



NEW WAY TO WASH
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS ISSUE

Taking care of business

Chamber joins countywide business lobbying group

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN, L.A. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce is hoping to have its voice heard in Sacramento, joining more than 44 business organizations across Los Angeles County in the formation of a lobbying group.

Business leaders announced on Tuesday the creation of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), kicking off a new coalition that represents the interest of more than 70,000 businesses and the 1.2 million people that they employ.

The chamber, which represents close to 1,000 businesses in Santa Monica, is one of the founding members and will have a hand in setting the advocacy agenda for the coalition. The

director of government affairs for the chamber, Samantha O'Neil, will serve on the coalition's board of directors.

"The coalition is bringing all the voices together," O'Neil said. "The more people, the stronger the voice, the easier it is going to get heard."

The issues near and dear to the business community here cut across jurisdictional lines, matters such as congestion and parking, public transportation and workforce housing, O'Neil added.

Currently, the various business organizations and chambers individually have their own lobbyists. In Santa Monica, the chamber has been a supporter of causes like the Exposition Light Rail and Subway to the Sea and issues related to sustainability.

The new coalition brings together all of those different voices into one loud shout.

"We are bringing all these diverse businesses together to talk about the same issues and to advocate for jobs, growth and creating a better community in Los Angeles," O'Neil

said. "We know that improving communities (has) improved the business environment as well."

To join, organizations have to pay anywhere from \$100 to \$500, depending on their revenue, according to BizFed's Web site.

The new organization is meant to give more lobbying power to the larger business community in the county, both emulating and countering other advocacy groups, including one of the most powerful in Los Angeles — unions.

While the group is a response to how organized some of the other groups are, it isn't just about labor unions, O'Neil said.

"We look at that model and say it's working for them why not try it for us as well," she said. "Los Angeles County is so diverse just in space and types of different businesses and types of problems and solutions out there, it's good to get them in one room and advocate for them."

Maria Elena Durazo, the executive secretary-treasurer for

SEE CHAMBER PAGE 11



Photo courtesy SMC

SMC student group discovers unknown species of spider

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DEATH VALLEY When Luis Suarez spent a hot September afternoon collecting every ant and spider in sight, the college sophomore did so with aspirations of being the Christopher Columbus of entomologists, hoping to come across a bug whose species was undiscovered.

The long shot of an opportunity came true for Suarez and his fellow Santa Monica College classmates earlier this month when they learned they had picked up an undiscovered species of jumping spider.

"I was hoping it would happen because the (National Park Service) told us that it hasn't happened before in Death Valley and there's always a possibility to discover a new species," Suarez said on Tuesday. "I was looking everywhere ... in the weirdest places, like under bushes."

The environmental studies student was among the more than 30 SMC students that participated in Professor William Selby's one-unit field studies course in the fall semester, spending a three-day weekend in late September studying the geologic history of Death Valley.

As part of the trip, the students spent one afternoon assisting the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to catalogue all the plants and animals in Death Valley, picking up nearly every living creature they saw crawling across the sand.

SEE SPIDER PAGE 10

BEING EXTRA CAREFUL: SMC student John Speargas uses an 'aspirator,' a device that allows a person to suck up small animals and safely deposit them into a glass or plastic vial without hurting them and without the need to handle the creature.



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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Sustainable Santa Monica Community Event

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Main Branch Library will host a panel discussion on sustainability in the local community. Discussion topics will include an overview of programs, rebates, grants and educational opportunities to make participating in a sustainable Santa Monica easy, affordable and fun. Brief presentations will be followed by time for Q&A with speakers. Participating organizations include City of Santa Monica's Environmental Programs Division, Sustainable Works, and Global Green USA. RSVP is not required but recommended and appreciated. RSVP to Traci Reitz, Community Sustainability Liaison at traci@sustainablesma.org. This event is free.

St. Monica opens her doors

1039 Seventh St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

St. Monica Elementary School is having an Open House for prospective parents in the school auditorium. For more information, call (310) 451-9801.

Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library brings back their music and story program for toddlers aged 24 — 36 months. Registration and an accompanying adult are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 392-3804.

The Play 'tis the Thing

2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library is hosting a six-week play writing workshop. Learn principles of dramatic structure, how to construct dialogue and analyze the finished product with instructor Anna Stramese. Registration required. Enrollment limited. For more information, call (310) 458-8638.

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008

Voices of Los Angeles Poetry Reading Series

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

A poetry reading with Gretchen Mattox and Amy Newlove Schroeder followed by a reception and book signing.

'Love Songs of Walt Whitman: Full of Life Now'

UCLA, 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

UCLA hosts the world premiere concert of "DreamBrother" baritone, Stephan David Hewitt with his 5-piece band. The performance celebrates the beginning of their "Calamus at 150" tour, featuring Whitman's passionate anthems to love and spirit beyond the constraints of institutions, and honors the Calamus volume of "Leaves of Grass," which made Whitman both famous and his work notorious. This free event will be held in the Northwest Campus Auditorium. For more information, call the UCLA LGBT Resource Center at (310) 206-3628.

Tired Treesavers unite

1440 Harvard St., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Dedicated environmental and community activists who are passionately working to save the ficus trees in downtown Santa Monica will share frustrations and aspirations at monthly emotional support group for progressive activists. Free and free on-site parking at the Friends Meeting Hall. For more info, e-mail activistsupportcircle@earthlink.net.

'Choosing the Quiet'

1227 Second St., call for gallery hours

Maurizio Barattucci's solo show, "Choosing the Quiet" is currently available for viewing at Emeritus College. Barattucci taught at the Art Department of Santa Monica College for 30 years and retired recently. The exhibition will be shown until February 29, 2008. For more information on this free event, call (310) 434-4306.

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.



Waterless car wash makes a splash

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Using water to rinse off car wash solution is so yesterday, especially in Santa Monica.

City Hall is awaiting word on whether the Metropolitan Water District will award an estimated \$123,000 grant that would be used to purchase waterless car wash products to clean off its fleet of automobiles as well as vehicles for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"As part of the Sustainable City Plan, we're supposed to reduce water by 20 percent by 2010," said Kim O'Cain, the water resources specialist for City Hall. "My sole job is to save water."

The announcement of the grants is expected to come in April, O'Cain said.

One of the contenders who hopes to supply City Hall is Los Angeles-based Lucky Earth Inc., which developed a chemically-free waterless car wash, creatively called "Waterless."

If City Hall wins the grant in the spring,

the product will also be offered to the Santa Monica Lexus and Toyota dealerships, both of which have expressed interest in sustainability and in greening their businesses, O'Cain said. All of the public schools in Santa Monica will also have access to the product, which would be encouraged for school car wash fundraisers, O'Cain said.

Mar Vista couple Jeff and Lisa Peri developed the concept for the Lucky Earth car wash more than a year ago when they learned their oldest daughter Kayla was chronically ill with high fevers because she

was sensitive to chemicals. The couple removed all chemicals from their home and started looking for a car wash product that was also chemical free.

"We decided to start making our own product for our own personal use and I asked my husband to find something waterless," Lisa Peri said. "I was kind of half joking but my husband Jeff found tons of products that were waterless but all had chemicals."

The Peris enlisted the help of a scientist

SEE WASH PAGE 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Threat was a hoax

The lockdown of Lincoln Middle School Tuesday afternoon was the result of a hoax, police and school officials said.

A caller, reportedly a female juvenile, reported that someone with a gun was on the campus near the end of the school day, but police set up a perimeter, searched the area and determined the report was bogus.

Lincoln students were escorted by police and school staff off campus to a staging area at the corner of Euclid Street and California Avenue. They were then released to their parents.

"The lockdown and the dismissal progressed smoothly," Tim Walker, deputy superintendent of SMMUSD, said in a press release issued Tuesday night. "District administration was at the site, and communication was sent to all parents of Lincoln Middle School and John Adams Middle School by an automated dialing system."

"The collaborative efforts between the police, PTA, site and district staff focused on the safety and security of students and staff," Walker wrote. "School will be in open tomorrow and additional staff will be on both sites to assist any children who require support to deal with the events of this afternoon."

"The District is thankful that no one was injured during the events of today and we will use this incident as a learning opportunity to ensure that all of our schools are even more prepared for any crisis."

DAILY PRESS



TOUGH GOING

Santa Monica Rugby Club's Kelly Serfoss (center) fights off several members of the L.A. Rugby Club during a victory on Saturday. The team is 3-0.

Photo courtesy Cortney Crego



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Measure R is not BB

Editor:

I had the pleasure of making a very public appearance during the SMMUSD board interviews for the vacant school board position after Emily Bloomfield's unexpected resignation. I answered questions on paper and in person as did (Ralph) Mechur in his turn and after that took place, the school board's majority vote was to place Mr. Mechur in the position. I was disappointed that I wasn't chosen but I have to say that if there was a better candidate than I, Ralph was the person to do the job well, which he has. There was no Malibu candidate there, no Malibu prospect who even was interested to my knowledge Hindsight is always 20/20 and if the Malibu constituency has regrets so be it. Let's put that behind us. Let's look toward our children's future.

Measure R has nothing to do with (Measure) BB bond monies and the entire school district should understand this. Let's not confuse issues when such an important vote is at hand. Malibu school supporters and voters, like Santa Monica's, have to understand that if the renewal of these parcel taxes by way of the Measure R vote isn't voted for in two-thirds majority, then they are sending our school children into a deep, dark place of public school depravity. No nurses, no custodians, no arts, no music, no librarians and no teachers to fulfill our public school's enrollment and it could be worse than my description. A very scary option to consider in comparing what we as a district can achieve if we have the two-thirds vote. This is the time to rise up and support the vote. This is no time to confuse issues.

Don't the students in Malibu deserve the same as what the Santa Monica students deserve? I'm not talking about the BB capital improvement money that will help upgrade all district schools. I'm talking about the bare necessities of public school education. If we have great new buildings, what will it mean if the students within them are not provided the proper academic and enrichment programs to support them? What can the Malibu school children benefit by voters not supporting this?

At this point and time all I can do is give thanks to the school board for making all the right decisions and for placing this on the Feb. 5 ballot. For all Malibu-Santa Monica public school students and their families I want you to know, you have my yes vote for Measure R.

Nicole Picard
Santa Monica

At least it's better than Adelphia

Editor:

Mr. Zeruk may be suffering from slow downloading malaise ("The downlow on the downloading," page 4, Jan 26-27), but I have been using city wi-fi in the library for some time, with far fewer glitches than I had with Adelphia. In fact, I am using it right now. I understand the city will soon be providing free wi-fi citywide, soon. I recently met with the city manager to lobby him for inter-active forums on the city web page, and he is considering my suggestion.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica



Your column here

Matt Millen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'R' seeks parcel tax for a very long time

IT IS TIME TO EXAMINE WHY MEASURE

R, a Santa Monica Malibu Unified School (SMMUSD) parcel tax on the Feb. 5 ballot, is fatally flawed and why you should vote NO. The voters approved two parcel taxes, Prop. S, which expires in 2009, and Prop. Y which expires in 2011. Measure R repeals Props. S and Y and replaces them with a new parcel tax with no sunset clause, or expiration date. This tax will be imposed on every homeowner and renter in Santa Monica and Malibu (but includes a senior exemption for homeowners). The tax is the same on each parcel of land, including vacant land. A home and a large commercial project pays the same amount of money, thus it fundamentally is a regressive tax on the poor. The proponents of Measure R seem to have read George Orwell's book "1984." In that political novel, Mr. Orwell describes what happens in a society when the government controls information and history. The government engages in "doublethink," the concept of holding two contradictory ideas in one's mind at the same time. The concept is for the public to believe whatever the government tells us, even though we know different.

Let's examine some of the ways they are using "1984" concepts in this election. The proponents claim Measure R is not a new tax nor is it a tax increase. If the last of the two current parcel taxes expires in 2011, and Measure R will be on every homeowners tax bill forever, with annual cost of living increases for ever (and annual rent increases in Santa Monica passed on to tenants by their rental housing providers), only a believer in "doublethink" would come to the conclusion a tax that replaces expiring taxes, which goes on forever, and increases every year is neither a new tax, nor will it increase one's taxes or rent. I believe a tax that repeals two expiring taxes, and replaces it with a tax that will be on my tax bill forever, and will increase with the rate of inflation every year forever, is a new tax, and a tax increase. "What say you?"

The lack of expiration date denies voters the ability to demand accountability and erases their leverage and voice in local government.

The proponents' "1984" campaign style literature claim, "Without Measure R, neighborhood schools will face serious budget cuts to critical academic programs, and could lose some of our best teachers."

The publisher of the Malibu Times in his Jan. 16 editorial urging voters to vote against Measure R debunked this "doublespeak" and specifically stated, "Don't worry about the money being cut off. If Measure R fails, the old (Y & S) parcel tax money keeps coming to the school, so there is no cutoff to the students." They also claim, "No other source of funding exists to prevent these cuts if Measure R fails." The city of Santa Monica has an annual budget of one half billion dollars. It is probably the richest city per capita in the state of California. There is plenty of money flowing into the city of Santa Monica and Malibu to replace the funding for parcel taxes S and Y when they expire.

The proponents in their campaign literature don't say how much this new tax is, or what it will really cost homeowners and tenants. The cost of the new tax starts at \$346 per homeowner, and will increase with the amount of inflation in perpetuity. With some homeowners facing increasing mortgage payments and foreclosures on the rise, why increase the tax burden on already stressed homeowners? In addition every tenant renting a condo will have their rent increased by \$29 a month. This will be on top of the new Prop. V municipal water and sewer tax that the Rent Control Board just authorized to be passed through to tenants.

The school board is apparently taking voters for granted. While the proponents of Measure R are trying to scare voters to approve this new parcel tax by claiming if not passed, the school board will have to lay off teachers and cut programs, (we already know that is not true) the school board is busy hiring new administrators and employees. Just last week, three new employees were hired to run the auditorium at Santa Monica High School. What we have is a mismanaged school system, apparently top heavy with administrators. The more money we give them, the more ways they will find to spend it. Don't approve this blank check which you will be writing forever. Vote no and force accountability from our school board. At least make them propose a parcel tax that has a reasonable expiration date.

MATT MILLEN is with the "No On Measure R" campaign. He can be reached at info@votenor.com.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't reward those who voted for war

FOR 800 WORDS EACH WEDNESDAY, WE have a conversation, one-sided though it may be. If I can make you consider a different point of view and even laugh once or twice while you're waiting for a bus or in front of a computer somewhere, that's good enough for me. The point is, I know I ain't about to win the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary talking about Hollywood celebutantes, so I try not to take it too seriously — except this week. This is my last chance to talk to you before Democrats vote next Tuesday. I especially want to talk to John Edwards Democrats and Hillary Clinton Democrats. Please understand, when you cast your vote for either of these people, you will be giving them a pass on the war, and nobody deserves a pass on the war.

If you're an Edwards voter, you asked yourself, "to Hillary, or not to Hillary?" For whatever reason, you decided not to go with her. If you're anything like me, you absolutely believe that there is nothing a man president can do that a woman president can't do. Hillary's just not that woman, so you rejected her (congratulations, you're halfway home).

Maybe you heard John's "Two Americas" speech back in 2004 and it resonated or maybe his "son-of-a-millworker" persona has you believing he understands the problems of the common man. Or maybe you like his tough talk about the Republicans and the president. I agree with you and with a lot of what he says — and I like the way he says it. I can see how he made enough money as a trial lawyer to be able to spend four bills on a haircut.

But do you know when the right time was for all this tough talk? Do you know when he should have said all the things he's saying about the Bush administration so the Democrats could have a shot to win the White House? Four years ago when he was on the ticket.

That's the VP's job: To be the attack dog so his running mate can appear presidential. Edwards didn't do that. Had he done his job in 2004, we might be out of Iraq right now. And, of course, if he hadn't voted to authorize a war, we might never have been there in the first place. If you are an anti-war voter, you can't vote for Edwards.

If you're a Clinton voter, we need more than the remaining 360 words of this column. Essentially, the reasoning is identical, only worse. Not only did she vote to authorize war, she voted to authorize war in Iraq without reading what 16 intelligence agencies had to say about the Iraq threat.

She's never said she regrets voting for war, she's never said it was a mistake to vote for war, and she has never said she shouldn't have voted for war. Keep in mind, it's a senator's job to draft, debate, and vote on legislation — and the Senate keeps great records. If you're a senator, you are how you vote. Time and time again, Clinton has voted in support of the president's Iraq policy.

It's not because she's a woman. It's because she was wrong on the war, is still wrong on the war, and she refuses to admit it in an anti-war primary in an anti-war party. There is no room in the Democratic party for a candidate or a president who cannot come out and say it was a mistake to invade and occupy Iraq. It seems to me, that should be an easy litmus test for Democratic candidates. But when you look at her voting record (the only thing that qualifies as her experience — don't talk to me about sharing the presidential pillow), she has voted with the president on Iraq from the very beginning.

Voting for her would mean she gets away with "triangulating" on the life-and-death issue of our generation. Voting for her would mean giving her a pass on her support of the war.

I'm sure they're good people, but one simple truth applies to both of them: They were wrong. The decisions they made cost hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives — and counting, tens of thousands of American wounded — and counting, thousands of American lives — and counting, and hundreds of billions of dollars — and counting more every day.

If you're an anti-war voter and you want an anti-war president, remember which candidates voted for war with Iraq. Next Tuesday, don't give either of them a pass for their vote.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica who thinks there ain't a damn thing funny about war. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com



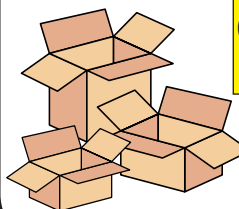
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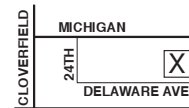
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The Q-Line

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Stripes or no stripes?

The city recently transformed Ocean Park Boulevard from what was once called a two-lane highway into a one-lane corridor. Since the restriping was complete, there has been an outpouring of public opinion on the issue.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you agree with the move to make the oft-used street a one-lane corridor or do you want the city to reverse course and restore Ocean Park Boulevard to the way it was?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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ECONOMY

House approves stimulus package

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON The House, seizing a rare moment of bipartisanship to respond to the economy's slump, overwhelmingly passed a \$146 billion aid package Tuesday that would speed rebates of \$600-\$1,200 to most taxpayers.

The plan, approved 385-35 after little debate, would send at least some rebate to anyone with at least \$3,000 in income, with more going to families with children and less going to wealthier taxpayers.

It faced a murky future in the Senate, though, where Democrats and some Republicans backed a larger package that adds billions of dollars for senior citizens and the unemployed, and shrinks the rebate to \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for couples. That plan, written by Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, would deliver checks even to the richest taxpayers, who are disqualified under the House-passed measure.

Both versions would provide tax breaks to businesses to spur equipment and other purchases.

President Bush and House leaders urged the Senate to take the bipartisan agreement and pass it quickly, even as Baucus, D-Mont., planned a Wednesday vote in his committee on a larger package that could face a slower path.

"We need to get this bill out of the Senate and on my desk," Bush said in the Oval Office.

Congressional leaders are aiming to send the measure to Bush by Feb. 15. But the divergent plans — and bids by Senate Democrats and Republicans to swell the package with more add-ons — could drag out that schedule.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she hoped the Senate would "take this bill and run with it."

ity leader, said reopening the deal would be inappropriate.

"This is not a time to get into some kind of testing of wills between the two congressional bodies. This is a time to show we can rise above partisanship, do something important, and do it quickly," McConnell said.

The House plan brought together Democrats and Republicans, both of

would provide a needed jolt to the economy.

Americans "expect us to find ways to work together, not reasons to fight with each other," said Rep. John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, who forged the agreement with Pelosi in consultation with Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson.

"The sooner we get this relief in the hands of the American people, the sooner they can begin to do their job of being good consumers," Boehner said.

The measure would send rebates to some 111 million people, including roughly 35 million families who don't make enough to pay income taxes. Individuals with adjusted gross income of \$75,000 and couples making \$150,000 would get rebates equal to the taxes they paid, up to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for couples. Those making more than that would see their rebate go down by 5 percent of every dollar of income over the limits.

Taxpayers would get at least \$300, even if they paid less than that in taxes — or \$600 for couples. That's also the case for those who don't pay income taxes but earn at least \$3,000.

All eligible people would get an additional \$300 per child.

In the Senate, Baucus' proposal removes the income caps and would send rebates to some 20 million senior citizens not covered by the House plan because they don't have income.

Reid blasted the proposal to send rebates to those with higher incomes.

THIS IS NOT A TIME TO GET INTO SOME KIND OF TESTING OF WILLS BETWEEN THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL BODIES. THIS IS A TIME TO SHOW WE CAN RISE ABOVE PARTISANSHIP, DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT, AND DO IT QUICKLY."

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said that was unlikely in the freewheeling Senate, where members have elaborate wish-lists for adding to the bill, including food stamps, Medicaid and heating assistance for low-income people and spending on infrastructure projects, among other things.

"I think that there's 51 Democratic senators without exception who believe this package can be made better," Reid said, adding that he also expected to have enough GOP support to change it.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the minor-

whom surrendered cherished proposals to reach a deal.

Pelosi cautioned against adding items that could hinder an economic recovery or scuttle the bipartisan agreement.

"It's important that this bill not get overloaded. I have a full agenda of things I would like to have in the package, but we have to contain the price," Pelosi said. "We made a decision, because that's where we could find our common ground."

Republican leaders, too, described the measure as an imperfect compromise that

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What happened to real estate values?

SO IS EVERYONE READY TO SEE HOW 2007 stacked up against 2006? And how it looks compared to our peak in 2004? Please note that in this article 2004 is considered the peak of our most recent housing boom because of the number of transactions that occurred.

In 2007, Santa Monica single family homes hit their highest median sales value of \$1,691,750. In 2006, the second highest year on record, we ended with a median sales price of \$1,575,000. The sales dollar volume (the amount of dollars spent on Santa Monica houses was up from \$510,541,226 in 2006 to \$569,571,243 in 2007. The number of days on market in 2007 averaged 46 days up two days from 44 days in 2006. The number of single family properties sold was 263 in '06 and 270 in '07.

Overall, single family homes in Santa Monica did notably better in 2007 versus 2006. The two day increase in days on market is basically irrelevant. While the increase in the median sales price by about \$100,000 and a slight increase in the number of homes sold is in a striking contrast to the media's accounts of collapse and misery.

Santa Monica condominiums had a somewhat different experience. Santa Monica condos had a median sales price in 2006 of \$755,000. In 2007 the median sales price increased to \$783,000. Sales volume was at \$417,848,122 in 2006. In 2007 sales volume was down notably to \$358,869,970. The average days on market was about two months (57 days,) with a total number of sales at 408. This is a decrease in the number of sales from 485 in 2006. And an increase of almost two

weeks from the 44 days on market experienced in '06. In consideration of the decrease in number of sales and the almost two week increase in days on market, the demand for condos went down considerably in 2007 over 2006, even though values increased.

A more studied approach to the condo market will show that the higher-end condos — properties sold for more than \$850,000 — had shorter days on market than the lower end condos. And that the north of Wilshire neighborhood fared better than most other condo markets. Last year also experienced a significant mortgage industry shake-up. First-time homebuyers are the most susceptible to increased lender scrutiny. And these are the people who buy entry level condos. My guess is that once the mortgage industry settles down, and it becomes easier to attain mortgages, the condo market will begin performing a little better.

At the height of the condo market in 2004 the average days on market was 42, there were 677 sales and a total sales volume of \$465,763,460. The median sales price was \$622,000.

For single family homes in Santa Monica in 2004, there were 333 sales, the average days on market was 37 and the sales dollar volume was \$549,427,055. The median sales price was \$1,425,000.

So, some changes to our market — yes. Misery, tragedy, desperation — no.

SIMON SALLOOM is a local REALTOR with Coldwell Banker. His web-site is SantaMonicaSimon.com. There you can read his blog and post your comments.

REAL ESTATE

Pets are hidden victims of the ongoing mortgage meltdown

BY EVELYN NIEVES

Associated Press Writer

STOCKTON The house was ravaged — its floors ripped, walls busted and lights smashed by owners who trashed their home before a bank foreclosed on it. Hidden in the wreckage was an abandoned member of the family: a starving pit bull.

The dog found by workers was too far gone to save — another example of how pets are becoming the newest victims of the nation's mortgage crisis as homeowners leave animals behind when they can no longer afford their property.

Pets "are getting dumped all over," said Traci Jennings, president of the Humane Society of Stanislaus County in northern California. "Farmers are finding dogs dumped on their grazing grounds, while house cats are showing up in wild cat colonies."

In one such colony in Modesto, two obviously tame cats watched alone from a distance as a group of feral cats devoured a pile of dry food Jennings offered.

"These are obviously abandoned cats," Jennings said. "They're not afraid of people,

and they stay away from the feral cats because they're ostracized by them."

The abandoned pets are overwhelming animal shelters and drawing fury from bloggers, especially as photos of emaciated animals circulate on the Internet.

The first people to enter an abandoned house, such as property inspectors and real estate brokers, have discovered dogs tied to trees in backyards, cats in garages, and turtles, rabbits and lizards in children's bedrooms.

No one keeps track of the numbers of abandoned pets, but anecdotal evidence suggests that forsaken animals are becoming a problem wherever foreclosures are climbing. Stockton and Modesto have some of the nation's highest foreclosure rates.

Despite months of warning before a foreclosure, many desperate homeowners run out the clock hoping to forestall an eviction. Then they panic, particularly if they are moving to a home where pets are not permitted.

The situation has become so widespread that the Humane Society urged home owners faced with foreclosure to take their animals to a shelter.



Open Call for Proposals Surfing Instruction & Youth Camps on Santa Monica State Beach

Who: All businesses and individuals interested in conducting surf instruction or youth camps on Santa Monica State Beach from June 2008 to May 2009

Why: In order to preserve public safety and maximize public enjoyment of the beach, recent changes to City regulations require City authorization for all individuals or businesses conducting surfing instruction or camps with more than 20 youth entering the water.

When: Proposals must be received by 5 pm on February 19, 2008

How: Visit www.smgov.net/osm or contact Open Space Management

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Professionals make the difference

HAVE YOU EVERY THOUGHT OF WHAT MAKES SOMEONE successful? I cannot speak for other fields, but from my experience, the difference seems to be nominal in real estate. That small difference can be found in the professionals used by a real estate investor, specifically real estate agents, attorneys, accountants and bankers.

Hands down, the most important person to know if you want to be a successful real estate investor is a good real estate agent. A seasoned real estate agent will most likely invest in real estate themselves, but no agent can buy all the deals they come across. One of the investors I do business with says he gets over a dozen calls a day from agents. He also goes through reams of paper from faxed and e-mailed listings. He says that even though he peruses a majority of the deals, the deals that come from his trusted real estate agents get moved to the front of the line. If you can deliver on the terms you promise consistently when purchasing property, more deals will come across your desk because real estate agents will be able to count on you and vice versa. But what happens if issues come up with the purchase, who do you turn to?

When you need one, a good attorney is worth the cost. Another investor I work with told me about a purchase transaction that was held up for three years because the seller was less than honest. The seller had claimed there were no environmental issues with the property that he knew about.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Once the buyer did his environmental survey, he found a leaky gas tank from a gas station that used to be on the property. The seller had done an environmental survey as well and knew about the tank, but did not disclose the information. Long story short, when the buyer tried to back out of the deal, the seller threatened to sue. The buyer sued him first and the litigation took several years to resolve. He ultimately won and the seller had to pay for his attorney fees, clean up costs and had to sell him the property for the price that had been agreed upon three years earlier. The property was worth 35 percent more, making the deal a windfall. In the end, my borrower said there was no substitution for a good attorney or legal team.

Finding the deal and protecting yourself are important, but what happens at the end of the year when you have to pay Uncle Sam? When tax season comes around it is important to have a knowledgeable accountant. Without a doubt, a good accountant is worth their weight in gold. An experienced accountant can legitimately save a real estate investor thousands of dollars a year. A couple of days ago I contacted one of my borrowers, who's a CPA, to get some documen-

tation on a loan. He said that he was in the middle of reading the changes to the IRS code to see if there were any large changes that would affect his clients. Now that is something you want hear when calling a CPA. It is hard to put a price on a good experienced accountant.

A successful real estate investor depends on many other people such as property managers, appraisers, inspectors, contractors and insurance agents; however, the person they speak to after the real estate agent is their banker. Leverage is key in real estate and the best way to attain it is with financing. When you need to know how much money you can borrow it is important to have a banker who can answer your questions accurately. Financing more often than not, will make or break a deal. All successful real estate investors have a banker they can count on.

Although many people will help a real estate investor, it is ultimately up to the investor to do the deal. Many successful real estate investors depend on the expertise of professionals to help them make educated decisions. If you are thinking about starting in real estate investing, make sure you have a good team in place that will help you make the best choices.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents



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ENVIRONMENT

On the decline

State's largest salmon run suffers collapse

TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The state's largest salmon run is suffering an "unprecedented collapse," part of a broader decline throughout the West that has scientists vexed and will likely trigger severe fishing restrictions, according to federal fishery regulators.

The number of chinook, or "king" salmon returning from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in the Sacramento River and its tributaries this past fall dropped 67 percent from a year earlier, according to an internal memo to members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council that was obtained by The Associated Press.

The Central Valley salmon population has fallen by more than 88 percent from its all-time high five years ago, when salmon restoration efforts in the Sacramento watershed were being touted as a wildlife management success story.

But recent years have seen salmon populations steadily dwindle in the Sacramento and many other western rivers, and scientists are trying to understand why.

Some believe it's related to changes in the ocean linked to global warming. Others blame the troubles in California on increased pumping of freshwater from the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta, which supplies drinking water to millions of people in drought-stricken Southern California, as well as irrigation for America's most fertile farming region.

In his e-mail to members of the fishery management council, executive director Donald McIsaac offered "an early alert to what at this point appears to be an unprecedented collapse in the abundance of adult California Central Valley ... fall Chinook salmon stocks."

"The magnitude of the low abundance ... is such that the opening of all marine and freshwater fisheries impacting this important salmon stock will be questioned," he said.

Only about 90,000 returning adult salmon were counted in the Central Valley in 2007, the second lowest number on record, the memo said. The population was at 277,000 in 2006 and 804,000 five years ago.

It's only the second time in 35 years that the Central Valley has not met the agency's conservation goal of 122,000 to 180,000 returning fish, according to the council, which regulates Pacific Coast fisheries.

More worrisome is that only about 2,000 2-year-old juvenile chinooks returned to the Central Valley last year, by far the lowest number ever counted. On average, about 40,000 juveniles or "jacks" return each year.

The low number of juvenile salmon means this year's runs are likely to be even smaller.

While complete statistics on other key salmon runs won't be available for another two weeks, experts said it looks like a bad year for salmon elsewhere in the West.

Ron Boyce, a salmon program manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the Rogue River barely hit its goal of 20,000 fall chinook in 2006 and 2007.

Coastal rivers farther north were in even bigger trouble.

Oregon's Coquille River has seen steadily diminishing returns the past three years, and

the Siletz River farther north saw just 500 fish, less than 20 percent of the goal.

"This a large-scale phenomenon affecting chinook stocks and other species coastwide," Boyce said. "It appears for those northern Oregon coast streams, we will not be able to make escapement goals even without any fishing on them."

It is difficult to point to a cause, but the fact that both hatchery and wild fish are showing low returns points to the ocean and estuaries, where salmon spend most of their lives, said Curt Melcher, deputy director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Last year saw very unusual conditions in the ocean, Boyce said. Southwesterly winds blew all summer, driving warm waters near shore and disrupting the marine food chain.

Salmon that spawn in Central Valley rivers form the backbone of the West Coast's commercial and recreational salmon fishery and are caught by fisherman from southern California to British Columbia. More than 90 percent of the wild salmon harvested in California originate in the Sacramento River system, officials say.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE LOW ABUNDANCE ... IS SUCH THAT THE OPENING OF ALL MARINE AND FRESH-WATER FISHERIES IMPACTING THIS IMPORTANT SALMON STOCK WILL BE QUESTIONED."

Donald McIsaac
Executive director of the
fishery management council

"Sacramento fish are really what the fishery depends on," said Chuck Tracy, who heads the council's salmon technical team. "When Central Valley fish are low, it gets really hard to catch fish even if you're given the opportunity."

The council plans to meet in Sacramento in March to discuss possible restrictions, including a complete closure of the salmon season that begins in May. Final decisions will be made at its meeting in Seattle in April.

"Even if they have a salmon fishing season, there won't be very much salmon to catch without a strong Central Valley component," said Alan Grover, a biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game.

Duncan MacLean, a Half Moon Bay fisherman who is on a team that advises the fishery council, said he's bracing for hard times.

"It's probably going to be worse than anything we've experienced before," said MacLean, 58, who relies on salmon fishing for up to 70 percent of his income. "It's going to put a lot of us out of business. I don't know how I am going to be paying my bills through the summer."

Dick Pool, who owns Concord-based fishing gear manufacturer Pro Troll, said the salmon collapse will be felt in fishing communities all along the coast.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2007-08 ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

The City Council of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the Second Amendment to the FY 2007-08 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan, which is a component of the Consolidated Plan, is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. Copies of the Proposed FY 2007-08 Amended One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending February 12, 2008. Copies are available at City Hall, the Santa Monica Public Library (main and branch libraries), and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by February 12, 2008, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

**The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2008
at 5:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers
located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica**

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division at (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696.

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Photo courtesy SMC

PROUD STUDENTS: A group of 30 SMC students took part in Professor William Selby's (right) one-unit field studies course during the fall semester, spending a three-day weekend in late September studying the geologic history of California's Death Valley.

Students wait for species to be catalogued

FROM SPIDER PAGE 1

The specimens, which included more than 300 ants and 21 spiders were sent to an entomologist in New Mexico who recently notified Selby that among the bugs was a spider whose species has not yet been identified.

Out of the 11 species of ants picked up, one has never been seen before in the United States, said Susan Teel, the director of the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center, an NPS program that works with Selby's field courses every semester.

According to experts, there are more than 40,000 species of spiders that have been identified, approximately 3,000 of which can be found in the United States.

Selby, who has offered the field courses at the college for more than 20 years, said on Tuesday that it is often university researchers and graduate students that typically discover new species, not community college students.

"It's often university researchers discovering new species all the time and there are millions of species on the planet we still haven't catalogued or identified so you can see our goal is mainly education," Selby said referring to the intent of the one-unit field course. "We don't do as much research at a community college ... so it's a little bit more unusual for us to go out and be able to collect a new species."

Three different groups of students each ended up collecting the unidentified spider species, the specimens were found at 4,000, 9,000 and 10,000-foot elevation, Teel said.

"The fact that the students were part of the discovery adds a level to the learning experience," Teel said. "You just can't duplicate that."

It could take years before the spiders are assigned a species name and properly identified in scientific publications. The students could have a say in the name of the spider species, however, Suarez said it hasn't crossed his mind.

melodyh@smdp.com

Couple develops waterless wash method

FROM WASH PAGE 3

and after a month and a half of tweaking, they came up with "Waterless."

The product contains two different types of coconut, which emulsifies the dirt while the silicone encapsulates it into small balls, Peri said. The residue is wiped off with a microfiber towel, leaving the car free of new scratches.

The product had its retail debut in the Santa Monica Whole Foods store a few months ago.

Lucky Earth plans to open a waterless car wash across the street from the Santa Monica Airport on Bundy Drive next month, accommodating up to eight cars at one time. The car washes will range from \$20 to \$30, depending on whether a

customer wants an interior detail.

One percent of all proceeds from the sale of "Waterless" go to Heal the Bay.

Before unveiling "Waterless," Lisa Peri introduced the product to City Hall officials and even demonstrated it on the Santa Monica Pier last summer.

"My feeling was if the city wasn't willing to at least say they thought the technology was good, why would the average person trust it," Peri said.

O'Cain said she was skeptical of the product at first but was surprised by the results.

"It looked like it had been detailed," she said.

melodyh@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Lucky Earth Inc.

TESTING IT OUT: A group from Lucky Earth Inc. demonstrates the new product at Santa Monica Beach this past summer.

current

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Friday just got a whole lot more entertaining



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with 44 business organizations across Los Angeles County in the formation of a lobbying group.

Coalition created to empower businesses

FROM CHAMBER PAGE 1

the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, congratulated the business community on Tuesday, but said she was disappointed to learn that the coalition is a “counterweight to what labor is doing now.”

“What we should be talking about is how we work together to create good jobs for the community, not about how we run counter operations,” Durazo said in a statement on Tuesday.

Aside from the chambers, the coalition is represented by organizations such as the Apartment Association of Greater L.A., the New Car Dealers Association of L.A. and the L.A. chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, which includes members in Santa Monica.

There are about 335,000 businesses in the county where at least 50 percent of the enterprise is owned by a woman, according to Helen Han, the president of the local chapter. Women entrepreneurs represent the

fastest growing segment of the economy, she added.

“(BizFed) gives small business and women-owned business ... a level playing field for participating in the political process and engagement in putting forward ideas and perspectives on how we can contribute to the overall quality of life for Los Angeles as a whole.”

The coalition also launched a Web site on Tuesday that allows BizFed members to directly communicate their concerns on policies with their local legislative representative.

“We believe that a strong business community, which creates jobs and keeps our economy growing, benefits everyone,” BizFed Chairman David Fleming said. “Our priority will be to support and advocate for strong economic policies which incentivize Los Angeles businesses to stay here, expand here and to attract new companies to bring their jobs to our backyard.”

melodyh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

L.A. COUNTY Rain advisory extended

Due to the heavy rains over the weekend and the promise of more to follow later in the week, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has extended a rain advisory warning people to stay out of ocean waters until Friday, Feb. 1 at 7 a.m.

That is because discharging storm drains, creeks, and rivers that lead to the ocean carry run-off from urban and wilderness areas containing high levels of bacteria and other germs. The risk is elevated at all beach areas but is highest where the storm drains and creeks enter the ocean.

Recorded information on beach conditions is available 24 hours a day on the county's beach closure hotline, (800) 525-5662. Information is also available online at the county's Web site, www.lapublichealth.org/beach.

DAILY PRESS

L.A. COUNTY Respiratory illnesses are on the rise

Los Angeles County is seeing an increase in the number of respiratory illness cases, and public health officials are urging residents to practice healthy habits and get vaccinated against the flu if they haven't already done so.

“The number of respiratory illnesses is higher than average for this time of year. However, most of these are not influenza,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, public health director.

“Most respiratory illnesses, including many flu-like illnesses, are not influenza; however they can have flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, coughing, sore throat, sniffing, aches and other symptoms,” Fielding said. “Symptoms such as these can usually be taken care of while resting at home and drinking plenty of liquids.”

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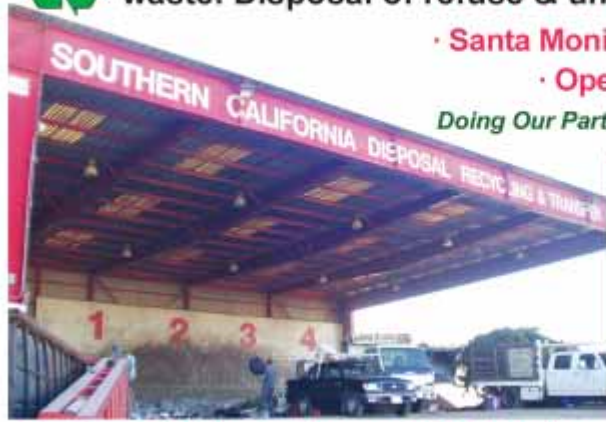
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Solicitation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) For Independent Audit Services For The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District January 2008

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will be selecting a firm to conduct and prepare the District's independent financial audit and accompanying statements. The District invites all qualified parties to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Responses to the RFP must be submitted to the District no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2008. Copies of the RFP document are available in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent, Business & Fiscal Services, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891.

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Getting off the ground

Alternative cable TV channel backed by Gore seeks funds

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Cable television upstart Current Media Inc. plans to go public later this year, giving investors a chance to assess the entrepreneurial skills of its co-founder, Al Gore.

In documents filed Monday, the San Francisco-based owner of the Current TV cable channel set a preliminary fundraising target of \$100 million for the initial public offering of stock. The final amount will probably change after Current Media's investment bankers gauge the demand for shares in the company.

The level of investors' interest also will help determine the price of the shares sold in the IPO. Although a specific timetable wasn't spelled out in the prospectus, Current Media said it hopes to complete the IPO by early May so it can repay a large debt due then.

Current Media is still small with just \$64 million in annual revenue, but the involvement of the former U.S. vice president and Nobel Prize winner ensures the company's IPO will attract plenty of attention.

Gore helped create Current Media in 2002 and still plays a prominent role as a major shareholder and the company's executive chairman.

Although Monday's filing didn't provide a complete breakdown of Current Media's outstanding stock, the documents disclosed that Gore and his family own at least 3.7 million shares.

Current Media also paid Gore \$1.05

million last year, including a \$550,000 bonus for the first four months of 2007. The company said it still may give Gore an additional bonus to cover his accomplishments for the final seven months of the year.

The filing stressed that Current Media considers Gore indispensable. "If Mr. Gore were no longer actively involved in our business or no longer to hold a substantial ownership stake in us, our relationships with key distributors and our business could be materially and adversely affected," the documents said.

The company's political connections extend beyond Gore. San Francisco financier Richard Blum, the husband of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, sits on Current Media's board and owns 1.5 million shares of the company's preferred stock.

The IPO represents one of the biggest tests of Gore's business acumen since he lost the 2000 presidential election to George W. Bush in a showdown that went to the Supreme Court.

In the past seven years, Gore has branched out in Silicon Valley, while also waging his Nobel Prize-winning fight to curb the environmental damage caused by fossil fuels.

In 2001, Gore became a senior adviser to Internet search leader Google Inc., which now contributes content to Current Media. He joined Apple Inc.'s board of directors in 2003 and late last year became a partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, one of the world's best-known venture capital firms.

Gore has been trying to establish an alternative media outlet with Current TV, which relies heavily on content submitted by its viewers in an effort to build a following among teenagers and young adults. The programming includes news stories submitted by

aspiring journalists, political satire and updates about the latest in music.

The cable channel now reaches 51 million U.S. households, up from 19 million when it first started 2 1/2 years ago. Late last year, Current also launched a Web site to cater to viewers looking for a more interactive experience while they watched the cable channel.

The formula hasn't yielded a profit yet. Current Media has amassed losses totaling \$31.9 million, including a \$17.1 million setback last year. Advertising accounts for 16 percent of Current Media's revenue, with the remainder coming from fees paid by cable and satellite television carriers.

To make money, Current Media probably will need to boost its coverage to somewhere between 70 million and 90 million U.S. households, estimated Paul Kagan, chief executive of consulting firm PK Worldmedia Inc.

"They still have a lot to prove," Kagan said. "Graduating to that next tier could be difficult."

Because it operates only one channel, Current Media doesn't have as much negotiating clout with cable and satellite TV carriers as larger rivals like Viacom Inc. and Walt Disney Co., said Natixis Bleichroeder analyst Alan Gould.

Kagan thinks Current Media should have waited longer to pursue its IPO, but the company's timing may have been driven by its desire to repay a \$30 million debt owed to Dylan Holdings, an affiliate of NBC Universal, by May 4.

Current Media's total debts are expected to rise from \$36.5 million at the end of last year to a projected \$43 million in May. The company's debt include a \$1 million loan from Gore.

Current Media ended 2007 with \$2.2 million in cash.

Key committee rejects health reform efforts

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's ambitious effort to reform the state's health care system ran aground Monday, after the Senate Health Committee rejected the bill he negotiated with Democratic leaders.

Only one of the seven Democrats on the committee supported the bill. All four Republicans opposed it, and it failed on a 7-1 vote.

The Democrats who voted against the bill and several who failed to vote said they were afraid the \$14.7 billion program was too expensive, especially as California faces a budget shortfall of about the same amount.

"It doesn't matter if there are all these good things in the bill if there's not sufficient funding to pay for them," said Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the Santa Monica Democrat who chairs the committee and supports a single payer system instead.

Even Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, a co-author of the bill, came out against it, telling the governor in a letter that it was irresponsible to adopt the health reform plan during a fiscal crisis.

It was a bitter defeat for Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, who spent months trying to craft a deal that majority Democrats could accept.

Nunez pushed the bill through the Assembly in December.

Two factors seemed to change the political calculus in recent weeks. Last week, the legislature's nonpartisan fiscal analyst raised concerns about financing for the plan. And the state's deteriorating budget picture has forced lawmakers to weigh deep cuts to some state programs to close the projected budget deficit.

The failure of the bill leaves Schwarzenegger without enough time to enact the reforms he is seeking this year, since they need voter approval.

Republicans have the votes to block any tax increases, and the only way to fund the plan is through a popular vote. The committee's rejection likely does not leave enough time to get the bill on the November ballot.

The governor said he would continue to look for a compromise.

"I am someone who does not give up," Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "Especially when there is a problem as big and as serious as health care that needs to be fixed. One setback is just that — a setback."

Advisers said a compromise would likely come through renewed efforts to pass another bill in the state Legislature that might still have to go on a state ballot.

The bill that died Monday would have covered about 70 percent of the state's 5.1 million uninsured residents through a mix of subsidies and mandates. It would have required most people to have an insurance policy and every employer to contribute something toward their workers' health care.

Proponents said the plan would not cost the state additional money, and its cost would be borne by employers, hospitals, the federal government, the newly insured, and smokers, in the form of higher cigarette taxes.

But the legislative analyst undermined that with a report predicting that the state would be on the hook for an additional \$500 million to \$1.5 billion a year, and possibly more, in as soon as five years.

Democrats cited the report, done at Perata's request, as they withdrew their support for the bill.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THERE ARE ALL THESE GOOD THINGS IN THE BILL IF THERE'S NOT SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO PAY FOR THEM."

Sen. Sheila Kuehl
D-Santa Monica

STATE BRIEFS

WATSONVILLE Pajaro water agency agrees to pay

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency plans to pay back an estimated \$13.5 million in illegally collected pumping fees.

The tentative settlement announced Monday follows an appeals court ruling that the agency's "augmentation fees" were illegally imposed. The deal requires approval by a court, which will hear it on Feb. 22.

The settlement calls for the water agency to set up a claims process and make the first of six equal semiannual refund payments on July 31. Plaintiffs had argued property owners already owned the water rights and shouldn't have been charged.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN LUIS OBISPO Morro Bay on alert after spill

A 20,000-gallon sewage spill at the state prison in San Luis Obispo County has triggered warnings downstream.

Health officials are advising the public to avoid water contact in Morro Bay and the vicinity of Morro Rock because of the weekend spill at the California Men's Colony along Highway 1.

The spill occurred at 4:10 p.m. Sunday when electrical power was lost and an emergency generator did not start. The prison's sewage treatment plant dumped the waste into Chorro Creek, which flows into Morro Bay.

AP

SANTA ANA Audit finds county is in good shape

An independent audit shows Orange County investments are well managed.

The Board of Supervisors ordered the audit of the \$6.5 billion Orange County portfolio after elected treasurer Chriss Street was criticized by board chairman John Moorlach.

The independent audit released Monday found the county's investment portfolio is being managed by Street in a "thoughtful, prudent manner" and the investment pools are sound.

Street was elected in June 2006 and questions were quickly raised about his past business dealings and contracts awarded for county business.

Investigations by the district attorney's office and federal authorities continue.

AP

LONG BEACH Arson suspect pleads not guilty

An Indiana man has pleaded not guilty to touching off last spring's 4,750-acre Santa Catalina Island wildfire.

Gary Dennis Hunt faces up to eight years in prison if convicted of recklessly causing a fire to an inhabited structure and recklessly causing a fire of a structure or forest.

The 49-year-old Hunt was a subcontractor using a torch on May 10 to cut cables on the island's radio tower.

AP

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica • 90401 • editor@smdp.com

Choosing a new leader won't be easy

BY JENNIFER DOBNER | Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY In the days after Mormon Church president and prophet Gordon B. Hinckley is laid to rest, the men who served as his closest advisers will begin the process of choosing a successor.

But the deliberations after Saturday will not hold the intrigue of the election of a Roman Catholic pope, during which geography, politics and other factors combine in a process that ends with white smoke puffing from a chimney.

At least in modern days, choosing the leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has come down to the simple matter of who is next in line for an office unique among religious traditions.

Hinckley died Sunday night at age 97 after shepherding the 13 million-member church through a period of tremendous growth.

Following Mormon church tradition, the next-most senior church apostle will probably succeed him — in this case, Thomas S. Monson, 80.

Although there is no formal timetable for choosing a successor, the group of 14 church apostles is not expected to meet until early next week to allow time to honor Hinckley's memory.

Succession was not always so neatly decided, said Mike Quinn, a Mormon historian who was excommunicated from the church. Church founder Joseph Smith never laid out a plan for the process, and more than three years passed from the time he died until Brigham Young took over the church.

"You had different people saying different things about the way to go," Quinn said.

When Young took control of the church, only about half its members followed him to Utah. Gaps of two or more

years between presidencies continued — with senior leaders arguing against seniority as the sole basis.

"Age was a factor," Quinn said. "They didn't want to create a gerontocracy. There was a power struggle, or you could say, prophetic disagreement."

Ultimately, church leaders decided that an uncluttered, unquestioned process of succession would be best for the church.

"Now you don't have a succession crisis," Quinn said. "It's a very uniform pattern. It's trustworthy."

The system also means that Mormon presidents are bound to be well beyond standard U.S. retirement age. Since 1945, only one church president has been younger than 75 when he took office. To some, that's troubling.

"There ought to be some kind of vehicle established that takes into account that individual condition, mentally and physically," said Steve Benson, grandson of former church president Ezra Taft Benson, who died in 1994. "I don't see what the problem is. This is done in all kinds of corporations."

Hinckley himself had answered that kind of criticism. In 1996, when confronted by Mike Wallace of 60 Minutes with the claim that the church "is run by old men," Hinckley replied: "Isn't it wonderful? To have a man of maturity at the head, a man of judgment, who isn't blown about by every wind of doctrine?"

Hinckley's successor will inherit a job like none other.

The head of the Mormon Church is not only leader of a worldwide church, but also a prophet, living testament to the LDS belief that divine revelation continues to this day and can reshape church teaching.

"Normally, we think of priest and prophet as two roles — one is a part of the organizational structure, the other is a

voice in the wilderness," said Richard Bushman, who wrote a biography of church founder Joseph Smith. "From the very beginning, it was a stroke of genius on Joseph Smith's part to combine a bureaucratic and a prophetic role."

The Mormon Church also differs from most other religious groups in that it relies not on professional clergy, but on unpaid lay leaders.



AGE WAS A FACTOR. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO CREATE A GERONTOCRACY. THERE WAS A POWER STRUGGLE, OR YOU COULD SAY, PROPHETIC."

Mike Quinn
A Mormon historian who was excommunicated from the church

Most high-ranking LDS officials have extensive business experience, including Hinckley's likely successor, Monson. The 80-year-old has a master's degree in business administration and was formerly general manager of the church-owned Deseret News.

"These guys are generally not theologians," said Richard N. Ostling, co-author of "Mormon America: The Power and the Promise" and former religion writer for Time magazine and The Associated Press. "They are businessmen and they need to be because it's like running a multinational corporation, and all the key decisions are tightly held at the top."

Making the pain go away after a shot

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Relief may be on the way for all those youngsters trembling at the thought of another needle jab. One day the flu vaccine may simply be placed under the tongue.

Korean researchers say the new vaccine worked in mice, avoiding not only the painful prick but also the discomfort some people feel from the inhaled vaccine.

The team led by Dr. Mi-Na Kweon of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul reported their findings in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Better ways of delivering vaccine have long been under study, ranging from orally to inhaled, but all seem to have drawbacks.

Now, Kweon and colleagues say, two doses of influenza vaccine under the tongue of mice primed the animals' immune system to fight off what would otherwise have been a deadly dose of flu.

Next, they are turning their atten-

tion to people, to see if the under-the-tongue vaccine also prompts a strong immune response.

Placing a couple of drops of liquid under the tongue gets the vaccine directly to mucus membranes and prompts a response both in mucus tissues throughout the body as well as in the immune system itself, the researchers said.

"These studies provide a basis for further human testing of this alternative form of needle-free vaccination. Aside from its convenience, sublingual vaccination appears to disseminate immunity to a broader range of organs than the classical routes of injecting or ingesting vaccines," said Dr. Cecil Czerkinsky, deputy director-general for laboratory science at the Institute.

"If these findings are replicated in humans, they could pave the way for the development of a new generation of vaccines that could be used for mass vaccination against respiratory infections, including the pandemic avian-human influenza viruses," he said in a statement.

Several research efforts applying

vaccine to mucus membranes have been tried, seeking to avoid both the needle sticks that people dislike and the harsh environment of the digestive system that can damage or destroy a vaccine. Studies of under-the-tongue of other medicines have also been done.

Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University noted that recent flu studies have involved nasal sprays.

However, he said while he had expected people to be averse to needles, he was surprised to discover that "many people are averse to people messing with their nose ... so there are limitations to nasal spray."

So for researchers looking for another means of doing this, "just a drop under the tongue at least will protect mice ... that's a very exciting and promising line of investigation," said Schaffner, who was not part of the research team.

And, he added, "if we were faced with a pandemic, the easier and more acceptable we can make the distribution of the vaccine the more rapidly we can protect a proportion of population."

Federal coordinator Pearce discusses pipeline

BY STEVE QUINN | Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska Federal gas pipeline coordinator Drue Pearce said Monday she believes Gov. Sarah Palin's gas line plan is working — so far.

Pearce also told the Senate Resources Committee that the momentum must continue or Congress could intervene.

Pearce, a former Alaska state Senate president, said there is no specific federal government action planned, but progress must continue.

"Each time I go to the Hill and meet with members, whether it's in a committee setting or whether it's one-on-one when I meet with staff, there is a lot of interest in why don't we see a pipeline, why isn't there a pipe in the ground?" Pearce said.

"It is likely, under frankly any administration, that Congress might move forward and more proactively to push getting a pipeline built, particularly if we don't license and see more (liquefied natural gas) plants get built in the Lower 48," she said.

For now, Palin's Alaska Gasline Inducement Act has produced a conforming bid from independent Canadian pipeline company TransCanada.

But Houston-based ConocoPhillips says its alternative plan warrants consideration, and it would like further discussion with Palin's energy team. Both companies want to tap into the energy rich North Slope, where 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves lie and both want to take it to Midwest markets through Canada.

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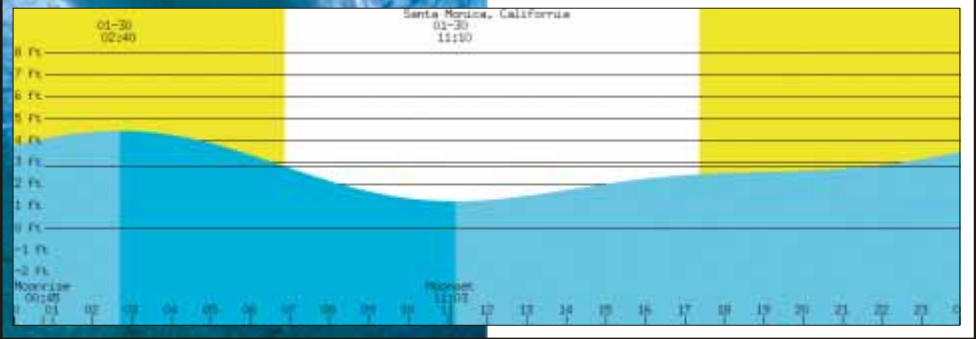


SURF CONDITIONS
WATER TEMP: 55°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)
Today a touch more wind swell is expected to build as a storm passes to the north. Some light southern hemi SW should stick around as well. Most all breaks are looking at waist to chest high surf. Wednesday's winds could be a little breezy early in the morning but should calm by noon or so and stay rather mild in the afternoon; however, some areas could see northerly winds throughout the day.

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS
NW FRIDAY INTO WEEKEND...

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 four weeks up to the ending date of

January 22, 2008

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 7

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 16

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 25

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A
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+	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	D	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	F
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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NFL

Brady practices after long delay

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

PHOENIX Looks like Tom Brady will be true to his word.

One day after promising his ankle injury wouldn't keep him from preparing for and playing in the Super Bowl, Brady was back where he belongs Monday. He practiced with the New England Patriots for the first time since he was hurt against San Diego in the AFC championship game more than a week ago.

If the undefeated Patriots needed a lift as they prepared to play the New York Giants, they got one from Brady's return. The league MVP missed three workouts last week, but he was on the field, as usual, at Arizona State's practice facility in nearby Tempe.

"Anytime the MVP of the league is back, it has to be a positive," receiver Wes Welker said. "He looks good — the same dimples and all."

According to the Chicago Tribune's Dan Pompei, the designated pool reporter, the star quarterback appeared to have a slight limp. But he participated in all phases of practice, including jogging the length of the field twice at the end of drills.

Although Brady was not made available to the media — he will speak on Tuesday — his teammates had plenty to say about the record-setting quarterback's return.

"He's the leader of our team," said safety Rodney Harrison, one of the Patriots' defensive leaders. "He's special, and to have your No. 1 guy out there working hard and just being out there with his spirit, of course it brought a smile to our faces. Tom will be there Sunday, don't worry about that."

That's what Brady said shortly after arriving. "I'm not concerned about how it's going to affect my play," he said Sunday night. "This won't keep me out."

Brady's health became an issue a week ago when he was spotted wearing a protective boot on his right foot while visiting

supermodel girlfriend Gisele Bundchen in New York. He sat out all three practices in Foxborough, Mass., when much of the game plan was being installed.

Since becoming the starter in 2001, Brady has been remarkably durable. He's started every game in the last six seasons, and he was the MVP of the 2002 Super Bowl despite an ankle injury in the AFC title game.

"I never concern myself with anybody that we're playing with, whether it's Tom or anybody else," All-Pro tackle Matt Light said. "Their situation is their situation. Nobody knows what's going on other than him, and he's the only one who can answer those questions as to how he feels.

"I'll tell you one thing, if he's out there he's going to be giving you everything that he's got. I don't worry about that at all."

Asked how Brady fared in practice, Light's response drew chuckles: "I try not to look at him too much.

"You guys do enough of that," he added, drawing more laughs. "I'm concerned with what's right in front of me and I really haven't paid much attention to it."

Ah, but the rest of the world certainly has. Brady's foot overshadowed the Patriots moving in on the first perfect NFL season since the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Yes, the three-time champion quarterback's persona has transcended even the Super Bowl.

No matter how vigorously coach Bill Belichick and the rest of the Patriots want to ignore it, the questions about their biggest star's health will persist. Almost certainly, the answers will remain consistent, too.

"I think he got a lot of publicity last week for not what he wants to get publicity for," center Dan Koppen said. "I think he'll be OK.

"Tom's recognizable, and what he does is watched. We don't pay attention to it. If you guys want to report on it, then go ahead. Tom's a good guy who handles himself accordingly. I'm just thankful that he's on our team."

NBA

Webber returns to Warriors 13 years after leaving team

By the Associated Press

OAKLAND Chris Webber has returned to the Golden State Warriors and coach Don Nelson, more than 13 years after a battle between the two men led Webber to force a trade.

Warriors executive vice president Chris Mullin said Tuesday that the free agent forward had signed a contract, but did not release details of the deal.

Webber, a five-time All-Star, had confirmed in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday night that he was set to rejoin the Warriors.

Nelson apparently masterminded the Warriors' decision to re-sign Webber, who hasn't played in the NBA this season, as a backup big man and offensive playmaker. Webber last appeared in the 2007 playoffs with Detroit.

"We're glad that Chris has elected to sign with our club and feel fortunate to add a player with his ability," Mullin said. "We think he will be a nice addition to our team and provide additional depth to our front court and an added veteran presence on the floor."

Webber was NBA Rookie of the Year with the Warriors in 1993-94. He demanded a trade following that season, and has since played for Washington, Sacramento, Philadelphia and Detroit.

"It is with great pride and humility that I announce my return to the Golden State Warriors, the place where it all started," Webber said in a statement released by the Warriors. "In playing for Nellie before, I know how much fun his style of ball can be."

To make room on the roster, the Warriors waived guard Troy Hudson

On the scene

Police were called to **BRITNEY SPEARS'** neighborhood after someone reported a swarm of paparazzi trespassing in the singer's gated community. Los Angeles police Officer Mike Lopez said officers received a call around 7 p.m. Monday

about a group of photographers "stepping onto the grounds" of the private neighborhood while following the 26-year-old pop star. When officers arrived, they didn't see anyone trespassing, Lopez said. He said citations were

issued for several illegally parked cars. Lopez said he didn't know how many photographers were following Spears. Spears has spiraled downward since filing for divorce from Kevin Federline in November

L.A. police head to Spears' house to investigate call

2006. Her bizarre public antics include shaving her head bald, attacking a car with an umbrella and bringing along a paparazzo pal on trips to a courthouse in her custody case with Federline. She was taken to a Los Angeles hospital by para-

medics earlier this month after police were called to her home because of a dispute involving her sons, Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1. She has lost custody and visitation rights with the boys.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maguire announces pregnancy



MAGUIRE

MARTIE MAGUIRE of the Dixie Chicks and her husband, Gareth, are expecting a third daughter. Maguire, 38, announced her pregnancy on the group's Web site Monday. She wrote that her 3-year-old twin daughters, Eva and Katie, "are very excited to have a new baby sister." "Three girls, what a magic number!" Maguire said.

She said the baby is due in late summer. The report was confirmed by the Chicks' publicist. Maguire plays fiddle and mandolin in the trio, which also includes Natalie Maines and Emily Robison. Hits by the Chicks include "Wide Open Spaces," "Without You," "Landslide" and "Travelin' Soldier."

AP

WALLACE RECOVERING FROM TRIPLE HEART BYPASS SURGERY

MIKE WALLACE was recovering from triple heart bypass surgery that was performed last week, CBS News said Tuesday. Wallace, who turns 90 this spring, is already walking following the surgery Friday to bypass blockages near his heart. Doctors are calling the operation "a great success," the network said. Recovery from heart bypass surgery generally runs about six weeks. The veteran "60 Minutes" correspondent, who is essentially retired, recently interviewed Roger Clemens about allegations of steroid abuse.



WALLACE

AP

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

Let your mind relax, Pisces

Happy Birthday!

This year you notice a change, often in your style and words. Others will respond slightly differently. You could be incisively clear, if you so choose. On the other hand, your innate tendency could be to confuse others. A new car or computer could be more of a hassle than a positive experience. You could purchase a lemon, even if you are careful. Use caution with siblings as well, as relating could be difficult.



Born Today

Singer Phil Collins (1951)
Musician Steve Marriott (1947)
Actress Brett Butler (1958)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Pressure builds. Can you avoid this situation, you wonder? Maybe not if you want to remain close to a partner. You gain insight and news from out of the blue. You might find events unusual but ultimately clearing. Tonight: Be a duo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others have a lot to say, and you might not want to be part of everything you hear. The unexpected occurs; though if you use it well, matters and events could fall into place. You need to stay tuned in to others. Tonight: Say yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Plug yourself into work. Listen well to others. Pressure builds on the home front. The unexpected causes a boss or higher-up to ask questions. Establish limits quickly. A friend will change his or her opinion. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Pressure builds. You might not anticipate another's reaction or choice. Listen to a child or loved one. You will open doors. A parent or older relative demonstrates strength and possibly anger. You can handle it. Tonight: Midweek break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Events unfurl in a new direction. You might wonder about a family member and his or her role in your life. You might want to be more playful and upbeat. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to step up to the challenge. Much is happening that might take you in a new direction. Identify what you want and then start visualizing. The unexpected earmarks your decisions. Tonight: A purchase might be in order.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You discover that someone finally relaxes. What has been close to impossible becomes possible. The problem is you might not have control of the timing. Take a walk to clear your mind. Tonight: Open up to new ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Finally you feel better than you have in a long time. Pressure builds around a family member or your expectations. Pull back and take another look. Emphasize work, partnerships and financial gain. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ If you hit a confrontation, back down for now. This might not be the answer for the long term, but it will give you an opportunity to clear the air. The unexpected opens up a partnership. Tonight: Say yes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You have more energy available than you have had in a while. Listen to feedback knowing what your expectations are. Realize that there might be many different twists and turns. Tonight: Say yes to a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might feel pushed because someone is pushing you. Recognize that you could ignore the pressure and not be reactive. Choose your words with care. Others might be nothing less than confusing. Tonight: Count on being visible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Avoid financial decisions, even if you think you must head in that direction. Understanding will grow if you are not reactive. You head down a new path. Realize that anything and all is possible. Tonight: Let your mind relax.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
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(310) 260.1528

Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Atonement (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00
Cloverfield (PG-13)
4:30, 6:45, 9:00
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
1:15, 6:30
How She Move (PG-13)
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
I Am Legend (PG-13)
4:00, 9:20
The Kite Runner
1:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

27 Dresses (PG-13)
1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:40
Charlie Wilson's War (R)
2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Cloverfield (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
3:30, 6:25
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10
There Will Be Blood (R)
3:00, 6:20, 10:00
Untraceable (R)
2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

MANN'S CRITERION
THEATRE
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The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Cassandra's Dream (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
Mad Money (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:10
Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
Michael Clayton (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20
Rambo (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

More information email news@smdp.com

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Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



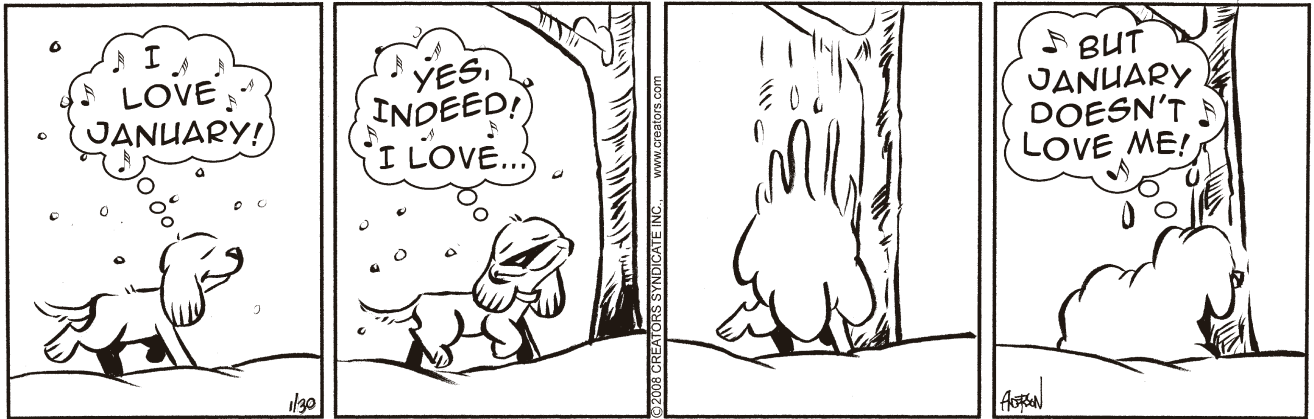
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By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fall short of
- 5 Heels
- 9 Shaq of the NBA
- 11 "Gay" city
- 12 Trattoria meal
- 13 Game site
- 14 Pitching number
- 15 "A Christmas Carol" character
- 17 Realms
- 19 "You there!"
- 20 Like Tom Jones
- 21 Young buck
- 22 Ancient Yemen
- 24 Earth: Pref.
- 26 Highway exits
- 29 Puzzle
- 30 Compact pooch
- 32 To be honest
- 34 West of Hollywood
- 35 Second airing
- 36 Select group
- 38 Sailor's cry
- 39 Daytona entrant
- 40 Survive
- 41 Garden areas

DOWN

- 1 Scooter's kin
- 2 Consecutively
- 3 Bun seed
- 4 Plopped down
- 5 Grant or Elwes
- 6 Singer Franklin
- 7 Refused
- 8 Sordid
- 10 Toward midnight
- 11 Skillets

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

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Get what's coming to you
- 18 To boot
- 21 Easy dupe
- 23 Tub user
- 24 Swiss city
- 25 Crowd scene
- 27 Volcanic rock
- 28 On the agenda
- 29 Like some diseases
- 30 Fourth-down play
- 31 Lecher's looks
- 33 Reddish brown
- 37 Scientist's place

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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			

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Meganumber: 20
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Fantasy 5 1 6 12 19 22

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EVENING: 3 9 3

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.49.14

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Mr. Coll Bell, a New Zealander who invented a composting toilet supposedly superior to a septic system and who wanted permission from the Auckland Regional Council to install one at a campground, said an ARC bureaucrat had queried him on whether the worms he uses would be traumatized by the volume of work required in the annual two-week period of intensive campground use. Coll told Agence France-Presse in December that vermiculture expert Patricia Naidu had assured him that the worms would be "happy."

■ Convenience-store manager Carol Mendenhall told reporters in December that among the police citations she had recently received for a disturbance at her home in Dibble, Okla. (pop. 282), was one for allowing her four goats to have sex in her front yard in public view, which was illegal in Dibble. She admitted that her billy goat, Adam, had been attending to three females who were in heat at the same time. (The city council has since repealed the ordinance, following a campaign Mendenhall conducted.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1968 the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

1649 England's King Charles I was beheaded.

1882 the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y.

1883 James Ritty and John Birch received a U.S. patent for the first cash register.

1933 Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

1933 the first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

1948 Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi was shot and killed by a Hindu extremist.

1958 "Sunrise at Campobello," a play by Dore Schary about Franklin D. Roosevelt's struggle against polio, opened on Broadway with Ralph Bellamy as FDR.

WORD UP!

sylvan \SIL-vuhn\, *adjective*:
1. Of or pertaining to woods or forest regions. 2. Living or located in a wood or forest. 3. Abounding in forests or trees; wooded.

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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
Date of Filing Application: Jan. 25, 2008
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: WOKCANO SANTA MONICA, INC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1413 5TH ST., SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401-2401
Type of License(s) Applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. 68-PORTABLE BAR
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/30/2008

Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear below of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Santa Monica for the purpose of placing limits on the amount of commercial development allowed in our city each year. A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Σ Santa Monica is only 8 square miles, yet it is one of the most densely populated and traffic congested cities in Southern California. Excessive development and an explosion of new office and commercial buildings have brought in too much traffic and threaten to change the very nature of our beach community. For example:

- Between 1980 and 2007, our city witnessed an unprecedented expansion in commercial development, adding more than 9,000,000 square feet of new office, retail, and industrial space. This is the square footage equivalent of adding over 16 Santa Monica Place malls.
- This flood of development has negatively im-

Notices

pacted our city, our neighborhoods, and Santa Monica residents by increasing traffic congestion, parking problems, pollution, and demands on our infrastructure.

- Commercial development typically generates at least three to four times the amount of traffic as residential.

- The vision of the 1984 General Plan to promote commercial growth has been met and exceeded by this unprecedented pace of development.

- Since 1995, growth in commercial space (office, retail, and industrial uses such as studio and post production facilities) has averaged 160,000 square feet per year, the square footage equivalent of adding one new Santa Monica Place mall to our city every three and a half years.

- Growth is expected to continue at this pace for the next 20 years, adding approximately 3,200,000 square feet of new commercial development, or the square footage equivalent of almost six new Santa Monica Place malls, to our already congested city.

- Continued unsustainable development at this level will have dire impacts on traffic and on Santa Monica residents' quality of life.

Σ This measure will put residents back in control of our city by putting a reasonable, common sense limit on future non-residential development. Specifically:

- This measure will cut Santa Monica's projected commercial growth in half.

- This measure exempts residential, schools, and other uses vital to the well being of our community.

- By capping annual commercial development at a level that allows a reasonable rate of growth, this measure will ensure that our city has the time to develop the physical, economic, and social infrastructure to keep pace with development.

- This measure will give our city the opportunity to create a competitive selection process for potential commercial development, resulting in high-quality projects that best meet our community's goals and objectives.

- This measure will prevent the massive over-development of our neighborhoods and ensure that residents have a say in the future of our city.

Signed by:

/s/

Diana Gordon

Co-Chair

Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City

("SMCLC")

/s/

Elizabeth Riel

President

North of Montana Association

("NOMA")

/s/

Ted Winterer

President

Ocean Park Association

("OPA")

The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

BALLOT MEASURE AMENDING THE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL LIMIT ON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SANTA MONICA UNTIL 2023

This measure would amend the Land Use Element of the City's General Plan to limit commercial development in Santa Monica for the stated purpose of addressing traffic congestion. The limit would be 75,000 square feet of floor area per calendar year. Floor area would be calculated pursuant to local law in effect on January 16, 2008.

The measure specifies that the limit on commercial development would not apply to the following uses: residential, parking, schools, child and senior day care facilities, hospitals and other specified care facilities, places of worship, and government facilities. Additionally, the limit is expressly made inapplicable to "neighborhood-serving goods, services or retail uses" located on the ground floor of a housing development if 100% of the dwelling units in the development are designated "affordable" by the City. Additionally, the limit would be inapplicable to any project that does not require approval of the Planning Commission or City Council under either state law or under local law in effect on January 16, 2008. The measure includes exemptions for any project with a vested right of development and for any use beyond local voters' regulatory power. The measure also states that an exemption would apply in any instance where six-sevenths of the Council finds that applying the limit would cause an unconstitutional "taking" of the owner's property.

Projects that are subject to the limit but replace or remodel existing buildings could receive a "credit" for some or all of the existing building's floor area. This credit would reflect the fact that the site already generates traffic. Availability of this credit would depend upon a comparison of traffic to be generated by the new building and traffic generated by the existing building. The measure establishes the formula for comparison.

Notices

The measure would authorize the City to exceed the limit in a given year by "borrowing" from the next four years, but the yearly average for any five year period could not exceed the limit.

The measure would remain in effect through 2023 unless amended or repealed by the voters. The measure would require the City to make changes in local law and policy necessary to effectuate the measure's provisions.

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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,548,148	\$ 2,066,286
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,141,125	\$ 945,323
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,290,000	\$ 752,309
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,276,167	\$ 670,923
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,260,571	\$ 917,775

Statistics updated every Friday

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