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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 303

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

GET YOUR KICKS
SEE PAGE 3

THE IT'S A WRAP ISSUE

42 fire department members made more than $200K last year

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Last fiscal year, 42 members of the Santa Monica Fire Department made more than $200,000, according to documents provided by city officials.

Overtime pay pushed many of the employees over $200,000, said City Manager Rod Gould.

He called the high number "an anomaly," based on the fact that the department had 12 vacancies for much of the year.

Paying firefighters overtime is 10 percent cheaper for City Hall than hiring new ones, Gould said.

The SMFD is now close to full-staffing, Gould said.

Some of the $200,000 includes overtime paid for by City Hall, but reimbursed through the private sector for events held in the city.

"If you're offering a big event in town and there's any chance that there could be a fire, or explosion, or medical emergencies, we have fire personnel standing by," Gould said. "It's reimbursed but it shows up as part of their salaries."

Fire Chief Scott Ferguson, who made $267,000 last year, said that Santa Monica is unique in that its many attractions draw lots of private events. SMFD staff were on-hand for GLOW and the Los Angeles Marathon as well as many film productions.

SEE PAY PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

HEADING HOME: Santa Monica High School students leave campus on Tuesday along eastbound Michigan Avenue.

Santa Monica High bike plan stirs debate

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI A segment of Michigan Avenue leading to Santa Monica High School could become a one-way street to make biking safer for students.

City officials last week showed updated high school-area bike route plans, the creation of which will be paid for by an $880,000 state Safe Routes To School grant and a $100,000 City Hall match.

Residents living adjacent to the school were concerned about potential traffic caused by the proposed one-way from Lincoln Boulevard to Seventh Street on Michigan. The removal of the second car lane would create space for dedicated bike lanes in both directions. As the tentative implementation date of summer of 2014 draws closer, the one-way on Michigan is emerging as a leading option. In the next

SEE BIKES PAGE 9

Longtime music teacher, Ann Markin Plepler, dies at 85

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Ann Mae Markin Plepler, longtime music teacher of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, died Oct. 22 at Saint John's Health Center during surgery following a heart attack. She was 85.

Plepler grew up in Worland, Wyo., the daughter of Anna Bosch and Charles George. She earned her bachelor's degree in music from Ottawa University in Kansas, where she specialized in piano and voice.

In 1953, Plepler married first husband John W. Markin and moved to Denver, where she spent several years hosting a local music education television show for children. The couple relocated to Santa Monica in 1956, and Plepler began her career as a "music specialist" for Santa Monica schools, family members said.

"She was very thorough and meticulous in preparation," said longtime supervisor Richard Wagnon. "A lot of teachers put together things by the seat of their pants, but she did not. She was always very much in demand, and endeared to all."

Added colleague and friend Bonnie Lockrem: "She was wonderful. She always had another trick up her sleeve."

After 44 years of teaching, Plepler was laid off by the district, but later recruited and paid by the Santa Monica-Malibu Parent

SEE OBIT PAGE 9

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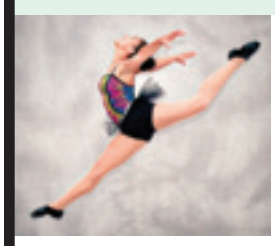
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013

Pumpkin madness
Third Street Promenade
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Grab all of the pumpkins you can carry at the Downtown Farmers' Market for just $5. Costumes are welcome, but not required. Each person is limited to just one trip. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Family Halloween flick
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Bring the kids to the library for a special Halloween screening of the 2012 animated film "ParaNorman." The flick follows a misunderstood boy as he takes on ghosts, zombies and adults to save his town from a centuries-old curse. Running time is 92 minutes.

High cost of higher education
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Come learn about the struggles faced by college students across the nation as they try to pay back their student loans. Ben Allen, Santa Monica-Malibu school board member, will moderate the discussion, which will be followed by a Q&A.

Haunted casino night
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel
1700 Ocean Ave., 7 p.m.
Support Meals on Wheels at this spooky gambling fundraiser. Enjoy casino games, auctions and appetizers while wearing your scariest costume.

Activists unite
Santa Monica Friends Meeting Hall
1440 Harvard St., 7 p.m.
Head down to the Activist Support Circle forum featuring guest speaker Frank Gruber. Author of "Urban Worrier: Making Politics Personal," Gruber is an entertainment lawyer and longtime neighborhood activist.

Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013

Trick-or-treat
Santa Monica Libraries
All day
Throw on your costume, head down to any Santa Monica library throughout the day and receive a special treat. For kids and teens only, while supplies last.

Dracula's lament
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Head down to the library before you go trick-or-treating to catch a special screening of "Hotel Transylvania." The 2012 animated film is about a young boy who falls in love with Dracula's daughter at a secret resort for ghosts and ghouls. Running time is 91 minutes.

Homework help
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
All students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to stop by for homework help. Trained volunteers will be on hand for math and reading tutoring.

Night of the drinking dead
Rusty's Surf Ranch
Santa Monica Pier, 6 p.m.
Head down to Rusty's Surf Ranch to register for Santa Monica's first annual Zombie Crawl. The Halloween-themed pub crawl will hit Downtown's hottest bars for all-night specials on drinks and brains. Registration is open through 9 p.m., and day-of tickets are $15. For more information and to purchase $10 advance tickets, visit zombiecrawlsm.eventbrite.com.

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

CITYWIDE

Celebrating Halloween responsibly

With Halloween rapidly approaching, the Westside Impact Project of Santa Monica is reminding all goblins and ghouls to celebrate responsibly.

Citing data obtained from Alcohol Monitoring Systems, the organization said via a release that national alcohol sales throughout this holiday season are second to only the Super Bowl.

"Santa Monica will have festivals, parties, costume parties – it's one of the best places to celebrate," City Council member Tony Vazquez said via the release. "There will also be many opportunities to drink alcohol. We ask all our citizens to be especially careful and responsible, particularly because there will be many children out celebrating as well."

The growth of Halloween as a "drinking holiday" has taken the focus away from children, for whom holiday festivities have traditionally been arranged, the organization stated.

"We want everyone to have fun for the holiday, including adults, but let's not forget that Halloween is about kids, who are out en masse in the streets," said Trisha Roth, Santa Monica resident and Chair of Substance Abuse for Chapter Two of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Our priority should be keeping our loved ones safe."

– GREG ASCIUTTO

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



File photo

WALKING THE WALK: Santa Monica safety officials are asking the public to celebrate responsibly this Halloween.

Cities hope signs lure tourists to Route 66

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY At least two cities in Oklahoma along the famed Route 66 are planning to turn to billboards and neon signs to lure visitors in.

Travel along the route, which runs from Chicago to Santa Monica, Calif., was popular first during the Dust Bowl era and later as a vacation destination for Americans. But traffic has slowed over the years as interstates became the more popular — and quicker — path to drive. This means some communities along Route 66 are bypassed by travelers.

Route 66 enthusiast Kathy Anderson has been working with the nonprofit Bethany Improvement Foundation to create the Billboard Museum, dedicated to commemorating vintage signs and billboards and the people who created them.

"There is a need, especially in Oklahoma, for a resting place for signs, whether it's neon, porcelain (or) any kind of outside advertising that is being threatened with destruction, either because there has been a business change or the sign itself, the owner just doesn't want the sign," said Anderson, who has worked on several Route 66 videos.

Arlita Harris, the foundation's secretary-treasurer, hopes the museum would draw more visitors to Bethany, located just west of Oklahoma City.

"There are a lot of people traveling Route 66, and I'm going to say 99 percent of them are international visitors," Harris said. "... We have just needed an attraction that makes sure people go through the Bethany part of Route 66 and not bypass the (Oklahoma City) metro area."

The museum is just an idea at the moment, though meetings are taking place all the time, Harris and Anderson said. Land — and lots of it — is what they are searching for now.

"A billboard museum cannot be small, so it won't fit on two acres," Anderson said.

The idea is to have a building to house some signs and billboards, as well as a driving loop to showcase vintage billboards. Anderson and members of the Billboard Museum committee also hope to locate a shopping complex called the Route 66 Retroplex near the museum.

"If we don't start putting them in museums or keeping them local — they're collectible — they're going to be taken down sold and taken out of state," said Jim Gleason, sales manager at Superior Neon Signs and a member of the Billboard Museum committee.

A little more than 100 miles to the northeast, Tulsa City Councilor Blake Ewing and members of a Route 66 Task Force have come up with their own ideas to draw route enthusiasts and other tourists to the area. One of the ideas is to promote neon signage along the famed highway in Tulsa.

"We want to relax the sign code on the Route 66 corridor to allow for the more historic neon signs like you would have seen the back in the day. I think, obviously, that's part of the attraction.

"Neon now has a nostalgic cool about it," Ewing said.

Ewing hopes the sign code would be updated within the year, along with a new city grant that would help businesses pay for the neon signs. The task force has proposed a Route 66 bus line using retro-style buses and a Route 66 Authority to oversee development and promotion of the corridor, among other recommendations.

"We've got 20-some odd miles of Route 66 running through our city and it's just been neglected for some time, but we really believe it's one of our city's core assets, and if we just invest in it, it will improve the attraction," he said.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's scary property tax season again

FOR MANY, THE REAL SCARE THIS TIME of years is not the monsters at our doors on Halloween, but the property tax bill in the mail box.

Fortunately, as a direct result of Proposition 13, which limits increases in a property's assessed value to 2 percent annually, most property owners have a good idea what their tax bill will be even before opening the envelope. Still, every year at this time, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association reminds taxpayers to carefully examine their latest property tax bill. Although not common, assessors do make mistakes.

Taxpayers should understand the various charges and make certain that they are not being dunned for more than they are legally obligated to pay. The best way to check a tax bill is to have your previous year's bill handy for reference.

Checking the bill is especially important for those who bought their homes a few years ago at the height of the market. If the current home value is actually lower than the assessed value shown on the tax bill, the owner is entitled to file for a reduction in taxes.

Typically, the property tax bill will show three categories of charges. They are the General Tax Levy, Voted Indebtedness, and Direct Assessments.

GENERAL TAX LEVY

The General Tax Levy is what most people think of when talking about property taxes. It is based on the assessed value of land, improvements and fixtures. This charge usually makes up the largest part of the tax bill and it is the amount that is limited by Proposition 13.

Proposition 13, passed overwhelmingly by voters in 1978, established a statewide uniform tax rate of 1 percent of assessed value at the time of purchase and limited annual increases in assessed value to no more than 2 percent. From a practical standpoint, this means that once the base year value of your property is established, the General Tax Levy cannot be increased more than 2 percent each year. This allows all property owners to predict their property tax bills into the future and budget accordingly.

The best way to check to make sure that your current General Levy of Assessment is correct is to compare it with the previous year's bill. The increase should be no more than 2 percent unless there have been improvements to the property like adding a room to a house or if you previously received a "reduction in value." This bears repeating: Because the real estate market in many parts of California is recovering, many homeowners who previously received a temporary reduction in "taxable value" from their assessment may now see an increase in their tax bill more than 2 percent from last year. But in no case will the taxable value be more than the initial Prop. 13 base year plus 2 percent annually from the date of purchase. Although that may seem unfair, keep in mind that while the reduction was only temporary, the savings you received when your property was worth less are permanent.

If in doubt about the current value of your property, check sales of comparable homes in your neighborhood. If homes like yours are selling for less than the valuation on your latest bill, contact your county assessor and ask that the value and resulting tax be adjusted to reflect true current value.

VOTED INDEBTEDNESS

Voted Indebtedness is made up of those bonds and per parcel taxes approved by the voters.

Local general obligation bonds for libraries, parks, police and fire facilities and other capital improvements are repaid exclusively by property owners. Because a minority of the population is required to pay the entire amount, the California Constitution of 1879 established the two-thirds vote for approval of these bonds. This assures a strong community consensus before obligating property owners to repay debt for 20 or 30 years.

Until the year 2000, local school bonds also required a two-thirds vote, but the passage of Proposition 39 lowered the vote to 55 percent. (Of course this did very little to improve schools as was promised). Because the 55 percent requirement guarantees that most school bonds will pass, regardless of merit, many homeowners are seeing a significant increase in the Voted Indebtedness column on their tax bills.

Less common than bonds are per parcel taxes — although this could change as a result of efforts by the Legislature to make parcel property taxes easier to pass. These are taxes on property ownership, not on property value. Under Proposition 13, they require a two-thirds vote and are also listed either under Voted Indebtedness if they are being imposed to repay bonds or under "Other Levies" if they are for operational expenses of a local government entity.

DIRECT ASSESSMENTS

Ironically, under the system in place for over a century, property taxes go into the general fund and are used for local services unrelated to property. For services to property, such as sidewalks and sewers, we pay extra. These charges are known as direct assessments.

Because of Proposition 218 — the Right to Vote on Taxes Act, placed on the ballot by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in 1996 — property owners must be given a meaningful say in approving new assessments. Before an assessment can be imposed, or increased, property owners must be informed in writing and be given the opportunity to cast a protest vote on the new assessment or assessment increase.

For more information regarding your property tax bill go to HJTA.org and click on "Frequently Asked Questions," then scroll down to "About Property Tax Assessments".

If you have a question about your property tax bill you should contact the office of your county assessor. It's your money and you have a right to be certain that your bill is correct.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grassroots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.



The Q Line

Coming attractions

The owners of Santa Monica Place are proposing to build a new theater at the mall. City and business leaders have for years said that Downtown needs an upgrade to its cinemas. Some say more than one should be developed.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you like to see new theaters Downtown and why?

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



TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I didn't have the heart to tell you

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE way to the stent club. I was refused membership. And didn't even get to choose the soundtrack.

Since my entire last column was about my impending procedure to get a stent placed in my heart where blockage built up, I guess I should set the record straight and let y'all know that, like so many things in life, it didn't go as planned.

Once in, my doctor decided there was too much muck for a little old stent to handle. I believe him. He had cameras in there, searchlights and mirrors and little men with rulers. We all would have preferred to stick that stent in, blow up the little balloon and get the hell out, happily ever after. But reality reared its ugly head. I knew when the whole thing was over in 15 minutes that it was not a good sign.

Last angiogram, last March, I chose the Merle Haggard playlist. This time I told them to let the doc choose. I wanted him to be happy. We didn't discuss it, but apparently he picked the classic rock, a nice mix with no bad choices that I dug. One song brought a smile to my lips: "Highway to Hell" is a great song but inappropriately funny when you're laying there with someone pushing catheters around in your heart.

So now the solution is real deal, cut 'em open surgery. Double bypass. No chance now that the last thing I hear would be the sound of my little stent collapsing. No sir, I'm getting brand new plumbing, guaranteed for … life?

You have to have some gallows humor. A few people have called me brave, and I usually just say thanks, but sometimes I add, "Brave schmave," what choice do I have?

I can be limited to walking (not too fast, not up hills) for the rest of my abbreviated life, or I can spend a lot more years wrestling alligators, leading Marine boot camps, swimming to Cuba and playing some one-on-one hoops with my buddies. Perfect timing: I have a chance this year to be better than the Lakers.

Bypass surgery is no longer a big deal. My neighbor told me his friend in France was reassured by his surgeon that the procedure was "banal." (It's a French word, so he should know.) My surgeon said there is a 95-98 percent success rate. I'll take those odds in Vegas any day. I've heard from friends about all the people they know who have gone through it, and really did get back to basketball afterwards. That's all I want. If I can do that, I can do whatever I want, which usually falls short of alligators, Cuba and such.

But I still wish they had let me into the stent club. You're awake but sufficiently drugged for that procedure, you walk away a few hours later and that's it. You could be on a court within a week. Bypass should leave the heart in great shape, but it's the healing of the sternum they have to break to get in there that's the devil.

Ouch, yeah, everybody cringes at that visual. But imagine how I feel, it's my sternum. (Then there's my resultant long chest scar, good for next Halloween.) The restrictions on movement for six to 10 weeks are really tough. No driving, of course, and it's not like I can hop on my bike or take a 2-mile walk either. No reaching, twisting, raising my arms, hearty belches or bodacious farts, and lifting anything heavier than a milk container.

Good thing I recorded that "Twilight Zone" marathon recently. (But I won't get Netflix, mostly because I believe in supporting Vidiots, our local amazing video store that has managed to hang on because of their outstanding selection and hip and savvy film ethos.) I've begun picking out all those books I acquired but haven't read yet, and friends have been offering more. And I suppose all excuses for not writing the great American novel are now null, not to mention void.

I wanted to cruise through this convalescence, but it looks like I'll be swamped. Hold my calls. Nov. 7 is the date. And that's quite enough about hearts. I need some good old rock 'n' roll to take my mind off of it. Maybe "Magic Man"…

WELCOME TO SANTA MONICA!

I hate to admit it, but my wife does have a good idea occasionally. Definitely had one 28 years ago Saturday, marrying me. But now she's got another one, and since I agree, I'm going to pass it along.

Who's in charge of grounds keeping for the area you see as you take the 10 Freeway exit to Lincoln, and to a lesser degree to Fourth/Fifth Street? Is it the city of Santa Monica, state, or that big, bad federal government?

Somebody's been blowing it for as long as I've lived here. And somebody in Santa Monica government should see if they can get something done, no matter whose territory it is.

For most visitors to our fair town, they're going to take one of those two exits to reach our beaches, pier, Downtown, museums, libraries, parks, Farmers' Markets and cultural events.

Welcome to Santa Monica! How do you like your very first impression? Take a look to your left. Sorry about the trash and ugliness that seems to have collected against the fences forever, the lack of landscaping, the obvious neglect. Oh, I guess we're not sorry, we're clearly OK with leaving it that way for decades.

If you are interested in Santa Monica's many pressing issues, a good place to see it discussed is the Santa Monica Government, Politics, Policies and People Facebook page. You'll find current and past (and future) politicos weighing in on vital issues, as well as thoughtful essays.

But if you really want the best and the latest, go to our own Viewpoints webcast, available at the SMDP website where you can see these same concerned citizens and policy makers and others discuss medical marijuana dispensaries in Santa Monica, traffic, height and density issues, and the Bergamot area development plan. Coming up, discussions about our schools, and whatever else is current and pressing.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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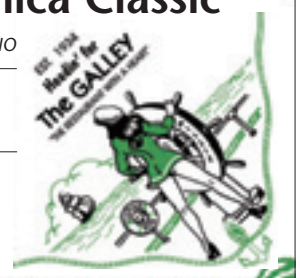
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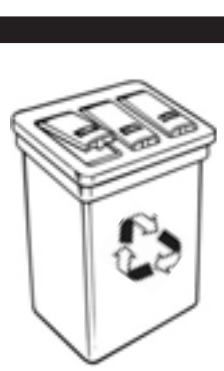
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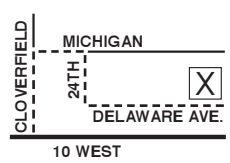
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Los Angeles officers will field-test 60 body cameras

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles police officers will begin field testing 60 on-body cameras starting in November as part of a pilot program designed to increase accountability and reduce complaints against officers.

The Los Angeles Police Department's chief information officer, Maggie Goodrich, provided the update Tuesday to the Police Commission, the LAPD's civilian oversight board.

Goodrich said the department will receive different styles of cameras on loan from two companies — Arizona-based Taser International Inc. and Coban Technologies Inc. of Houston. After 90 days, the department will recommend one type of camera and draft policies to govern its use.

The department plans to meet with the union that represents police officers, which supports the use of the on-body cameras, the American Civil Liberties Union, city councilmembers and the Police Commission's inspector general in creating its policies. Sgt. Dan Gomez said he's been filling a binder with "best practices" and manuals from other departments using the technology to help inform the LAPD's plans.

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff also has pushed the $1 million effort, privately raising nearly $900,000 in donations from Hollywood heavyweights, the Los Angeles Dodgers and others, including Occidental Petroleum Corp. That money will help fund roughly 500 cameras that will be used for a larger pilot program, officials said.

The effort to add on-body cameras is in addition to a longtime city goal of equipping the department's 1,200 patrol cars with video recorders. Since the 1991 beating of Rodney King, the LAPD has worked to bring in-car cameras to its vehicles but has only managed to equip 300 cars with the technology. It recently has worked to expand that to 400 to 500 more police cruisers; that measure may go to City Council for approval as early as next week, Goodrich said.

The process has been slowed by the city's complicated and lengthy procurement process, Goodrich said.

Police Chief Charlie Beck will work with department officials to determine where field testing will take place, but they're also looking for volunteers.

Audit: State courts fail to comply with gun law

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Many California courts fail to tell state justice officials when someone is determined to be mentally ill, undermining efforts to take guns away from potentially dangerous owners, according to a state audit released Tuesday.

State law requires courts to tell the Department of Justice when it makes certain mental health determinations.

The department uses that information as part of a program unique to California that seizes guns from people who are prohibited from having them, including the mentally ill.

Auditors discovered that many courts were not aware of the reporting requirements.

They surveyed 34 of California's 58 superior courts and found that only five knew of the law. The 34 courts collectively failed to report at least 2,300 mental health determinations over a three-year period ending in 2012.

Other courts only reported some of the information required by law.

The audit said San Bernardino County failed to report all 15 cases involving defendants deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial. Los Angeles County Superior Court failed to report nearly half the 27 cases reviewed by auditors, while Santa Clara County's largest courthouse made just nine of 15 required reports.

Courts are required to report the information immediately, but auditors found some took up to seven days. They recommended that state law be changed to require reporting within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Justice Department officials failed to remind courts of their responsibility, even when they knew reports were missing.

The department also failed to keep proper track of mental health facilities that also are required to report problems, and employees' judgments on who should be prohibited from owning firearms were sometimes flawed. Of eight decisions reviewed by auditors, three were incorrect.

The audit also criticized the department's backlog of cases, though the state this year allocated $24 million to eliminate the delays by 2016.

The Justice Department agreed with every finding, but spokesman Nick Pacilio declined further comment. The department sent a notice in August reminding courts of their responsibilities.

Court officials generally agreed with the findings, according to responses in the audit. However, the Administrative Office of the Courts raised concerns about changing state law to require reporting within 24 hours, citing budget cuts and court closures on nights and weekends. A new law gives the courts two days to report.

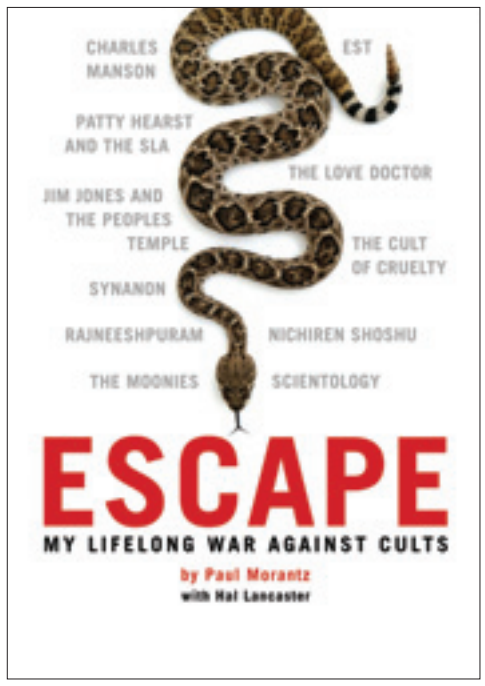
Republican Assemblymen Katcho Achadjian of San Luis Obispo and Allan Mansoor of Costa Mesa had sought the review by the nonpartisan Bureau of State Audits.

The audit "confirmed our worst fears," Achadjian said in a statement. "The safety of our communities relies upon government at every level doing better job of reporting this information."

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Developing a cult following

BY JACK NEWORTH
Special to the Daily Press



For Pacific Palisades attorney and freelance writer Paul Morantz 1978 was looking to be the best of years. And yet, at 32, 1978 was almost his last.

In February, Paul's teleplay "Deadman's Curve," based on the lives of surf singers Jan and Dean, aired as a TV movie. It was a big success and Paul's future was filled with plans of marriage and a rewarding writing career. But you know what they say, "Tell God your plans and make Him laugh."

By Oct. 10, Paul was meeting with LAPD intelligence and a deputy state attorney general seeking protection from Synanon, a drug rehab facility in Santa Monica. Now a self-proclaimed religion, they were out to get Paul for his having exposed them in the media for frequently beating their "enemies" and keeping residents afraid to leave.

The police agreed they would devise a protection plan for Paul in the immediate future. It wouldn't be immediate enough. Morantz, a lifelong sports junkie, drove home eager to forget the danger he was in and just watch the Dodgers play the Yankees in the World Series.

Synanon originated in 1958, perhaps with good intentions, but had evolved into a dangerous and violent cult. By mid-1978, Paul had given up writing and was suing Synanon full time in court on behalf of clients desperate to get their loved ones free. In return he was informed he was at the top of Synanon's "hit list."

A believer in non-violence, Paul was forced to buy a shotgun, which he kept in the house during the day and in bed when he slept. (That is when he was able to sleep.) Other precautions included always checking under his car for a possible bomb.

Entering his house on that warm early evening Paul was happily greeted by his two border collies who provided companionship and much needed protection. He was on his way to the bedroom to watch the baseball game but decided to check his mail first.

When Paul nonchalantly opened the mail slot by the front door, he experienced the most frightening moment of his life. Instantly he was bitten by a giant rattlesnake, which had been planted on the orders of Synanon founder Chuck Dederich, and carried out by two of Synanon's "Imperial Marines."

All three men would eventually plead "no contest" to conspiracy to murder and Morantz, after a 14-year battle, would help sue Synanon out of existence. In fact, just a few months ago Paul received a commendation from the city of Santa Monica. (That he jokes, "But for a little luck, could have been posthumous.")

The snake's rattles had been removed so Paul wouldn't get any warning of the attack. As for the "luck," Paul's neighbor had just completed the snakebite portion of a CPR course. It may have saved Paul's life.

After a touch-and-go hospital stay, Paul survived, but his life was forever changed. He would spend the next 30 years in a remarkable legal career battling almost every well-known cult and charlatan guru in courts throughout the state.

He documents this journey in his book "Escape: My Lifelong War Against Cults," a thrilling read that's also educational. It links half a century of mental manipulation, violence, and legal warfare waged by controversial totalistic movements.

Chapter after chapter details the similarities of cults and their megalomaniacal leaders. It's revealing to see the same elements in Charles Manson's "family," the Symbionese Liberation Army, Synanon, Jim Jones' Peoples Temple, Werner Erhard's est, the Unification Church, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's commune and even Scientology.

Many of these cults have their own version of forced abortions, extreme hours with little to no pay, sleep deprivation, and constant ego-smashing abuse combined with praise and reassurance. Also common are disconnection from families, and diabolical legal strategies intended to ruin reputations and cripple outside interference.

But Paul's heroics have come at a steep price. In 1978, his fiancé left him out of fear for her children. And then 10 years ago, Paul was diagnosed with a serious blood disorder linked to rattlesnake venom. Paul's forced to live on bi-monthly transfusions. (He jokes, "I've developed simpatico with Dracula.")

In "Escape" Morantz skillfully traces Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung's theories of brainwashing he used on his own people and also on American POWs during the Korean War. Paul lays the groundwork for showing how many controversial groups here at home, particularly those coming out of the 1960s human potential movement, shared the same ideas, methods and, all too often, the same tragic results.

"Escape: My Lifelong War Against Cults" is available at Amazon.com. **JACK** can be reached at facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth or via e-mail at jnsmdp@aol.com.







Gardening Without Guesswork

Arnulfo Bahena
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Armstrong Garden Centers

BOOM! Cordyline festival grass is a good choice to add some pop to any landscape.

Spend day of the dead with the living

INSTEAD OF CELEBRATING THE UNDEAD this Halloween, why not go for something living? There are plenty of striking plants that can be used to create fun holiday drama that can live on in the home and garden. And yes, they'll provide plenty of color in addition to being "green."

Let's start indoors. Croton, a houseplant with mottled foliage of yellow, red, purple, bronze and green is fast becoming a standard fall and Halloween plant. Cluster pumpkins and gourds around a potted croton for a quick and easy look. Another houseplant, cordyline "Caruba Black," with purple-black leaves is a stunning foil for ghostly white pumpkins.

Bright orange, red and yellow kalanchoes will provide color for up to six weeks indoors in a bright spot. Cluster them in a cachepot or use alone in pots along with Halloween figures and candles. Coleus, that grandmotherly favorite, has been rethought and revitalized by plant breeders. No longer lanky and mottled, the new coleuses are full and compact mounds of fabulous color. For fall, use "Trusty Rusty," "Indian Summer," "Redhead" and "Henna."

A special strain of coleus called "Under the Sea" has strange, ruffled, crimped and creepy, narrow leaves. These will lend a spooky air to Halloween centerpieces. All come in red, lime, pink and purple tones. Give coleus bright light indoors.

Yellow orchids are a sophisticated choice that invite the holiday spirit. Bright yellow and brown oncidiums or yellow moth orchids last for many weeks and pair well with Halloween décor.

Tiny cobweb houseleeks, with strange "netting" growing over the tops, placed in simple terra-cotta pots painted black look charming at individual place settings or as Halloween dinner favors.

Outdoors, there's an even spookier array of hauntingly beautiful plants. Dark, almost black-leaved elephant ears (colocasias and alocasias) have large, shield-like leaves that provide dramatic contrast to flowers of almost any color. Colocasia "Black Magic" has purple/black leaves. "Black Ruffles" is similar, but with wavy leaf edges. "Black Velvet" alocasia has black leaves and prominent, spooky white veins.

Several cordylines have long, grass-like leaves that provide a spidery look. "Dark Star" and "Dark Knight" both have almost-black leaves. "Festival" has very dark burgundy/black leaves. A miniature version of these cordylines is black mondo grass. Set a warty pumpkin in the center of a pot and plant black mondo all around it for a simple, creepy statement.

Variegated corn "Field of Dreams" is a knockout grown in pots and planters. Its pink, cream and green striped leaves make dried corn stalks look very old school. Another star for pots (and won't get as tall as "Field of Dreams") is black millet "Purple Majesty" with striking plumes and arching leaves of black/purple.

Chinese lanterns, or Physalis, are very popular at Armstrong Garden Centers in Santa Monica. Small plants bear many burnt-orange hanging "lanterns." Place these on your doorstep or porch.

Coral bells (Heuchera) now come in fantastic autumnal colors — the leaves, not the flowers. Incredible tones of russet, peach, cinnamon, purple, silver, red, and gold are all available now. Who needs the leaves to turn each fall when you have heucheras?

Agonis "After Dark" is a very feathery small tree or shrub. Often trained as patio trees on a single trunk, "After Dark" makes a year-round statement and can be underplanted with orange gerbera daisies or pansies for Halloween. Later, replant with pink and white flowers for spring.

Hit the nursery this and set the mood for a colorful and unique, living Halloween. It will be a fun undertaking.

ARNULFO BAHENA, CCNP, is the manager for Armstrong Garden Centers located at 3226 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica. E-mail him your gardening questions to growingdialogue@armstronggarden.com or call (310) 829-6766. Visit Armstrong Garden Centers online at armstronggarden.com.



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BIKES
FROM PAGE 1

couple weeks, city officials will begin to analyze potential traffic created by the plan.

Carry Upton, director of facility permits at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, rides his bike to work from his home in Culver City twice a week and is one of the district's representatives during the planning process. He said that the one-way could create challenges for southside parents who will continue to drop kids off at the school.

The one-way, he said, could force parents to loop the block causing more problems at already-challenging intersections like Fourth Street and Olympic Boulevard.

"It's a very complex puzzle," he said. "We're trying to guide parents where to go."

Previous meetings had been heavily attended by concerned residents, but Samohi students spoke at last week's meeting.

Alison Kendall, who successfully procured the grant, said she's been disappointed that students have not played a larger role in the planning process.

"Frankly, I thought that parents didn't hear one student when she said she had been doored four times," Kendall said. "That means that on multiple occasions she's been injured by the kids getting out of the cars and not bothering to notice that there is a student cyclist riding right beside them. That's a dangerous situation and definitely has to be remedied."

Gary Kavanagh, a Santa Monica bike advocate, was also happy to hear from students.

He was interested in the proposal to add a two-way bike lane in the center of Pico Boulevard between Sixth and Seventh streets. Kavanagh recently rode on a similar bike lane in Washington, D.C. that he was not enthusiastic about.

"I think that if it's designed with significant barriers, which it was shown to have in what was presented, whereas the one I saw in



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

CHANGES? A plan to make Michigan Avenue a one-way street just east of a Santa Monica High School exit is being considered.

D.C. only had rubber bollards, very tightly spaced, this one could be a little higher quality," he said. "This particular spot, it kind of makes sense because of the way that the gap currently exists between Seventh and Sixth."

Michelle Glickert, city transportation planner, said that listening to residents has guided City Hall's plans. Last year, concerns raised about reduced street parking on a portion of Seventh Street brought locals out to Samohi bike workshops in large numbers. That idea was scrapped for last week's meeting, she said.

The plans for the bikeway will likely go before City Council early next year. Because of the grant money, the Samohi area will likely be the first portion built within the larger Michigan Avenue Greenway, a bike and pedestrian corridor designed to connect key areas of the city, Glickert said.

dave@smdp.com

OBIT
FROM PAGE 1

Teacher Association to continue her work, family members said.

Following the death of her first husband in 1994, Plepler later married longtime friend and fellow SMMUSD violin teacher Sherman Plepler, to whom she was married at the time of her passing.

Plepler is survived by her husband; nieces Carol Luther and Nancy Sittner; and cousin Connie Eastman. The memorial service will be held Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1847 14th St.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Plepler's memory to the SMMUSD's Elementary Music Department, 1651 16th St., for equipment, materials, and supplies.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GOING UP? **A trio of Santa Monica fire fighters hoist a 24-foot ladder during a practice session.**

PAY
FROM PAGE 1

Ferguson was the second highest paid SMFD member last year. A Battalion Chief made $272,000. Five members made more than $250,000. Most of the members making more than $200,000 were fire captains.

In 2012, 175 Los Angeles Fire Department members made more than $200,000, which equates to one per every 22,000 residents. Santa Monica had one per 2,190 residents last year.

In 2011, 113 Los Angeles fire fighters made more than $200,000.

Also included in last year's earnings is overtime pay reimbursed by training grants provided by the federal government and funneled through the state and county to City Hall.

The Santa Monica Fire Department represents Westside municipalities Culver City, West L.A., and Beverly Hills by providing hazmat, airport response, and urban search and rescue. Training and equipment for these specialty units is funded through grant money.

"We are about as full-service as you can possibly imagine," Ferguson said.

Gould said that the fire fighters don't often get massive overtime several years in a row.

"To the extent that there are some of these guys that are willing to give up huge gobs of their free time in order to make big salaries for a while, it looks like they're taking advantage," he said. "Most of these guys don't do this very long because they burn out. This is not their ongoing salaries. Some of the cases they have a year where their wife is away or they're doing something else and they've just decided 'I'm going to work every hour I can get.'"

Mutual aid responses, when Santa Monica fire fighters are called to help with particularly large fires or disasters outside of the city limits, show up in the salaries, but are reimbursed by the city in which the problem occurred.

Ferguson said that Santa Monica fire fighters work hard.

"Santa Monica puts in a lot of hours," he said. "It's a little place with a big machine."

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Dow closes at a record high as Fed meeting begins

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Investors drove the Dow Jones industrial average to an all-time high Tuesday on expectations that the Federal Reserve will keep its economic stimulus program in place.

The Dow rose 111.42 points, or 0.7 percent, to 15,680.35. The Dow also got a big boost from IBM, which announced that it would buy $15 billion more of its own stock.

The Fed is in the middle of a two-day policy meeting at which it's expected to maintain its $85 billion worth of bond purchases every month. That program is aimed at stimulating economic growth by keeping borrowing rates very low. The Fed will announce its decision Wednesday afternoon.

"The expectation that the Fed remains clearly on hold is the catalyst for this march higher," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial.

IBM rose $4.77, or 2.7 percent, to $181.12, accounting for about a quarter of the Dow's gain.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index rose 9.84 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,771.95, its seventh record high this month.

About half the companies in the S&P 500 have reported earnings for the third quarter. So far, most are doing better than investors expected. Companies in the index are forecast to log third-quarter earnings growth of 4.5 percent, according to data from S&P Capital IQ.

On Tuesday, Harris, a communications and information technology company, rose $3.36, or 5.7 percent, to $62.76 after bouncing back from a loss in the same period a year ago and posting a profit, despite a decline in government spending. Pfizer rose 51 cents, or 1.7 percent, to $31.25 after its earnings exceeded analysts' expectations.

The Nasdaq composite rose 12.21 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,952.34.

The Nasdaq Stock Market was hit with another glitch. Nasdaq indexes weren't updated from 11:53 a.m. to 12:37 p.m. because of a technical problem that was caused by human error, the exchange operator said in a statement. Trading of Nasdaq-listed stocks wasn't affected.

On Sept. 4, the Nasdaq had a brief outage in one of its quote dissemination channels, but trading wasn't disrupted. On Aug. 22 the exchange suffered a three-hour trading outage that was also attributed to problems with the exchange's price disseminating system.

Two economic reports came in relatively weak, which may have encouraged some investors by suggesting that any slowdown in the Fed's stimulus could be a ways off.

Retail sales fell 0.1 percent in September, the weakest showing since March, as auto sales dipped. Americans' confidence in the economy fell this month to the lowest level since April. People were worried about the impact of the 16-day partial shutdown of the U.S. government.

"The data that has been the most attractive to (stock) markets seems to be the data that maintains the status quo," said Brad Sorensen, the director of market and sector analysis at the Schwab Center for Financial Research.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.50 percent from 2.52 percent Monday.

Sharpton, Barneys NY CEO discuss racial profiling

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK Civil rights activist Al Sharpton met with the CEO of Barneys New York on Tuesday to discuss allegations of racial profiling at the high-end retailer, while the New York state attorney general's office demanded its own meeting with Barneys and also Macy's.

Two black customers accused Barneys of discrimination last week after they said they had lawfully purchased items but were detained by police on suspicion of credit card fraud.

"We had a very candid and open meeting today to begin a dialogue," Sharpton said after the private meeting with Barneys CEO Mark Lee at Sharpton's National Action Network office in Harlem.

Lee said Barneys' own initial investigation showed no employees were at fault in the two incidents, but he said the retailer does not tolerate discrimination and wants "to be part of the solution" to racial profiling.

Macy's flagship Manhattan store also has been hit with a claim from a black actor that he was stopped because of his race while shopping. Macy's didn't comment on the litigation but said in a statement it was investigating.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office sent letters to the executives at both Barneys New York and Macy's East noting that racial discrimination in places of public accommodation including stores is prohibited under state and local civil rights law. The letters dated Monday asked executives at both stores to call the attorney general's office to schedule meetings.

Speaking Tuesday in Buffalo, Schneiderman said, "We're now demanding information from Barneys and Macy's to assess their policies and their conduct in this regard." He added, "Apparently there was some sort of policy in the stores and in some part of the NYPD to profile certain types of customers."

Lee said Barneys would "cooperate fully" with the attorney general. Macy's spokeswoman Elina Kazan said in a statement: "We have received the Attorney General's letter and are fully cooperating with the request."

One of the Barneys shoppers filed a discrimination lawsuit against Barneys, the city and its police department, while the other filed a complaint with the city's police watchdog agency.

"Our preliminary investigation has concluded that in both of these instances no one from Barneys New York raised any issue with these purchases," Lee said. "No one from Barneys brought them to the attention of our internal security, and no one from Barneys reached out to external authorities."

Lee deflected questions about whether he was suggesting that police acted on their own to detain the customers.

In a statement later, John McCarthy, the police department's chief spokesman, said that officers acted on information they received from Barneys employees.

"In both instances, NYPD officers were conducting unrelated investigations and took action based on information brought to their attention by Barneys employees while in the security room," McCarthy said.

The NYPD agrees with the attorney general that racial profiling is unacceptable, he said, "and that is why it is prohibited by department policy and also illegal in New York City."

Lee also alluded to Barneys' relationship with rap mogul Jay-Z, who has faced pressure to distance himself from the retailer since the profiling allegations surfaced.

"We deeply regret that these recent events have distracted from the great work of the Shawn Carter Foundation, and we offer our sincere apologies to Mr. Carter," Lee said, using the entertainer's real name.

An online petition and Twitter messages from fans have called on Jay-Z to bow out of his partnership with Barneys, which will have the store selling items by top designers, inspired by Jay-Z, with some of the proceeds going to his charity. Jay-Z said Saturday he was waiting to hear all the facts.

Also attending Tuesday's meeting were Hazel Dukes, president of the New York chapter of the NAACP, former Gov. David Paterson, other civil rights leaders, pastors and elected officials.

Parents still turn to troubled-youth ranches for help

JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. David Hall was afraid of his own son. They were getting into violent, physical fights requiring police intervention. Fearing the teen would end up in juvenile detention, Hall had his son hauled away in handcuffs and shackles to a southern New Mexico ranch for troubled youths.

He didn't see him again for 11 months, when police raided the Tierra Blanca ranch amid allegations of abuse.

There are few options for parents like Hall, and in that vacuum, a relatively unregulated, off-the-grid industry of reform youth camps has flourished, despite a decade of high-profile cases alleging beatings and other abuse at some camps.

Proponents of such programs — which can cost upward of $100,000 a year — say they are an effective, last-ditch solution to save troubled youth from the criminal justice system.

"My feeling is that I would rather have my 17-year-old son in shackles than go to visit him at 18 in shackles in state prison," Hall said. "He really is a changed young man. He laughs, he smiles and he is trying to make up for all of the bad things in the past."

Others insist stronger regulation and oversight is needed.

A 2007 Government Accountability Office found thousands of allegations of abuse at such facilities from 1990 to 2007, including 1,619 reports against residential program staff members in 33 states in 2005. The GAO said it could not identify a more comprehensive number because it could not locate a single website, federal agency, or other entity that collects comprehensive nationwide data.

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, a trade association that represents about 150 programs, estimates there are about 400 programs operating in the country. But executive director Cliff Brownstein admits that is just a rough guess based on a recruitment list, and he adds that many programs wouldn't qualify to belong to his association because it requires members to be licensed by the state or otherwise certified by one of several independent bodies.

That is one of the biggest problems in assessing such programs: How do you verify information from troubled kids? At New Mexico's Tierra Blanca ranch, for instance, some students allege they were beaten, starved and denied medical care. Others, like Hall's son Bryce, deny any abuse or neglect.

"There is not a teenager alive that wants to be in one of those programs," said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, a nonprofit in Fairfax, Va., that helps families find the right programs for their troubled children. "You take a kid playing video games all day doing drugs with his buddies. You ship him off to one of these programs, they are going to say anything to get home."

Further exacerbating the problem is that many of the homes, like Tierra Blanca, are unlicensed and operate in remote Western states. They can prey on anxious parents in desperate situations, some facing court deadlines to place their child in a residential treatment program or have them sent to juvenile detention, he said.

Sklarow says the programs vary widely. Some are staffed by doctors and psychologists, others hire people with no training and who have their own past behavioral and addiction issues.

Although the NATSP says roughly 40 states have some sort of regulation over the programs, oversight and licensing procedures vary widely. For instance, its website lists New Mexico as having regulations, but state officials say there is no law requiring that programs be licensed or otherwise supervised. State officials say they will seek a new law to change that next year.

Scott Chandler's Tierra Blanca ranch has been operating in New Mexico for some 20 years, charging parents roughly $100 a day. Earlier this month, authorities raided the ranch to take possession of nine minors.

State police have identified Chandler as a person of interest in their investigation, but he has not been arrested or charged. Chandler continues to operate his program with a few 18 year olds.

Chandler said teens were sometimes shackled and that parents were aware of the practice. He denies children were abused.

Hall said he chose Chandler's program on the recommendations of a Tucson police officer and an Air Force officer.

Bryce said he was in chains for the first three to four months of his stay at Tierra Blanca. And while he admits he would have said or done anything to get out during those months, he now thinks of Chandler as his second father. Both he and his dad credit Chandler's program with saving Bryce.

"I am so proud of him," Hall said, breaking down as he described how his son has been helping him at his Tucson real estate business and calling him "sir" rather than spewing profanities.

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **62.8°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high occ. 4ft
Small WNW swell fades; Southern Hemi energy picks up;
tropical swell building for select exposures; improving conditions

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high occ. 4ft
Minor Southern Hemi and Tropical energy peaks;
small WNW swell shows; possible larger sets for select standouts; stay tuned

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small SW-SSW Southern Hemi energy holds;
minor WNW swell eases; fading tropical swell; stay tuned

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
New small long period WNW swell; SW swell continues; keeping an eye on conditions

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of: **October 23, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los 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 Alias creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	B	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW 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'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.

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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Colorado readies for No. 17 UCLA

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. Mike MacIntyre hardly considers himself a patient person.

So when the first-year Colorado coach saw his team regress in their rebuilding efforts last weekend against Arizona, he was a tad bit agitated. MacIntyre put his concern level at "very" in the aftermath of a 44-20 loss in which his defense allowed 405 yards rushing.

After hours spent reviewing the film, though, MacIntyre had a change of heart and insisted the performance wasn't as frustrating as he first surmised.

Overall, MacIntyre appreciates the direction the Buffaloes (3-4, 0-4 Pac-12) are headed as they prepare for No. 17 UCLA on Saturday.

As he's realizing, turning around this program simply takes patience.

"We just have to do a few more things," MacIntyre said Tuesday. "I know that sounds simplistic, but I don't see fractions and I don't see people pointing fingers at each other. I don't see guys not coming to work. I don't see guys not going to class.

"I see them all doing things that you see a good football team that's maturing doing. It just takes a process to get it done against good teams."

It's not to say MacIntyre thought transforming the Buffs would happen overnight. He's been down this road before, turning around a struggling San Jose State program before joining Colorado.

Never mind that Colorado is coming off a school-worst 1-11 record last season, MacIntyre wants to see continual growth.

In their four conference losses this season, the Buffaloes have surrendered nearly 50 points a game and allowed 624 yards of offense. That's troublesome for MacIntyre, especially since the Bruins (5-2, 2-2) feature another dual-threat quarterback in Brett Hundley. Not only that, but UCLA is smarting after consecutive losses at Stanford and Oregon.

"That's another bowl team we play," MacIntyre said. "We have to keep getting better as people, getting better as players, getting better as athletes, getting better as coaches. We have to all move it forward. I think we're all going that way. But I wish it would happen tomorrow, though."

MacIntyre was terse after the loss to the Wildcats, saying, "I'm very disappointed in the outcome." He's since come off that stance, simply chalking his feelings up to the stress of the moment.

He liked what he saw on film. Well, some of what he saw anyway.

MacIntyre made the team watch the footage on Sunday, but he also gave them the day off from practice.

"Sometimes, you have to let off the pedal and let the smoke clear," MacIntyre said. "And then you can put the pedal back down. All of us, coaches, players, have to do a better job. It will eventually happen."

The players are buying in. With five games remaining, they're envisioning postseason plans.

"We still have bowl game aspirations," defensive back Jered Bell said. "Nobody likes to lose. We're not playing this game to go out there and lose. We're still giving our all and giving our effort."

Colorado could be without its top playmaker on Saturday as receiver Paul Richardson recovers from a sprained ankle.

TONIGHT

Panel Discussion on the affordability of California's Universities.

Great for parents, students or anyone who plans to attend a UC or CSU!

The 1960 Master Plan promised to provide affordable university education for generations of Californians. A robust and accessible public education system is key to creating social mobility. Where does the promise of the Master Plan stand today? Is a 4-year degree becoming increasingly out of reach for many young Californians? What are the key policy challenges currently faced by our universities? What is the state of diversity in our university system?

October 30, 2013, 7-9 PM
MLK Auditorium at the Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Panelists:
Eddie Island, University of California Regent
Michele Siquerios, Executive Director, Campaign for College Opportunity
David Dayen, Journalist and Blogger on access and affordability issues
Karem Aref, University of California Student Association President

Moderator:
Ben Allen, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board Member and former University of California Student Regent

Santa Monica Democratic Club
Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute
Santa Monica Daily Press
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) 1hr 35min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Rush (R) 2hrs 03min
1:05pm, 6:45pm

Don Jon (R) 1hr 30min
4:00pm, 9:50pm

Fifth Estate (R) 2hrs 04min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:10pm

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

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 1:40pm, 2:40pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
11:45am, 3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Carrie (R) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Escape Plan (R) 1hr 56min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 10:25pm

Counselor (R) 1hr 51min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Metropolitan Opera: The Nose ENCORE (NR) 2hrs15min
6:30pm

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) 1hr 33min
11:10am, 12:15pm, 2:50pm, 4:00pm, 5:35pm, 8:10pm, 10:40pm

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

All Is Lost (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Muscle Shoals (PG) 1hr 42min
9:50pm

Enough Said (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
1:00pm, 2:10pm, 4:00pm, 5:20pm, 7:10pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm

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

JUST CHILL, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Note the back-and-forth tug between risk-taking and following the status quo. You might waver less than other signs do, but you will remain sensitive to the different undercurrents. Through understanding your nature, you will take a risk. Tonight: Try to relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A brainstorming session could trigger even more of your high energy. You might decide to pursue an unusual course. Recognize your boundaries, but also note the ease with which you can break down one of these barriers, if you so choose. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might want to hang close to home. Consider making your office more comfortable or try working from home. You see life differently from how many people see it. Be willing to try a new approach that might achieve the same goal. Tonight: Stay centered.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You naturally stumble upon the right words. Keep the lines of communication open. When you decide which way to go, share your ideas with a trusted associate who is able to visualize different issues and scenarios. Tonight: Express your creativity around a special friend!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be aware of your spending in a situation that has implications. Listen to your instincts; they will guide you. Your sixth sense points to an opportunity. Even if you make an error, you somehow will turn it around. Tonight: No one knows how to have a good time like you do!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Take advantage of all your supporters, especially if you want to start a new project. You can do it! Remember that. Be willing to let a younger person know more about the specifics. Tonight: Act like the world is your oyster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ The less said, the better. A boss or someone you look up to has a very different image for you, which he or she would like you to fulfill. You might not be able to satisfy this request. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your sense of direction points you to getting feedback and support from others. News from someone at a distance puts a smile on your face. A visit or a trip to or from a dear friend seems impending. Make a call to this person soon. Tonight: Go for exactly what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Tension builds because others have expectations that you do not want to meet. You could feel stuck. You must weigh the pros and cons of a decision. Tonight: Go till the wee hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ If you experience some discomfort with several situations, detach. You must have a favorite way of distancing yourself from trigger issues. Use it. Reframe the issue at least several times. Recognize that your perspective is not the only one. Tonight: Put on some great music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Relate to key people directly. You could be delighted by someone's openness. You might be able to relate far more easily without "in-between" people. Use caution when making a money decision, especially if there is high risk involved. Tonight: Out to dinner with a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others seem to be unable to contain themselves around you. They keep testing your boundaries. Sometimes these people can be very charming, yet at other times, they can be testy and difficult. Tonight: Make sure that you are ready for tomorrow.

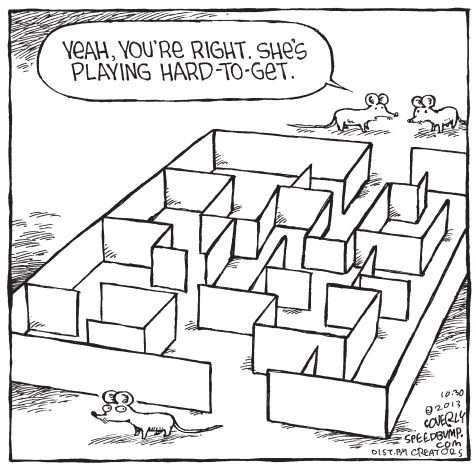
Wednesday, October 30, 2013

This year you achieve many of your key goals. Your strength emerges from an ability to detach and see the big picture. Your empathy increases, and your understanding grows. Some of you will add to these qualities through travel, education or the pleasure of knowing someone who is very evolved. You are likely to broaden your immediate circle of friends and network new acquaintances into your professional life. If you are single, you could create the type of relationship you desire. If you are attached, the two of you could become quite an unstoppable force. VIRGO is a remarkable example of efficiency.

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

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

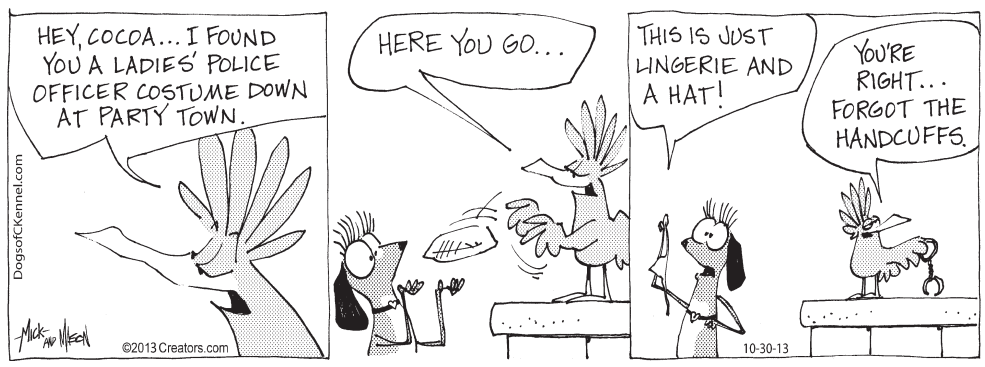
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



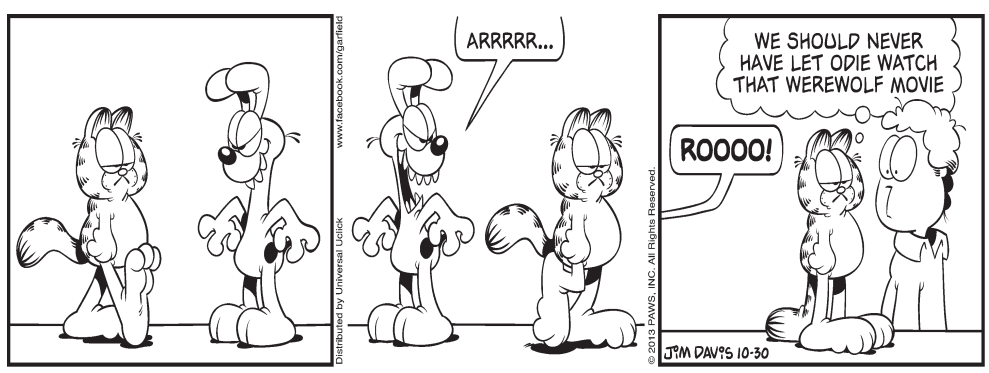
Strange Brew
By John Deering



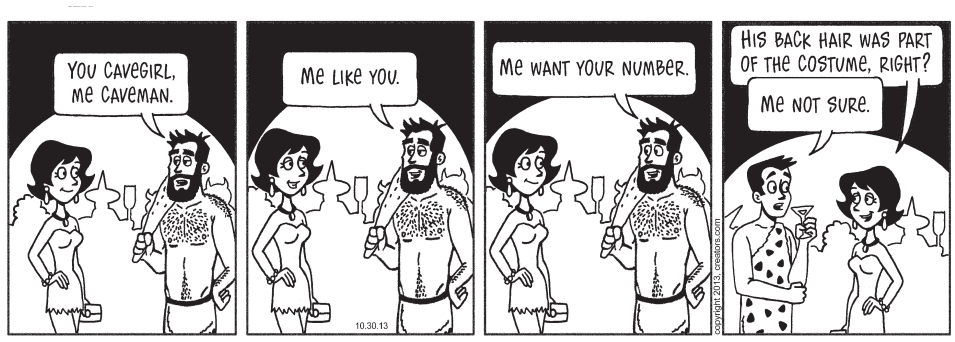
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Ontario tribe
5 Tag sale words
9 Caterpillar, e.g.
11 Fight site
12 Perfect
13 Touches down
14 Hr. part
15 Mistakes
17 Imbibing
19 Singer Orbison
20 Farm animals
21 General activity
22 Tally mark
24 Snub-nosed dog
26 Lion tamers' aids
29 Museum subject
30 Dances at the disco
32 Unhappy spectator's cry
34 Fresh
35 Really stoked
36 Steer clear of
38 Quick drives
39 Famous
40 Greek vowels
41 Walk in water

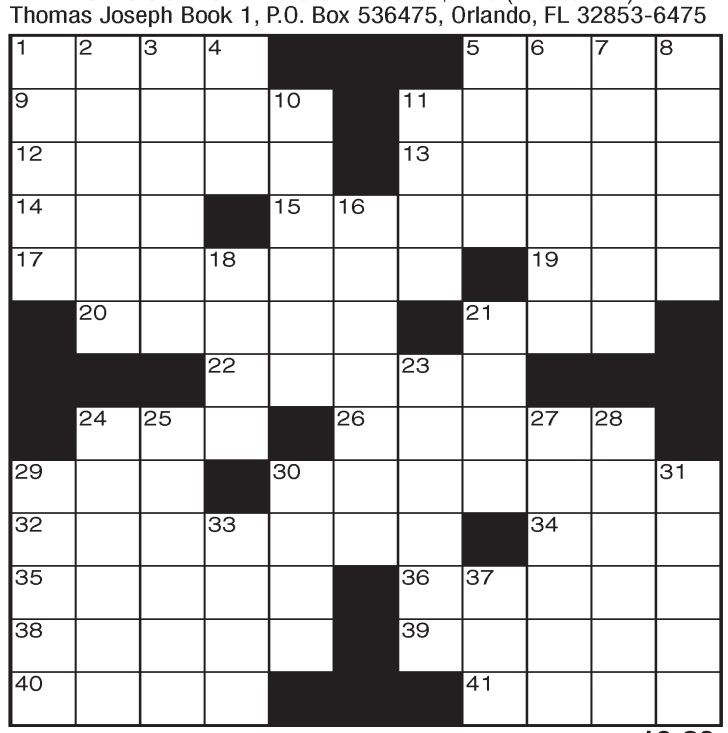
DOWN

1 Scale
2 Hams' needs
3 Before, poetically
4 Mendes of movies
5 Mecca resident
6 Lady of Spain
7 Like some pools
8 Fresh
10 White rat, e.g.
11 Sleep like —
16 Boxing combos
18 Piquant quality
21 Fillmore, for one
23 Selected
24 On time
25 Perfect place
27 Target at a party
28 Ranked, in tennis
29 Degrade
30 Actions at auctions
31 Garbo, for one
33 Coop group
37 Promise

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



10-30

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/26
4 6 34 49 56
Power#: 29
Jackpot: $50M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/29
Mega#:
Jackpot: $75M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/26
11 25 33 35 41
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/29
4 10 21 22 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/29
MIDDAY: 9 8 8
EVENING: 5 7 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 10/29
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:44.77

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Land developers for the iconic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colo. (famous as the inspiration for the hotel in Stephen King's "The Shining") announced recently that they need more space and thus will dig up and move the hotel's 12-gravesite pet cemetery. Neighbors told the Fort Collins Coloradoan in September that they feared the construction noise, but somehow ignored the potential release of departed spirits (though an "Animal Planet" "dog psychic" who lives in Estes Park seemed to volunteer her services to calm the pets' souls).

■ After consulting with a lawyer, Evan Dobelle, president of Massachusetts' Westfield State University, accused of billing the state for unauthorized travel expenses, is reportedly considering claiming that he actually "self-reported" the violations as soon as suspicions turned up. Dobelle says he would thus be entitled to the protection of the state "whistle-blower" statute, which shields inside informers when they expose wrongdoing. (Dobelle was placed on paid leave in October.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1953 - Cold War: U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower formally approves the top secret document National Security Council Paper No. 162/2, which states that the United States' arsenal of nuclear weapons must be maintained and expanded to counter the communist threat.

1961 - Nuclear testing: The Soviet Union detonates the hydrogen bomb Tsar Bomba over Novaya Zemlya; at 50 megatons of yield, it is still the largest explosive device ever detonated, nuclear or otherwise.

WORD UP!

crepuscule
**\ kri-PUHS-kyool, KREP-uh-skyool ** , noun;
1. twilight; dusk.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Announcements

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST



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Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,587,000
North of Montana	=	$4,318,895
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$719,500
Sunset Park	=	$1,760,792
Ocean Park	=	$2,131,000
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