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Volume 9 Issue 53



DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO MARRY
SEE PAGE 4

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE WHAT A VIEW ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A BIT SAFER: **The Santa Monica Bay on Tuesday afternoon. A recent report indicates that water quality is improving.**

Report: Santa Monica Bay gets cleaner

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BAY Santa Monica Bay beaches are safer for swimming than they were five years ago, but water quality remains poor during winter months, the latest report from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission said.

Problems like contaminated fish, threatened wildlife populations and trash in the ocean remain persistent concerns, according to the report.

The cleaner water is due mostly to new "dry weather runoff diversions," the report stated, including the ones built at Montana Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard that limit untreated urban runoff from flowing into the ocean.

Called the "State of the Bay Report 2010," the analysis is the most comprehensive assessment of environmental conditions in the bay produced by the commission. The report is being presented today at a conference held at Loyola Marymount University.

Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay and vice chairman of the commission, said the report shows where progress has been made and highlights areas that need continued attention.

The greatest recent success, he said, has been in limiting dry-weather runoff.

"A lot of these engineering projects that have been implemented by the coastal cities and the county have started to make a difference for protecting the public health during the summer months," he said.

The most glaring shortcoming for the bay is a lack of progress in implementing measures to reduce storm water pollution.

In Santa Monica, Director of Public Works Lee Swain said City Hall is preparing to present the City Council with a comprehensive proposal to implement its watershed management plan, which would include strategies for dealing with storm water urban runoff.

The plan will lay out recommended uses for the roughly $2.5 million collected each year from Measure V, the Clean Beaches and Ocean Parcel Tax approved by Santa Monica voters in 2006. Swain said the plan should come before council within the next couple of months.

Gold said another significant issue for the Santa Monica Bay that is yet to be dealt with involves toxic chemicals such as DDT that have been banned for decades but which were used in wastewater treatment in the 1940s through the early '70s and continue to contaminate the bay.

The Environmental Protection Agency for years has been studying a contaminated area near Palos Verdes and is close to mov-

SEE BAY PAGE 8

Downtown parking structures show age

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL Downtown parking structures, some built in the 1960s, helping drive the economic engine in the popular retail and business district, are beginning to show their age.

A recent review of Parking Structures 1 through 10 shows there are 90 places where concrete could crumble and possibly fall on cars or pedestrians, creating a public safety hazard and raising City Hall's exposure to lawsuits.

City officials conducted the extensive survey of the heavily-used structures after pieces of concrete in Parking Structure 3 broke off in October of last year and landed on the sidewalk and driveway, forcing City Hall to close it temporarily until a protective canopy was constructed and repairs made. While making the repairs, city officials found other cracks that posed an immediate threat and fixed them for a total cost of $13,785.78, according to a city staff report.

Now, City Hall is looking to spend roughly $65,000 to address the remaining 90 trouble spots.

"We really wanted to take a good look at the structures given that some are decades old," said Lee Swain, City Hall's director of public works. "There is no cause for alarm. There is no evidence of any structural issues. This is really about identify appropriate, long-term maintenance measures and to develop a program to address these issues in a preventative fashion."

The structures are critical to the success of Downtown, said Bayside District Corp. CEO Kathleen Rawson. Bayside is a public-private management company that oversees Downtown including the Third Street Promenade.

"Without those structures, Downtown wouldn't be what it is today," Rawson said.

John Bohn, a member of the City Council when the parking structures were approved, said that he could not be more pleased with the performance of the structures.

"Without parking, the [Third Street] Promenade would not have been possible," Bohn said. "The downtown area would not function as efficiently as it does today."

Plans are already underway to knock down and rebuild Parking Structure 6, replacing it with a taller structure that can

SEE STRUCTURES PAGE 9


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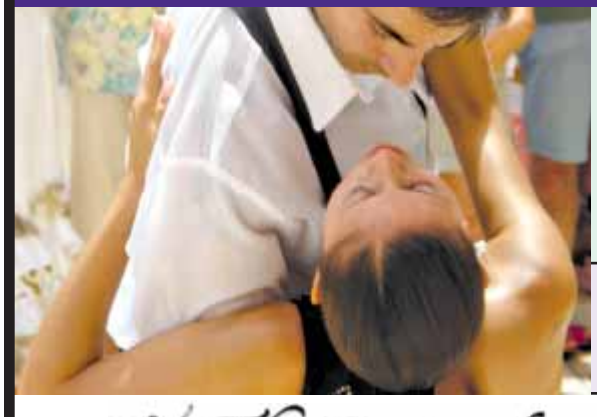
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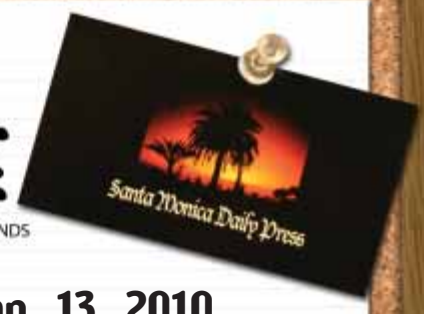
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010

Kickin' it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for its weekly luncheon with guest speakers. Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Divorce detox
212 Main St. 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Everybody needs a break, especially with the added stress of divorce, which (after all) sometimes feels like you're in a war zone. This one-hour class provides a brief break from the challenges and hurdles in your day and gives you the opportunity to de-stress, refocus and revitalize yourself. Sign up 48 hours in advance and get lunch included. For more information, call (310) 439-8964.

T.C.B.
Studio 1452
1452 Second St., 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
To kick off the new year, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce is flipping the script on the business mixer. This time around there will be a DJ, a beer and wine bar and food catered by local restaurant The Yard. Attend and make valuable business contacts to help make 2010 a prosperous year. Tickets are $10 for members, $15 for members if purchased at the door and $20 for non-members. For more information contact Jerah at (310) 393-9825.

Taking away aches and pains
Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Free lessons offered on the technique of Pranic Healing, developed by Master Choa Kok Sui. For more information, call (310) 396-4036.

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010

Heal thy self
Santa Monica Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 12:30 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Maria Locsin will lecture on the topic of easing pain and discomfort and pressing certain body points and working with areas of the body points and working with areas of the body to increase blood flow. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

SMC students plead guilty to locker room thefts

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SMC A pair of former Santa Monica College students plead guilty to a series of locker room robberies at the main campus, making off with over 130 stolen items that included iPods, books and other valuables, authorities announced Tuesday.

Juan A. Rodriguez and Gianny E. Galindo plead guilty to several counts of commercial burglary on Jan. 4 and were sentenced to three years each in state prison, said SMC investigator Russell Ruetz.

The Santa Monica College Police Department is looking for victims of the robberies in hopes of returning some of the stolen items. Officers will display the goods on Thursday at the main campus. So far, 21 victims have filed police reports. Those who believe they may have been victims but have not yet filed a police report can do so Thursday.

Ruetz said potential victims should bring a receipt if possible and provide a description of the items believed to be stolen. Officers will then use the reports to verify ownership.

"Once the reports have been completed we will look and see if the items match what we have," Ruetz said.

Rodriguez and Galindo committed at least 35 locker room burglaries from November 2008 to October 2009, taking items from fellow classmates who left them unattended in the men's locker room. The SMC Police Department conducted an extensive investigation that uncovered a well orchestrated operation.

Officers from SMC and the Santa Monica Police Department arrested Rodriguez and Galindo in October after the two attempted to use a stolen credit card at a local business. The credit card was taken in a locker room burglary. Officers from SMC obtained and executed search warrants, which led to the recovery of 134 items of evidence, linking the two to 21 of the locker burglary cases to date, police said.

Ruetz said the two have not been linked to a robbery that took place during a Santa Monica High School football game in which the visiting team was targeted. Samohi plays home games at SMC's Corsair Field.

Those who believe they are a victim can contact SMC police at (310) 434-4300, reference case number 09-555.

kevinh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL
Genser memorial set

A memorial service for the late Mayor Ken Genser will be held Jan. 24, at 1:30 p.m. at Barnum Hall on the Santa Monica High School campus, city officials said Tuesday.

The memorial is open to the public.

Genser, 59, was the longest serving elected official in city history and a staunch supporter of renters' rights. He died Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Genser was admitted to the hospital over 10 weeks ago after complaining of back pain and a shortness of breath.

DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE
Counting the homeless

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and city officials are seeking volunteers to count Santa Monica's homeless population.

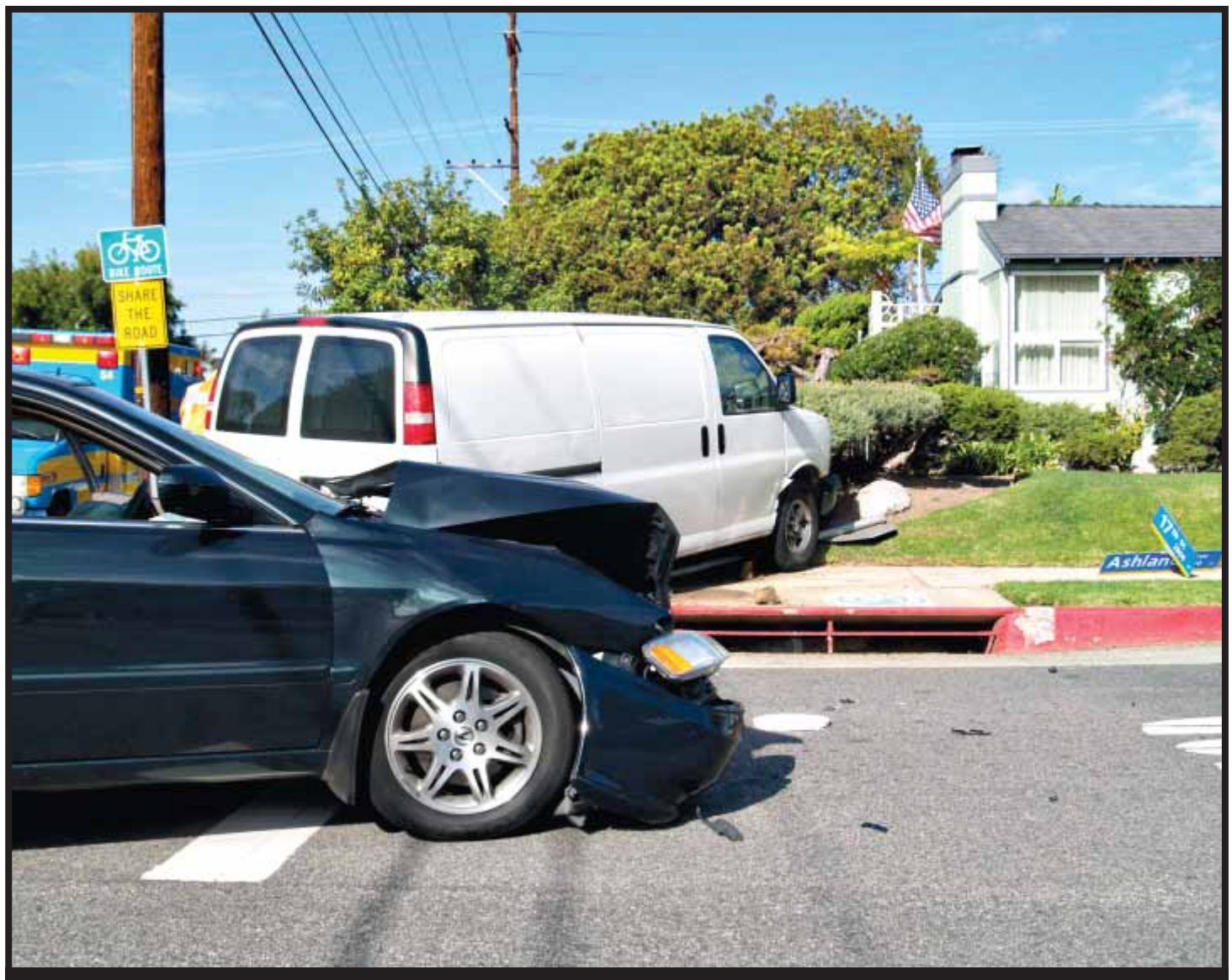
A statement released by City Hall states that officials are looking for 200 volunteers to take to the streets on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 10 p.m. The count will continue until 2 a.m. the following day.

Teams of two to three will survey the city tallying the number of homeless individuals they encounter. Volunteers will be deployed on foot and in cars. Please indicate any preferences.

The data from the last count revealed an 8 percent reduction in the number of people living on the streets compared to 2007.

For more information or to RSVP, call (310) 458-8701 or e-mail dina.aubrey@smgov.net.

DP



OOOPS!

Photo courtesy Nick Steers

An Acura collided with this van Tuesday morning at the corner of 17th Street and Ashland Avenue. Airbags deployed and there were injuries reported, police said. The photographer, a resident who lives in the area, said the intersection has seen its fair share of accidents.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Confiscate leaf blowers

Editor:

Homeowners do not hire gardeners to blow leaves. They hire them to care for the landscaping and clean up the yard. Gardeners use leaf blowers to push debris onto the street or adjoining properties because using a broom or rake would require more effort.

If a city official is present to witness a leaf blower violation then the gardener can be cited as easily as the homeowner. Better yet, let's change the law to allow the leaf blower to be confiscated. Anyone who makes his living as a gardener should be fully aware of the laws regarding leaf blowers and water usage. They should be held accountable when they break the law.

If a school bus driver is caught driving drunk, you do not arrest the superintendent of schools. It is equally ridiculous to fine the gardener's client. Shifting the job of law enforcement to the homeowner would be ineffective because many homeowners are not home to supervise, and most apartment and condo buildings are too small to have on-site managers.

Let's focus on solving the problem rather than dreaming up revenue schemes.

Andrew Everett
Santa Monica

Reform before more money

Editor:

I was more than a little irritated to read Superintendent Tim Cuneo's first idea for raising further revenue is an increase in property taxes. In these hard economic times, the last thing homeowners need is higher property taxes. What about some other ideas like the school district making more efficient use of the parcel tax receipts it already receives or teachers and/or school district administrations taking pay reductions? I guess for the superintendent, who receives a compensation package of $270,400 including $38,400 for a housing allowance, he can afford additional taxes. Also he may believe that given 70 percent of Santa Monica residents are renters who do not directly pay property taxes, this is an easy measure to push through. However renters, do not be deceived; either your rents will be increased to fund this or your landlord will most likely not make improvements to your property and thus decrease the living quality of your residence.

If the school district can afford to grant pay packages such as Superintendent Cuneo's, then it certainly should not be looking to burden residents with additional taxes. In just about every other profession, employees have had to take pay cuts. Why can't the schools endure the same sacrifices as other Americans? Until such point that the school district employees take meaningful pay reductions and the school union stops putting its self interest before our children's, please do not even consider insulting residents by asking for higher taxes. It is amazing that the school unions still insist on a pay structure which is not based on teacher performance, but instead rewards tenure. Until that is reversed and in line with the rest of society, more funds only equal higher tenured pay and not better education.

Frank Greenberg
Santa Monica

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Prop. 8 supporters have no defense

I LOVE THAT A LAWYER'S ONLY JOB IS TO make an argument and that the good ones can take the same set of facts and "argue it round or argue it square." I love that most legal proceedings are designed to let one side expose the weaknesses in the other side's argument, so I'm really loving the coverage of the trial of Perry v. Schwarzenegger, going on right now in San Francisco, over the legality of discriminating against same-sex couples.

On one side are David Boies and Ted Olson, the heavyweights who represented Al Gore and George W. Bush in the 2000 Florida recount. They are arguing that by not allowing same-sex marriages to be legally recognized in the same way as opposite-sex marriages, California's same-sex couples are being denied their 14th Amendment rights to due process and equal protection. They have decades of legal precedent on their side and a 2008 California Supreme Court ruling that a person cannot be denied the fundamental right to marry because of his or her sexual orientation. Also on their side is one of the named defendants, Attorney General Jerry Brown, who took the basically unprecedented step of joining the plaintiffs after correctly deciding (along with Gov. Schwarzenegger) not to defend the lawsuit.

None of the named defendants would stand up for Prop. 8, so that task falls to "Protect Marriage" and lead attorney Charles Cooper. He is arguing that California voters are entitled to overrule their Legislature and their judiciary and use a ballot initiative to amend the state Constitution in order to legalize discrimination against same-sex couples. What he wasn't able to articulate is exactly why a small majority of California voters (remember that Prop. 8 passed by 600,000 votes in a state with a population of over 35 million) should be able to take rights away from a group of people whose rights would otherwise be protected by law.

The plaintiffs' opening statement was pitch-perfect. The defendants … not so much. Olson started with, "This case is about marriage and equality. Plaintiffs are being denied both the right to marry, and the right to equality under the law." He went on to say, "In May of 2008, the California Supreme Court concluded that under this state's Constitution, the right to marry a person of one's choice extended to all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, and was available equally to same-sex and opposite-sex couples. In November of 2008, the voters of California responded to that decision with Proposition 8, amending the state's Constitution and, on the basis of sexual orientation and sex, slammed the door to marriage to gay and lesbian citizens … . Proposition 8 singled out gay men and lesbians as a class, swept away their right to marry, pronounced them unequal, and declared their relationships inferior and less-deserving of respect and dignity. In the words of the California Supreme Court, eliminating the right of individuals to marry a same-sex partner relegated those individuals to 'second class' citizenship, and told them, their families and their neighbors that their love and desire for a sanctioned marital partnership was not worthy of recognition."

That statement basically won the case on trial day one. It was brilliant in the way it challenged the defense to show its opposition to marriage equality was about anything other than the sexual orientation of the couple. It clearly put Cooper on the defensive because he didn't open by telling the judge what Prop. 8 was about, but what it wasn't about. Specifically, it wasn't about "ill-will nor animosity toward gays and lesbians," he said, "but special regard for the institution of marriage." He said that it is "the purpose of marriage — the central purpose of marriage — to ensure, or at least encourage and to promote that when life is brought into being, it is by parents who are married and who take the responsibility of raising that child together."

The argument that people marry in order to breed is only the latest in a series of justifications for taking away the rights of our gay and lesbian friends and neighbors. Initially, it was the lie that parents wouldn't have the right to object to kids being taught about same-sex marriage in school. When challenged in court, Prop. 8's raison d'être then became this threat to baby-making if non-breeding couples are allowed to marry. But the defense wasn't able to show any potential harm to the state's "procreation purpose" when Judge Vaughn Walker asked back in October and, as of yesterday, still couldn't.

In his opening, Cooper said a "broad consensus of leading scholars will show that marriage is about socially-approved sexual intercourse and the production and protection of children," revealing his side's true motivation — and destroying the lie that they're worried straight people won't hump around once same-sex couples' rights are restored. The bottom line is they don't approve of gay sex and want to deny people who have gay sex the right to marry and raise children. I'm no lawyer, but even I know that doesn't make any sense. And as Johnnie Cochran might have put it, "if it doesn't make sense, it's not a defense."

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provide with four-quadrant crossover appeal who likes few things more than lies being exposed. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Obama's broken campaign promises

DID I MISS THE SPEECH THAT PRESIDENT Obama gave telling Democrats in Congress to honor their promise to give us the same health care "that both Sen. McCain and I enjoy as federal employees?" Nope. Did he fight the good fight to give us that same coverage and lose? Nope. The fact is, he did not even try.

If they are to keep their campaign promise, the president and the Democrats in Congress owe us the same proven health care plan that they currently receive or they need to move all federal employees to the same plan that they are proposing for us. Separate but equal does not cut it. It should bother all Americans that the health care bill that they are offering us is so bad that members of Congress do not want it for themselves. You remember when Congressman Joe Wilson yelled, "You lie" at Obama? This same congressman has floored a vote every step of the way to try to force Congress to use the same health program that they are proposing for us. The Democrats have voted it down each and every time.

To better support pharmaceutical and health care corporations, President Obama decided to break another of his campaign promises and within days of taking office began holding closed-door meetings with executives where he negotiated away who knows what to get their support. That's not the "transparency in government" that he promised us. Did you believe that Bush worked in our best interests when he held secret meetings with big oil? Why would you believe otherwise now? Obama stated that the reason the Clintons failed on health care was because they held secret meetings instead of open meetings in front of the American people. Fail Obama! Fail Democrats!

When campaigning for health care reform, Obama had promised repeatedly throughout his run for the presidency that he would "have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN so the people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who is making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies." He stated that by televising all health care discussions on C-SPAN that it would "shame members of Congress" into doing the right thing. Twenty-seven secret meetings later, it's apparent who the president and the Democrats —who I now call Lameocrats — work for.

As a Republican, I want the health care the Democrats and Obama promised us. I'm for free market capitalism, but unfortunately health care does not offer the opportunity for free market capitalism. You cannot shop hospitals from the back of an ambulance. You cannot negotiate with your doctors when they have you under general anesthetic. You cannot get the best drug pricing when Congress has laws that specifically allow pharmaceutical companies to charge Americans 10 times more than Europeans and Canadians for the same medicine. The American medical industry as it stands today is highway robbery that's sanctioned by the government, and none of this will be changed under the current health care package being offered by Congress.

Democrats, I am embarrassed for you. You're all hoping that change will come while your lover lies to your face. The best excuses I hear for why Obama cannot give us health care are sad and pathetic. Some tell me that it is too expensive. The French pay 10 percent less taxes than we pay in Santa Monica, and get free health care. Please don't tell me how our health care is better than the French. I have used their system and can say with certainty their's is better, and I paid next to nothing for it.

No one laughed at Obama and said that it was too expensive when he was debating Sen. McCain. No one is telling me that it's too expensive to continue to give that health care to all of the federal workers in the United States. Yet it's too expensive to give it to the rest of us? Many people reading this article are one major sickness away from being homeless.

The big lie the Obama Cult tells me sounds like this, "David, he will get us that health care when it goes to committee." Why are all the meetings in secret when the American people already gave him the power to make change happen without needing one Republican vote or secret meeting? Why are both Democrat controlled houses of Congress not allowing C-SPAN to cover this historic opportunity?

Our health care system has failed. Ask yourself how many times you've met with an intern or a nurse practitioner instead of a doctor, or had drug reps go right in while you're kept waiting. If you do get to see a doctor, has your highly trained doctor required you to wait an hour when you have an appointment, only to have him walk in and out in five minutes. Dr. James Baharvar in Santa Monica is an exception and really takes the time to help his customers. I am sure that costs him a great deal of money to offer such exceptional service.

George Bush Sr. lost the election because he made a campaign promise. "Read my lips, no new taxes." Please hold Obama and the Lamocrats responsible for failing you now.

DAVID ALSABERY is a high performance driving instructor and all around nice guy. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Remembering Mayor Genser

With the passing of Mayor Ken Genser last week, a flood of memories come to mind. In his many years in office, he made quite a mark on local government.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What do you think will be the lasting legacy of the late mayor?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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Saint Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 14	JV/Var	Serra	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 13	F/J/V	CSHM	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 15	F/J/V	Bosco Tech	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 20	F/J/V	St. Paul	St. Paul	4/5:30/7pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 14	JV/Var	Mary Star	Mary Star	5:30/7pm
Jan 19	JV/Var	St. Bernard	SMCHS	5:30/7pm

Saint Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS SOCCER				
Jan 13	Var	Morningside	Morningside	2:30pm
Jan 15	Var	Inglewood	JAMS	3:30pm
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 13	Var	Morningside	JAMS	3:30pm
Jan 15	Var	Inglewood	Inglewood	3:00pm
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Jan 14	Var	Culver City	(Ocean League Game)	3:00pm
Jan 16	JV	Mira Costa	JV Tournament I	TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 15	Var	Inglewood		6:00pm
Jan 16	JV	Palos Verdes	Palos Verdes	4:30pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 15	Var	Inglewood		7:30pm

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INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

China tries to slow growth

JOE MCDONALD & MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Business Writers

BEIJING While the rest of the world is trying to recover from recession, China is trying to slow its economy down.

Beijing took steps Tuesday to curb the kinds of high-risk loans that can create housing bubbles, as happened in the United States. It ordered banks to set aside more reserves, and its central bank raised interest rates on one-year bills.

China, which was also hit by the worldwide downturn but has bounced back fast, hopes cooling the pace of lending will keep its economy growing without creating inflation and overheating. Other nations will be watching: They're counting on a healthy Chinese economy and a steady stream of demand for their goods.

The Chinese government acted after food prices edged up and news reports said bank lending skyrocketed in the first week of January.

"This is a small first step towards reducing the very massive amounts of stimulus that they have been providing to their economy," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

China is pumping 4 trillion yuan, about $586 billion, into its economy in 2009 and 2010 through public works and help for industries. About 30 percent of the money is coming from Beijing, the rest from local governments, state companies and banks.

The Obama administration has cautioned other countries not to withdraw their stimulus aid until a global recovery is firmly in place. But private economists said Beijing's action was wise, given the surge in Chinese lending. Some economists have warned of a potential real estate bubble in China.

Because Beijing can dictate lending patterns to state-controlled banks, it's been far more successful than the U.S. government in loosening the flow of credit. Bank lending has remained tight in the United States since the financial crisis erupted, despite $700 billion in bailout help for financial institutions.

Last year, under orders, Chinese banks lent $1.3 trillion in January-October — more than double the level for all of 2008. In the U.S., lending by the biggest banks dropped 9 percent last October compared with a year earlier, according to the Treasury Department.

Economists warned that China's banks could become stuck with bad loans, and Chinese leaders told them in July to reduce lending. A related fear is that too much money swirling around China's financial system could ignite runaway price increases or a plunge in asset prices.

"With inflation creeping up, the bank's broad aim seems to be to keep inflation expectations in check and to signal the likelihood of interest-rate hikes to come," said Mark Williams, China economist for Capital Economics.

Helped by Beijing's stimulus measures, China's economy is expected to grow 8.3 percent this year, according to government forecasts. The U.S. economy is believed to be growing right now at an annual pace of just 2 to 3 percent.

China's central bank raised the amount of reserves that banks must hold by 0.5 percentage point, to 15 percent of their deposits. U.S. banks must hold 10 percent in reserve, though that requirement is based on only a fraction of their balance sheets.

China faces pressure from the United States and other trading partners that claim Beijing is improperly supporting its companies with subsidies and market barriers, raising fears of a trade war at a time when governments are eager to protect jobs.

Other governments also say the Chinese yuan is kept undervalued by being effectively pegged to the dollar. That gives its exporters a price advantage and adds to its swollen trade surplus.

American manufacturers say this helps explain the huge U.S. trade gap with China, which shrank last year because Americans bought fewer Chinese goods during the recession.

Nothing in China's statement signaled any change in the yuan's value against the dollar. Paul Dales, U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said America's deficit with China will probably widen again this year, in part because China seems focused on growing its economy with exports, not domestic consumption.

China's action Tuesday came sooner than expected. Analysts suggested it might have been prompted by reports that Chinese banks lent 600 billion yuan, or about $88 billion, in the first week of January — nearly double the total for all of December.

"This is an extremely high figure, and suggests that the banks are rushing to push loans out the door ahead of the widely anticipated tightening of monetary policy," said Tom Orlik, an economist in Beijing for Stone & McCarthy Research Associates.

But the money flowing through the economy helped drive up real estate and stock prices, and Chinese leaders worry about a rise in food costs, a politically sensitive topic.

Housing prices in Beijing and Shanghai have soared since late 2008 to an average of more than 12,000 yuan ($1,700) per square meter, double the level three years ago, according to a December report by U.S. bond manager Pimco. Food prices rose 0.6 percent in November after nine months of declines.

The bulk of bank lending in China still goes to companies, but home mortgages and auto loans are gaining in popularity.

The government is clamping down on lending for second homes as a way to cool a surge in housing costs. But it says it wants to promote consumer credit to encourage spending at stores. The minimum down payment on a second home was raised from 30 percent to 40 percent in 2007 to try to curb speculative purchases.

The central bank governor and others have called for measures to prevent asset prices from rising too fast, warning that a bust could disrupt the economy and hurt banks that are left with unpaid loans.

Beijing is trying to curb foreign "hot money" coming into China to speculate in stocks and real estate. The Cabinet announced Sunday it has ordered closer scrutiny of inflows of foreign money.

Despite the lending curbs, Chinese leaders have assured the public that stimulus spending will continue in 2010. They say it will focus on helping entrepreneurs who generate the bulk of China's economic growth and new jobs but who missed out on the first year of the stimulus, which went mainly to state companies.

ECONOMY

White House abandons old job-count method

BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The White House has abandoned its controversial method of counting jobs under President Barack Obama's economic stimulus, making it impossible to track the number of jobs saved or created with the $787 billion in recovery money.

Despite mounting a vigorous defense of its earlier count of more than 640,000 jobs credited to the stimulus, even after numerous errors were identified, the Obama administration now is making it easier to give the stimulus credit for hiring. It's no longer about counting a job as saved or created; now it's a matter of counting jobs funded by the stimulus.

That means that any stimulus money used to cover payroll will be included in the jobs credited to the program, including pay raises for existing employees and pay for people who never were in jeopardy of losing their positions.

The new rules, quietly published last month in a memorandum to federal agencies, mark the White House's latest response to criticism about the way it counts jobs credited to the stimulus. When The Associated Press first reported flaws in the job counts in October, the White House said errors were being corrected and future counts would provide a full and correct accounting of just how many stimulus jobs were saved or created.

Numbers published last month identified more than 640,000 jobs linked to stimulus projects around the country. The White House said the public could have confidence in those new numbers, which officials argued proved the administration was on track to keep Obama's promise that the stimulus would save or create 3.5 million jobs by the end of this year.

But more errors were found, with tens of thousands of problems documented in corrected counts, from the substantive to the clerical. Republicans have used those flaws to attack what so far is the signature domestic policy approved during Obama's presidency.

The new rules are intended to streamline the process, said Tom Gavin, spokesman for the White House's Office of Management and Budget. They came in response to grant recipients who complained the reporting was too complicated, from lawmakers who complained the job counts were inconsistent and from watchdog groups who complained the information was unreliable, Gavin said.

"We're trying to make this as consistent and as uniform as we possibly can," he said.

The new stimulus job reports will continue to offer details about jobs and projects. But they were never expected to be the public accounting of Obama's goal to save or create 3.5 million jobs, Gavin said.

The quarterly job reports posted on the Web site for the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board reflect only a fraction of the jobs created under the program and can't account for job creation stemming from other stimulus programs such as tax rebates and other federal aid, the spokesman said.

But the result of the new rules will be that future claims of job creation from the stimulus will be even more misleading, said Rep. Darrell Issa, the ranking Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

ECONOMY

Bartz has tough first year at Yahoo

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Carol Bartz spent much of her first year as Yahoo Inc.'s chief executive rallying the troops and clearing the decks, often sounding like a salty drill sergeant as she vowed to whip the downtrodden Internet company back into shape.

For all the tough talk, Yahoo remains on shaky ground as Bartz marks her one-year anniversary as CEO on Wednesday.

Revenue has sagged even further since her hiring while Yahoo's share of the Internet lucrative search market has shriveled and the company's stock performance has lagged its most prominent peers.

"Operationally, I don't think you can point to any meaningful success yet, although you can point to some good strategic moves," said Benchmark Co. analyst Clayton Moran.

Yahoo declined a request to interview Bartz.

Bartz's most notable accomplishment so far has been negotiating an Internet search partnership with rival Microsoft Corp., resolving a tense courtship that began under her predecessors.

Moran and other analysts have higher hopes for Bartz in her second year at the helm, largely because they believe a recovering economy will help Yahoo sell more online advertising and bounce back from its sharpest annual revenue decline in eight years.

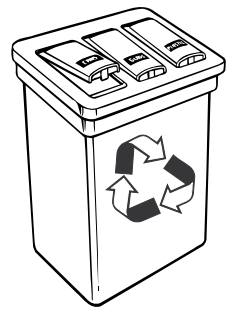
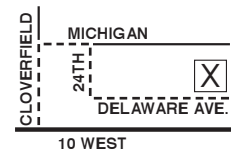
Yahoo's fourth-quarter results aren't due out until Jan. 26, but management has projected an 11 percent drop in its 2009 revenue.

Convinced the worst is over, Standard & Poor's equity analyst Scott Kessler rates Yahoo as his top Internet stock pick for this year, even though he says Yahoo's financial results so far under Bartz have been "consistently disappointing."

Bartz, 61, can't be entirely blamed for the letdown because Yahoo's profits depend on advertising, a business that suffered as marketers curtailed their spending during the worst U.S. recession in 70 years.

Yahoo's financial funk began in 2006 while Terry Semel was still CEO and deepened even further when company cofounder Jerry Yang took over the top job in June 2007. Analysts say Yahoo became bloated and distracted in recent years while more nimble rivals such as Google and Facebook became more popular.

The missteps crimped Yahoo's operating profit margin, which is now hovering around 6 percent — a level that Bartz has publicly ridiculed as "pathetic." She has promised to produce an operating profit margin ranging from 15 percent to 20 percent by 2012.

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Pier still a pollution concern

FROM BAY PAGE 1

ing ahead with a plan to limit the negative effects on some fish species by capping the most contaminated sediment areas. Some of the affected species are eaten by humans and can pose a cancer risk, Gold said.

Other projects that still need attention involve habitat restoration efforts in Malibu Lagoon and Ballona Wetlands, Gold said.

While Santa Monica has been a leader in efforts to reduce bay pollution, Gold said the city's efforts to clean up bacteria near the Santa Monica Pier remain less than adequate. City officials last year installed a new storm drain underneath the pier to replace one that was leaking, leading to poor grades on Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card.

"The pier project has led to improvement, it just isn't clean," he said. "(The city has) not solved the problem yet."

Swain said City Hall is about half way done with installing a net under the pier aimed at reducing the pigeon population. Pigeons and their excrement are believed to contribute to higher bacteria levels in the ocean near the pier.

City Hall is also installing sound devices aimed at deterring pigeons from congregating at the pier.

A LOT OF THESE ENGINEERING PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE COASTAL CITIES AND THE COUNTY HAVE STARTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

Mark Gold
President of Heal the Bay

nickt@smdp.com



L.A. district names school after RFK

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The school complex built on the site of Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel where Robert F. Kennedy was killed will be named after the senator.

Los Angeles Unified school board members approved the name Tuesday as a tribute to the Democratic presidential hopeful who was gunned down in 1968. There was no opposition.

The Ambassador site was highly contested, first by developer Donald Trump who wanted to build the world's tallest building there and later by historic preservationists, who wanted to restore the crumbling hotel to its former glamor.

The new educational complex cost more than $400 million, and is one of the most expensive ever constructed for K-12 education.

Two elementary schools are operating on the site. A middle school and high school are still under construction.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

LOOKING OLD: **Wear has occurred in Parking Structure 3 and other Downtown structures.**

City Hall finds 90 spots with cracking concrete

FROM **STRUCTURES** PAGE 1

accommodate more vehicles. City Hall is involved in negotiations with AMC and Metropolitan Pacific Capital, who want to build a new, state-of-the-art movie theater and parking where Structure 3 stands. Structure 1 could also be rebuilt but city staff are waiting to see what the parking demand will be following rate changes and the construction of a new Parking Structure 6, said Miriam Mack, City Hall's economic development manager.

Structure 3 is in the worst shape, according to the review. Of the 90 locations where failures may occur, 25 are in Parking Structure 3. The remaining locations are distributed between structures 1,2,4,5 and 6. Repair work is expected to begin later this month. The lowest bid received is for $65,550, Swain said.

In addition to the repairs, City Hall also plans to conduct an assessment of cracks in the slabs in Parking Structure 9 and will test the slabs and steel tension posts in structures 2,4 and 5 to evaluate future maintenance needs. A request for bids has been issued.

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Terror conspirator Padilla appeals 2007 conviction

GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA Convicted terrorism plotter Jose Padilla's attorneys asked an appeals court on Tuesday to throw out his conviction, arguing that he was the victim of "outrageous governmental conduct."

Padilla gained notoriety when he was accused in 2002 of plotting to blow up a radioactive "dirty bomb," though those claims were eventually dropped. He was later convicted along with two others in an unrelated terrorism plot.

Padilla's lawyer told the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals that his client should have been granted an evidentiary hearing before the 2007 trial that would have proved he was being mistreated by the government.

Lawyers for Padilla and his co-conspirators also argued that a federal judge made a series of errors that helped lead the jury toward a guilty conviction.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, contended that Padilla's prison sentence of more than 17 years was too lenient.

Padilla and co-conspirators Adham Amin Hassoun and Kifah Wael Jayyousi were convicted in 2007 after a three-month trial in which prosecutors said they sent money, recruits and supplies to Islamic extremist groups.

Padilla, a U.S. citizen and Muslim convert, had been arrested in 2002 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on suspicion of plotting to set off a radioactive "dirty bomb," and then held for 3 1/2 years as an enemy combatant without charge.

Amid legal challenges to his detention, the Justice Department in late 2005 added Padilla to the separate Miami terror support case involving Hassoun and Jayyousi. The dirty bomb allegations were dropped.

In court filings and during arguments Tuesday, Padilla's attorney Michael Caruso contended there should have been an evidentiary hearing before the trial that would have proven he is the victim of "outrageous governmental conduct." He said his client was mistreated and tortured on a Navy brig, charges that federal officials have repeatedly denied.

"There can be no dispute that we have that here — extremely prolonged isolation, psychological and physical abuse, prolonged interrogation," said Caruso. "We have conduct that shocks the conscience."

During the trial, Padilla was billed as a "star recruit," while Hassoun was the recruiter and Jayyousi served as a financier and propagandist. According to testimony, Hassoun recruited Padilla at a Florida mosque to attend an al-Qaida terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

Sentencing guidelines had called for as much as life in prison for all three, but U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke used her discretion to go below the minimum. Padilla got about 17 years, Hassoun was sentenced to over 15 years and Jayyousi to 12 years and eight months.

On Tuesday, lawyers for the three men tried to chip away at the government's case.

Jayyousi's attorney Matthew Hellman contended that video of an old Osama bin Laden interview that was used in an attempt to link the three to the world's most notorious terrorist was "extremely prejudicial."

"It had no evidence whatsoever for the allegations against Jayyousi," said Hellman.

Lawrence Rosenberg, a lawyer for Hassoun, argued that assertions by an FBI agent that he used phrases like "tourism" and "football" as code for violent jihad were faulty. He said his client's overseas assistance was for peaceful purposes.

Government attorney John Shipley countered that the evidence helped paint a picture of a "conspiracy to support the establishment of radical Islamic regimes." And he said Padilla's sentence should be stiffer in partly because it isn't enough to deter the 39-year-old from future offenses.

"The sentence that was imposed here was too low for a career offender who is violent and also had al-Qaida training," said Shipley.

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Hours: Monday-Saturday 6:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

City of Santa Monica

Another chain yanks cadmium-tainted toys

JEREMIAH MARQUEZ & JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES A second international chain store said it is pulling from shelves jewelry that lab tests show contained high levels of the heavy metal cadmium, and Chinese regulators said they will investigate dangerous levels of the toxin in children's jewelry being exported to the United States. Also, a U.S. senator called for hearings.

The jewelry and accessories store Claire's, with nearly 3,000 locations in North America and Europe, on Tuesday joined Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in saying it would stop selling any item cited in an Associated Press investigation of the presence of cadmium in cheap bracelets and charms.

Charms on a "Best Friends" bracelet sold at Claire's contained 89 and 91 percent cadmium, according to testing organized by AP.

"While we have no reason to believe that this product is unsafe, out of an abundance of caution, we are taking this action because we take our responsibility to our customers very seriously," Claire's said in a statement. Also, customers who return the item will be offered store credit.

Health overhaul likely to undergo more changes

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON House and Senate negotiators working on President Barack Obama's health overhaul bill appear likely to drop a proposed income tax increase on high-wage earners and possibly jettison a requirement for large businesses to offer coverage to their employees, Democratic officials said Tuesday.

Negotiators are considering extending the Medicare payroll tax, which now applies only to income from wages, to cover some of the investment earnings of couples making more than $250,000 a year, and individuals earning above $200,000. That could make up lost revenue from dropping the high-wage income tax and scaling back a proposed tax on high-value insurance plans, which is strongly opposed by organized labor and House Democrats.

On another high-profile issue, the negotiators are discussing a hybrid of a proposed national insurance exchange contained in the House bill and the state-by-state approach favored by the Senate. House Democrats are pressing for a national system to apply pressure to the insurance industry after their proposal for a new government-run insurance option was ruled out due to opposition from Senate moderates.

These officials also said key lawmakers and the White House were hoping to include more money to protect state governments from the cost of an expansion of the federal-state Medicaid insurance program for the poor. That issue flared after Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., the critical 60th vote for the health care bill in the Senate, got a deal for the federal government to pay the full cost of Medicaid expansion in his state forever, whereas other states would have to pick up part of the tab after a few years.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not free to disclose details of the negotiations.

The developments came as the pace of negotiations on health care legislation quickened with House members returning to Washington on Tuesday from a holiday recess. The White House wants a final bill for Obama to sign in time for his State of the Union address early next month.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and other Democratic leaders were scheduled to meet with Obama at the White House on Wednesday to narrow the numerous issues that remain unresolved. The president has weighed in forcefully in recent days, telling lawmakers he wants at least a pared-down tax on high-cost insurance plans as well as a commission with authority to order cuts to Medicare spending under limited circumstances — both measures designed to hold down spiraling health care costs.

The House-passed bill included an income tax increase on individuals making more than $500,000 a year and couples making over $1 million, as well as a requirement for large businesses to cover their workers. The Senate bill contained neither. It included a tax on high-value insurance plans and a modest increase in the Medicare payroll tax. Instead of requiring employers to offer health coverage, the Senate bill penalized businesses if any of their workers obtained government-subsidized health care.

The move away from the House approaches is a bow to the influence of moderates in the Senate, who oppose those and other liberal priorities and are critical to Reid's fragile majority in support of the bill.

Officials said Obama has indicated support for a national version of the exchange — a clearinghouse where consumers could shop for health coverage. He also is signaling support for ending the decades-old antitrust exemption enjoyed by insurance companies. On those two issues the president is siding with House Democrats over their Senate counterparts.

The legislation passed by both chambers before Christmas is similar in many respects, including expanding Medicaid and imposing a first-time requirement for almost everyone to purchase insurance. Both bills would extend health coverage to more than 30 million uninsured Americans over the next decade.

On other issues:

—House Democrats are pushing for more generous subsidies to help low- and middle-income people buy coverage, and Obama supports that. Under the Senate bill, the average subsidy that someone shopping in the exchange would get in 2019 is $5,600, while in the House bill it's $6,800.

—Negotiators are looking at how to tweak the tax on high-value insurance plans. As passed by the Senate, the 40 percent tax would hit individual health plans worth $8,500 or more and family plans worth $23,000 or more. Union leaders fear their members would be unduly penalized by the tax, and there's been discussion of moving the thresholds higher.

Obama met with union leaders Monday, and one union official familiar with the discussions said labor leaders and White House staff also explored the possibility of exempting or delaying health plans covered by collective bargaining agreements from being subject to the tax. They also discussed possible carve-outs for state and government employees, many of whom are unionized.

But some union officials are concerned about any compromise that would appear to give unions special treatment. They want a fix that protects both union and nonunion middle-class workers from paying higher taxes on health plans.

The goal was for White House staffers to come up with a revised plan for the insurance plan excise tax within 48 hours of Monday's meeting. Union leaders, including AFL-CIO head Richard Trumka, met with Pelosi on Tuesday afternoon.

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59°

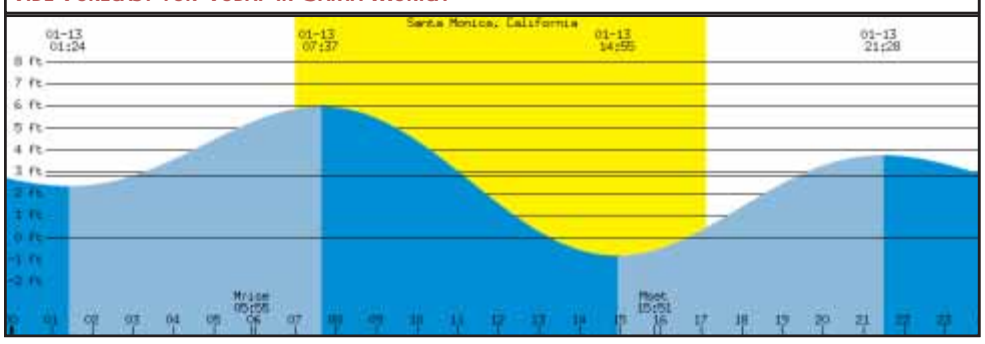
Swell Forecast

We should see swell build in from that more powerful system sitting right now below the Aleutians.

Long Range Synopsis

This swell should back down, but it looks like DOH surf could persist, at least for the AM.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 6, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 23

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

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

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

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.

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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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.

NFL

Carroll wants players to buy in

TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. Pete Carroll looked to the back of the auditorium where a few of the Seattle Seahawks he's inheriting stood.

His intense message was directed to them and every other player watching or listening to Carroll's introduction on Tuesday morning: the sooner you buy into our plans, the sooner we can achieve.

"We need you guys to jump on board and go with us," Carroll said. "It won't happen any other way. We need to be together on our mission on this."

Carroll's intense, fast-paced hour-long debut as the new Seahawks head coach replacing Jim Mora was filled with messages to a fan base upset at a 9-23 record the last two seasons, but also to the players he'll take over as the third Seattle coach in three seasons.

A few players decided to show up at the team headquarters, including safety Lawyer Milloy and defensive end Lawrence Jackson. For them, Carroll is an integral figure in their football careers. Carroll was coach in New England for three seasons where Milloy was his starting safety, while Jackson played for Carroll at Southern California.

Jackson said the passion and enthusiasm that Carroll shows is not a facade.

"It's pretty exciting. The message that he delivered and portrayed is a great deal because he's exposing himself as a competitor from the first day on and letting everybody know who he is and what he expects and what he's done with that philosophy," Jackson said. "He wants to extract the very best out of every player individually and that collectively makes a great picture. I think the onus is on the players to open up and embrace the change."

While Carroll's NFL success is limited — 27-21 in three seasons with New England and two playoff trips; 6-10 in one year with the New York Jets — his winning at USC can't be argued against. He went 97-19 in his nine seasons with the Trojans, winning a share of seven straight Pac-10 titles with two national titles.

But getting that success to translate to the NFL isn't easy for a lot of college coaches. Even more difficult can be getting pro players to accept a high-energy coach known for his outward enthusiasm on the sideline.

"I think guys want to see that. Guys want to have that energy," said Seattle running back Justin Forsett, who played against Carroll in college at California. "It's a business but something you love doing is supposed to be fun. I think guys are going to take well to that."

Milloy was the most torn of the players who showed up Tuesday. He put off retirement largely for a chance to play for Mora last season only to see him get dismissed after one season. His replacement: the guy that boosted his career in its infancy.

"This day is kind of weird for me personally because I'm friends with both coaches," Milloy said. "One coach I feel very, very sorry for only given one year in the NFL to make magic happen and then ecstatic that another coach I think fairly highly of has another shot."

MMA

Walker serious about debut

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI LAKES, Fla. Even Herschel Walker's mother apparently isn't too keen on her son's latest competitive venture.

"She's been praying that they wouldn't find an opponent for me," the former Heisman Trophy winner and mixed martial arts novice said with a broad smile. "Even though she wants me to do it, she's been praying that they don't find me an opponent."

So much for divine intervention.

Walker's MMA debut was finalized Tuesday when Greg Nagy was announced as his opponent for the Strikeforce card to be contested Jan. 30 at the Florida Panthers' arena in Sunrise, Fla.

At an age — 47 — when most NFL players have long walked away from that violent sport, Walker is 2 ? weeks away from entering a realm defined by armbars, neck cranks, choke holds and tapouts.

"MMA is the No. 1 sport out there for me," said Walker, whose self-challenges previously have found him doing Olympic bobsled and even ballet. "I love competition; I don't want to lose at anything. I'm a little bit older, but I love competition."

Walker was the 1982 Heisman Trophy winner while at Georgia and played professionally for Dallas, Philadelphia, Minnesota, the New York Giants and the New Jersey Generals.

In his football days, Walker dropped jaws with a workout regimen that included upwards of 3,000 situps and pushups everyday. He also holds a fifth-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. But even that, he said, could only begin to prepare him for what he's learning about MMA.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Walker said. "When a guy gets me in an armbar within two minutes (during training), I'd better be learning something if I'm going to get in the cage."

Trainer Javier Mendez, whose American Kickboxing Academy is renowned for producing MMA champions, acknowledged he was initially skeptical about the idea of training Walker.

"I thought someone like him shouldn't be fighting at this stage," Mendez said Tuesday. "But once I saw him, I was amazed. His explosiveness, his cardio, his willingness to learn I don't think anybody could have done it other than him."

Nagy, 26, sports a 1-1 record in MMA, both coming at Rage in the Cage events in Arizona.

Allan Fields, chief physician for the Florida Boxing Commission that also oversees MMA sanctioning, said Walker passed the "most strenuous tests that possibly you can impose on an athlete."

A stress test on Walker's heart given by a "major cardiac institution," Fields said, produced the highest score of anyone ever tested by facility.

"He's in as fine a shape as Muhammad Ali or any of these people we've had the care of," said Fields, a former U.S. Olympic team physician. "This guy is 47 going on 22, as far as his physical fitness goes."

Even so, Walker acknowledged there will be skeptics. Nor does it help that former baseball slugger Jose Canseco lasted just 78 seconds in his foray into MMA last July.

"There have been some athletes that have been totally an embarrassment," Walker said. "Jose Canseco, it's insulting, the guy never trained."

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Baaria - La porta del vento (NR) 2hrs 30min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45

Daybreakers (R) 1hr 38min
12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
12:00, 2:15, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

Leap Year (PG) 1hr 37min
12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Loss of a Teardrop Diamond (PG-13) 1hr 42min
4:50, 9:55

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 1hr 50min
4:20

Irene in Time (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:45, 7:10

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
2:10, 7:20

Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
9:30

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:00

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

Your treat, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You can and will make a difference wherever you decide to put your energy. You could become frustrated by a blockade or two, but you can and will handle it. You find out where hidden hassles lie. Tonight: Could be late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your spirit soars, and you see a situation in a new light. Your humor opens up a blockage and allows others to have a little more give-and-take. You could laugh at what others see as difficult. Tonight: Kick back and detach.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Working with one person could take its toll on you, especially as one blockage after another comes up. Kick back and detach. Your creativity might not be able to resolve some of the evolving issues, but remain true to yourself. Tonight: Let go of a problem.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to someone else knowing there are situations you might want to change, and move on. By staying observant and open, you'll learn a lot more of what could be and the direction in which you are heading. Tonight: Sort through your options.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Accomplishment feels good, but you might not be able to push a situation in the direction you so choose. Be aware of the possibilities if you don't go down the normal route. You might need to veer in another direction. Tonight: Put your feet up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Allow greater creativity and dynamic thought into an issue. Even though you might try to close a door on a situation, it doesn't work -- not even slamming it works. Don't take a financial risk, no matter how good it sounds. Tonight: Have reasonable expectations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You could feel unusually limited right now. If you want to do something differently, now is the time. Investigate options with new eyes, knowing that perhaps you have overlooked something. You could be shutting it out without knowing it. Tonight: Living it up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving, even though someone or several people seem blocked for various reasons. You might ask yourself what you aren't revealing and why. Analyze why you are holding back before you judge someone else. Tonight: Work with the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Could you be overstepping a boundary with a friend without knowing it? Stop and look at a situation carefully. Sometimes you take certain details for granted. Learn to move through problems. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You discover many ways you could trip yourself up. Today could provide too many examples for you to integrate into one day. Do your best, knowing it serves you to understand how you might be interfering with progress. Tonight: Chat with a trusted friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ Know when to back off, especially as you seem to run into a hassle no matter which way you turn. Your normal creativity and upbeat manner go far and allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Listen to your inner dialogue; in here lies an answer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A friend could sorely disappoint you, and you wonder if you could have made a difference. Let go and worry less right now. Sometimes when you get too focused, you inadvertently cause a problem. Tonight: Stay away from difficult people.

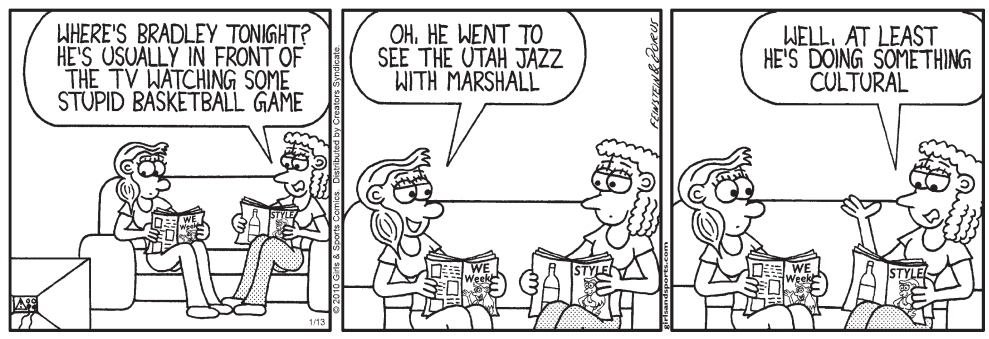
Happy birthday

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

This year, open up to possibilities. If you hit an obstacle, become reflective rather than a bulldozer pushing as hard as possible. This demanding approach will backfire automatically. If you think outside the box, you will be able to make a big difference in what evolves. Trust in your abilities, though they might be tested. Remember, you are the Goat; even if you stumble, you continue your climb. If you are single, you'll see life in a new light, though relationships might be a little difficult to get off the ground and stabilize. If you are attached, it could be close to impossible not to let some of your issues float through the bond. Remember, a relationship involves two people, not one. A fellow CAPRICORN can be overly challenging. ...

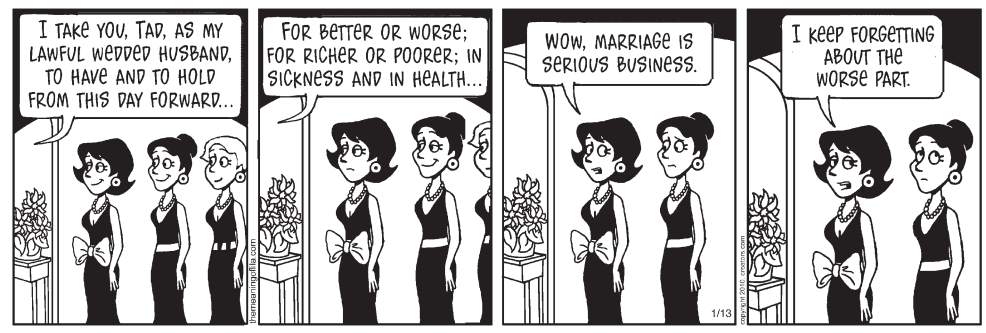
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



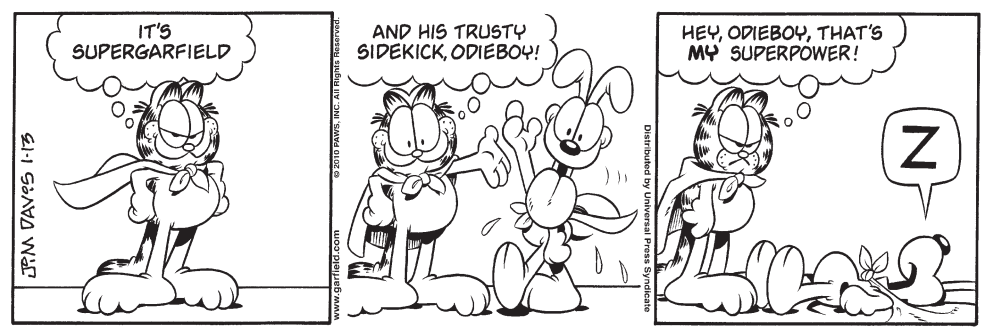
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



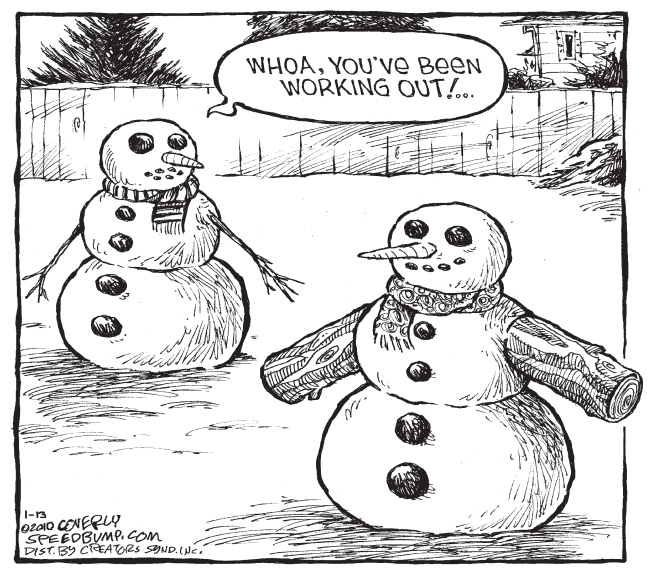
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

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

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Tolerate
6 Show sorrow
10 Comic actor Leary
11 Barber offering
12 Raison —
13 Words to the band-leader
14 Loafer, for one
15 Turn
16 Pewter component
17 Catchy music
18 Road goo
19 Decadent
22 Pennsylvania port
23 Naturalness
26 Rescind
29 Belief
32 Ones with power
33 Veto
34 Radio parts
36 Lauer of "Today"
37 Archery item
38 Numerical comparison
39 Learns about
40 Flynn of film
41 Just
42 College heads

DOWN

1 Augments
2 Queen's home
3 Chanter
4 Dreaded
5 Jargon suffix
6 Tiny amount
7 Worry
8 Madonna musical
9 Rabbit of story
11 Mall masses
15 King of France
17 Movie trailers
20 Carnival city
21 Ring setting
24 "My Way" singer
25 Newspaper issue
27 Print measures
28 Lauds
29 British Columbia neighbor
30 Squad-car sound
31 Ethical
35 "Finding Nemo" fish
36 Grown-up filly
38 Roulette bet

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

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

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

1-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 18 20 31 36 43
Meganumber: 33
Jackpot: 60$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 13 29 36 40
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: 9$M

FANTASY 5: 10 11 12 23 31

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 4 7
EVENING: 1 4 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.46.21

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

■ Natives of the Erromango section of the Pacific island Vanuatu recently held a formal "conciliation" with the great-great-grandson of the British missionary whom the islanders' ancestors ate when he came ashore in 1839. Charles Milner-Williams' forebear, Rev. John Williams, was regarded as the most famous Christian missionary of the era. Vanuatan legislator Ralph Regenvanu told BBC News that cannibalism was traditionally a sacred warrior practice for "vanquishing a threat (and) absorbing the power of the enemy." Nonetheless, he said, the island has long felt "guilt," and even a "complex," from killing and eating Rev. Williams. In penitence, Vanuatu symbolically gave the Williams family a 7-year-old girl, who will not be eaten but whose education Milner-Williams promised to underwrite.

■ In November, a Chicago judge ruled that former firefighter Jeffrey Boyle is entitled to his $50,000 annual pension even though he had pleaded guilty in 2006 to eight counts of arson (and allegedly confessed to 12 more). Boyle is known locally as "Matches" Boyle to distinguish him from his brother, John "Quarters" Boyle, who is now in federal prison for bribery following the theft of millions of dollars in state toll-gate coins. Judge LeRoy Martin Jr. concluded that Matches' arsons were wholly separate from his firefighting.

TODAY IN HISTORY

532 Nika riots in Constantinople.

888 Odo, Count of Paris becomes King of the Franks.

1328 Edward III of England marries Philippa of Hainault, daughter of the Count of Hainault.

1605 The controversial play Eastward Hoe by Ben Jonson, George Chapman, and John Marston is performed, landing two of the authors in prison.

1607 The Bank of Genoa fails after announcement of national bankruptcy in Spain.

WORD UP!

torpor
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1. Lacking in vitality or interest.
2. A state of mental or physical inactivity or insensibility.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2009, 1/6/2010, 1/13/2010, 1/20/2010

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Sunset Park	$1,062,000	$650,000
Ocean Park	$1,395,000	$585,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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