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Santa Monica Daily Press
OCTOBER 20-21, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 289

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SEE WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEKEND
SEE PAGE 2

THE CRIME FIGHTER ISSUE



Photo by Matthew Hynes

BUSTED: **Santa Monica police arrest a man for allegedly stealing a flat screen television from a restaurant on Main Street earlier this year.**

SMPD bringing on the special teams

Four specialty units of the police force will tackle crime increase

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Four specialty units of the Santa Monica Police Department will spend 90 days working in concert to curb a recent rise in nonviolent crime, officials say.

The Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) team, the Crime Impact Team, gang detectives and officers dedicated to the Third Street Promenade will saturate Downtown in response to a spate of burglaries that has shot the crime rate up 12 percent in comparison to this time last year and 5 percent in the last five months, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the Santa Monica Police Department.

The goal is to keep the cops on the street around the clock to act as a deterrent. Recent statistics show that burglary of motor vehicles has gone up 24 percent and residential burglaries are up 46 percent from 236 in 2011 to 345 thus far this year.

On the positive side, violent crime is down.

"We want a constant presence to say, 'Don't commit crime here,'" Lewis said.

The SMPD is also pulling in its civilian forces, such as the park rangers and harbor patrol, to help where they can.

Members of the four units were chosen because they are more flexible than patrol officers and can be redeployed with greater ease without disrupting normal policing. They also have special skill sets that will help with aspects of the crime increase, Lewis. For one, much of the increase is centered in the Downtown area, which is the regular stomping ground for the Third Street Promenade officers and HLP team.

The HLP team specializes in getting homeless people connected with services available to the city, an expertise that service providers like John Maceri, the CEO of OPCC, have come to value.

"If you look at it holistically, the HLP team provides a critical component in our continuum of services," Maceri said.

Although gang activity has been low, gang-related graffiti has popped up in the area, which the gang detectives could help with, Lewis said.

The department attributes part of the increase in crime to the release of inmates from the Los Angeles County jail system.

County officials had to make room for convicts coming in from state prisons as part of a court-mandate to relieve overcrowding in those facilities. That means low-level criminals are being released before their sentences are complete and, some allege, with little oversight.

Marshaling resources like this will have an impact on the way the community interacts with the officers on the special units, who will not be as available for community meetings and other extra duties during the three-month stretch.

ashley@smdp.com

Equity Fund takes $40K hit

PTAs contributing less than last year

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS School board members instructed district staff to send out letters imploring parent groups to send in their contributions to the Equity Fund, which accumulated $40,000 less in 2011-12 than the year before.

The letters will stress the importance of the Equity Fund, an invention created under the supervision of then-Superintendent John Deasy that required roughly 15 percent

SEE FUND PAGE 12

Freezing eggs for fertility works, caution urged

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON Freezing human eggs can be successful in treating infertility — but guidelines issued Friday still urge caution for women hoping to pause a ticking biological clock.

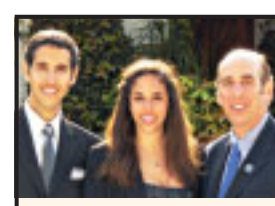
Egg freezing had long been labeled experimental, but the American Society for Reproductive Medicine declared that's no longer the case. The group cited studies that found younger women are about as likely to get pregnant if they used frozen-and-thawed eggs for their infertility treatment as if they used fresh ones.

The move is expected to help cancer patients preserve their fertility, by pushing more insurers to pay for their procedure, and to boost banking of donated eggs, similar to sperm banking.

SEE EGGS PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

That vintage feel
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The original Vintage Fashion Expo returns. The public is invited to join fellow clotheshorses, fashion designers, costumers, celebs and fashion editors from all over the globe who visit these regular shows. The event features 85 dealers of vintage clothing, accessories, textiles and more. The expo also takes place on Sunday. For more information, call (707) 793-0773.

Come one, come all
Universally Accessible Playground
2600 Bernard Way at Ashland Avenue, 10 a.m.
The Santa Monica Disabilities Commission invites the public to a poster viewing and photo event celebrating the start of construction for the new Universally Accessible Playground. The winners and first runners up of the 2011 "Let's Play" poster contest will all have their posters enlarged and displayed on the construction fence surrounding the site. For more information, call (310) 458-8701.

Boo!
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 7 p.m. — 2 a.m.
During the month of October, the third floor of Santa Monica Place will be transformed into a hair-raising haunted attraction where the un-dead will possess three mazes: "The Infirmary," "Insomniac Clown Playhouse" and "Granny's Manor of Mayhem." Spectators can also enjoy food and merchandise vendors throughout the night to compliment the main attraction, which will consume 50,000 square feet of what's billed as deathly horrifying space. Cost: $24; $19 for students. For more information, visit paranoiahalloween.com.

Tickling the keys
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Hailed as "one of the finest pianists in the world," this Grammy-winning virtuoso has won a large and devoted following for his tremendous emotional power, depth and expressiveness. A leading interpreter of classical and romantic music, Richard Goode makes this program of the early and late works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven sound unexpectedly fresh. Cost: $67-$110. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Sounds of Spain
The Broad Stage, Second Space
1310 11th St., 8 p.m.
Carlos Núñez has the quality of a classical music expert and the charisma of a rock star. Hailing from Galicia, the Celtic region in the northwest of Spain, Carlos is considered one of the biggest artists in the international world and Celtic music scenes. Don't miss this extremely rare opportunity to see a world-class artist (usually playing to crowds of 10,000 or more in Europe) in the intimate Edye Second Space. Cost: $35. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012

Clearing the air
Third Street Promenade
8 a.m.
The Fight For Air Walk, a signature event for the American Lung Association, returns to Santa Monica for the third year. Participants will walk a 2.55 mile course around Downtown to honor and remember those living with lung disease. The event is open to all ages. The course is flat and suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Dogs welcomed, too. For more information, call (213) 384-5864 ext. 251.

Pumpkins for all
Main Street Farmers' Market
10 a.m. — 1 p.m.
No-carve pumpkin decorating for kids. Limit one pumpkin per child while supplies last. The market takes place at 2640 Main St. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Walk for hunger
Ocean Park Boulevard and the beach
11 a.m.
Help raise funds for charity during the Westside Food Bank's 22nd annual Hunger Walk. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m, with registration beginning at 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.westsidefoodbankca.org.

Free yoga
Palisades Park at Idaho and Ocean avenues
10 a.m.
Get your Zen on with free beach yoga with Naam Yoga instructors. For more information, visit naamyoga.com.

Beast mode
Promenade Playhouse
1404 Third St., 2 p.m.
Creating Arts Company presents "Beauty and the Beast a Musical Tale." Follow Belle as she trades her freedom for her father's and ends up in an enchanted castle where she meets Mrs. Potts, Lumiere, the Beast and others. Gaston, LaFou and the townspeople make this a fun tale to follow. The show is interactive with classic "Beauty and the Beast" songs. All children will receive a free musical instrument when they enter. Stay after to meet your favorite characters, get autographs, take pictures and video. For more information, call (424) 256-6085.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Beware: phony fire inspectors

The Santa Monica Fire Department is warning business owners to be on the lookout for fake fire inspectors.

People have been posing as fire inspectors, complete with official-looking uniforms, offering to conduct an inspection of local businesses, officials said this week.

Typically they come uninvited to a business and ask for an unsuspecting employee to sign a form authorizing the inspection. If they do the inspection, they have the employee sign their form and then the business owner receives a bill at a later date or worse yet, the person may demand the money up front, officials said.

The mailed statements usually demand immediate payment and threaten penalties for any failure to pay promptly.

The scam is happening all over Southern California.

Recently the Los Angeles Fire Department wrote an article to their business community warning of similar activity in their city. In the letter, fire officials said the most troubling aspect of the fake inspections is that some workers and guests will falsely believe that fire extinguishers, alarm systems, emergency lighting, exit signage and fire sprinklers are fully up to code and operating effectively.

The only fire inspections business owners should be receiving are those conducted by the Santa Monica Fire Department.

"Our members are properly identified as Santa Monica Fire Department personnel and they will contact the owner or manager of the business and announce their reason for being at your business," said Nancy Johnson, SMFD fire marshal. "They will also explain what they will be inspecting and will discuss their findings when their inspection is complete. In addition, our members carry identification that clearly states their name and position with the Santa Monica Fire Department."

Those who are approached and are suspicious should contact the Santa Monica Police Department immediately and then call the Fire Prevention Division at (310) 458-8915 to report the incident. If possible, try and get the name and phone number of the company of the person posing as a fire inspector, officials said.

"We are working to stop the practice of fire inspection impersonations, which costs business owners money for services that ultimately serve no purpose," Johnson said.

– DAILY PRESS

Malibu lights will shine over homecoming

Parties still trying to work out permanent agreement

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU HIGH Malibu football players will bask in the glow of Friday night lights at their homecoming next week thanks to a court ruling that allows the use of the new lights until the next hearing on Nov. 8.

The ruling buys more time for neighbors who oppose the lights for largely aesthetic reasons and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Malibu City Hall and pro-lights parents to work out a compromise in terms of how many nights the lights can be used and how long the 70-foot poles that support the lights can be erected.

Neighbors complain that the light disrupts the now-famous dark skies of Malibu, and that the poles are an eyesore.

Cami Winikoff, a member of the Malibu Community Preservation Alliance, said that the ruling was a victory for both sides.

"The [alliance] is hopeful that this means the community can now reach a reasonable compromise where the students get lighted athletic fields but the community gets to maintain extended period of dark skies and no poles," Winikoff said.

Those working to raise the over $600,000 needed to purchase and install the lights are also thrilled, said Seth Jacobson, with the Shark Fund.

"It's very exciting that our homecoming celebration will be under lights," Jacobson said. "The hundreds of parents and businesses that contributed to the lights campaign are very excited that the lights will finally be a reality."

The ruling is another stalemate in a long-fought battle to get permanent lights installed at the Malibu High School field, one that has spanned over a decade and several governmental agencies and processes to iron out the kinks.

In the early 2000s, former Malibu High School Principal Mike Matthews allowed the use of portable lights at games. That violated a coastal development permit that the school district held with the Coastal Commission, but it wasn't reported for many years.

After Measure BB, a $268 million bond, was passed roughly eight years later, the district approached the Coastal Commission with the goal of adapting the permit to allow lights as part of the bond.

The district hit a roadblock with the commission, however, because lights weren't permitted under the Local Coastal Plan developed by the city of Malibu.

It wasn't until early 2012 that the plan was cleared and the environmental work could begin to greenlight the lights, at which point the matter would have gone to the Malibu Planning Commission.

That's where things got hairy.

Malibu City Attorney Christi Hogin informed the commission that it could not hear the matter because several planning commissioners were involved either in fundraising for the lights or lived nearby the proposed site.

She also disqualified two City Council members, Laura Rosenthal and Skylar Peak. The City Council eventually voted to allow the lights

SEE **LIGHTS** PAGE 13



THE KITE FLYER

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Guests at Casa del Mar enjoy cocktails while seated underneath a trailing kite created by Santa Monican Tom Van Sant, who has toured the world with his works. This kite, named Jacob's Ladder, consists of 200 segments, lifts up to 2,000 pounds and is a quarter mile long. Fly kites with Van Sant Nov. 10 at the hotel from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Without a doubt

Editor:

Does the City Council believe that by increasing parking rates and decreasing free parking ("Feeling the parking pinch," Oct. 2) it will increase the number of shoppers on the Third Street Promenade? Doubtful!

Shirley Stumley
Santa Monica

No compliance

Editor:

A bad choice by the City Council ("No smoking for new tenants; landlords to conduct surveys," Oct. 3). Government has no business in my house, whether rented, leased or owned.

The job of government is to protect the rights of all people, not infringe upon them for the satisfaction of the few. Telling me what I can or cannot do is an invasion of my privacy and demanding reporting of any activity within the home by others is a fundamental constitutional violation. I will not comply. Will the council ban sex next because one might get AIDS?

Jayne Macleod
Santa Monica

Death to the death penalty

Editor:

Daily Press Columnist David Pisarra is right ("Killing the death penalty," What's The Point? Oct. 1). It is time to replace the death penalty in California.

The death penalty is obscenely expensive. Judge Arthur Alarcón and Professor Paula Mitchell say it costs $184 million per year more than life without parole, while the independent Legislative Analyst's Office says $130 million per year. The official ballot description says "tens of millions" more. Whatever the number, it is a colossal waste of taxpayer money!

There is also the chance that we could execute an innocent person; 140 people have been exonerated from death rows across the country. Only Prop. 34 can eliminate that risk. I will be voting yes in November!

Garland Allen
Santa Monica

Stop the cuts

Editors:

As Congress works on the 2013 budget and the threat of sequestration looms, I urge Rep. Henry Waxman and Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to continue fighting to protect biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Sequestration could result in an 8 percent cut to the NIH budget, which means 25 percent of the grants that NIH issues in 2013 would not be funded. I am an advocate for Parkinson's disease patients and these cuts would be devastating to the community I serve. NIH needs at least $32 billion in FY 2013 to continue research toward much-needed treatments for people with Parkinson's and other chronic diseases.

In addition, these cuts put research jobs at risk; California could lose up to 4,930 jobs and $275.8 million in research funds, which could have a devastating impact on the state's economy.

NIH research funding is an investment in our country's future. I ask you to urge your representatives to oppose cuts to biomedical research at the NIH.

Sarah King
State director – Southern California, The Parkinson's Action Network



Your column here

Matt Barber — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

The most important election in history

WHO SAYS REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS can't agree? Every four years, politicos and pundits, both left and right, come together in a harmonious hymn of hyperbole: "This is the most important election in history!" they sing.

I think hyperbole is responsible for all of the world's problems. Still, this time nobody's exaggerating. What happens on Nov. 6 really is of critical importance. America's future really does hang in the balance.

We're in uncharted territories. We're lost. We stand dazed at cliff's edge — legs wobbling — with big government winds at our back. Under President Obama, the reasons for this election's unparalleled significance are piling up like pink slips in the private sector, like credit rating downgrades, like zeros on the national debt.

Yet, as I see it, there are nine black-robed reasons in particular that reign supreme.

And those reasons never get a pink slip.

In "Federalist No. 78," Alexander Hamilton wrote: "The judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution. … [T]he judiciary is, beyond comparison, the weakest of the three departments of power … [and] the general liberty of the people can never be endangered from that quarter."

I know. Settle down.

Alas, Alexander Hamilton was obviously no better with a crystal ball than he was with a dueling pistol. For better or for worse (hint: for worse), today's judiciary — through the constitutionally erosive drip-drop of judicial attrition and congressional submission — has, instead, become the most powerful branch of government.

Today, rather than the properly balanced, decentralized constitutional republic our founders envisaged, we live, to a large degree, under a very much centralized judiciocracy. (That is, when President Obama's not circumventing the Constitution via executive fiat.)

William Howard Taft, who served as both our 27th president and our 10th Supreme Court chief justice, had unique insight into the dichotomy between the framers' intent, and today's reality. He summed it up well: "Presidents come and go, but the Supreme Court goes on forever."

Indeed, due to the creeping misalignment of separation of powers, the function of appointing Supreme Court justices is almost certainly the most significant thing any president can do. Though it defies the High Court's original construct, these nine unelected, well-meaning, yet very human, individuals profoundly steer law, public policy and our larger culture in perpetuity.

So much for the balance of powers.

Therein lies the problem. Conservative columnist Andrew McCarthy noted in March that four of the nine sitting U.S. Supreme Court justices are in their late 70s and early 80s.

"We wish them all well," he wrote, "but the brute fact is that whoever we elect as president in November is almost certainly going to choose at least one and maybe more new members of the Supreme Court — in addition to hundreds of other life-tenured federal judges, all of whom will be making momentous decisions about our lives for decades to come.

"If you don't think it matters whether the guy making those calls is Mitt Romney or Barack Obama," concluded McCarthy, "I think you're smokin' something funky."

Speaking of "smokin' something funky," during Thursday night's vice presidential debate, Joe Biden touched on the Supreme Court. He agreed with McCarthy: "The next president will get one or two Supreme Court nominees. … For Mr. Romney, who do you think he's likely to appoint? Do you think he's likely to appoint someone like Scalia … ? We picked two people. We pick people who are open-minded."

And, of course, by "open-minded," Biden means not bound by those pesky constitutional limitations intended to avert government tyranny. He means liberal living constitutionalists.

To be sure, the next president may well appoint one, two, three or even four new justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. As voters, this should be our most critical point of focus: ensuring an originalist, strict constructionist majority. If Mr. Obama is re-elected and appoints just one more Ruth Bader Ginsburg, forget it. America, as our founders envisioned her, is gone.

This is why, after the primary, I went from an outspoken Romney critic, to a cautiously optimistic Romney supporter. He has pledged: "I will appoint conservative, strict constructionists to the judiciary."

Still not sold?

President Obama has already shown who he'll appoint. In Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor — nice though they may be — he has stacked the court with two radical counter-constitutionalists who share his belief that the Constitution "is not a static, but living document and must be read in the context of an ever changing world."

Naturally, if the Constitution is "ever changing," the Constitution is meaningless.

But it gets worse. Obama has also called this — the very founding document upon which our laws, public policy, indeed our very freedoms rest — an "imperfect document," a "living document … that reflects some deep flaws in American culture."

Yikes.

Moreover, during the 2008 campaign, Obama lamented that the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, failed to "break free from the essential constraints that were placed by the founding fathers in the Constitution."

Let that sink in a moment. In his own words, this man — a man solemnly sworn to uphold the U.S. Constitution — has betrayed utter disdain for it. He has, in essence, admitted that he views our most sacred founding document as a "constraint" against his thinly veiled efforts to fundamentally transform America into Greece.

Thank God our founding fathers predicted that men like Barack Obama would come and go. And thank God they had the wisdom to plan accordingly.

Patrick Henry once said, "[L]iberty ought to be the direct end of your government." Today, we have it exactly backward. Four more years of Barack Obama, and government will be the direct end of your liberty.

Still thinking of sitting this one out?

I hope not.

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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2012. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

For the kids

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has placed Measure ES on the ballot to raise funds for improving and modernizing facilities.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Will you vote for the school bond or do you think the district is asking too much at a time when the economy continues to struggle?

Here are your responses:

"OF COURSE I AM GOING TO VOTE FOR this measure. We don't want a bunch of dimwits. Of course we need to vote to have this measure passed. The youth are our crowning achievement of our society."

"DO YOU PEOPLE FEEL LIKE A PINGPONG ball being smacked around? First City Hall taxes, then SMC taxes and now another school tax. How much has that financially added up to in the last 20 years? Well over a billion dollars. Who pays for this? Not north of Montana. They use slick tax write-offs. Not the free lunches with four children they can't support. No, it's the shrinking middle class in this town. Next to City Hall, the school board is the most inept of public governments. Glass ceilings, affirmative action, gang banger love, bilingual education, PTA donations forced to level playing fields. No wonder Malibu is pissed off. ... Support a new leadership that actual loves Santa Monica."

"I INTEND TO VOTE YES FOR MEASURE ES. I think the schools have been inundated with cuts from the unstable California budget. I think we need to pick up the slack in the community. It is important to keep our schools very positive and with lots of resources."

"I WILL DEFINITELY VOTE YES ON MEASURE ES, which will provide much needed facility and technology upgrades for Samohi and other schools in both Santa Monica and Malibu."

"I URGE ALL PROPERTY-TAX PAYERS TO look at your tax bill and see how many thousands of dollars you are already paying in direct assessments to SMMUSD and SMC. Measure ES would be two times as much tax as Measure R. Direct assessments for SMMUSD would increase by over 40 percent with ES. You aren't protected by Prop. 13 by these either. Maybe some wealthy people here can afford these increases, but I can't and I don't want to be forced from my home. SMMUSD is a special assessment tax addict and we cannot afford to continue supplying its addiction."

"I AM SO TIRED OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT trying to extort money from tax payers. Many of the world's elite learning institutions (i.e. Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge) have buildings which are hundreds of years old and that doesn't seem to impair their ability to provide an excellent education. They are also in climates far less forgiving than Santa Monica. SMMUSD, if you really want new buildings, then cut back on pensions and salaries and fund it through the savings."

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"ABSOLUTELY NOT. THERE ARE SO MANY areas of waste and incompetence. How about starting with eliminating the 3,500 non-resident permit students at a net cost after state reimbursement of $3,000 per student or $10.5 million per year. The school district needs to start thinking about how its spending and waste creates real economic hardship within the community."

"HELL NO! EVERY YEAR OUR SCHOOLS want more money. Most of the money goes to teachers' and administrators' ridiculous high pay and pensions and not to the kids. Our superintendent gets $400,000 in pay and benefits, the same as the president of the U.S.! Many other school officials are making over $200,000 plus benefits and pensions. It used to be that all public employees went into public service because they loved it and they enjoyed job security, but they got very low pay and no unions. Now our nation is being financially strangled by overpaid union employees and expensive pensions. ... Last election, the schools said their failed tax measure cost half-a-million bucks and they held their rallies at schools. This is a political issue and school funds and facilities shouldn't be wasted on political elections, even if it is a school issue. This is just plain wrong! The supporters last year claimed the election was close, however, they failed to mention that the opposition had little money and no public funds to waste, and that the schools ran a strong-arm tactic on parents to vote for it. Since only a small fraction of voters vote on local issues, it is amazing that it failed. What that really meant is that the great majority of people and almost all property owners were against it. Again the schools will use their underhanded tactics and public funds to screw over property owners, so please vote against it."

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EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD!

High pay a costly legacy of Calif. prison receiver

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A doctor at California Medical Facility was paid more than $410,000 last year, while a registered nurse at High Desert State Prison made nearly $236,000 — more than twice the statewide average in both cases.

A pharmacist at Corcoran State Prison was paid more than $196,000, nearly double what is typical across the state.

Compensation for medical providers has soared in the prison system since a federal judge seized control of inmate health care in 2006 and appointed an overseer with the power to hire and set pay levels.

As the official begins to wind down his oversight, the medical hiring and salary increases have helped lead to an improvement in inmate care, but it has increased the bill for taxpayers too.

It has also led to criticism that the official — called a receiver — provided a "Cadillac" level of care for convicted felons. A state review found that only Texas pays its state prison doctors more that California.

"The problem that we had is that the receiver was not accountable to anybody," said former state Sen. George Runner, a Republican who has frequently criticized the program.

"So the receiver could just do or choose to spend whatever amount of money he thought was necessary to solve his problem, and unfortunately now the state is stuck with that," he said.

The receiver for medical care, J. Clark Kelso, said the state has been free to collectively bargain health care providers' salaries since a court order increasing their wages expired three years ago.

The receiver's goal was to correct a prison medical system that was ruled unconstitutional for its substandard care and, at one point, contributed to an inmate death each week through negligence or malfeasance.

To do that, the receivership increased salaries, created new positions at high pay and hired hundreds of employees to fill longtime vacancies.

Total spending on medical, dental and mental health care for inmates, numbering 124,700, has more than doubled over the last decade, from $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2003-04 to a projected $2.3 billion this year.

The number of medical, mental health and dental workers in the prisons more than doubled over six years, from 5,100 in 2005, the year before the receivership was created, to 12,200 last year.

More than 1,400 were administrators who don't directly treat inmates, according to a state Assembly oversight committee.

Dr. David M. Mathis at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, between Sacramento and San Francisco, was paid about $410,000 last year, the most of any prison doctor.

Mathis treats some of the sickest inmates and is the acting medical director at the prison hospice, where terminally ill prisoners go to die. He is a board certified physician who had a solo practice for 25 years.

In addition to his $239,572 base salary, Mathis was paid $169,548 for working nights and weekends. His pay topped other doctors because he also worked overnight, weekend and holiday shifts 10 to 15 times a month.

Prison doctors said they deserve higher pay because they face the constant threat of assault from inmates and because prisons, generally, are located in the most remote regions of the state.

"We're doing it well now because we've got better docs who are willing to work in these less-than-ideal situations and are being adequately compensated," said Mathis, who also worked in prisons in Maryland.

Nancy Kincaid, a spokeswoman for the federal receiver, said paying doctors to work nights and weekends is cheaper than hiring additional doctors with full salaries and benefits.

The state has cut its costs for outside medical care in half by having more sick inmates treated by the prison doctors instead of being sent to hospitals. That also reduces the cost of transporting and guarding them while they are treated outside of the prison.

"I can save the taxpayer a lot of money by coming in to handle things," said Dr. Vache Chakmakian, who works 90 miles from Ironwood State Prison near Blythe, a southern desert city.

Chakmakian was paid $358,645 last year — his regular pay of $239,572 plus $119,072 for frequently working overnight and holidays.

The federal judges and receivers who oversee medical and mental health care said boosting pay significantly was the only way to attract quality employees to such jobs.

One result is that of the top 100 highest-paid state employees outside the University of California system last year, 44 worked in the prisons, according to an Associated Press analysis of state payroll data.

They averaged nearly $379,000 in salary and were led by the $803,271 paid to a psychiatrist at Salinas Valley State Prison.

Base salaries for prison psychiatrists range from $126,000 to $281,952, depending on seniority and other factors, with chief psychiatrists paid more. Dentists' salaries can be as high as $288,000

Compared with the other most populous states, California had higher base salaries for prison doctors than New York, Florida and Pennsylvania.

But base salaries for prison doctors were higher in Texas, particularly when salaries were adjusted for California's higher cost of living, according to a state Department of Finance report.

The prison receiver does not control mental health or dental care, but the finance department counts those in the overall cost of providing inmate medical care, which has risen from $7,747 per inmate the year before the federal receivership began to more than $18,000.

The courts have directed the receivership to wind down while ensuring the state prison system maintains adequate health care for inmates.

The order reignited a debate between Kelso and Gov. Jerry Brown, who has fought the receiver's efforts to provide what the governor once derided as "Cadillac care" for convicts.

Kelso said the prisons provide "minimally necessary medical care."

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Suit: No bail for ICE holds

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Arrestees who say they were denied bail because they had federal immigration holds sued the Los Angeles County sheriff on Friday alleging they were illegally detained for days or months.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed the lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles challenging Sheriff Lee Baca's ability to detain arrestees solely on the basis of an immigration hold when they are eligible for bail or other forms of release.

Plaintiff Duncan Roy — a British film director — said he was held in jail for nearly three months because of a hold filed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, even though he tried multiple times to post bail.

"The sheriff says, he's on an ICE hold, and the ICE people say, well, he's got to make bond," said Roy, who was eventually released after ICE removed the immigration detainer. "They keep you in this limbo where each is blaming the other organization, but basically they're colluding with each other to keep you there."

Roy, who later pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor extortion charge, is one of several named plaintiffs among tens of thousands of inmates who should have been eligible for release from sheriff's custody but have been detained because of ICE holds, according to the ACLU.

ACLU staff attorney Jennie Pasquarella said the suit — which seeks class-action status — challenges the validity of immigration detainers, which have been increasingly used in jails across the country under the federal government's flagship immigration enforcement program.

"There has to be authority for them to actually deprive a person of liberty, and we're saying there isn't based on state and federal law," Pasquarella said.

Inmates should be allowed to leave the sheriff department's custody if they post bail or qualify for release, then federal immigration authorities could seek to take them into custody if they so choose, immigrant advocates said.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said the department may hold people at the request of federal immigration authorities.

"If ICE tells us there's a hold, we're only doing what they wish," Nishida said, adding that the detainers are usually placed for 48 hours but could go longer depending on the case.

The lawsuit seeks an injunction ordering the sheriff not to detain anyone solely on the basis of an immigration hold and damages for plaintiffs who were unlawfully held. In the suit, the ACLU states that the sheriff's department recently agreed to put forth a policy clarifying that inmates should be able to post bail even if they have an immigration detainer.

The federal government's Secure Communities program lets immigration agents check arrestees' fingerprints against homeland security records to determine if someone might be in the country illegally.

The program has been touted by ICE as a crime-fighting tool but is reviled by many who say it discourages immigrants from reporting crime and erodes their trust in police. Amid growing opposition, a number of law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department, have announced plans to stop honoring requests for immigration holds for people accused only of minor crimes.

In the past four years, immigration agents have removed more than 220,000 people from the country under the program. Roughly 12 percent of them came from Los Angeles County, according to federal government statistics.

ICE said in a statement that the agency uses detainers to ensure that potentially dangerous criminals are not released from jails. On its website, the agency says that if immigration agents fail to take custody of an inmate after 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, local law enforcement agencies are required to release the inmate.

Group seeks audit of $11M donation

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A good-government group asked California's campaign finance watchdog Friday to investigate the donors behind an $11 million political contribution from a nonprofit based in Arizona, as Gov. Jerry Brown called on its donors to "show their faces."

The contribution was received this week by the Small Business Action Committee PAC, an Orange County-based political action committee campaigning against Brown's tax initiative and in favor of an initiative to erode union power.

California Common Cause called the donation from the Phoenix-based Americans for Responsible Leadership possibly the largest "secret political donation in California history."

"It does not pass the laugh test ... $11 million in secret money is a new phenomenon for us in California," said Derek Cressman of Common Cause.

The group filed a complaint with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, asking it to investigate under a new campaign finance law that requires groups to disclose the source of money that will be used for political activity. The commission has 14 days to decide whether to investigate, said Gary Winuk, the commission's chief of enforcement.

Messages left for the three Phoenix-area men listed on documents as directors of Americans for Responsible Leadership were not immediately returned Friday. The documents name the directors as Steven Nickolas, president of Silver Sky Capital; Robert Graham, president of RG Capital Investors; and Eric Wnuck, an unsuccessful Arizona congressional candidate in 2010.

The campaign for Brown's tax initiative, Proposition 30, called on the donors to reveal themselves to Californians.

"Crossing the Arizona border and spending $11 million of secret money to hurt California students is an extreme act," Brown said in a statement, referring to the $6 billion in automatic budget cuts that could hit California schools and colleges if his initiative fails.

Beth Miller, a spokeswoman for the Small Business Action Committee, said the allegations by Common Cause are "a politically motivated charge without one shred of evidence."

She said as a registered nonprofit organization, the Arizona group is not required to disclose the source of its money, just as other nonprofits are not required to divulge theirs, such as the American Cancer Society, which gave millions of dollars to support a failed initiative in June that sought to raise cigarette taxes.



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EGGS
FROM PAGE 1

Here's the controversy: Should otherwise healthy women freeze their eggs as sort of an insurance policy against infertility in case they don't meet Mr. Right — or just aren't ready for motherhood — until their late 30s or beyond, when the childbearing window is closing fast?

The pricey technology, which insurance doesn't cover for elective reasons, is being marketed aggressively for just that use.

Yet the society that represents doctors who treat infertility stopped short of endorsing egg freezing solely for deferring childbearing until women are older. The conclusion: It's not at all clear who's a good candidate, or if women who store their eggs are being given a false sense of security.

"The bottom line is there is no guarantee," said Dr. Samantha Pfeifer of the University of Pennsylvania, who chaired the society's guideline committee. "A lot of women interested in using this technology are in their late 30s, early 40s, and they may have the worst success of anybody."

Anyone considering egg freezing needs careful counseling about their age and the odds of success if they want to later thaw those eggs for use in in vitro fertilization, the guidelines stress.

"It's an insurance policy that many of those women may never need to turn in," added Dr. Eric Widra of Georgetown University, who co-authored the guideline.

But proponents of egg freezing, known medically as oocyte cryopreservation, say lifting the experimental label will encourage more women to check out the option, and they'll make an educated choice.

"It's none of our business to tell someone, 'No, you shouldn't delay childbearing if you choose for whatever reason,'" said Dr. James Grifo of New York University, whose center has frozen more than 1,100 batches of eggs, mostly for elective fertility preservation. "It's not a promise. It's hope and insurance."

For Brigitte Adams of San Francisco, that hope of a future pregnancy was worth paying about $15,000 to freeze 11 eggs, especially when her parents covered half the bill.

"I'm glad I did it when I did it. I wish I had done it a few years earlier," said Adams, who had the procedure about a year ago at age 39. Her doctor estimated she'd have a 30 percent chance of pregnancy using those eggs later on, "and I thought a 30 percent chance was better than a zero chance."

Adams started a web site, eggsurance.com, to spread word of women's experiences with egg freezing. She says one of the most-asked questions is how to learn about clinics' success rates using frozen eggs. Specialists say lifting the experimental label means more clinics will start publicly reporting that information like they do now for other infertility procedures.

Sperm routinely are frozen. So are the extra embryos of couples undergoing infertility treatment, in case they want to use them for later pregnancy attempts.

But eggs proved more delicate and difficult to freeze than sperm or embryos. The problem: Eggs contain lots of water, and early methods of freezing and thawing allowed ice crystals to form that could destroy or damage them. In the past decade, scientists created a flash-freezing method called vitrification that appears to overcome that challenge.

For a number of years, egg-freezing has been offered experimentally for young women or girls who are diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses that would destroy their ovaries.

Then there's age-related infertility: About 1 in 5 U.S. women now have their first child after age 35, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Yet the ability to conceive begins dropping around 35 and more rapidly as the 40s near. Women have fewer eggs left, and these older remaining ones aren't as healthy, meaning even if the woman can get pregnant she's more likely to miscarry.

What's involved in freezing eggs: Women inject high levels of hormones for a week in order to ovulate as many eggs as possible. Retrieving them is an outpatient procedure that can cost $10,000 to $15,000, sometimes not including the cost of the medication. Clinics also charge a storage fee, and then women who wind up using their eggs will pay thousands more to undergo in vitro fertilization.

There are no estimates of how many women have had their eggs frozen. But Pfeifer's committee cited four well-controlled European studies that compared IVF using either fresh eggs or ones that had been frozen from younger women, and found the chances of pregnancy were comparable.

What about birth defects? There are only about 1,500 known live births resulting from frozen eggs worldwide, compared with about 1 million IVF births using fresh eggs. But a recent review of nearly 1,000 of the births from frozen eggs found no increased risk of birth defects, Pfeifer said.

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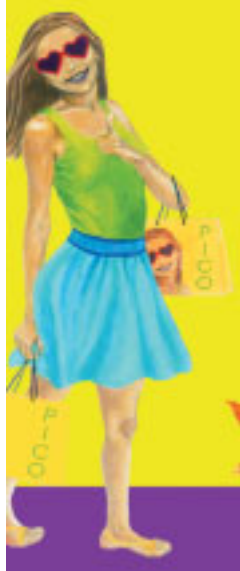
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The Re-View

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Sweet meets West



Photo by John Blanchette

FLAVOR IN YOUR FACE: **Lacquered barbecue ribs in a chili-caramel-sesame marinade show off the chef's penchant for sweet at Rock Sugar Pan Asian Kitchen in Century City.**

THERE ARE NOW SO MANY WONDERFUL restaurants in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Malibu that I rarely go east of the 405 Freeway for lunch or dinner.

But when something special calls, I respond. I kept hearing Rock Sugar as being something special, and when I heard the chef was from Singapore I responded and went for lunch. I used to work in Century City, so I had been there before, but I realized I had not tried that many dishes, so it was a new experience for me.

I've been to Singapore, and I love the multi-story buildings with dozens of food court stalls on each floor, each with its own family specialty. And since so many of the specialties in Singapore are seafood, that's what I expected at Rock Sugar. But I was wrong. The menu is more diversified than I expected.

The concept was developed by David Overton, who also developed the Cheesecake Factory. And his love of Asian culture is evident in this restaurant.

I'm a big fan of a little snack while waiting to order, and the snack at Rock Sugar was particularly good: Indonesian crackers with a spicy tomato sauce on the side.

Naturally I had to have a beer with that. And the chef then came over to ask if there was anything I didn't eat, and of course I said "no." But I should have told him that there's a limit to how much I can eat. He agreed to send over his specialties.

Within three minutes out came chicken samosas with mild curry spices, in perfect fried wraps with lots of chicken flavor inside and a smooth cilantro yogurt sauce on the side.

Next was the beef satay made from short ribs; a soft, marinated brochette of beef very rare, with two difference sauces — one a pickled pineapple sauce and one based with peanuts. Now one aspect of the chef's ideas was becoming clear; he likes to serve a different sauce with each of his creations.

Another of the chef's thinking became more clear with the next arrival — lacquered barbecue ribs in a chili-caramel-sesame marinade. The chef likes meat more than seafood! And here no sauce on the side was needed because the ribs were well marinated in a chili-caramel glaze. And now I know even more about the chef: he likes strong flavors. These pork ribs were very sweet with crispy edges and a soft, meaty interior.

And now another beef dish arrived — rendang. This dish is also made from short ribs of beef, and was served with curry rice cakes. At the same time we were served ginger fried rice with a fried egg on top, full of ginger flavor.

Finally a seafood dish arrived, and it was spectacular; caramel shrimp with onion and green beans was delicious. Like every other dish, it was coated with a sweet sauce, so either the chef has a real sweet tooth, or he's living up to the name of the restaurant by using rock sugar in all the dishes.

This was a great tour of Asia. Some of those dishes are Thai, some Vietnamese, some Malaysian, some Indonesian, and some Indian. And chef Ismail has captured the essence of the spices of each area.

I rarely eat dessert, even when my wife and doctor are not around to watch, but I had heard so much about the banana cake that I felt compelled to try it. Oh the indignities I suffer to satisfy my editor! But this time it was worth it. The banana cake was covered with a layer of banana crème brulee, covered in turn with chocolate ice cream (made there) with candied nut crunch on top.

The ambiance at Rock Sugar is as spectacular as the food. There's a great patio, and inside you sit under 40-foot high ceilings surrounded by Asian art and carvings. There is soft music with no vocals. There are private dining rooms. Everything has the feel of spaciousness and exotic places.

And the prices are reasonable. The average dish is around $20, and the highest priced dish is the sea bass at $32.50. Portions are ample, and can well be shared.

The chef's tasting menu, similar to what I had, is $38, and probably enough for two. The service is outstanding.

If you go

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MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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Hollywood


Restaurant cell phone distractions still irritate

BY MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press



Google Images

ALBANY, N.Y. The digital divide is wider than ever between diners who talk, tweet and snap pictures mid-meal and those who wish they'd just shut up, shut down and be present.

Caught at the center of the discord are restaurant owners and chefs, who must walk the careful line of good customer service for both those who dine under the influence of smart phones, and those who won't. But as the devices have morphed into an unrelenting appendage for texting, photography and games, more restaurateurs are challenged to keep the peace.

Owners who once relied mostly on "no cell phones, please" signs, increasingly are experimenting with everything from penalties for using phones, discounts for not and outright bans on photography.

"There's no place to get away from the chatter," said Julie Liberty of Miami, who started the Facebook page "Ban Cell Phones From Restaurants" earlier this year. "Everything has a soundtrack, including when you go into the ladies room. That's just not right."

It's a touchy issue. Consider the crush of news coverage Eva Restaurant in Los Angeles generated when it began offering patrons a 5 percent discount if they leave their phone at the door. Online comments ranged from cheers of "YES!" to others who said their phones would have to be pried from their cold, dead hands.

The policy is working, though. Eva's Rom Toulon said about 40 percent of customers will leave their cell phones at the door.

"After a few cocktails and glasses of wine, it can be challenging to remember that you left the phone behind," he said.

The burst of headlines for Eva came after a Burlington, Vt., deli took on cyber-folk hero status for posting a sign informing customers that $3 will be added to their bill "if you fail to get off your phone while at the counter. It's rude." Disgusted diners are doing their part too with games like "phone stack," in which everyone places their phones in a stack in the middle of the table. The first person who reaches for their phone pays the bill for all.

These are more creative approaches to the no cell-phone signs now common in restaurants ranging from highbrow to quick-eats. The landmark Boston restaurant Locke-Ober asks diners — in language appropriate for a place with a dress code — to "kindly refrain from using cellular phones." In Albany, N.Y., the Hamilton Street Cafe has a more direct, hand-drawn "No cell phones at the counter" sign with a phone with a red "X" through it.

Owner Sue Dayton said the sign by the counter helps keep the lunch line moving.

"You get a half-hour for lunch. You walk up here and you have to stand behind someone not paying attention enough to say what kind of bread they want on their BLT because they're on their cell phone," Dayton said.

Irritation over distracted dining has broadened with the rise of photo-sharing apps like Instagram. The popular online scrapbook Pinterest is clogged with pictures of everything from pan fried noodles to poutine snapped moments before digestion. Chefs — who, as a rule, put a premium on control — don't always take kindly to their dining rooms becoming shooting galleries.

Grant Achatz, the famous Chicago-based molecular gastronomist, wrote a much-forwarded post several years ago grousing about diners who snap the meal away and even try to video his staff without asking permission. "I can't imagine how celebrities feel," he wrote. "No wonder they punch the paparazzi out when they get the chance."

Some restaurateurs go with the digital flow. Sarabeth Levine, of New York City-based Sarabeth's, said she's perfectly fine with people chatting, playing games or even taking pictures. It's free advertising, after all.

"I'm happy to have our customers," Levine said. "They come, they tweet, they Facebook, they bring their children. It's high energy to begin with. I mean, people are noisy even in the way they speak today."

Other restaurants go as far as to bar picture taking, like David Chang's Ko in Manhattan. Others take a middle ground, like the high-end Washington, D.C., restaurant Rogue 24, where hostesses politely tell guests that if they do take pictures, please do so without a distracting flash.

"I mean you can't fight it," said owner R. J. Cooper. "Why fight a losing battle?"

Actually, the battle might already be lost.

The use of hand-held devices at the table is implicitly encouraged at the growing number of restaurants that offer Wi-Fi access or accept payment via smartphone. The Manhattan restaurant Comodo even encourages guests to upload pictures of their dishes to Instagram with the hashtag #comodomenu to create a user-generated "Instagram menu." Sharing trends are likely to accelerate as the generation who has no memory of a world before cell phones comes of age.

Already, about one in five U.S. adults say they share online when eating a meal with others, and more than a third of teens do the same, according to the 2012 State of Mobile Etiquette Survey for Intel Corp.

The same survey found 81 percent of U.S. adults believe mobile manners are getting worse, up 6 percentage points from last year. A Zagat survey this month found most respondents disapproving of texting, tweeting and emailing when eating out, but a majority accepted picture taking.

"I think it's about having more time under our belt with what the new normal is," said etiquette expert Anna Post, the great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post.

While the technology is new, the rules of etiquette are old-fashioned common sense. Silence your phone in restaurants and don't answer unless there's a very good reason, like a sick kid back home. And if you do answer, excuse yourself from the table. Try to keep your phone off the table, it signals to your companions that you waiting for something better.

As for taking pictures, Post said consider the sort of place you're in — busy pub or cloistered bistro? — and who you're with.





FUND

FROM PAGE 1

of PTA contributions go into a central pot and distributed based on a point system that judges the relative need of each school.

That money is used to fund programs that improve the achievement of all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap by smoothing out the economic disparities between schools, according to board policy.

At a presentation to the Board of Education Thursday night, however, the numbers fell short, with only $340,311 available to distribute amongst the schools compared to $379,764 the year before.

That's the lowest level since the 2007-08 school year, although an unusually high contribution from the Educational Services Department in the 2009-10 school year may have skewed the numbers somewhat.

A table presented by Terry Deloria, the new assistant superintendent for Educational Services, showed a marked drop off in contributions from certain district schools, including Webster Elementary in Malibu, which contributed almost $30,000 less in 2011-12 than it had in the previous year.

Lincoln Middle School's PTA contribution also dropped significantly from $16,454 to $3,174 over the same timespan.

Other schools, like Franklin Elementary School PTA, pitched in much more, up almost $19,000 from the year before.

The fluctuations raised red flags from school board members, who worried that some PTAs were dodging their required contributions.

"This is a board policy and we need to put teeth in this policy to enforce it," said Boardmember Nimish Patel. "We have to find other ways of encouraging them to make timely payments, and if they don't, put other payments that accrue on top of it."

That's easier said than done.

PTAs are private organizations, and the district has no right to police them or audit their books.

The only control the board has over PTA contributions is to refuse to accept their money, said Superintendent Sandra Lyon.

In effect, that would deny local schools field trips, supplies and — until a new districtwide fundraising policy kicks in next school year — salaries for reading specialists and other contract workers paid for with PTA funds.

When the Equity Fund was created in 2004, school board members wrestled with the same issue, said Boardmember Jose Escarce.

"We designed it to be an honor system," he said. "We anticipated that all schools will do what they should do."

A glance at the chart shows that has worked better with some schools than others.

However, those Equity Fund dollars help pay for things like Young Collegians and Connect For Success, two programs that target either underachieving students or first-generation college goers.

"These are exactly the type of programs we had in mind when we developed the Equity Fund," said Boardmember Oscar de la Torre.

Without that additional funding, those programs could suffer, he said.

The Equity Fund is trumpeted by supporters as a first step toward leveling the playing field in the school district, one that paved the way toward the new controversial districtwide fundraising policy which prohibits parents from paying for staff salaries.

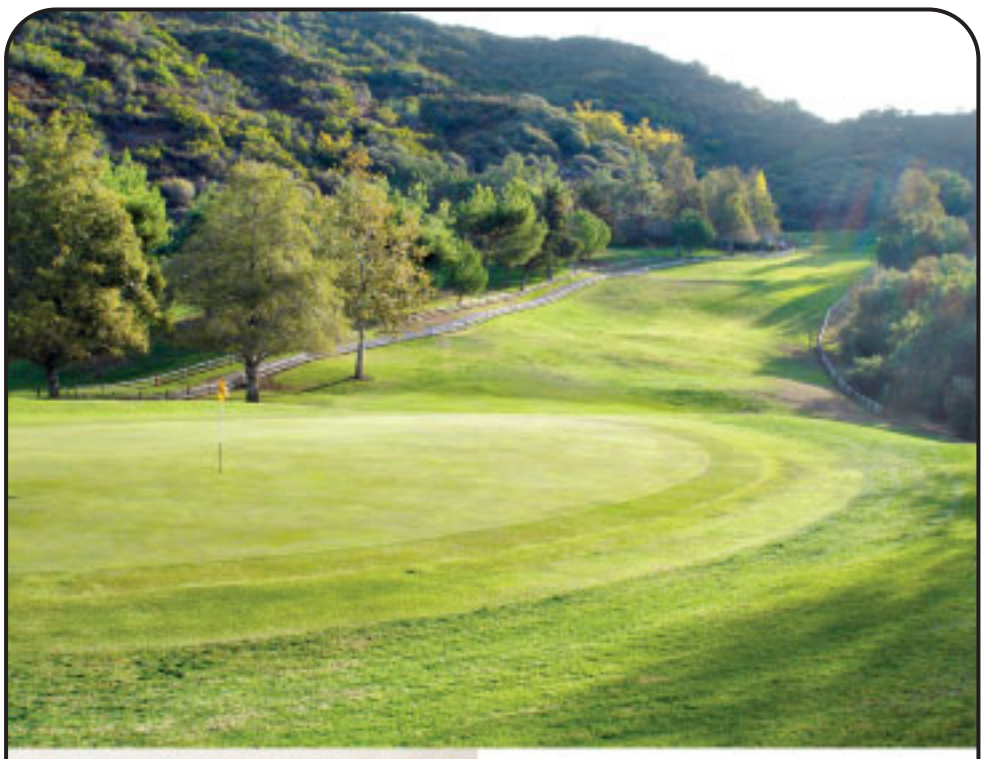
Instead, parents can only buy "stuff," which includes technology and field trips. Parents will also be encouraged to give to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, which will pay for "premium programs" for the entire district.

The move was not universally popular, and neither was the Equity Fund, which many referred to as the "equity tax" during the hearings on districtwide fundraising.

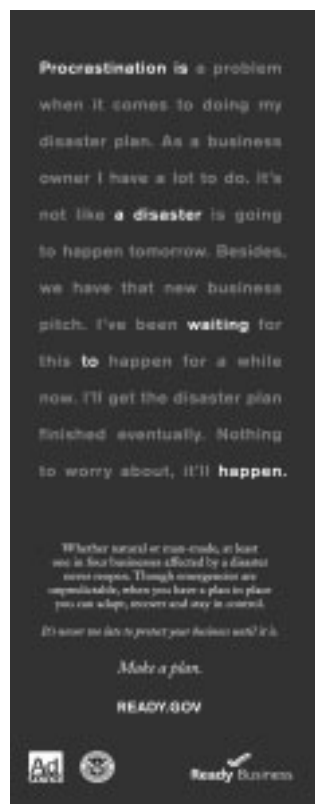
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LIGHTS
FROM PAGE 3

with the caveat that they be up no more than 61 nights of the year.

Lights could be on until 10:30 p.m. for 16 of those, and the remainder they could only be on until 7:30 p.m. Furthermore, the lights would have to go up on Sept. 1 and come down by May 31 of the next year in order to lessen the visual impact on neighbors.

After that approval, a coalition of two community groups — the Malibu Township Council and the Malibu Community Preservation Alliance — filed suit.

They held that the City Council had done an end run around public process by cutting out the Planning Commission, and that they'd violated environmental laws by approving the lights without further environmental review.

The lawsuit put a damper on plans to get the lights up in time for the 2012 football season, although Malibu parents supportive of the lights continued to raise money and work with the district to get the lights installed.

This week, the plaintiffs sought a temporary restraining order that would have stopped work on installing the light poles. As of this week, workers were already pouring foundations for the lights, said Jan Maez, chief financial officer with the district.

Instead, the judge allowed limited use of the lights, satisfying both sides of the argument.

The alliance, district and City Hall still have to iron out a few issues, including making sure the poles that support the lights can be removed, the number of months that they're up and the number of nights that the lights will be in use, Winikoff said.

The pro-lights contingent is open to discussion, but expects the alliance to be back in court on Nov. 8, Jacobson said.

"Between now and then, we stand ready to find a permanent solution to this issue that is in the best interests of the entire Malibu community," he said.

For now, however, parents and district officials alike are celebrating the fact that this year, homecoming will be well-lit.

"I'm elated, and looking forward to watching the Sharks win under the lights next Friday!" said school board President Ben Allen.

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GOP pounces after news of CIA cable on Libya raid

BY KIMBERLY DOZIER & MATT APUZZO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Sensing a moment of political vulnerability on national security, Republicans pounced Friday on disclosures that President Barack Obama's administration could have known early on that militants, not angry protesters, launched the attack on U.S. diplomats in Libya.

Within 24 hours of the deadly attack, the CIA station chief in Libya reported to Washington that there were eyewitness reports that the attack was carried out by militants, officials told The Associated Press. But for days, the Obama administration blamed it on an out-of-control demonstration over an American-made video ridiculing Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Paul Ryan, the Republican vice presidential nominee, led Friday's charge.

"Look around the world, turn on your TV," Ryan said. "And what we see in front of us is the absolute unraveling of the Obama administration's foreign policy."

As a security matter, how the Obama administration immediately described the attack has little effect on broader counterterrorism strategies or on the hunt for those responsible for the incident, in which the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans were killed. And Republicans have offered no explanation for why the president would want to conceal the nature of the attack.

But the issue has given Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney an opportunity to question Obama on foreign policy and national security, two areas that have received little attention in an election dominated by the U.S. economy. Obama's signature national security accomplishment is the military's killing of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

Obama, speaking Thursday on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," insisted that information was shared with the American people as it came in. The attack is under investigation, Obama said, and "the picture eventually gets filled in."

"What happens, during the course of a presidency, is that the government is a big operation and any given time something screws up," Obama said. "And you make sure that you find out what's broken and you fix it."

The report from the station chief was written late Wednesday, Sept. 12, and reached intelligence agencies in Washington the next day, intelligence officials said. It is not clear how widely the information from the CIA station chief was circulated.

U.S. intelligence officials have said the information was just one of many widely conflicting accounts, which became clearer by the following week.

But former CIA station chief Fred Rustmann Jr. says the White House would have been aware of it.

"When things go down like that, there is no analysis in between," said Rustmann, who has separately accused the Obama administration of sharing too many details about the raid that killed bin Laden.

Only afterward would those initial reports be compiled and cross-checked by analysts with other information, he said.

Democrats have spent the past week explaining the administration's handling of the attack. On Monday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said a period of uncertainty typically follows attacks.

"In the wake of an attack like this, in the fog of war, there's always going to be confusion," Clinton said. "And I think it is absolutely fair to say that everyone had the same intelligence. Everyone who spoke tried to give the information that they had."

On Tuesday, Obama and Romney argued over when the president first called it a terrorist attack. In his Rose Garden address the morning after the killings, Obama said, "No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for."

But Republicans said he was speaking generally and didn't specifically call the Benghazi event a terror attack until weeks later. Until then, key members of the administration were blaming an anti-Muslim movie circulating on the Internet as a precipitating event.

Congress is asking the administration for documents about the attack, in hopes of building a timeline of what the government knew and when.

"The early sense from the intelligence community differs from what we are hearing now," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said. "It ended up being pretty far afield, so we want to figure out why."

Polls have consistently showed voters trust Obama over Romney to handle terrorism. If Obama was worried that Monday's debate would change that, he showed no signs of it Thursday night.

Speaking at a charity dinner, he offered this preview of the debate: "Spoiler alert: We got bin Laden."

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Dow down 205 as weak earnings drag market lower

BY MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Poor corporate earnings reports pounded the stock market Friday in a sour end to an otherwise strong week of trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 200 points for its worst day in four months.

Disappointing results from three giants of the Dow — Microsoft, General Electric and McDonald's — were partly to blame. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fared even worse, as widespread worries about companies' ability to keep churning out better profits drove the broader market down.

Through Thursday, with 115 companies in the S&P 500 reporting, earnings have dropped 3.7 percent compared with a year earlier, according to Thomson Reuters, a financial data provider, and ING, a financial company.

"And once you get one quarter of negative earnings, it's a precursor," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING Investment Management in New York. "It's the cockroach theory: If you find one, there's probably many more."

Heading into this earnings season, financial analysts had estimated that corporate profits for July through September would fall compared with the same period a year ago. That would be the first such decline in three years.

The Dow sank 205.43 points, or 1.5 percent, to close Friday at 13,343.51.

The S&P lost 24.15, or 1.7 percent, to 1,433.19. The Nasdaq composite index, hammered by a second ugly day for Google, lost 67.25 points to 3,005.62, a 2.2 percent decline.

The big drops Friday left the Dow and S&P clinging to gains for the week.

All 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 fell, led by technology and materials stocks.

Google continued its slump, losing $13.21 to $681.79, a day after its earnings report was accidently hours ahead of schedule. The report raised questions for Google and other Internet companies about ads that target mobile devices.

It's been a tough week for technology companies. IBM pointed to Europe's troubles and slowing business spending when it posted weaker revenue than analysts expected. Intel, the world's largest maker of computer chips, blamed the global economy and sliding computer sales for pushing net income down.

The bad news kept piling up Friday. Sagging PC sales and trouble in Europe took a toll on Microsoft's net income. Its stock lost 86 cents, or 3 percent, to $28.64. Marvell Technology Group and Advanced Micro Devices, which also make chips, sank sharply.

McDonald's profit shrank as a strong dollar hurt international results, which account for two-thirds of its business. The fast-food giant's stock lost $4.14, more than 4 percent, to $88.72.

General Electric, a bellwether of the economy, fell 3 percent. The company reported stronger profits early Friday, but its revenue missed Wall Street's expectations.

Orders for new equipment and services sank, mainly because wind turbine orders have fallen because a key U.S. federal subsidy for wind power expires at the end of the year. GE's stock lost 78 cents to $22.03.

As corporate earnings roll in, banks and so-called consumer discretionary companies, which include luxury stores and hotels, are projected to report the best growth.

Analysts expect companies dealing in metals and other materials to report the worst results, followed by energy companies. But it's technology companies like IBM, Intel and Google whose results have grabbed the most attention.

The losses left the Dow up just 0.1 percent for the week. The S&P was up 0.3 percent, and the Nasdaq was down 1.3 percent.

As investors sold stocks, they bought U.S. government bonds, driving prices up and yields down. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note slipped to 1.77 percent from 1.83 percent late Thursday.

The disappointing earnings and a report showing a drop in home sales last month also pushed energy prices lower. The price of oil fell 2.2 percent on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Benchmark crude lost $2.05 to end at $90.05 per barrel.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Chipotle Mexican Grill plunged 15 percent after the burrito chain forecast that revenue growth would slow sharply next year. The stock had been a favorite among investors thanks to super-fast growth in recent years. The stock fell $42.93 to $243.

— Capital One Financial surged 6 percent, making it the top performer in the S&P 500. Capital One's quarterly results, reported late Thursday, easily trumped analysts' estimates as profits jumped 47 percent. The lender's purchase of both the online bank ING Direct and HSBC's U.S. credit-card division helped propel loan revenue. Capital One's stock gained $3.45 to $60.75.

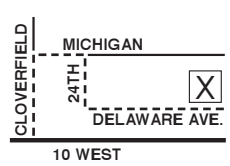
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When You Hear About a Personal Injury or a Personal Injury Lawsuit, What Does It All Mean?

A personal injury is a type of harm that an individual suffers as a result of someone else's wrongful act or omission (failure to act when they should have). The types of injuries suffered vary depending on the circumstances and can include, among others, broken bones, lost sight, severed limbs, and death. Also, the wrongful injury causing event could be something caused without fault or intentionally. An example of an unintentional harm is when somebody accidentally rear ends the car in front of them because they simply were not paying attention. This is commonly referred to as negligence. Negligence, in a nutshell, means that a person either did something or did not do something, which resulted in someone else getting hurt. The actual legal requirements are a little more complex, but this simplified explanation will work for now.

Regarding personal injuries caused by the intentional or reckless acts of others, intentional acts include rape, assault, battery, and other types of physical and emotional abuse. Examples of reckless conduct that can cause harm to innocent people are drunk driving, discharging a firearm in public or detonating explosives in public places.

Whether we are talking about personal injuries caused by negligent, intentional or reckless acts, the law generally provides that victims of such conduct who suffer harm are entitled to compensation. And in some instances, victims are also eligible to receive punitive or exemplary damages to ensure that the person or business that caused the harm in the first place does not repeat its bad conduct. More about punitive damages in a minute. For now, let us talk about injury compensation.

What can the law do for you if you have suffered personal injuries caused by someone else? In a perfect world, the need to bring a lawsuit to receive compensation for your injuries would not be necessary because the person who caused the harm would apologize and then endeavor to pay for the damage they caused. The current Court system requires, and actually prefers, that those responsible for harming someone else accept responsibility and pay to the victim reasonable compensation. Reasonable compensation includes such things as lost wages, lost future wages if the hurt person can no longer do their job, the payment of past and future medical bills, and the costs of future and ongoing care if the person can no longer care for themselves. There are additional items that constitute reasonable compensation but the list can be infinite because each person and each harm is unique.

Regarding punitive damages, the imposition of punitive damages is designed to prevent more people from getting hurt. The prevention aspect of punitive damages is to create a "sting" to the defendant. A proper "sting" is only effective if the defendant feels it financially. Stated differently, generally, punitive damages are determined on an ability to pay basis. So do not be surprised when you hear or read about a jury that made a big punitive damage finding because it likely means that someone got hurt real bad or died, the defendant did something really bad, and the defendant has the financial wherewithal to pay the damages.

As a public service announcement, be leery of the argument and those promoting it that customers pay when there are big punitive damages awards. This is not really accurate because safe business practices actually save money in the short and long terms. And do not forget, we live in a civilized society and quick profits should never trump personal safety and well-being. Pass it on.

Why personal injury or victim compensation lawsuits? A lawsuit is necessary because sometimes those responsible for causing harm do not take responsibility for the harm. The Court case is designed to address issues of fairness. If the bad person caused the harm, the jury is empowered by law to tell that bad person to fix it. The concept is simple and injury victims should not be frowned upon because they were forced to file a lawsuit in the first place. After all, they did not ask to get hurt.

One more thing, if you have been hurt be someone else, or you know of someone who has been hurt by someone else, make sure medical attention is the first thing on everyone's mind. Take care of the injuries first. Worry about lawyers and lawsuits as a last resort and trust that the person or business that caused the harm will fix it. If not, then call a lawyer. To ensure that you receive what the law provides for your situation and injuries, be sure to seek the assistance of a lawyer.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY LEGAL GRIND'S PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS. THEY CAN BE REACHED AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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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 Sandeep Agarwal.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 68.5°

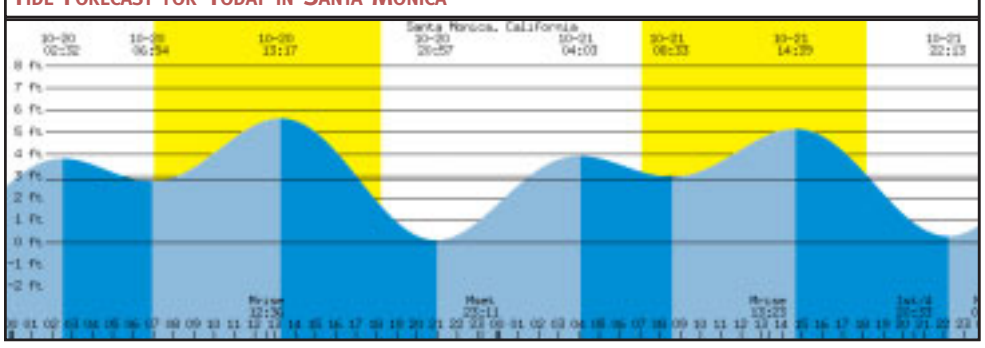
Swell Forecast

Looking smaller, about knee to waist most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see waist to chest high waves at west facing breaks, knee+ at south facing spots.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 3
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria or 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.	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.	B	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
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A+	A
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.	B	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Woods, Barkley eye records when USC hosts Colorado

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Robert Woods and Matt Barkley are closing in on two remarkable records at Southern California.

Even with the way Colorado's defense has played lately, the No. 11 Trojans say they aren't planning their celebration just yet.

With its national title dreams still somewhat realistic, USC (5-1, 3-1 Pac-12) finally returns to the Coliseum on Saturday for just its second home game in seven weeks. The Trojans are a 40-point favorite against the Buffaloes (1-5, 1-2), who have yielded more than 45 points per game since their season opener.

"We're trying to treat it like they're another top team," Woods said.

Even with ample evidence to the contrary — and even with history in reach.

With 96 career touchdown passes heading into his 43rd career start, Barkley needs four TDs to pass Matt Leinart for the USC and conference career marks. A big chunk of those throws have gone to Woods, whose pending achievement is even more spectacular: He needs just five catches to surpass Dwayne Jarrett's 216, making him USC's career leader midway through his junior season.

"Growing up watching all the USC receivers — Jarrett, Steve Smith, Mike Williams, all those great guys — it's special to be a part of that," Woods said. "It's a blessing that I could do it in just 2 1/2 (seasons). I hope I can do it on Saturday at home."

With 36 catches for 360 yards and five touchdowns this year, Woods' performances haven't been as eye-popping they were in his All-American sophomore season, albeit for a variety of reasons. Opposing defenses have been daring the Trojans to run the ball since their season opener, blatantly sitting back in unbalanced pass defenses to limit Woods and Marqise Lee, who still has 54 catches of his own for 681 yards and seven scores.

"It is different than last year, but I have a different role," Woods said. "Marqise emerged as a top receiver. We've got a great running game. I have to do different things to make us successful ... and I care about winning games most of all."

Barkley and Woods are hoping coach Lane Kiffin will allow them to unleash the passing game that tormented defenses down the stretch last season. Kiffin has been content to grind out wins with USC's running game and a sturdy defense — and though Barkley's Heisman Trophy candidacy is on life support, his chances of playing in a January bowl for the first time are still healthy.

"I'm certainly having a good time," Barkley said. "From now, our goal is to win out for the rest of the season."

It all starts Saturday at the sold-out Coliseum, where football-starved USC fans begin a delicious stretch of four games in six weeks, including a showdown with Oregon in two weeks and culminating in Notre Dame's post-Thanksgiving visit. Yet the Trojans aren't looking past the Buffaloes, who are trying to relish the long odds they're facing in their first Coliseum visit since 2000.

"I want to play the best, and they have the best guys, some of the best guys in the nation," Colorado safety Parker Orms said. "Matt Barkley, the receivers, even their running back, their whole team are NFL guys, and I just want to see how I can match up against them. I know our guys aren't afraid."

Orms was disappointed when the Buffaloes didn't face Stanford's Andrew Luck in their first season in the Pac-12. Barkley's numbers haven't been prolific this season, but he burnished his reputation during USC's visit to Boulder last season, throwing a school-record six touchdown passes in a 42-17 victory that kept USC perfect in its six meetings with the Buffs.

Colorado coach Jon Embree realizes the hazards of taking on USC's passing game after what it did to the Buffaloes last season, and he's not professing any secret knowledge about how to shut down Barkley, Woods and Lee.

"Well, to keep them in check, don't let them play," Embree said. "You're not going to keep them in check."

USC's defense also hopes to build on its strong season, culminating in an impressive effort at Washington last weekend. The Trojans have given up just 111 points all season, while the Colorado defense gave up 51 last week alone.

With a full week at home after back-to-back road trips and a bye, the Trojans are hopeful they've moved back into their groove.

"Just because we're a 40-point favorite doesn't mean we have a week off," USC safety T.J. McDonald said. "We're creating good habits and making sure we still pay attention."

Embree realizes the California recruits attending Saturday's game might not be terribly enticed by the Buffaloes if they're getting pounded by USC. But even if a blowout ensues, the Colorado coach is looking for players who understand it won't always be this way.

"They need to understand that we are not instant oatmeal," Embree said. "We are not just adding water and going. So if that's what they're looking for, then this is not the place for them. If they want to be a part of something special and help build something, those are the things we talk about."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Oct. 20
Psycho (R) 1hr 49min
Dressed to Kill (X) 1hr 45min
7:30pm

Sunday, Oct. 21

Less Than Zero (R) 1hr 38min
7:30pm

Andrew McCarthy will sign copies of his new memoir "The Longest Way Home: One Man's Quest for the Courage to Settle Down" at 6:30pm in the Aero lobby. Discussion following the film with McCarthy.

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

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:45pm, 3:55pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

First Time (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

Least Among Saints (R) 1hr 45min
5:10pm

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

Hotel Transylvania 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
1:45pm, 7:00pm

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, 7:55pm, 10:50pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Paranormal Activity 4 (R) 1hr 35min
11:05am, 12:05pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:05pm, 5:10pm, 6:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm, 11:15pm

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

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

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

All Together (Et si on vivait tous ensemble?) (NR) 1hr 40min
11:00am

Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 1hr 25min
11:00am, 1:10pm, 3:25pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Mystical Law (NR) 2hrs
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

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

Frankenweenie in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

Frankenweenie (PG) 1hr 27min
11:20am, 4:25pm, 9:30pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Sinister (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Alex Cross (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
11:40am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

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

Entertain at home tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could be overserious and unpredictable. You might even stir the pot with a boss or someone in charge. Try to avoid a power play, at all costs. A take-charge attitude seems reasonable and could be most effective. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information, especially if you are not satisfied with what is coming up for you. You could be surprised by what comes in from out of left field. Tonight: Be entertained. Try a movie.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Deal with one other person directly, and you could be surprised by how you get exactly what you most want. Surprises tend to follow your path wherever you go. Friends seem to be an endless source of the unexpected. Tonight: Make nice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to others, and know full well what will happen. You could feel blocked in some sense. A key associate really does not want any input from you. Someone you look up to might be cantankerous and unpredictable. Tonight: Follow a friend's lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Clear out errands in order to free up your day. Afterward, play it low-key or get together with friends. At last, you will have the opportunity to choose what you want. Tonight: Once in a while, staying home feels right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You come up with one idea after another today, which creates a problem, as you simply cannot squeeze everything in. A heavy discussion or an intense interaction is unavoidable. No matter what, you cannot turn the other way. Tonight: You know how to have fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Stay anchored and direct. You might not have all the answers, but you do need to find them. There is a financial decision looming over you that has several potential outcomes. Do not question your self-discipline. Tonight: Entertain at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You will go out of your way to make an impression on a person or situation. You actually are more appealing than you might realize; you do not need to try so hard. Just be yourself, and allow an important discussion to take place. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Be sensitive to your own issues, as well as to a partner's. You can become quite insecure at times. How this behavior manifests could differ from person to person. Try not to get involved in a financial deal or agreement. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ The Moon highlights you and what you want. You could have a strong reaction to a child or loved one who demands a lot at this moment. You probably will go along with this person's request. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Be as discreet as possible when dealing with a relative or neighbor. You'll need to stay mum about what you know, whether it is the information this person wants or what he or she reveals. Rethink a judgment. Tonight: Not to be found.

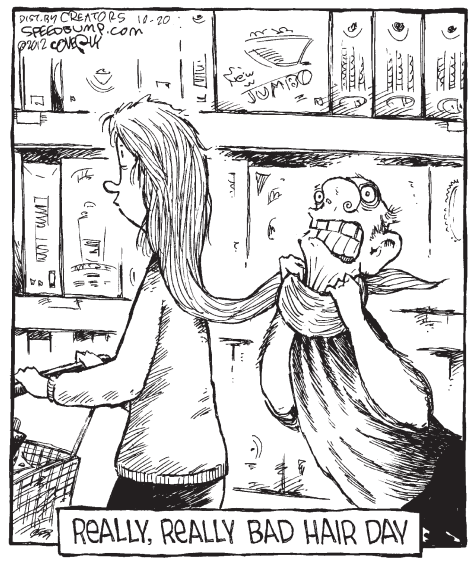
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and others will seem delighted to play along. You could be taken aback by a friend's unusually good mood. Enjoy the moment. This person could flip at any given moment, as he or she typically is difficult to deal with. Tonight: Where your pals are.

Happy birthday

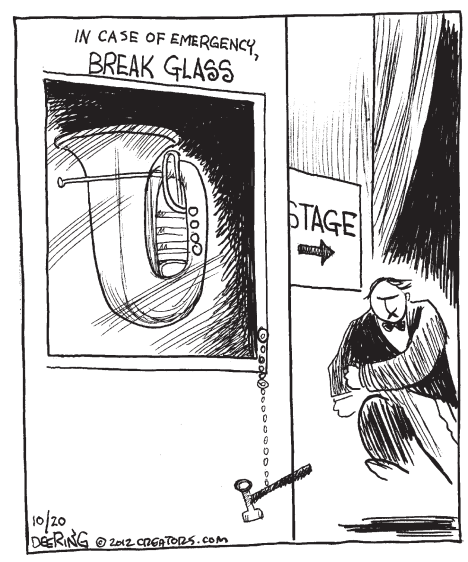
This year much of your focus is on the quality of your life. You might be overserious at times, especially in the first few months of this birthday year. Learn to let go more often. Some of you might decide to make some major changes to your home or personal life. If you are single, you will meet someone when you least expect it. If you are attached, as a couple you make it a priority to work on building security. You also might look to invest in a home or just make necessary renovations. CAPRICORN can be a stick in the mud.

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



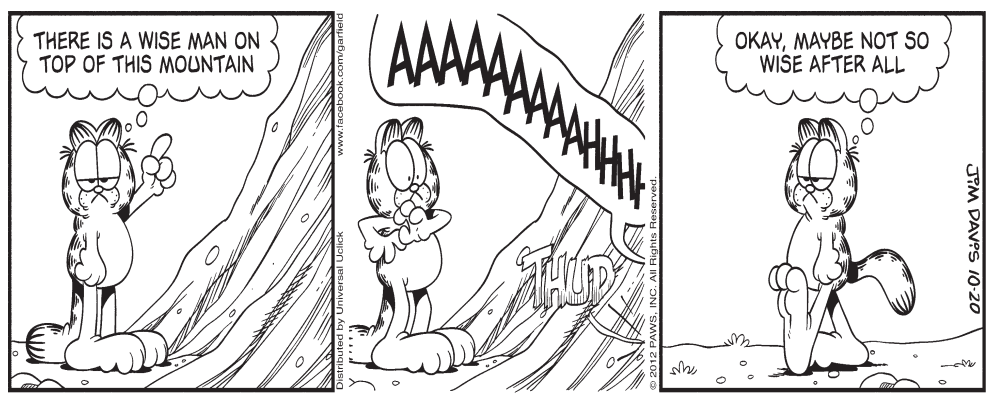
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

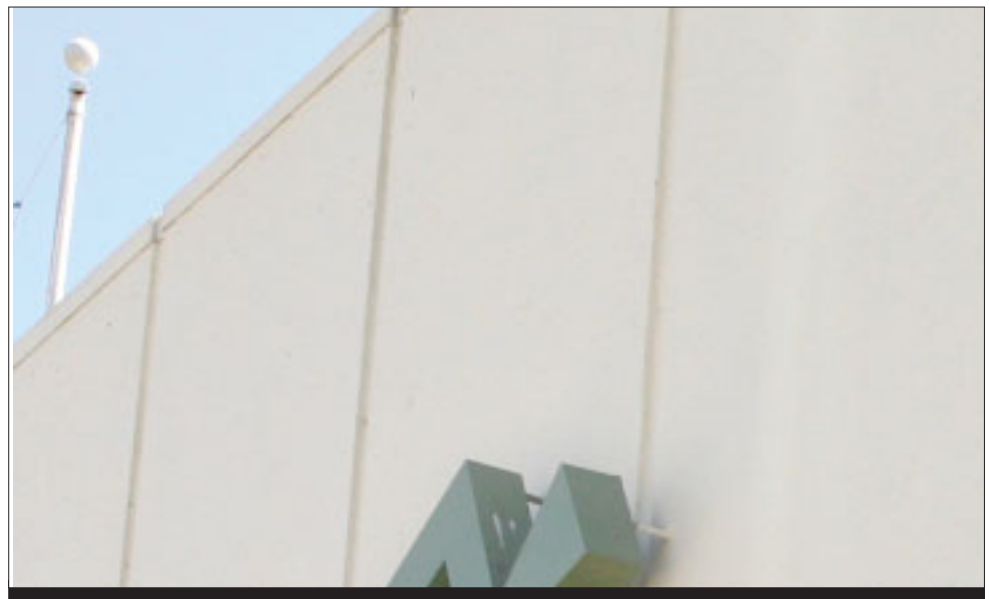
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Desires
7 Disparaging remark
11 Door-pounder's cry
12 Maintenance
13 "Halt!" caller
14 Major work
15 Use the gym
16 Après-ski spot
17 Pretzel topper
18 Weak excuse
19 Free from fat
21 Balloon fill
22 Gin joint
25 Supporting
26 Service period
27 Overacts
29 "Not another word!"
33 Georgia city
34 Twenty, in Torino
35 Sax sort
36 Spot for commuter cocktails
37 Pride member
38 Doubtful
39 Shucking units
40 Pulled in

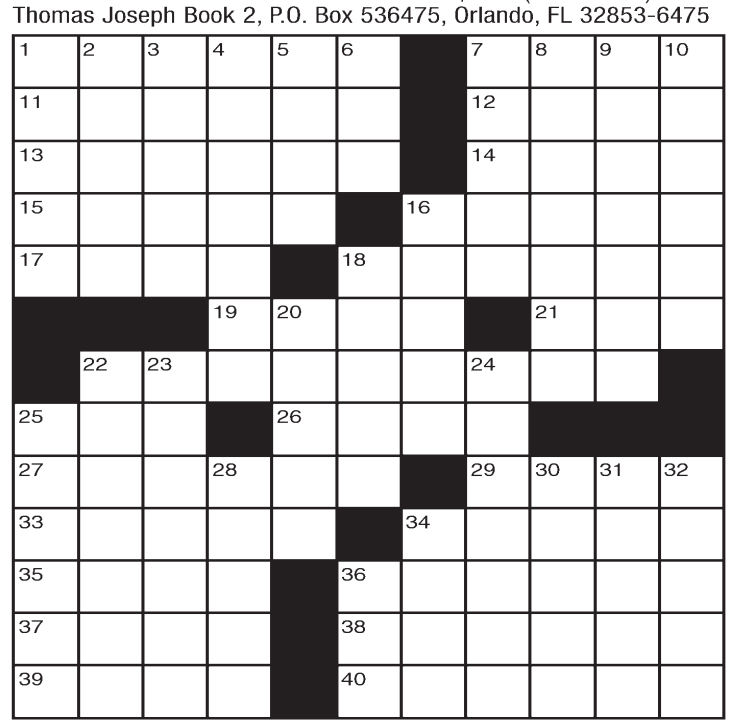
DOWN

1 Budget amounts
2 Met show
3 Mercenary
4 Qualify
5 Game round
6 Bond, for one
7 Cone fill
8 Poms and Pekes
9 Brazil neighbor
10 Fixes the clock
16 Solitary sort
18 Patisserie array
20 All gone
22 Kenya neighbor
23 Test monitor
24 Massachusetts school
25 Cow or sow
28 Bugs and his buddies
30 Free of censorship
31 Long look
32 Engaged
34 Wind indicator
36 Frank holder

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

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



10-20



Moving is the best medicine. Keeping active and losing weight are just two of the ways that you can fight osteoarthritis pain. In fact, for every pound you lose, that's four pounds less pressure on each knee. For information on managing pain, go to fightarthritispain.org.

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Yak herders in Tibet and farmers in the Indian Himalayas are becoming relatively prosperous, according to recent reports by National Geographic and London's The Guardian, by harvesting rare caterpillar fungi. In Tibet, "yartsa gunbu" supposedly cures ailments ranging from back pain to HIV, from hair loss to asthma and more, and often sells in local markets for twice its weight in gold. In India, "kira jari" is believed to be an aphrodisiac and energy booster, but the government is trying to control the market because insufficient new larvae means the land might soon be picked clean. (2) Swiss researcher Francis W.M.R. Schwarze announced in September that he will manufacture 30 violins out of wood treated with certain fungi that, in music-appreciation tests, made a lesser-grade violin sound like a Stradivarius.

■ Arrests were made in July of two men who had openly chatted on the Internet about torturing, cooking and eating children, but investigators have searched in vain for evidence of any such crimes by the men. Jason Scarcello, 42, who wrote, "(A)ctually (seeing) a child cooking would be a dream come true," is under arrest in Anderson, Calif., and Ronald Brown, 57, who suggested carving and cooking body parts for an "Easter meal," in Largo, Fla., was detained for possessing child pornography, but, regarding the Internet chats, both claimed a First Amendment right to their un-acted-upon imaginations, however disgusting.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1803 - The United States Senate ratifies the Louisiana Purchase.

1818 - 1827 – Battle of Navarino – a combined Turkish and Egyptian armada is defeated by British, French, and Russian naval force in the port of Navarino in Pylos, Greece.

WORD UP!

veloce
\ ve-LAW-che \ , adjective;
1. Played at a fast tempo.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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For Rent

Topanga studio, small wonderful. 1 room, 10x15, compact, view, secluded, $985.00. Photograph: goodman@ucla.edu. 310-455-1444 afternoons.

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