Environmental, found that mold results "are similar to levels found outdoors with no unusual findings."

At least three teachers at the campus have been diagnosed with cancer. Others have complained of migraines and skin rashes.

"The measured levels coupled with field observations do not suggest a hidden source of mold," the statement reads. "The building can continue to be occupied and should not pose a health hazard from a mold standpoint. We expect the final report to be issued by Oct. 18, 2013."

Students are currently being taught at adjacent Juan Cabrillo Elementary School,

SEE MALIBU PAGE 8



Photo courtesy Dan Merkel/A-Frame

MAJOR DUDE: Shaun Tomson built his reputation as a surfer, but it's his role as an inspirational author that drives him.

Waves of inspiration

Surfer turns tragedy into hope with new book on peer pressure

BY BRIAN ADIGWU
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Sometimes inspiration can come from the most unlikely of places.

Surfing champion and author Shaun Tomson has turned the personal tragedy of losing a son to peer pressure into a new book and he did it with a little help from a young school girl he met while discussing his love for surfing and how it helped him through troubled times.

During a recent visit to Santa Barbara's Anacapa School, he gave stu-

SEE BOOK PAGE 7

Crossfit gym proposed for Edgemar

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET A Crossfit gym could be opening in the Edgemar Center in January.

Plans for the oft-criticized franchise were approved by the Planning Commission in June. Edgemar neighbors are appealing the decision through the City Council.

Crossfit is a group-based, high-intensity

SEE GYM PAGE 9

Senior lunch changes working

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A decision to turn down county funding and charge out-of-town seniors is paying off at WISE & Healthy Aging.

In September, WISE served 28 more Santa Monica residents at its free and reduced-price lunch program than it did the same month last year, said Grace Cheng Braun, CEO of WISE.

On Sept. 1, WISE started charging non-Santa Monica seniors $4.50 for lunch. Santa Monica seniors do not have to pay. A $2.50 donation is suggested.

SEE LUNCH PAGE 9


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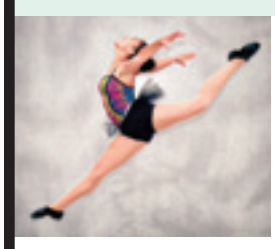
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013

Stories for the little ones
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:20 a.m.
Story series for babies ages 0-17 months accompanied by an adult. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Write it out
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m.
Come to this free workshop for writing inspiration, guidance, direction and support.

Reach within
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 5:30 p.m.
For both beginning and continuing students, this tai chi class teaches the 24 movements of the Yang style simplified form. For more information, visit beachhouse.smgov.net.

Photo editing 101
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
Learn to edit digital images using free web-based applications. Advanced level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

Green thumb
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Attend this Sustainable Works workshop and learn how to save money and positively impact your family, community and planet.

Unpopular opinion
Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A 3rd St., 8:15 p.m.
Unwind and enjoy an eclectic comedy lineup of industry up-and-comers, established comics and the Internet's top comedy writers. Admission is $5 and the event is 21-plus.

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013

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

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

Write a play
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 1 p.m.
Channel your inner Shakespeare and learn the basic elements of playwriting. Anna Stramese will instruct the class and teach dramatic structure and creative process.

Planning Commission meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
The Planning Commission will discuss conditional use permits for alcohol licenses at 120 Wilshire Blvd. and 1314 Seventh St. The commission will also review proposals for new hotels at 501 Colorado Ave. and 1554 Fifth St.

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

SACRAMENTO

Gov. Brown signs Lieu legislation

Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law three bills authored by State Sen. Ted Lieu (D-Santa Monica) over the weekend, all of which will take effect Jan. 1, 2014.

Senate Bill 57 establishes severe penalties for registered sex offenders who remove or disable monitoring devices assigned to them as a condition of parole. If convicted of disarming their devices, first-time offenders face 180 days of parole revocation in county jail.

"When sex offenders know that there are little or no repercussions for cutting off their GPS monitoring devices, it's time to strengthen the deterrent," Lieu wrote in a press release. "Real deterrents for sex offenders drastically reduce the likelihood they will commit another crime. SB 57 now gives these sex offenders second thoughts about roaming free while on parole."

The bill comes after more than 4,150 California sex offenders disabled their GPS monitors in 2012, according to statistics provided by Lieu's office.

"These are shockingly high numbers of people cutting off their bracelets. If we don't fix this problem, the integrity of our GPS monitoring system for sex offenders is at risk," Lieu said.

A second Lieu bill, SB 569, aims to protect juveniles from the consequences of falsely confessing to murders. The bill requires law enforcement agencies to record the entirety of all interrogations involving children under the age of 18 who are being held on suspicion of murder.

Juveniles, scared and intimidated by questioning, are often coerced into admitting to crimes they didn't commit, according to SB 569. The bill will hold law enforcement agents accountable for their interrogation techniques, though in various scenarios – such as in the case of equipment malfunction or if it is believed the recording will jeopardize the safety of involved parties – officials may refrain from videotaping.

Additionally, Gov. Brown signed off on Lieu's SB 377, which will expedite the decision-making process in determining whether a state project is to be considered a "public work" project. Such projects include construction, alteration, demolition, installation or repair work done under contract that is paid for using public funds.

– GREG ASCIUTTO

CITYWIDE

Senior service provider receives $50,000 grant

Santa Monica-based senior service provider WISE & Healthy Aging has received a $50,000 project continuation grant from social services nonprofit Archstone Foundation, said WISE President and CEO Grace Cheng Braun.

The funds will be used to maintain and improve the outreach capabilities of WISE Connections, a membership-based virtual community that has served as a cornerstone of WISE & Healthy Aging since its 2011 inception.

The project, which caters to more than 150 adults living on the Westside, connects individuals aged 50 and older with a "village" network of community support.

"The whole notion is supporting seniors to be able to live in their homes as long as possible," said Cheng Braun, who noted that program services include "help[ing] with errands, dropping people off at the airport or watching their home while they're gone."

To become a member of WISE Connections or to get more information about program services, visit wiseconnections.net.

– GA



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

TROUBLED SPOT: A former outdoor furniture store at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 26th Street attracted a number of homeless people, upsetting residents that live nearby. A fence was put up around the building's parking lot, which had become a popular gathering place for Santa Monica's transient population.

Closed for business, open for eyesores

Vacant storefront attracts vagrants, trash, complaints

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

MID-CITY The urine, feces and vomit were early morning irritations for Adrienne Burrows. It wasn't until her young son picked up a crack pipe while walking to a nearby park that Burrows became alarmed by the increased presence of transients and rubbish in her Mid-City neighborhood.

Burrows, a doctor who provides care for homeless people on Downtown L.A.'s Skid Row, lives just steps from the intersection of 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, an active corner that is home to a CVS pharmacy, strip mall, Metro Rapid and Big Blue bus stops and a low-income housing complex.

There has always been litter and a few transients, but when outdoor furniture store Berk's closed a little over a year ago, Burrows and some of her neighbors noticed an increase, forcing her and her daughters to step over garbage and bodily fluids on their walk to McKinley Elementary School. Normally the employees of Berk's would wash and sweep the sidewalk around their building. When they ceased operations, they also ceased the cleaning.

"Once they left it created a place where the homeless could hang out and sleep, which we didn't have previously," she said. "It was not only an eyesore, but also sort of an invitation for others walking by from the local coffee shop to just throw their trash down, too. It kind of snowballed into this disgusting area … ."

In Santa Monica, known for being a home for the homeless, seeing transients sleeping in public spaces is nothing new. Neither are vacant storefronts, a symptom

SEE **VACANT** PAGE 8

Glitch known before changes delayed jobless checks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California officials knew a computer upgrade for the state's unemployment insurance program that delayed tens of thousands of benefit checks was vulnerable to problems before it was installed, according to a report from The Sacramento Bee.

The newspaper reported officials underestimated how many unemployment claims would be affected by a glitch in the nearly $188 million system upgrade implemented over Labor Day weekend.

The data-conversion problem delayed jobless bene-

SEE **CHECKS** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gone green

Editor:

In my opinion, there has been a consistent, concerted effort for maybe more than 20 years to distract voters in such a way as to further squeeze the air out from already suffocating neighborhoods north of Santa Monica Place. Trainers at Palisades Park is another example of how it is done ("Trainers say new fitness fees too high," Oct. 9).

If you try to add up the amount of green parkland north of Colorado Avenue you will be hard pressed to find even one full playing field if you exclude Palisades Park. At the same time, There are several hundred acres south. Just in the one area near the Santa Monica Airport you can see the difference: Clover Park is 17.9 acres and Airport Park is 4 acres. Clover Park is a large park at the airport and it serves the neighborhood directly west of the airport. Virginia Avenue Park is closer than Stewart Street Park to the airport. It's 9.5 acres. Stewart is 3.8 acres and Marine is probably 10 acres.

People north are being condensed in the congestion. A few trainers (that know exactly how to pick the finest real estate) have organized and created a stir with their clients to dominate our tranquility with commercial enterprises at different locations in the last and only sanctuaries for all the population, north, and for people that visit.

Trainers under the proposed city ordinance will be able to undercut our local business establishments and, at the same time, use our prime real estate as the neighborhoods look on disconcertingly.

I feel that our City Council should reconsider the proposed ordinance, save our last area of breathing space from commercial encroachment, and put a complete moratorium on trainers in Palisades Park. The trainers are very industrious people, they will find another place to make it work for their clients, and, not at the expense of our last tiny little bit of green.

Ken Robin
Santa Monica

Questions

Editor:

So, Santa Monica voters don't want development, says a Huntley Hotel-funded poll ("Voters don't want development says Huntley-funded poll," Oct. 12-13)? Do you mean that 18-story, non-union hotel that's been hypocritically bashing the adjacent Miramar Hotel's excellent revitalization plan? Wow, that's got to be an objective poll!

Here's a question the Huntley-funded poll left out: "Would you be willing to support quality designed taller buildings in select areas if they created more open space, more parking, more community benefits and more union jobs?"

The next time the Huntley is planning to fund another poll in Santa Monica, I do hope they will give me a call first. I have a few more poll questions I'd like them to include, such as, "Would you support the Huntley Hotel dropping their resistance and finally becoming a union hotel?"

Jerry Rubin
Santa Monica



Our Town

Armen Melkonians — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

County grand jury gives Santa Monica a fat 'D'

OUR TOWN IS TRULY AN AMAZING place. Sometimes I think that I must be living in a dream when I stand at the edge of the bluffs looking at the waves rolling in from the Pacific Ocean. I slowly close my eyes. Surely, if it's a dream then when I open them the ocean in front of me will be gone, only to be replaced with something else. Thank goodness it's still there.

As many readers of the Our Town column know, I am a Santa Monica activist. My primary concern is the current rapid rate of overdevelopment in Santa Monica and the associated erosion of our beach town character and charm and the impacts that this overdevelopment will have on our environment and quality of lives.

Although I have consistently advocated for a reversal of City Hall's apparent steroid induced pro-growth policies of late, I along with most residents have had a general sense that our city is fiscally healthy and financially well managed.

Of course we are recovering from a recession. Of course the dissolution of our Redevelopment Agency has affected our books. Of course the rising cost of healthcare and retirement benefits have had impacts. But in the back of my mind, I have always had a sense that our elected officials and city managers were effectively and responsibly managing our town's financial affairs.

So imagine my surprise when I read the recently released investigative report prepared by the 2012-13 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury which ranked Santa Monica 64 out of the 88 incorporated cities in Los Angeles County with respect to our city's practices in governance and financial management.

So what is the grand jury and what is its function? The grand jury is comprised of 23 jurors who serve a one-year term. The grand jury's main function is to investigate county, city, and joint-power agencies. The grand jury acts in a watchdog capacity, by examining carefully and completely the operations of various government agencies within the county.

Based on the recent city-government corruption scandals in the cities of Bell and Vernon, as well as concerns that certain cities may be facing bankruptcy, the 2012-13 grand jury elected to investigate all 88 incorporated cities to determine the fiscal health of those cities. It also sought to determine if the cities were following the "best practices" for governance and financial management, as established by the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA). Compensation for city employees who earned over $200,000 per year was also addressed in the report.

In determining if cities were following best practices for governance and financial management, the grand jury sent out a questionnaire to all 88 cities. The cities of Long Beach and Redondo Beach tied for first and scored 97 percent positive on the questionnaire. The cities of Industry and Cudahy tied for last place with 28 percent positive responses. Santa Monica was ranked a disappointing 64 with a 63 percent positive response. Put in another way, if Santa Monica was in school she would have taken home a "D" on her report card.

Additionally, as part of the investigation, the grand jury requested information on city employee compensation for those employees receiving over $200,000 in taxable compensation in calendar year 2011. After receiving a "D" grade for "best practices" for governance and financial management, Santa Monica was able to bring up her grade point average by receiving a strong "A" in this department.

Santa Monica had 64 city employees (with a resident population of 92,703) who received over $200,000 in wages in 2011. Compared to all 88 cities, Santa Monica ranked fourth highest in employees per capita who receive these high salaries (one employee per every 1,448 residents).

Santa Monica's highest paid employee received $330,573 in 2011. But the more shocking fact was that 17 employees (out of 44 total employees) in the city attorney's office received over $200,000 in wages in 2011.

So, what am I trying to say here? I am not trying to say that Santa Monica city employees are overpaid. To the contrary, I believe that Santa Monica should pay its city employees well in order to be able to attract the best employees for our city. And it has been my experience that Santa Monica city employees, across the board, are highly qualified and capable professionals. My hesitation however lies in the contradiction that we are ranked 64 out of 88 cities for "best practices" in governance and financial management.

Our city staff, city manager, city attorneys, all of whom are the best of the best (and paid as such), have been concentrating all of their efforts in pushing the pro-development agenda of our elected city officials above all other concerns. It appears as though our City Hall's pro-densification policies are consuming our town's well paid and highly qualified city employees such that the "best practices" of governance and financial management have been tossed to the side.

I am afraid that at this pace, one morning when I close my eyes as I stand at the top of the bluff along Palisades Park and then I open them, the Santa Monica I love will no longer exist.

This column was authored by **ARMEN MELKONIANS,** civil and environmental engineer and a grassroots advocate for resident democracy. The author can be reached at ourtownsantamonica@gmail.com

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
David Mark Simpson
dave@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Alvarez Jr.
editor@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
editor@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Charles Andrews, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Hank Koning, John Zinner, Linda Jassim, Gwynne Pugh, Michael W. Folonis, Lori Salerno, Tricia Crane, Ellen Brennan, Zina Josephs and Armen Melkonians

NEWS INTERN
Greg Asciutto
editor@smdp.com
Brian Adigwu
editor@smdp.com

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

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Jenny Medina
jenny@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Peeved by parking patrol

THIS PAST WEEK I WAS IN AND OUT of parking structures a lot. I use the Downtown garages, on average, twice a day, but for some reason I had a lot of business to attend to Downtown. I frequently have to pay a dollar or two, sometimes much more and don't really pay too much attention to it. I realize that money is needed to maintain buildings. I know that the structures are a public service, and I am very grateful that they are there.

Occasionally I have to park on the street. I hate the street parking in this city. It has become a giant morass of overlapping signs, conflicting information and the ever present possibility of a randomly assigned tax in the form of a parking ticket.

I was meeting friends for dinner at Tender Greens this past Tuesday and turned from Wilshire to Second Street. There was a line backed up on Second Street for the driveway into the parking structure, but luckily for me, there was an open spot on Second, just across from the restaurant. I slid my car into the spot and spent 30 seconds reading the street signs to figure out if I would be violating the patchwork of codes and regulations determining what day, what time of day and what length of time I was allowed to park.

After navigating the maze of municipal codes, I realized that I could indeed park in this spot for two hours, more than enough time for a quick mid-week dinner. I put my credit card in, put 90 minutes on the meter and went to dinner. You know where this is going.

Ninety-three minutes later I return to find a ticket on my car. The fine is $53. Can I blame anyone besides myself? No. Am I livid? Yes. I spend, on average, $50 a month in parking in Santa Monica alone, in addition to the paid parking I have at my gym.

There are almost no free spots left in this town. And what few there are City Hall is furiously tracking down to install meters or convert to permit parking.

I know that the parking meters are a civic necessity. They encourage turnover of parking spots that would otherwise be dominated by day users. They provide income to City Hall in the form of usage fees, but also the ever renewable resource of fines.

As our lovely city has grown from sleepy seaside retreat to mini-megalopolis, we need a greater police force and part of that police force is the parking patrol. It's just like the animal control that makes sure we are not overrun with feral cats and dogs, and the occasional mountain lion who gets hungry.

But the fact that we need parking patrols doesn't mean that I have to like them, or the way fines are set.

Fines are supposed to be punitive. They are supposed to encourage compliance with the law by making it unpalatable to pay the fine in place of obeying our government overlords. So a $53 fine for being three minutes over on a parking meter is painful, and it's meant to be. The idea is to make me more aware the next time I park to avoid going over the time limits, and to make sure that I pay for the time I do use.

THERE'S A REASON THAT THERE IS SO MUCH FREE PARKING IN LANCASTER AND PALMDALE: WHO WANTS TO LIVE THERE?

We are the beneficiaries of much in this city. The fact that we have so many parking garages Downtown is a good thing for the businesses and for those of us who use them. We have a plethora of lovely parks as a result of the taxes, fines and income City Hall generates. Life here is really wonderful compared to most other places. There's a reason that there is so much free parking in Lancaster and Palmdale: who wants to live there?

So since I like living here, I'll just pay the $53, and raise my hourly rates to compensate for the higher cost of living in this Pacific paradise. I learned long ago from a man named Harvey Mackay that if you are able to fix a problem by writing a check, you don't have a real problem. I'll just move past my anger and frustration over a little thing like a parking ticket and go on about enjoying the fine fall weather.

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

The Q Line

Exercising rights

Last week, the City Council voted to charge personal trainers who use public parks to get their clients in shape. Trainers say their clients are mainly residents who have a right to use the parks, which they pay tax money to maintain. However, others argue City Hall has the right to recoup costs associated with providing that space and need to regulate trainers so that everyone can enjoy the limited room.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Where do you stand? Do you think trainers should pay? If so, do you agree with the fees established by the City Council?

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



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Relics transform small California Buddhist temple

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

ROSEMEAD, Calif. Although he'd been a practicing Buddhist for 20 years, until 10 months ago Dharma Master YongHua hadn't even seen so much as one of the sacred relics known as shariras that are so important to his faith.

So it came as quite a surprise to the modest, soft-spoken monk when he learned he was becoming the caretaker of more than 10,000 of them.

YongHua's modest Lu Mountain Temple became a repository for the thousands of colorful crystals, two teeth and a single hair that are believed to have come from the body of the Buddha himself. A congregant offered up the collection that he'd painstakingly gathered for years.

The relics are said to be capable of producing miracles for people who go near them. And although Buddhists, like members of other religious groups, say that has to be taken on faith, even the skeptical are starting to believe miracles are happening since the shariras arrived.

"In the beginning, I didn't really know what to think," said Vickie Sprout, who meditates at the temple.

Following YongHua's advice to keep an open mind, she and others noticed, they said, after six months of meditation in the presence of the shariras, that their efforts were leading to a more relaxed, blissful state.

Looking back, YongHua said, it was no small miracle that the relics even made it to Lu Mountain Temple.

Located on the corner of a hillside residential street, the temple is easily mistaken by average passers-by for what it once was: a modest, 1950s-era, cookie-cutter tract home in an aging bedroom community east of Los Angeles. A glance down the hill offers a smog-shrouded view of hundreds of other homes, all looking the same.

The handful of monks who live there like it that way. They rise at 3:30 a.m. each day and, inside the ornate temple that outsiders never see, they spend much of their days in quiet meditation.

"When we're cultivating Buddhist teachings we're kind of hidden," said Master Xian-Jie. "We don't want a lot of people around."

Since the shariras' arrival, there have been quite a few people around.

Hundreds from around the country arrived earlier this year when the monks put the relics on display.

They crowded up to the altar, around a statute of the Buddha and elsewhere for an up-close view of thousands of colorful crystals, some believed to have come from the heart and other body parts of the Buddha himself when he was cremated nearly 3,000 years ago.

Other crystals are believed to have come from his family members and disciples, said YongHua, as the bespectacled, brown-robed monk showed them off again to visitors last month.

"To us, shariras are very important because if we see them we think we see the Buddha himself, even though the Buddha passed away a very long time ago," said Thu Nguyen, a 70-year-old retired day-care worker who traveled from San Jose with a dozen fellow Buddhists to see them.

The last time she was in the presence of shariras, she said, was more than 10 years ago at a temple in the Chinese city of Shanghai.

Although such relics can be found at other Buddhist temples around the country, such a large collection is unusual, said Sonya Lee, a University of Southern California professor and expert on Buddhist art and culture.

Tam Huyhn, a retired groundskeeper and recently ordained monk who donated them, said he embraced Buddhism as a means of survival after the former South Vietnamese army officer was sent to a prison camp in the 1970s following his country's civil war. After his release, he emigrated to the U.S. in the 1990s.

He began collecting the relics a few years ago after finding they'd healed the pain he felt in his legs. During a visit to Lu Mountain Temple last year, he said he had a vision that they should be where more people could see them. That left YongHua with a dilemma.

Since their arrival, the frugal monks, who survive mainly on donations, have had to increase security and gird themselves for increased numbers of visitors. YongHua said he hopes to eventually create a stupa, or gathering place, for them like those found in India and Asia, though he knows fundraising isn't a monk's forte.

Still, he said, the monks are honored that for whatever reason, the Buddha smiled on them.

"And we feel compelled to share the connection with everyone," he said.

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BOOK
FROM PAGE 1

dents there an assignment that was partially based on his first book, "The Surfer's Code." He wanted the students to write their own code, starting with the phrase, "I will."

He collected the notes from each of the students and read over them for a week. As he was reading, there was one, from a little girl, that stood out.

"The very best line out of all of them was 'I will be myself,'" he said. "It was just a wonderful peer statement."

That very sentence became part of the inspiration for Tomson to write his latest book, "The Code: The Power of I Will," which launches today during a fundraiser for the Surfrider Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica on the rooftop lounge of the Real Office Center on Arizona Avenue.

The new work is a collection of 12 memoirs about the lessons Tomson has learned throughout his life.

"The motivation for this book is for 12- to 19-year-olds to think about the future and think twice about making their decisions," Tomson said.

Tom Danis, a Santa Monica-based licensed counselor, believes that it takes a circle of support to steer kids toward making the right choices when outside forces are weighing in on them.

"When young people experience peer pressure and have an adult or mentor, they are less likely to give into it," Danis said.

During his trip to Santa Barbara, Tomson spoke about his son, Matthew, being pressured by friends into partaking in a choking game that he had heard about at school in Durban, South Africa. It was the same school Tomson attended as a boy.

Matthew was 15 years old when he died on April 24, 2006 just an hour after he called his father and mother and told them that he loved them and read from an essay he wrote in one of his classes.

"It's one of those decisions young people make that they don't understand," Tomson said. "When you have to make a decision, stop and think twice because that decision could change your life."



Photo courtesy Shaun Tomson

TOUCHING: Author and surfer Shaun Tomson hugs his son Matthew during better times.

Tomson described his late son as a very likable and fun-loving boy with an amazing smile.

"I just miss him," he said.

The surfing champion said that his son might be gone in a physical sense, but he's still with him and his wife, Carla, spiritually. One of the steps to healing from Tomson's tragic loss came when he and Carla adopted a boy whose birthday was the same as Matthew's.

The couple named the boy Luke, which means light and healer.

Another step came when Tomson took his ill wife to a hospital. A spiritual healer came to them saying she had a message from Matthew.

"The healer told me that Matthew says that he was sorry and that he made a mistake," Tomson said.

editor@smdp.com

CHECKS
FROM PAGE 3

fits for nearly 150,000 Californians, skewing reporting of initial jobless claims by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The governor's office ordered the Employment Development Department in late September to begin paying backlogged claims immediately, putting off a determination on payment eligibility. The agency announced in early October that it had cleared the backlog of claims.

Employment Development Department officials had believed the problem in converting old unemployment claims to the new system would affect only a small number of people whose claims could be approved by hand. They initially cheered the computer upgrade, which appeared at first to be a success.

In a Sept. 11 email obtained by the Bee through a public records request, the department's deputy director for information technology, Gail Overhouse, indicated to other IT officials that the problem was larger than expected.

She wrote that the unemployment insurance program "knew this situation would occur, however, they believed the number of claims that would be routed for manual processing would be much less, so they planned on handling it as a manual workload."

"Well, it turns out we have a high number of claims getting routed into the queue," Overhouse wrote.

Another employee at a customer-service center emailed department officials a day after the new system went live to highlight problems with opening new claims and helping claimants.

Emails indicate the governor's press office directed officials to push a message that reduced federal funding was part of the problem. In one message, Employment Development Department spokeswoman Loree Levy wrote that the governor's office was requesting estimates on the employee overtime needed to address the delayed payments in order to bolster that message.

The agency has apologized for the delay and says employees were working around the clock to process backlogged claims. Levy told the Bee that tests conducted prior to the computer changes suggested the problem would be manageable.

The state has had difficulty with other big technology projects, including an upgrade to the state payroll system that was abandoned earlier this year.

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VACANT
FROM PAGE 3

of the sluggish economy and rapidly rising rents that push some business to close up shop. The combination left Burrows and her neighbors puzzled. Who should they contact to address the issue? Was there a solution, or would they just have to accept it, a symptom of living in the city by the sea?

In 2008, code compliance officers had their hands full dealing with complaints from residents about vacant properties, mainly homes being remolded or made into condos. Sometimes getting the proper permits stalled the projects. Others were put on hold because of a lack of financing. There were concerns about trespassing, drug and alcohol use and sometimes camping; the same kinds of concerns Burrows has.

"It really doesn't take long for problems to start surfacing," said Mari Ostendorf, a mother of two young girls who lives a few doors down from Burrows. "It only took a few months. Then it just became a daily nuisance."

Ostendorf first reached out to the leasing agent for the old Berk's property. Her concerns fell on deaf ears, she said. The leasing agent told the Daily Press that they do not deal with the management of the property.

Ostendorf and Burrows next reached out to their local neighborhood group, but ultimately it came down to calling their neighborhood resource officer, Scott McGee with the Santa Monica Police Department. Neighborhood resource officers are like mini sheriffs who are responsible for their own section of the city, interacting with neighbors and merchants to identify problems early on before they get worse.

McGee responded within a few days, made contact with a woman who had been sleeping at the Berk's property and offered to hook her up with a homeless services provider. The woman left and hasn't returned. McGee also contacted city officials and had maintenance workers steam clean the sidewalk. As of last week he was in the process of contacting the property owner to find a more permanent solution.

"Homeless encampments like these are misdemeanor crimes that require a victim to prosecute for the offense," said Sgt. Jay Moroso, spokesman for the SMPD. "As such, the police department cannot expect that a business owner will be available at an abandoned property to assist us with that type of an arrest, 24/7. Instead, we encourage owners of abandoned properties or any property with a trespassing problem to file a letter with the Santa Monica Police Department so that we can make the arrests on their behalf."

If a "trespassing letter" isn't on file and there are no other crimes being committed, police are left with no other option but to move on. The old Berk's property, located at 2520 Santa Monica Blvd., had no such letter on file as of last week.

"[T]he officer can ask the trespasser to leave and hope they comply," Moroso said.

The SMPD is currently working on a public service announcement to make people aware of trespassing letters. The PSAs should be broadcast on CityTV, City Hall's public access channel. In addition, the SMPD is in the final stages of offering an online service for filing trespass letters to ease the process, Moroso said.

"As good neighbors, business owners of abandoned buildings should take responsibility of their properties by starting with actively monitoring them," Moroso advised. "If trespassing is taking place on their property, they need to take the proper steps to correct the problem."

That includes filing a trespass letter, installing lights and cameras, surrounding the property with fencing and, if the problem is serious, hiring security.

For Burrows and Ostendorf, their concerns have been addressed, for now. They're still concerned that if the property remains vacant for much longer the feces, beer bottles and urine will return, forcing them to continue to have uncomfortable conversations with their young children.

"It's been an interesting civics lesson," Ostendorf said. "I recommend anyone with a similar situation to start with their (neighborhood resource officer). I think so many don't know the NROs exist."

kevinh@smdp.com

MALIBU
FROM PAGE 1

and music classes are being taught at Malibu Methodist Church. Students will not be moved back into the middle school building or the music building "until comprehensive testing is conducted to address the community's concerns," the statement reads.

The district also announced it had retained an independent consultant, Mark Katchen, from the Phylmar Group, to "assume the lead role in identification, analysis, implementation and recommendations for all testing required at the facilities."

Katchen is described as an "expert in industrial hygiene, toxicology, occupational health, risk communication and e-commerce."

Katchen is conducting a comprehensive review of the campus as well as interviewing staff to determine further studies that need to be done, according to the statement. He is also reviewing all documents related to the 2011 removal of soil in the middle school quad, which was found to contain elevated levels of PCBs, lead and pesticides.

Katchen is working with a community task force to develop an action plan and time lines. Contact information for task force members will be released this week, according to the district.

For those with questions or information for the district, contact malibufaq@smmusd.org.

Meanwhile, a group that wants to create an independent school district in Malibu said it is meeting with parents Wednesday at the Point Dume Clubhouse to discuss hiring their own consultant to examine soil at Malibu High. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Dr. Ken Rosenfield of Santa Monica environmental consulting firm Soil Water Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE) is scheduled to speak about his experience with situations similar to the one at Malibu High. Rosenfield is an expert in the areas of soil chemistry and PCB contamination and has advised the U.S. Navy, according to the firm's website.

Advocates for Malibu Public Schools, or AMPS, is hosting the meeting.

Rosenfield is expected to provide his assessment of what studies should be done at Malibu High School and how they should be supervised. Rosenfield is expected to be retained at a cost of $5,000, paid for through parent donations, according to a letter from AMPS.

editor@smdp.com

This article first appeared in The Malibu Times.



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LUNCH
FROM PAGE 1

The overall number of diners are down but Cheng Braun said she expected that decline.

Previously, WISE took reservations and sometimes had to turn Santa Monica diners away. In September, WISE was able to do away with the reservation system and they no longer struggle with overcrowding.

"I think there's more of an ease to it all," Cheng Braun said of the lunches.

In September, 184 Santa Monica seniors ate at WISE compared to 156 the year before, a 16.7 percent increase, according to figures provided by the nonprofit.

"Certainly for people who've been coming here for years and accessing lunch at no cost there was a concern," Cheng Braun said.

WISE provided those seniors with information about 10 other county facilities, she said.

The response from people who ate at WISE in September was "overwhelmingly positive," she said.

WISE kept the same caterer, which Cheng Braun said was one reason they were so popular among countywide seniors in the first place.

Last fiscal year only 57 percent of WISE meals were served to Santa Monicans.



File photo

GOOD STUFF: Kathy Osburn prepares meals for seniors at WISE earlier this year.

There are currently 204 registered WISE diners.

WISE is funded through grants from City Hall.

dave@smdp.com

GYM
FROM PAGE 1

training program currently practiced at about 7,000 gyms in the U.S.

Kaj Larsen, a former CNN corespondent and Carter Gaffney, a LegalZoom executive, will own and run the gym. The two met in the Naval Academy and served as Navy SEALs. Larsen acknowledged that Crossfit has a controversial reputation but said that it's based on "misinformation." They plan to focus more on their military fitness training and use the franchise for its name recognition.

"Crossfit is just one element of what we're doing," Larsen said. "Had we known it would be so controversial we would have been happy not to call it Crossfit at all. We would have called it high-intensity interval training."

The partners wanted to call the gym SEALfit, but the name was already taken by a fashion company, Larsen said.

The gym would occupy a 2,600-square-foot, first-floor space currently filled by an advertising agency.

Jeff Gilbert, the husband of appellant Janet Gilbert, said that parking and noise are their primary concerns. Gilbert lives nearby and owns four bungalows that abut the parking lot. He worries about the proposed 6 a.m. weekday opening time. He plans to move if the plan goes through.

"We're already woken up periodically throughout the night by patrons from the restaurant and even the employees from the restaurant as they leave," he said. "It's disturbing. … We don't want to be woken up at 6 o'clock in the morning as well."

The gym would require 22 parking spaces, 13 more than the current number, according to the staff report. A parking variance was approved after a study found there to be enough existing spaces within the complex, according to the city staff report.

Gilbert said that parking scarcity is a problem in the neighborhood and that the parking study was done while many Edgemar buildings were vacant.

Larsen said that he loves the Edgemar's history, design, and diversity of retail but that the parking was his primary reason for choosing the property.

"What really made us pick Edgemar is that it's the only facility in Santa Monica that could support the requirements of our gym in terms of parking," he said. "Because it has over 100 dedicated parking spots on-site, it was really one of the only feasible spaces in the whole city of Santa Monica for this."

Santa Monica, Larsen said, is a city full of people dedicated to fitness. He pointed to the recent debate over council's approval of an ordinance regulating trainers working in public parks.

"It shows that there's a tremendous demand for fitness," he said.

Gilbert's appeal was scheduled to be heard at the last City Council meeting but Councilman Kevin McKeown pointed to unrelated Edgemar properties that may be violating a development review permit issued in 1996. The permit, McKeown said, allowed only for artist live-work studios to open to Second Street.

Currently, he said, there are two businesses that open to Second. This violation may prohibit the issuance of further conditional use permits, he said. Council voted to delay the appeal hearing until city officials could sort out the discrepancies.

City officials could not be reached to clarify the discrepancies.

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Debt ceiling talks push stock market higher

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Stocks rose Monday, helped by signs that Washington was moving closer to a deal that would avert a default by the U.S. government.

The stock market started the session broadly lower after negotiations between the White House and House Republicans broke down over the weekend. However, stocks erased those losses in early afternoon trading following news that President Barack Obama would meet with Congressional leaders.

The market extended those gains after Senate leaders in both parties said progress was being made.

Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid opened the Senate session Monday by saying he was "very optimistic we will reach an agreement this week that's reasonable in nature." The Republican Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, seconded Reid's view, saying there had been "a couple of very useful discussions."

The Dow Jones industrial average added 64.15 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 15,301.26. The index was down as much as 100 points earlier in the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,710.14. The Nasdaq composite rose 23.40 points, or 0.6 percent, to 3,815.27.

The United States will reach the limit of its borrowing authority Thursday, according to estimates from the Treasury Department. If the debt ceiling is not raised, investors fear the U.S. could default on its borrowings in the coming weeks.

Monday's modest gains follow a surge in the market last week on signs of progress between Congressional Republicans and the White House. The Dow jumped 323 points on Thursday, its biggest gain of the year, and rose another 111 points Friday.

Investors continue to express hope that a deal can be reached before the debt crisis causes any lasting damage. In the last few years, political deals over major budget disputes have gone down to the last minute.

"We don't need some well-crafted, detailed deal," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist with Prudential Financial. "We just need to buy some time so they can keep negotiating."

The U.S. government remains partially shut down because House Republicans want to attach conditions to a budget bill that would scale back the country's new health care law. President Barack Obama is insisting that the government be reopened without strings attached. The partial shutdown is entering its third week.

Investors should brace for more volatility this week as long as the debt ceiling remains unresolved, said John Lynch, regional chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank, which manages $170 billion in assets.

"We're basically trading on the news at this point," Lynch said.

Wall Street also has a busy week of corporate earnings to work through. Coca-Cola, Johnson & Johnson and Citigroup report their results Tuesday.

Bond trading is closed in observance of Columbus Day. Due to the holiday, trading volume was lighter than normal at 2.6 billion shares.

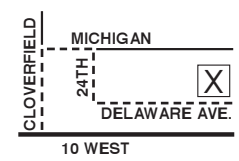
Among stocks making big moves:

• Netflix rose $23.51, or 8 percent, to $324.36 after The Wall Street Journal reported that the video streaming service is in talks to offer its services to cable companies.

• Merck & Co. fell 54 cents, or 1 percent, to $46.75 after another analyst lowered his rating on the drug developer, which recently announced job cuts and is dealing with the expiration of patents protecting key products.

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The Barker Hangar is wheelchair-accessible. If you have an event specific disability-related request, please contact the PAL staff at (310) 458-8988 or TTY: (310)458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Line #14 serves the Santa Monica Airport.

Second worker dies at 49ers stadium construction site

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA, Calif. Construction is slated to restart Tuesday at the new $1.2 billion San Francisco 49ers showcase stadium after police and fire investigators determined a truck driver's death was a workplace accident and not a crime.

The delivery truck driver was crushed early Monday by a bundle of rebar being unloaded from his truck, officials at the scene said. It's the second worker death at the construction project.

An ambulance rushed the severely injured worker to a local hospital, where he died, according to a spokesman for Turner/Devcon, the construction company building the stadium.

"We are deeply saddened to confirm that the driver has passed away as a result of his injuries," spokesman Jonathan Harvey said.

Harvey said state workplace safety officials told them Monday that while their investigation is ongoing and could take months, "the jobsite has been deemed safe and is permitted to reopen."

The man was an employee of Gerdau Ameristeel's Napa Reinforcing Steel facility, a subcontractor working on Levi Stadium, said Gerdau's spokeswoman Kimberly M. Selph. His name was not released.

In a statement, the 49ers said their "sincerest thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and co-workers affected by this tragedy." The team also said there were plans to have support on-site Tuesday to help workers with their emotions following the tragedy.

The stadium is in Santa Clara, about 40 miles south of Candlestick Park, which it is replacing. Construction is slated to be finished in July, and crews have been working in high gear to meet that deadline. Officials say the accelerated work plan involves a highly coordinated scheme to maximize efficiency and avoid delays.

Construction firm investigators also were on-scene Monday, to see what could have been done to prevent what is now the second deadly accident at the site.

An elevator mechanic, 63-year-old Donald White, was killed at the stadium in June when he was struck by a counterweight while working in a shaft.

White worked as an elevator mechanic for more than 40 years and was employed by Schindler Elevator Corp. An investigation into his death by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is underway.

The stadium project is expected to open its doors just in time to host the 50th Super Bowl, in 2016, in the heart of the Silicon Valley. The airy, open stadium would have the largest lower bowl in the league, ensuring the 68,500 fans are close to the action.

The construction costs are being paid by $800 million in seat and luxury box sales, along with a 20-year, $220 million naming rights agreement with Levi Strauss and Co. announced in May.



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **64.9°**

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small mix of old/easing SSW swell and new/building SW swell; Good conditions, just small surf

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
New/small SW swell tops out with, very small SSE Octave swell,
and minimal NW swell; Good conditions, just small surf

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small mix of holding SW swell, SSE Octave swell,
and minimal NW swell; Good conditions, just small surf

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small mix of easing SW swell and minimal NW swell; Good conditions, just small surf

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 9, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 3
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	C	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	C	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	C	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	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.	D	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 CAW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	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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BUSINESS @ SUNSET
HOSTED BY GLADSTONES
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
5:30 to 7:30 PM



Gladstones is one of our local landmarks situated where Sunset Boulevard meets the Pacific Coast Highway.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 16th for complimentary appetizers featuring modern renditions of classics, refreshments and a great beautiful view.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:00pm, 4:10pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

Rush (R) 2hrs 03min
1:10pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

Prisoners (R) 2hrs 26min
2:30pm, 6:20pm, 9:50pm

Romeo and Juliet (PG-13) 1hr 42min
4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

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

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:30pm

Gravity (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:00am

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
11:30am, 2:50pm, 6:15pm, 9:35pm

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) 1hr 35min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Runner Runner (R) 1hr 31min
11:20am, 1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Machete Kills (R) 1hr 47min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

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

Wadjda (PG) 1hr 38min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Summit (R) 1hr 35min
1:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

A.C.O.D. (R) 1hr 28min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Parkland (PG-13) 1hr 32min
4:20pm

Enough Said (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

PAY SOME BILLS FIRST, AQUARIUS

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Be aware of a change in your energy, and recognize how you might become more fussy and critical. The good news is that you are detail-oriented. You will accomplish more if you are left alone. Take that much-needed space. Tonight: Make it an early night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, especially if someone challenges you. This person, whom you might be quite attached to, could demand more attention. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Anger marks your decisions as of late. You might not want to push as hard as you have in the past. Someone you must behave respectfully around could be overly demanding. Adjust your attitude, and the interaction will change. Tonight: There could be wildness on the homefront.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your sensitivity might be less of a problem if you would learn to detach. The way in which some of you will decide to achieve this distance could vary. Be very careful in the next few weeks, as you are likely to lose your temper. Tonight: Touch base with an older friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You have said a lot about how you feel and what you expect. At this point, you might be inclined to let go, which is not a bad idea. Others will be coming forward with ideas and investments. Remember, there is always a risk in saying "yes." Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Mars moves into your sign, which gives you additional energy and sex appeal. If you do not manifest the negatives of this transit, such as being picky and/or critical, you will see a change in how others approach you. Tonight: Accept someone's invitation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be locked into a project that you can't seem to get out of. If you become irritated or angry, you are unlikely to express those feelings. Know that there might be a cost to suppressing your true feelings. You even might get sick! Tonight: As late as you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your creativity emerges quite suddenly in a discussion or meeting. You initially might be frustrated, but it won't last long. You'll begin to reframe a situation until you gain a clearer vision. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might want to reconsider a matter involving real estate and/or your domestic life. Extreme feelings could be affecting decisions at the moment. Stop. Investigate alternatives more openly. Remain centered. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your ability to transform could startle those who know you well. Do not take a comment personally; instead realize what might be going on with the other person. Your ability to make firm decisions could define the day. Tonight: Use your imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Use good sense with money matters. You could be wondering what would be best to do under the present circumstances. Someone with whom you have a financial involvement could become contentious if he or she does not get his or her way. Tonight: Pay bills first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You feel energized, and it appears that others are reacting to your high energy. Someone even might become contentious in order to let you know that he or she counts, too. Tonight: Do what you want.

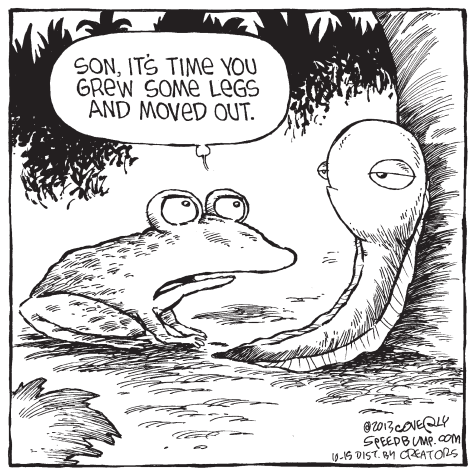
Tuesday, October 15, 2013

This year you seem like a dreamer who is capable of manifesting your dreams. You often might feel as if you don't have the necessary talent or finances to execute your dreams. You will find a new approach, once you start thinking outside the box. If you are single, you will meet someone very romantic in your daily life. There might be a compulsive quality between the two of you. If you are attached, you will make a great team and enjoy each other more. A financial issue exists between you regarding spending. Consider getting different bank accounts. PISCES loves music because it helps to change his or her mood.

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

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

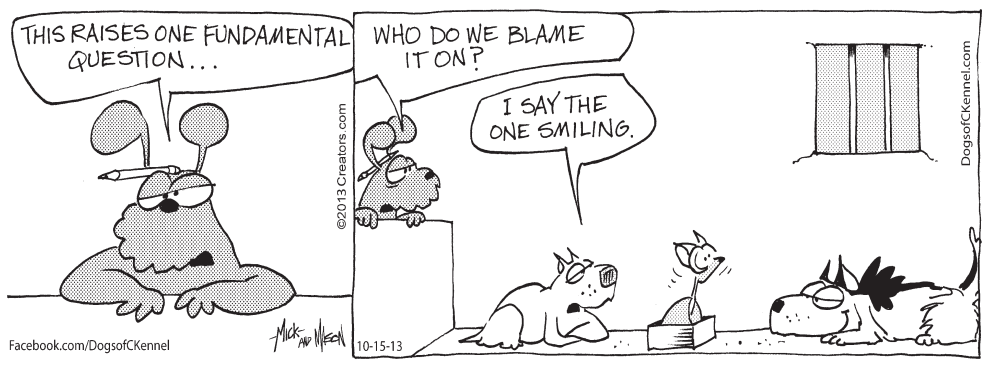
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



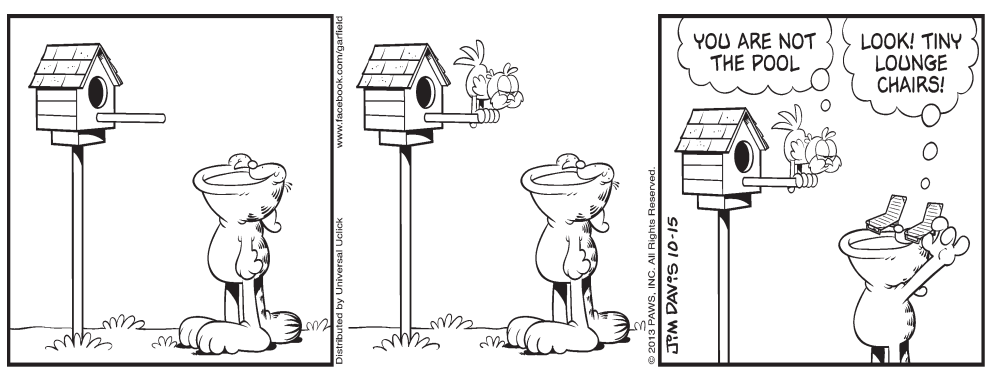
Strange Brew
By John Deering



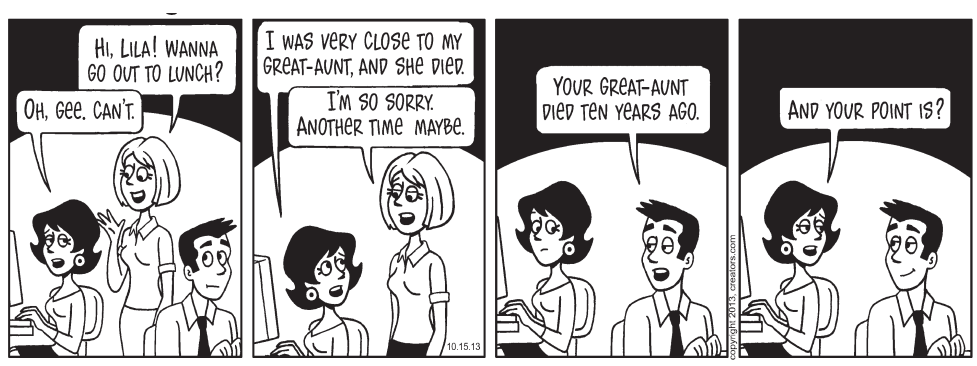
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Horn sounds
6 Director Kurosawa
11 Permit
12 Church code
13 Summer sight in the Arctic
15 Genesis name
16 Enemy
17 Employ
18 Signifies
20 Set ablaze
21 Green and Gore
22 Force
23 Abrasive powder
26 Fencing move
27 Bowling target
28 Convent resident
29 Ailing
30 Championship emblem
34 Pot brew
35 Ram's mate
36 "The Raven" writer
37 Autumn sight in the sky
40 Incite
41 Trunk
42 Most new drivers
43 Door sign

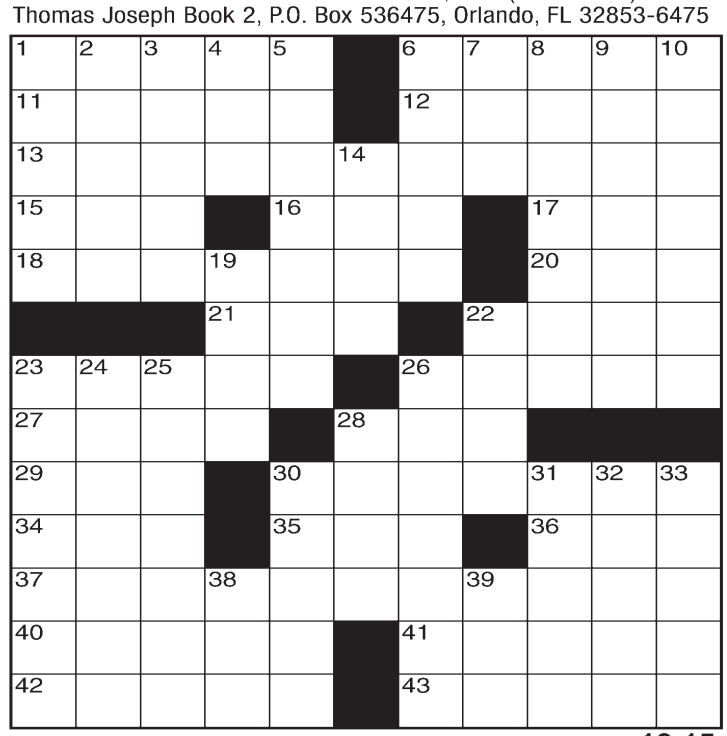
DOWN

1 Domesticated
2 Martini extra
3 Bygone
4 Great weight
5 Without hesitation
6 Massage targets
7 "Krazy —"
8 Pancreas product
9 Enthusiastic
10 Bening of "American Beauty"
14 Leaves
19 Crew need
22 Brooks's partner
23 Word of contempt
24 Odometer reading
25 Blow up
26 Crescent-shaped window
28 Anchor's offering
30 Hammer parts
31 Left at sea
32 Gallows sight
33 Caruso, for one
38 Part of many German names
39 Work wk. start

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

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



10-15

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/12
8 10 26 57 58
Power#: 4
Jackpot: $156M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/11
3 27 37 45 48
Mega#: 46
Jackpot: $29M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/12
5 7 13 31 43
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: $19M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/14
1 25 31 38 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/14
MIDDAY: 9 8 3
EVENING: 3 4 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 10/14
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:43.46

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Patients with gargantuan tumors, but intimidated by the cost of treatment, create the possibility that by the time they can afford an operation, the tumor itself will be heavier than the post-surgery patient. A 63-year-old man in Bakersfield, Calif., finally had surgery in August, after 14 years' waiting during which his set of tumors grew to 200 pounds. Bakersfield surgeon Vip Dev noted that the sprawled tumors dragged the floor when the man sat and that the surgery was complicated by the patient's shape, which could not be accommodated by the hospital's MRI and CT scan machines.

■ In 2010, Chinese agencies stepped up "birth tourism" packages for rich pregnant women to book vacations in America timed to their due dates -- to exploit the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of citizenship to anyone born here and thus giving the Chinese children future competitive advantages against non-Americans who must apply for U.S. visas. A September USA Today report indicated that more Chinese mothers now prefer to land in the U.S. territory of Northern Mariana Islands (where birth also bestows citizenship), to the consternation of Islands officials, who would prefer traditional Chinese tourists instead of the "birthers." (Historians agree that the 14th Amendment birth right was aimed at assuring citizenship for freed slaves.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1989 - Wayne Gretzky becomes the all-time leading points scorer in the NHL.

1990 - Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to lessen Cold War tensions and open up his nation.

WORD UP!

solipsism
\ SOL-ip-siz-uhm \ , noun;
1. Philosophy. the theory that only the self exists, or can be proved to exist.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Announcements

Announcements

CHASERÆ / CHASER PLUSÆ USERS! Did you or someone you know take ChaserÆ or Chaser PlusÆ brand anti-hangover pills? Please call the law firm of COLEMAN FROST LLP, 429 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 700, Santa Monica CA 90401, (310) 576-7312, ext. 101

Employment

Help Wanted

Shelving Designer and Sales. ISS Designs has an opportunity for a Part-Time Shelving and Furniture Designer with skills in design using Sketchup to work in our office in Santa Monica. Internship opportunities will be considered. Please call Kristy @ 1-877-477-5487 ext. 102 for more information.

Employment Wanted

Research Editor. MA reqd. Under supervision of management and production personnel, perform editorial-related functions involving the assessment and development of source materials and written content for film, television and media production projects, including editorial-related functions entailing the preparation of editorial coverage and other production-related documents for use in the development of film, television and media production projects; the presentation and review of proposed revisions relating to story outlines, draft scripts and other written content; the performance of proof reading and editorial review functions with respect to production-related reports and documentation; the ongoing review and revision of production and company-related written content on websites and in social media; the conducting of liaison activities, as required, with creative personnel with respect to the editorial development of source materials, written content and other production-related documents; the analysis and review of documentation relating to creative and technical production requirements; and the provision of editorial support for company activities involving the development and optioning of literary properties, written content and other source materials, as well as associated administrative support for other editorial, development and production activities. Master's degree in English, literature or a related field. $52,624.00 per year. Hollywood, CA job. Interested applicants should send resume to: Envision Media Arts, 5555 Melrose Ave, Bldg 221, #110, Hollywood, CA 90038

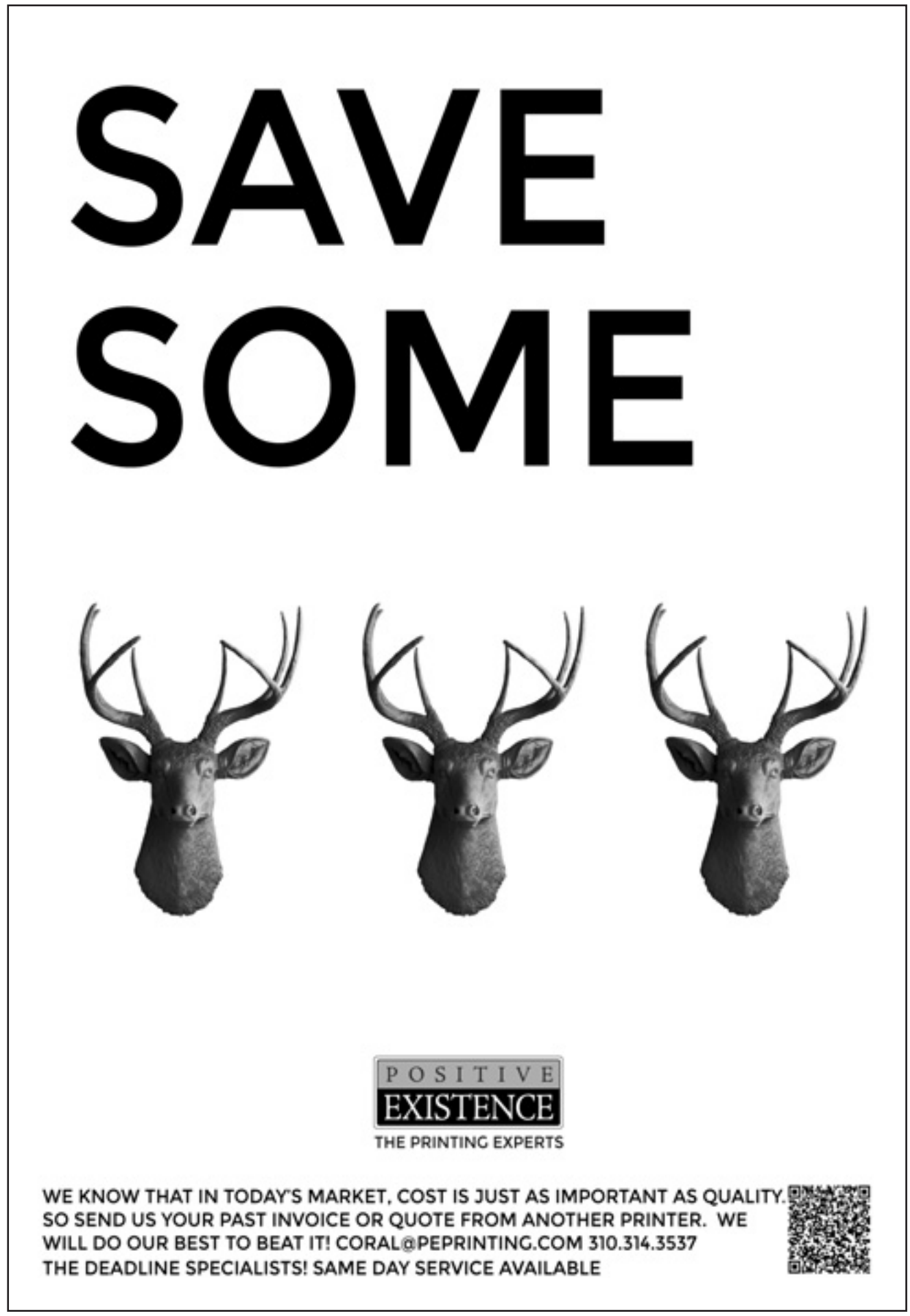
Services

Personal Services

blissful relaxation! Experience Tranquility & Freedom from Stress through Nurturing & Caring touch in a total healing environment. Lynda, LMT: 310-749-0621

DISH TV Retailer. Starting at $19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & High Speed Internet starting at $14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-956-6629





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Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com

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COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
1608 Montana Avenue

Kate Bransfield

BRE # 01218699

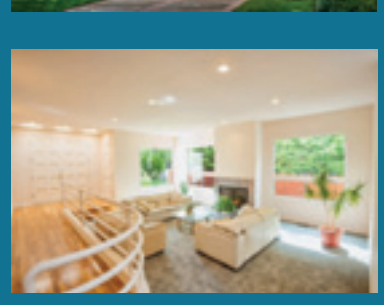
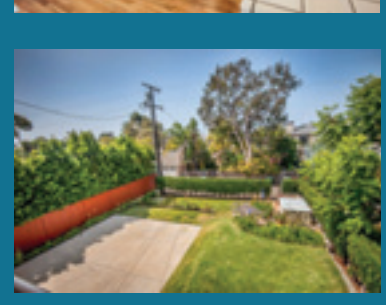
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628 11th Street

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$3,200,000

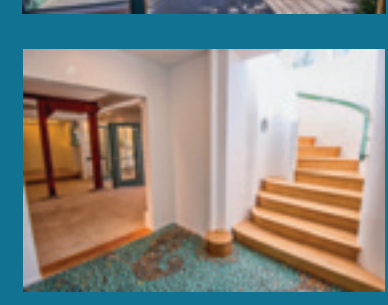


442 Mesa Road

New Listing in Santa Monica Canyon!
Open Sunday October 13th
2:00pm - 5:00pm
$2,148,000



Buyers' Needs

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

- Raw Land/Tear Down/Fixer - North of Montana, Brentwood, Palisades - $1,500,000 - $4,500,000
- Single Family Home - Fixer OK - Westside Pavilion Area - Minimum 2+1.75 - Walking Distance to Shops and Restaurants - Up to $900,000

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale as of Mid October 2013

Santa Monica Canyon	=	**$ 2,499,200**
North of Montana	=	**$ 4,035,778**
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	**$ 2,675,516**
South of Wilshire	=	**$ 719,500**
Sunset Park	=	**$ 1,833,150**
Ocean Park	=	**$ 2,866,333**

Statistics updated every Friday

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

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