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Volume 9 Issue 70

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

OBAMA UNVEILS BUDGET
SEE PAGE 11

THE WELCOME NEW GUYS ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

FUTURE: **A man jogs passed the site of a future medical facility that the UC Regents have agreed to lease for 30 years for $147 million.**

UC signs $147M deal to rent local medical facility

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY The UCLA Hospital System is expanding its presence in Santa Monica with a 30-year deal to occupy a new outpatient surgery facility to be built on 16th Street.

The three-story, 45,000 square-foot project is planned for a parking lot across the street from the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and could be under construction by March, the project's developer, Randy Miller, said.

Miller said the Regents of the University of California have agreed to pay $147 million for the 30-year lease. He paid $13.25 million for the site in December of 2007 with the intent of building a medical facility for UCLA, he said. The total cost of the project is expected to be about $50 million.

"There was never a deal assured when we bought the property but we knew that they had a need for this facility and the community had a need for this facility," he said.

UCLA acquired Santa Monica Hospital in 1995 because it had run out of room for its medical school on the Westwood campus. The Santa Monica facility has since evolved into a key resource for the university.

UCLA medical programs conducted in Santa Monica include orthopedics, oncology, childbirth and pediatrics.

UCLA is planning to house eight operating rooms for outpatient surgeries at the proposed facility as well as oncology equipment for radiation treatments, said Posie Carpenter, chief administrative officer for Santa Monica-UCLA Medial Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. The facility will also be used for medical student training.

"As the Santa Monica campus has developed we have moved significant teaching programs here," she said, adding that the new facility "is truly going to be supportive of furthering our education and our teaching mission."

It's somewhat unusual for a public hospital to contract with a private developer for a medical facility. But Carpenter said because of an ongoing renovation project on Santa Monica-UCLA's main campus the hospital felt it could speed the development process by contracting the job out.

She said she expects the facility to open in the summer of 2012.

"The beauty of it is that we'll have this resource for the public and for the community much sooner," she said.

Miller said he expects the project to acquire a gold LEED designation for its environmental friendly design by Santa Monica architect Michael W. Folonis.

One notable feature is the building's underground, automated garage that will use a mechanical car lift to store 250 cars in a fraction of the space a conventional parking lot would require. Believed to be the first of its kind on the west coast, Miller said the garage saves energy by decreasing drivers' idling time, reducing the amount of excavation required during construction and limiting lighting and ventilation costs.

The project did not require City Council approval because its scope was within the limits of zoning rules for the site.

nickt@smdp.com

Bank failure means new name for local branch

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN On Monday morning Santa Monicans who deposit their checks at First Regional Bank were in for a surprise.

The bank, which had a branch at 501 Santa Monica Blvd., was seized by regulators over the weekend and quickly sold off to Raleigh, N.C.-based First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

Its failure was blamed on delinquent real estate loans and was estimated to have cost the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. $825.5 million.

For customers, though, the new name was about the only discernible change.

Deposits were fully insured by the FDIC, and the agency said ATM cards and checks issued by the failed bank would continue to work as usual.

SEE BANK PAGE 8

Parents and students on edge over soaring tuition

DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE As students around the country anxiously wait for college acceptance letters, their parents are sweating the looming tuition bills at public universities.

Florida college students could face yearly 15 percent tuition increases for years, and University of Illinois students will pay at least 9 percent more. The University of Washington will charge 14 percent more at its flagship campus. And in California, tuition increases of more than 30 percent have sparked protests reminiscent of the 1960s.

Tuition has been trending upward for years, but debate in statehouses and trustee meeting rooms has been more urgent this year as most states struggle their way out of the economic meltdown.

The College Board says families are paying about $172 to $1,096 more in tuition and fees this school year. The national average for 2009-2010 is about $7,020, not including room and board, according to the nonprofit association of colleges that oversees the SATs

SEE TUITION PAGE 9

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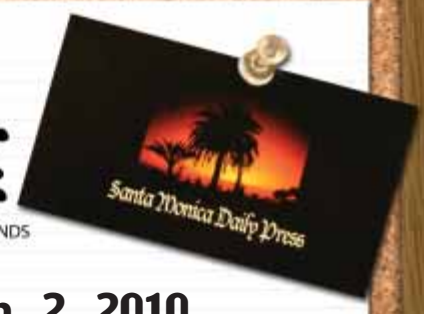
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010

Exploring the line
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Working in film, video and installation, Diana Thater has been an innovator in her medium for 20 years and is best known for creating complex visual and spatial environments. The exhibit, "Between Science and Magic," is a simple, and beautiful, interpretation of movie magic — a century-old expression that still conjures the mythology of Hollywood filmmaking. Thater's project is conceived as a brief history of cinema.

Write away
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Published and closet writers are welcome to seek inspiration, guidance and support at this weekly writer's group. Call (310) 899-0361 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010

Voice your opinion
City Hall, 7 p.m.
Attend a meeting of the Santa Monica Planning Commission, where a developer will present plans for 545 multi-family housing units with 80,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail, dubbed Paseo Nebraska, located on Nebraska Avenue at Berkeley Street.

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

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

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BEACH HOUSE

Volunteers needed for tours

The Santa Monica Conservancy is seeking volunteers for a new docent training class for the Annenberg Community Beach House at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. The conservancy, in partnership with the city of Santa Monica, trains docents to give guided tours of the site, which opened to great acclaim last spring.

The Annenberg Community Beach House has a fascinating history, a place where Hollywood and Santa Monica intersect. A palatial estate was erected in the 1920s by William Randolph Hearst for his lifetime companion, actress Marion Davies. They entertained on a grand scale for film luminaries and international celebrities. The site evolved over time to become Ocean House Hotel, the Sand and Sea Club, and ultimately to the recreational and cultural center it is today, thanks to generous funding from the Annenberg Foundation, and in partnership with the city of Santa Monica and California State Parks.

Tours provide information on the three remarkable individuals most closely associated with the site – media magnate William Randolph Hearst, movie star Marion Davies, and architect Julia Morgan, who designed the Guest House and pool that remain from the original estate. Designed by Fred Fisher Partners Architects, new buildings and outdoor facilities pay homage to the historic estate, while providing a contemporary activity center that was recognized with a gold LEED rating for sustainable design.

More information on the Beach House is available at www.AnnenbergBeachHouse.com.

Volunteers are required to attend three Saturday afternoon lectures, on Feb. 27, March 13, and March 27, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On-site training follows, and the formal training is supplemented with written material in a docent manual. The service requirement is six hours per month, in two shifts of three hours each.

New docents will be joining an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers who have been staffing the site the Beach House opened in April 2009. Docent application forms are available on the conservancy's Web site, www.smconservancy.org, and are due by Feb. 24. For questions or more information, call (310) 496-3146.

The Santa Monica Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating the city's architectural and cultural heritage.

DAILY PRESS



INSPIRING

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Tatiana Trent, 2, serves a cup at her lemonade stand near the Main Street Farmers' Market on Sunday, Jan. 31. Proceeds from the lemonade sales were donated to Haitian relief efforts.

Sony Pictures to lay off 450 because of weak DVD sales

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., the studio behind the "Spider-Man" movie franchise, is laying off about 450 people and eliminating 100 open positions to cope with declining DVD sales.

The layoffs represent about a 6.5 percent reduction in the 6,800-strong work force at Sony Pictures, which released the Michael Jackson documentary "This Is It" and cataclysmic "2012" late last year. The studio also recently pushed back the release of "Spider-Man 4" by a year until 2012.

Most of the cuts at the studio, which is based in Culver City, will occur by the first week of March and will be in the home entertainment and information-technology units in the United States.

It's the second time in a year for the subsidiary of Japan's Sony Corp. to cut back.

Last March, it laid off nearly 250 people and eliminated nearly 100 open positions. That followed a move in October 2008 to reduce overtime, travel and executive benefits.

Staff were told of the latest cuts in a memo Monday and through videos by the studio co-chairs on an employee Web site.

"Our industry is affected by two things: It's affected by the economy, of course, and it's affected by technology," co-chair Amy Pascal says in the video. "Over the last two years, it's changed people's DVD buying habits, which has had a huge effect on our company and the industry at large."

The home video market is crucial for studios because that is where they recoup much of the cost of producing movies. Yet the market has been sagging as people refrain from adding to their already well-stocked home collections and turn to rentals, which are far less profitable for Hollywood.

U.S. home video revenue fell 5 percent in 2009 to $20 billion, according to the Digital Entertainment Group, an industry association of studios and electronics firms.

DVD rental and purchase revenues dropped 11 percent to $16.4 billion, the group said. That overwhelmed a 67 percent gain in Blu-ray disc spending to $1.5 billion and a 31 percent gain in online and video-on-demand revenues to $2.1 billion.

Sony Pictures posted a quarterly operating loss of 6.4 billion yen ($71 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, while Sony Corp. as a whole is forecasting a 95 billion yen ($1 billion) loss in the year to March.

Money woes could hurt high-speed rail

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO The $8 billion in stimulus cash awarded to 13 high-speed rail corridors across the country may seem like a windfall for advocates, but there's a catch: The money isn't enough to finish any of the major projects.

State coffers are dry and federal spending is being cut back, so it's unclear who, if anyone, will pay the rest of the multi-billion dollar bill.

Many states have been vague about how they would foot their part of the bill. But experts say most are counting on the federal government to cover at least half of their costs over the next few decades — a hope that may clash with President Barack Obama's recent pledge to curb spending.

"As time goes on, as fast trains become a way of life for America, there will be more and more federal help," Ill. Gov. Pat Quinn said Friday after his state learned it would get more than a $1 billion of the stimulus money.

Optimists point to the 2011 federal budget Obama proposed Monday that seeks $1 billion more for high-speed trains on top of the $8 billion he announced in stimulus money last week. There's another $2.5 billion tucked away in the 2010 federal appropriations bill that has been approved but not yet allocated.

A proposed $500 billion, six-year federal transportation reauthorization bill includes $50 billion for high-speed rail. But that generous sum was included before Obama began talking about belt tightening, and it seems unlikely to win approval in its current form.

"This is all pork barrel stuff from House transportation committee leaders who threw everything and the kitchen sink in there," said Randal O'Toole, a researcher at the free-market Cato Institute and a critic of the rail plans. "This bill is dead in the water."

Even if it came through, that money hardly covers the proposed price tag of the 13 high-speed rail corridors, which are estimated to cost at least $60 billion and possibly more than $100 billion over the next decade or two. Those cost estimates also don't include the hundreds of million of dollars it could cost each year to operate the networks — costs that states typically pick up.

"States have to be very, very careful, and realize that it might be hard for the feds to kick in the money for high-speed rail," said Scott Pattison, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers.

It also might be hard for states that are grappling with huge budget shortfalls to justify spending more on high-speed rail while

SEE RAIL PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Connecting the dots?

Editor:

With the announcement of yet another ballot measure for a new parcel tax, the latest chapter in the decades-long saga of life under socialist rule in Santa Monica has occurred. The rationale given by school district officials for the necessity of this new tax is the current budget deficit created, so they say, by the recession and a reduction in the amount of revenue sharing the district receives from Sacramento.

In fact, this so called deficit is entirely the making of city officials who have perpetrated an ongoing scam that is little discussed. I am referring to the tens, if not hundreds, of millions of tax dollars which have been allocated since the early 1980s to an entity whose official name is Community Corp. of Santa Monica and whose sole purpose is to acquire and or build so called "affordable housing" within the city limits. I just discovered yet another massive development of 32 "affordable housing" units which will be built at the corner of Fourth Street and Pico Boulevard.

This is social engineering at its worst since there is adequate housing for such individuals, just not in an otherwise exclusive area such as the Westside. I don't see such "affordable housing" in the Pacific Palisades, Bel Air, Brentwood, etc.

On the other hand, children must be educated, criminals kept at bay, roads maintained, fires put out, etc. But, no, the city and its schools have run out of money and it has become necessary to once again soak the "rich landed gentry" to fund purely discretionary programs. Enough with the lies to the voters of Santa Monica! Tell them the truth about expenditures and let's see if yet another onerous tax burden is placed upon the so called wealthy of our community.

By the way, the vast majority of voters in the city who are also, I suspect, tenants are clueless that the tax parcel increase will simply be passed right through to them. Something to think about the next time they cast their ballots.

David A. McKellar
Santa Monica

Concerned about the council

Editor:

With the passing of Ken Genser comes the recurring problem of how to fairly fill the vacant seat. In the very first place, I cannot help but remark that I for one am not comfortable at the way Mr. Genser's grave medical condition was kept from the public for two months. In an age where there are significant issues facing not just the city, or the state, but the nation as well, it speaks volumes as to how far some will go to keep the public in the dark when it comes to an incapacitated elected official. Shame on the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights-majority council for doing that.

It does not bode well for the notion that any appointment will not be influenced by back room deals, sans the cigar smoke. Anyone who thinks this isn't something voters aren't to be concerned about isn't being very circumspect given the sense of impropriety of this situation and it smacks of a hubris that is not to be tolerated at all.

The problem for SMRR is they can't back out now, they have maintained a lock on the process and gotten away with it so long that they are the victims of a runaway process and democracy will be the wreckage strewn on the tracks of a runaway train coming down the mountain picking up speed with its brakes on fire!

Stewart Resmer
Santa Monica







Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taking a glimpse at a parched world

ONE STARK REALITY OF CLIMATE change is drought. It is deadly and history reminds us that it annihilated powerful civilizations including: Akkadian, Moche, Tiwaniku, Mayan, and Pueblo peoples.

Without fresh water all life perishes.

Australia is beginning its eleventh year of drought. Water rationing at homes and at businesses is a reality. The government has given each household waterproof timer's and recommends four-minute showers.

Drought is not just wreaking havoc on the land down under. Northern China and inner Mongolia are entering their fifth year of drought and last summer five million people were without water and 20 million acres of croplands failed.

Fresh water for farming and hydroelectric power is also being used as a geopolitical tool, and by some accounts benefiting the Taliban in Afghanistan. India is using water from two Afghan rivers that flow into the volatile Pakistan border region, where water shortages have been implicated in fueling local insurgencies. Pakistan is insisting that India is using water as a weapon against them.

Drought has significantly cut the flow of fresh water into the dam, which feeds three hydroelectric plants that supply 73 percent of Venezuela's electricity. Currently, Venezuelans are faced with rolling four-hour blackouts every other day as the oil-rich country endeavors to contend with less fresh water.

California is entering its fourth year of drought. Tree rings from the ancient bristle cone pines living at almost 11,000 feet above sea level on the White Mountains in east-central California tell climate scientists that California is coming out of the third- or fourth-wettest century in the past 4,000 years.

California is currently floating an $11-billion bond to secure fresh water for over 38 million denizens, the eighth mightiest economy on the globe and the most intensive agriculture system on the face of the Earth. By 2050 the state is projected to have a population of 55 million people.

California receives about 90 percent of its freshwater from the accumulated snowfall long the Sierra Nevada's. The melt waters feed the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary in the west. Ecologically, it is comparable in its magnificence and beauty to the Florida Everglades.

The delta is a major Pacific flyway providing crucial habitat twice a year to millions of migratory birds. And two thirds of California's remaining salmon pass through the delta in addition to being home for hundreds of native species of aquatic plants and animals.

The delta is the hub of California's drinking and agriculture water. Also, over a half a million people live and work close by, and since the 2000 census, the population of towns and cities has grown by a whopping 18 percent.

The Los Angeles basin extends from San Diego to Santa Barbara and spread out over 467 square miles and it's home to about 18 million people. One stop-gap-measure that so far has helped reduce urban water consumption has been to raise the water usage rates. Increasing rates almost 40 percent has saved over 37.7 billion gallons of water since July 2007.

Agriculture in California contributes over $37 billion annually to the state's economy. Drought forced the tap to be shut off this past summer and over $3 billion in produce did not make the marketplace.

For every problem there are at least three solutions.

Farmers are turning to technology to help guide them through these dry times. Micro sensors in the field and drip irrigation, which feeds water directly to the root zone, are connected to telephones allowing farmers to get real-time information and immediately adjust water usage.

Since 2003 Californian farmers have invested over $1.5 billion in new irrigation. Some farmers have switched from water-spending crops like cotton, rice, sugar beets and alfalfa to seasonal vegetables, fruits, wine grapes and nuts that use far less water.

Other farmers are looking to safflower, a water-smart plant that sends its roots down as deep as 10 feet in search of water and nutrients out of reach of other annual plants. Safflower produces seeds, which make oil used in cooking and in salad dressings.

Interestingly, crop scientists have shown farmers that by cutting back on water, or dry farming, for navel oranges and pistachios they are able to produce sweeter, denser, crisper and higher-market value fruit and nuts.

California wineries are also changing with the times, seizing golden opportunities to save water and make money, entering into organic and eco-friendly wines.

Fetzer Vineyards in Mendocino County reduced water usage by 24 percent or 6.6 million gallons by installing drip irrigation. They use steam sterilization instead of hot water at their bottling facility, and all wastewater is recycled using a natural system of ponds and aquatic plants. In addition, Fetzer Vineyards does not use synthetic pesticides or chemical fertilizers derived from petro-chemicals. They have reduced their footprint equivalent to planting 70,000, 10-year-old Eucalyptus trees.

At the end of the day, if each of us lend a helping hand, both at home and at work, and conserve water, we can obviate businessman and inventor Benjamin Franklin's warning "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water."

DR. REESE HALTER is a biologist at California Lutheran University and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His most recent book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dressing for success is a lesson lost these days

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, BACK IN THE days of payphones and phones that actually "dialed" because they were rotary, there was a book out that was quite popular called "Dress for Success." I remember it being a major seller and my mother talking about how clothes make the man. The lesson I learned as a child was that it was important to dress properly because it affects the different ways in which our social standing and power are experienced, both internally and externally.

I experience shifting perceptions of my social standing in my profession as a divorce lawyer regularly, based solely on what I am wearing.

I recognize the difference in the way I feel, and in the manner I am treated by others, who are judging me by my clothing. When I'm at the courthouse dropping off a document at the clerk's office, if I'm dressed in a polo and jeans, I am considered to be a messenger. I'm treated with a level of equality by the court clerks, and sheriff's deputies as if I'm just a working stiff like the man or woman behind the counter trying to make it through the day.

My experience is as someone who is doing his job. It is a purely functional activity and serves no purpose and casts no light or shadow on my perception of my self-worth.

When I'm in a suit, I'm treated as a lawyer. I'm given deference and respect. I am called counsel. I feel powerful. I feel confident and my self esteem rises as I walk down the hallways looking at the parties who are waiting for their case to be called, I feel proud of myself, I "know" they are looking at me and saying, "he's a lawyer, this is his arena."

In relation to the whole judicial system, I feel my place. As between me and the parties I feel empowered, and in relation to the judges I feel subservient. Which is as it should be, I suppose.

I did not fully comprehend the power of perception, both internally and externally, to my self esteem and to my future prospects until recently. It was while reading "The Working Poor," where the author writes about a woman who is a model employee making just above minimum wage working in a warehouse. Her boss loves her work, she is reliable, honest and capable. He would like to give her a promotion to cashier and increase her pay, but he cannot because she lacks teeth. She lacks teeth because she doesn't have insurance and can't afford to see a dentist, which prevents her from making more money to take care of her teeth. It's a vicious cycle.

When I read about that woman, I realized how many seemingly little things influence not only our chances of survival, but determine how well we are flourishing in this world.

I've been hired by men who were walking down the court hallway and they recognized me as a lawyer. The fact that I had on a sharply pressed suit, and a commanding presence, is like a neon sign. That sign has led me to greater financial income. It becomes a self-regenerating cycle. It allows me to dress the part in better style, which in turn attracts more and better clients.

THERE'S ALMOST NO PLACE THESE DAYS WHERE PEOPLE GET DRESSED UP. I'VE BEEN TO THE OPERA ON A SATURDAY NIGHT AND SEEN PEOPLE IN JEANS AND SNEAKERS.

Looking around me, as I drive passed the students at Santa Monica High School, dressed in their shabby chic way, with their boxers showing, I realize that kids are kids, but the lesson still needs to be taught. I see all around me a more casual attitude towards dress.

I note the many adults I see on the Third Street Promenade who are dressed down, even for workdays. I see it in the courtrooms where people are appearing in front of judges in jeans and ratty T-shirts and flip-flops. There's almost no place these days where people get dressed up. I've been to the opera on a Saturday night and seen people in jeans and sneakers.

It's a general trend in our society, to become more careless about our image. Today I have a greater awareness of how I am perceived, and more importantly, how I perceive others. I know that when I make judgments based on someone's clothing, those judgments might be, and frequently are, wrong.

But I'd still like to see people dress better. And pull up their pants. They look like a baboon.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Crying foul?

Residents living near restaurants that operate more like sports bars have complained recently about noise generated from these establishments and their patrons when leaving at 2 a.m. Planning commissioners recently talked about creating a special classification for sports bars with possible limits on operations.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Should sports bars be regulated differently than restaurants and not be allowed to open within a certain distance from residential areas?

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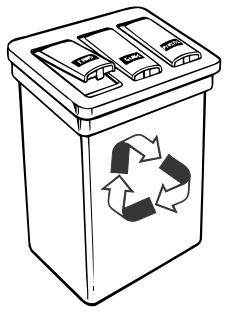
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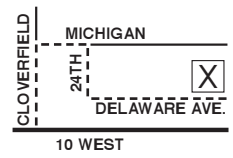


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Documenting childhood one status update at a time

I HAVE SOMETHING TO ADMIT. IT'S NOT anything awful or torrid. It simply is that I am addicted to Facebook. There, I said it.

This isn't actually a major problem like other addictions, except that, at times throughout the day, when I should be paying my son attention, often I find myself logging on to my account.

I know it is not just Facebook that is my problem. It is the Internet in general. It is a portal into the outside world that seems desperately needed when you are home alone every day with a 3 year old. I don't interact with adults on a daily basis, so grabbing some news, some gossip, interacting with friends and family on Facebook has sort of become my hanging out at the water cooler at work. It is where I exchange information and have a little social interaction.

Much has been said about Facebook, good and bad, but what I have realized recently, that even though it causes me sometimes to tell my son, "I'll be there in a minute," it has also allowed me to keep a running commentary about things he says and does.

Facebook can be good for lots of things, finding out about celebrity deaths, connecting with old high school friends, keeping tabs on old boyfriends, but I think it has served me best by allowing me to have a place to brag about my son and to write down things about him in a way I wouldn't have done before. Before Facebook, I may have kept a journal, but there is something about the immediacy of a status update, that when I look back I am flooded by memories. I know the point of these updates is to update other people about ourselves, but it has really served as a great documenting tool for me and my family.

Facebook is a great mom tool.

I am lucky, I have a column to document my child and my parenting experiences, but not everyone does. Sometimes keeping up with all of our children's milestones or adorable comments is hard to do. I know I have a big pile in the other room for that scrapbook I meant to put together. And even though I run writers groups for moms to encourage them to document what is going on with their children, if you asked me when my child sat up by himself or started to crawl, I'd have to consult videos of him because I never wrote it down.

Keeping a journal has always felt like something I should do, but writing a quick status update throughout the day is something I want to do.

And that is what is great about Facebook. If I just look back at a little period of time, like last spring for example, I am suddenly flooded with memories of those days with my son. This is what I find:

"Perhaps too much information, but Ben peed in the big boy potty today for the very first time!!!"

"Just flashed on Ben becoming a doctor someday while he was pretend taking my blood pressure and I felt very cliché Jewish mother because the thought of him becoming a doctor someday really thrilled me."

"loves that her son in school yesterday offered up that on Old MacDonald's Farm he had a … penis!"

But my utter favorites, the ones that fuel my addiction, the ones that I am hoping are being read by current and former friends, from camp to work, to random acquaintances are, "Putting my son to sleep he told me, 'I love you Princess Leia.'" Or this one from when I put him to bed another night, "Putting my son to sleep he told me, 'I love you. I need you. I want you.' Then he grabbed my hand and said, 'I am not letting you go.'"

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT FACEBOOK, GOOD AND BAD, BUT WHAT I HAVE REALIZED RECENTLY, THAT EVEN THOUGH IT CAUSES ME SOMETIMES TO TELL MY SON, 'I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE,' IT HAS ALSO ALLOWED ME TO KEEP A RUNNING COMMENTARY ABOUT THINGS HE SAYS AND DOES.

I love when people click "like" or comment on one of these moments, glimpsing just a little into what goes on between us. When you are home alone all day together, magnificent things occur, but also, and often, regular and mundane stuff happens as well. So when those little wonderful nuggets occur, being able to pull out those moments that may be muddled and forgotten by memory, and save them in this online record is something to treasure. It allows me a great freedom to document more about my son than I think running to a journal would. And it doesn't hurt that there is an audience for it.

So perhaps I tell my son to hold on just a second so I can quickly jot it down online a little too much, but when I look back on those putting him to bed Princess Leia moments, I am right there in his room in the dark, his zoo night light flickering from the dresser top, and I am holding his hand and experiencing the moment all over again and I don't feel so bad.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com or become a fan of Mommie Brain on Facebook.

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Santa Monica From A to Z

Alisandra Rand and Melissa Rader
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

On the hunt for kid friendly bookstores

AFTER VISITING EVERY PICTURE TELLS A Story last week, we continue on our tour of local independent children's bookstores. Following the recommendation of several parents, Dash, Zora and Addison visited Children's Book World. The store occupies three rooms, and its shelves were bursting with books on subjects Santa Monica moms would like, such as yoga, multicultural folk tales, gardening, and how to get your kids into the best private schools. One room was devoted to young adult books, but there was still plenty of space for the picture books, board books, and children's non-fiction section.

But, unless your children are freak-of-nature quiet and Clockwork Orange-obedient, leave them at home. When we first walked in the door, Dash and Zora were drawn to the colorful, oversized picture books. A clerk immediately swooped down upon us, chastising me for not reading the sign that said only adults could handle the large books. In my defense, the sign was very faded and completely unexpected. As we browsed the store, a clerk hovered nearby with her eagle eyes trained on us to make sure my little vandals stayed in line.

It wasn't just the Raders earning the ire of the staff. They asked some older children not to touch the puppets because "they were going home with someone." Alisandra was a bit unnerved when Addison reached for one of the puppets. Would they reprimand an 18-month-old baby? She quickly whisked her away, not anxious to find out.

They did have a felt board and a box of ratty old toys that the kids could touch. If we are deciding whether to buy a book or toy, however, we want to see how our children interact with it. With an overseas trip coming up fast, Alisandra was desperate to find things to occupy all (or a least some of) those long hours on a plane. She wanted Addison to look at things to see which she might be drawn to. Instead of books, Alisandra took the advice of another parent and, in addition to the ubiquitous Dora coloring books, Nemo invisible ink kits, and DK sticker books, she found a terrific unstructured Herve Tullet coloring book and a play scene of the circus with re-usable vinyl stickers.

There were several books that looked interesting to me, but I was afraid to have the children look at them after our surveillance by the book police. The kids know I usually have a soft spot for books. I can easily say no way to toys or treats, but if it has pages and a cover, it's yours. However, we walked out of there with only two small coloring books.

We felt like Snoopy — "No Kids Allowed." I realize that my kids have the energies, as Dash likes to say, but sheez, they've forgotten the children in Children's Book World. How could a children's bookstore not enjoy kids who love books so much? In summary, the store is a great place to go alone and pick out a gift.

Diesel Bookstore in the Brentwood Country Mart also has a teeny, tiny children's book section. The small space allows me to keep an easy eye on my munchkins while I browse the interesting selections set out for adults. It is amazing how many books they do manage to squash into their shelves. Although it doesn't warrant an independent trip, it is a fun addition to an afternoon spent at the Country Mart.

Hi De Ho Comics seems like a hangout for teenagers and middle-aged men who never grew up, but they do have some fun things for kids. Dash goes crazy for the comic book hero T-shirts, which are way less expensive than those in mainstream stores. Some of the comic books are aimed at a younger audience, such as Disney, "The Simpsons" and "Batman the Brave and the Bold" (from the Cartoon Network show if you've been hiding under a rock that's free from superhero mania the last couple of years). They also have a few comic book hero toys, oh, excuse me, "collectible figurines." Rob and Dash enjoy hanging out there together while Zora and I visit the nearby library.

For an independent alternative to Amazon for online book shopping try www.powells.com. Located in Portland, Ore., Powell's main store occupies almost an entire city block and is possibly the coolest place on Earth. The rooms are color coded in case you get lost, and the helpful booksellers can provide you with a map. Powell's Web site also offers used books and staff recommendations.

• Children's Book World is located at 10580 W. Pico Blvd. Parking is available behind the building. www.childrensbookworld.com.

• Hi De Ho Comics and Books with Pictures is located at 525 Santa Monica Blvd. Hidehocomics.com.

• Diesel Bookstore is in the Brentwood Country Mart at 225 26th St. www.dieselbookstore.com.

Find a calendar with local events, helpful links, and more adventures of **ADDISON, ZORA, AND DASH** at smatoz.blogspot.com.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NEW NAME: **A customer walks into the First Citizens Bank in Santa Monica on Monday.**

Bank failed after real estate loans went bad

FROM **BANK** PAGE 1

Century City-based First Regional was the first California bank to be seized by regulators in 2010. Last year, 140 banks failed across the country, including 17 in California.

As of last September, First Regional, which operated eight branches, seven in Los Angeles County and one in Irvine, had $1.87 billion in deposits and total assets of $2.18 billion, the FDIC said. Of its $2 billion in loans as of last September, more than one third were for real estate development projects. The bank was also heavily involved in lending to apartment and other commercial property owners.

Barbara Thompson, a spokeswoman for First Citizens, said acquiring First Regional was a perfect way to expand into a desirable market.

"We're always looking for opportunities and we know that that region has great potential," she said. "First Regional really focused on business banking — small to mid-size business. [And] that is a focus of our bank."

> **"WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES AND WE KNOW THAT THAT REGION HAS GREAT POTENTIAL."**
>
> **Barbara Thompson,**
> spokeswoman for
> First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

In the past six months First Citizens acquired two other failed banks, one in Temecula, Calif. and the other in Washington state.

First Citizens had $18.5 billion in assets at the end of 2009. After acquiring First Regional, the bank now has 380 branches in seven states.

nickt@smdp.com

UC tuition to reach $10,302

FROM TUITION PAGE 1

and Advanced Placement tests.

Mike Sarb, a University of Illinois senior from suburban-Chicago Elk Grove Village, Ill., says money is a big concern for his blue-collar family scrambling to find the money to pay more than $20,000 for tuition, room and board.

They are not pleased that university officials are likely to raise tuition 9 percent this summer.

"They do complain that the school's taking advantage of people (by raising tuition)," Sarb said.

But interim President Stanley Ikenberry says the school has run out of options. With a budget deficit expected to top $11 billion this year, the state of Illinois owes the university more than $430 million, money he doesn't expect to see any time soon.

In some cases, one student's tuition disaster is another's bargain.

State officials have told Florida students they can expect 15 percent tuition increases every year until tuition reaches the national average. That could be a long slog, as the state is starting its tuition realignment from a place other students envy — about $3,000 a year.

In California, unprecedented budget cuts to higher education have led to huge fee increases at the state's two public university systems, as well as layoffs, furloughs, enrollment cuts and reduced course offerings.

At the University of California, which has 10 campuses and about 220,000 students, in-state undergraduate fees in fall 2010 are set to reach $10,302 — 32 percent more than in fall 2009 and three times what California residents paid 10 years ago.

But at California State University, the nation's largest public university system with 23 campuses and 450,000 students, resident undergraduate fees rose 32 percent from fall 2008 to fall 2009 to $4,026, which is nearly three times what students paid 10 years ago. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal for 2010-2011 assumes that the system will raise fees another 10 percent in the coming academic year.

"We're paying more and getting less," said Steve Dixon, a Humboldt State University senior who heads the California State Students Association.

At the University of Washington, where tuition and fees are expected to pass $9,000 by the 2010-2011 school year, students are worried about threatened cuts in financial aid as well.

"It's kind of a perfect storm for students," said Jono Hanks, a political science major from Everett, Wash., who is the UW student government lobbyist at the statehouse this quarter.

Hanks lives at home, packs his lunch and pays tuition with work and about $4,000 in student loans a year. Others have told him they're looking for a second job and adding to their debt to keep up with this year's 14 percent tuition increase.

"Some of them are even talking about dropping out for a few years so they can pay off the loans they have," Hanks said.

The Seattle university expects to raise tuition another 14 percent next year. UW tuition used to double every decade. At 14 percent a year, it could double in five.

Hanks is almost finished with school so he's not that concerned about his ability to pay for the last few quarters of his degree. But he does worry what barrier tuition increases will pose for his younger sister and brother, who are both in elementary school.

Other states have been more subtle in their budget balancing attempts.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is in the first year of a four-year tuition increase plan aimed at improving quality. In addition to statewide tuition increases of about 5.5 percent, in-state students at UW-Madison will pay an extra $250 a year each year.

This year, tuition went up by $617 to $7,296 or about 9.2 percent, but financial aid increased at the same time.

Still, few are complaining because the extra money — $100 million in the first four years and $40 million each year afterward — is reserved for providing more classes, improving student services and increasing need-based financial aid.

The Georgia Board of Regents has suspended indefinitely its popular "Fixed for Four" guaranteed tuition program, which since 2006 has meant students have paid the same tuition rate annually for four years of college. A freshman at the University of Georgia this year pays $3,865 in tuition and fees per semester if they take between seven and 15 hours of classes.

Calif. rail plan to cost $40 billion

FROM RAIL PAGE 3

education and health care are on the chopping blocks, Pattison said.

Illinois, Florida, California have by far the most to win if the money does keep flowing — and the most to lose if it doesn't. Those three states were given the bulk of the federal stimulus money.

Chicago would become the hub of an eight-state network, which, in all, won a third of the $8 billion in stimulus money. Officials say completing the Midwest system will cost nearly $10 billion, though skeptics say it could be twice that.

Florida is getting $1.25 billion for a new high-speed track that would run from Tampa to Orlando, then later from Orlando to Miami. Officials have said building the entire network should cost around $12 billion, though others put it closer to $20 billion.

A planned California network is by far the most ambitious. It received the second largest slice of the stimulus pie, $2.3 billion, to begin work on an 800-mile-long, high-speed rail line tying Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay area to Los Angeles and San Diego.

The California network is also the priciest, at more than $40 billion. Critics say the actual price tag could eventually be double that.

The problem is that both California and Illinois face yawning budget deficits of more than $11 billion and $20 billion, respectively, and Florida's stands at $3 billion. So anything short of a sustained federal commitment over decades could stick them with construction and then operating bills they can't pay.

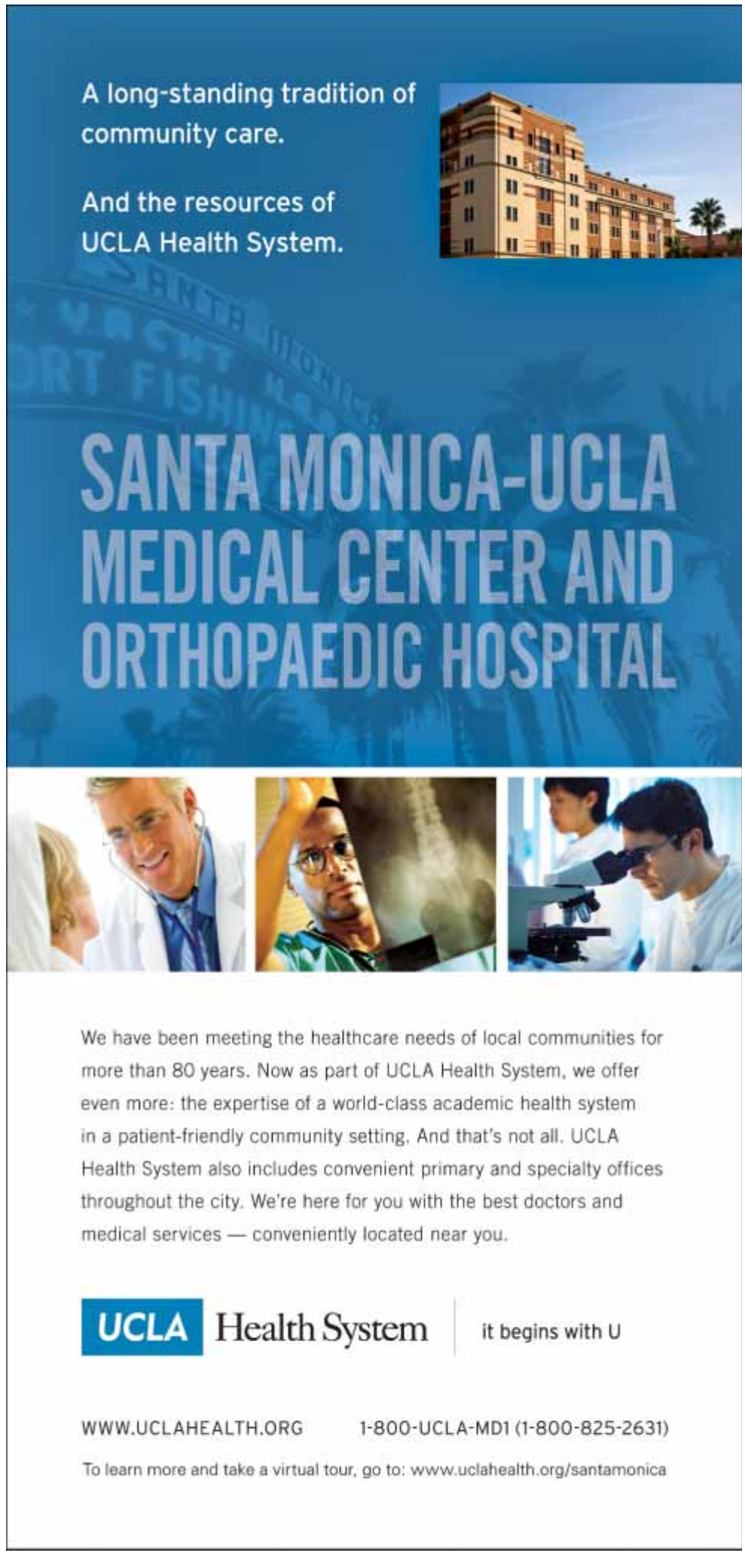
Even without a solid plan to fund the rail projects, high-speed train advocates haven't stopped from thinking big. Some envision creating a true high-speed rail system like the ones in Asia and Europe that could cost $1 trillion.

"The idea is to get a pipeline of projects set up, then get more and more projects later," Andy Kunz, president of the U.S. High Speed Rail Association, said about the injection of federal stimulus funds. "This is just seed money — a down payment."

Critics of high-speed rail projects fear advocates will do just that.

"They're trying to create momentum so it can't be stopped," said John Tillman, head of the conservative Illinois Policy Institute. "They come back one day and say, 'We already spent the $50 billion, we can't waste it by not spending $100 billion more."





Whitman's GOP opponent accuses her of misconduct

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Poizner on Monday accused his primary opponent Meg Whitman of trying to force him from the race with threatening calls and e-mails to his staff urging him to quit the primary.

During a news conference, Poizner, the state insurance commissioner, produced an e-mail he said was from Whitman campaign strategist Mike Murphy saying Whitman was willing to spend $40 million or more "tearing up Steve if we must."

Whitman, a billionaire former eBay chief executive, is the front-runner in the GOP primary against Poizner, a wealthy Silicon Valley entrepreneur.

In a statement released by the Whitman campaign, Murphy later confirmed he sent the e-mail after hearing some of Poizner's staff had "grave doubts about the viability of the faltering Poizner campaign."

"It is true that I have been trying to find a way to avoid a costly and unnecessary Republican primary," he said in the statement. "Many Republican leaders are more and more concerned that the Poizner campaign, now 28 points behind in the polls and still sinking, is becoming little more than a stalking horse for Jerry Brown and the Democrats."

Brown, the state attorney general and a former two-term governor, is the presumed Democratic nominee for governor, although he has not yet officially announced he is running.

Poizner asked the FBI, California attorney general's office and U.S. attorney's office to investigate whether the exchanges were illegal. He said the intimidation crosses the line from the normal rough-and-tumble of an election campaign to intimidation.

"This is not an attempt to be hardball and aggressive. This is an attempt to manipulate the election process," Poizner said. "Instead of having a healthy competition, she wants to eliminate the competition."

Poizner released a Jan. 27 e-mail he said was sent to one of his senior campaign consultants by Murphy, a Republican strategist who was a senior adviser in John McCain's 2000 presidential campaign and advised Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on his failed 2005 special election.

The e-mail begins: "Is there anything we can do to get SP to reconsider the race?" It goes on to suggest that Poizner should instead run for U.S. Senate against Democrat Dianne Feinstein in 2012.

"Could be a strong GOP year and DiFi will be 78 or 79 years old," the e-mail said. "Thought I'd try one more time before it's 1914."

Poizner said 1914 was a "not subtle" reference to the start of World War I. He said the offer to bow out of the governor's race in order to get party support for a later Senate campaign amounts to offering him a consolation prize.

Murphy said in his statement that he sent the message to Poizner pollster Jan van Lohuizen.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento declined to comment on the letter, which it received Monday. Such allegations typically would be forwarded to the FBI, said spokeswoman Lauren Horwood.

FBI spokesman Steve Dupre did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment.

Spokeswomen for the offices of Brown and Secretary of State Debra Bowen could not immediately say whether their offices had received the complaint from Poizner.

Poizner also submitted his complaint to the Fair Political Practices Commission, but executive director Roman Porter said none of the allegations appear to fall under the political reform act and are therefore outside its scope.

Poizner called his news conference the same day campaigns must file reports showing how much money they raised during the last six months of 2009.

Hundreds of mine workers locked out over contract

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Hundreds of workers remained locked out of California's largest open-pit mine Monday in a contract dispute that involves a corporation trying to keep its share of the global market and a tiny town that lives and dies by residents carving borax from the desert.

The mine in Kern County northeast of Los Angeles locked out about 550 workers on Sunday. The mine's London-based owner, Rio Tinto Borax, bused in employees from the Port of Los Angeles and from out of state while also using contract workers.

There also were more than 100 managers and supervisors working at the plant.

"We're prepared for the long run," company spokeswoman Susan Keefe in Colorado said.

The mine in the Mojave Desert about 75 miles from Los Angeles is the second-largest borate mine in the world. The mine is 750 feet deep and extracts about 2.5 million tons of ore annually.

It produces 42 percent of the world's refined borates — compounds of the element boron such as borax — used in everything from high-definition TVs to plant food to laundry detergent.

Keefe said the company will use its stockpiled supplies while replacement workers ramp up production.

The lockout is a concern because the union local has no strike fund, and workers may have to apply for unemployment, said Jeri Lee, executive director for International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 30, which represents miners.

The company, meanwhile, said it has lost about $6 million in business since contract negotiations began last September. Keefe said customers started backing off because the union sent them letters warning of possible supply disruptions and quality problems caused by the labor dispute.

At issue is a replacement for a contract that expired in November. The company is offering a 2 percent raise for employees while calling for changes in sick leave and seniority practices.

The company said it needs the changes to compete in the global market. The California mine employees earn $18 to $29.30 an hour, Lee said. The company's primary competitor has a mine in Turkey where workers earn an average of about $9.70 an hour, Keefe said.

In the past decade, the company has lost 25 percent of its share of global sales, Keefe said.

Both sides said they want to go back to the bargaining table as soon as possible, although no new talks were scheduled. The company and union also accused each other of bargaining in bad faith.

"We're willing to negotiate 24 hours a day," Lee said. "We didn't want this to happen.... They went in with two barrels and tried to tear the whole thing up."

Keefe denied the company was acting in bad faith.

"Everybody's sincere hope is we can reach a fair agreement," she said.

The mine and the community of Boron have a shared history and economy. The mine has about 800 workers. Boron has about 2,000 residents, and the mine has been its main employer since the pit opened in the 1920s.

"They're either mine workers or ex-mine workers or have family that are mine workers," Lee said of residents.

Kern County sheriff's deputies were at the mine, but there were no reports of violence involving about two dozen protesters, Senior Deputy Mike Whorf said.

"They're demonstrating when the buses come in, the buses come out," he said.

A five-month strike in 1974 was violent, with some mine buildings burned and shots fired at people.

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STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO
Calif. lawmakers to be fined for unreported gifts

Thirty one California lawmakers have agreed to pay fines for failing to report hotel stays, dinners, concert tickets and other gifts given by lobbyists.

Enforcement staff at the state Fair Political Practices Commission have proposed that lawmakers pay $200 for each violation.

Roman Porter, the commission's executive director, said Monday the lawmakers signed stipulations acknowledging failure to report the gifts and agreed to pay the recommended fines. The commission will have the final say at its Feb. 11 meeting.

The commission last month sent letters to 38 members of the Assembly and Senate for failing to report gifts totaling thousands of dollars.

Seven lawmakers accused of reporting violations have pending cases. Porter declined to comment on those.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO
Calif school kids jump-rope to beat record

California schoolchildren are trying to jump into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Tens of thousands of students at more than 500 schools across the state tried to help break the record Monday morning for most people skipping rope at the same time.

At Bowling Green Charter School in Sacramento — the event's headquarters — about 1,000 kids and adults began hopping up and down in the playground for 10 minutes starting at 9 a.m.

The event was sponsored by Jamba Juice and the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to raise awareness about physical fitness.

Organizers say more than 88,000 people participated, breaking the previous Guinness record held by 59,000 jumpers in Australia.

The results still have to be certified by London-based Guinness.

AP

GLENDALE
Police capture robbery suspect in mall parking lot

Police say they've captured a robbery suspect who was hiding out in a popular Glendale mall.

Glendale police sealed off the Americana mall for two hours Monday to hunt for the man. He was found in the mall's parking structure but stores remained on lockdown as detectives gathered evidence.

Authorities say the incident stemmed from a morning liquor store robbery in neighboring Burbank. They say officers chased a car carrying three suspects into Glendale, where it smashed into a parked car.

Glendale police Sgt. Tom Lorenz says two people were taken into custody but the third escaped. The man was seen jumping out of the car and running. He was grabbed by an officer but broke loose and ran into the mall.

The unidentified suspect has been turned over to Burbank police.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Swedish rapper convicted of LA SUV killing

A Swedish hip-hop artist who ran down and killed a man at a Hollywood crosswalk has been convicted of second-degree murder.

A Los Angeles jury also found David Moses Jassy guilty Monday of assault and battery. Jassy, who also uses the name Dave Monopoly, was acquitted of two other counts, including assault with a deadly weapon.

Jassy faces 15 years to life in prison when he's sentenced next month.

Prosecutors say the 35-year-old rapper killed Los Angeles pedestrian activist John Osnes in November 2008. Prosecutors say Osnes banged on the hood of Jassy's rented SUV when it stopped inside a crosswalk.

Authorities say Jassy punched Osnes in the face, kicked him in the head and ran him over as he drove away.

Jassy testified that he never intended to hurt Osnes.

AP

Obama unveils 2011 budget with $3.83T in spending

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama unveiled a multitrillion-dollar spending plan Monday, pledging an intensified effort to combat high unemployment and asking Congress to quickly approve new job-creation efforts that would boost the deficit to a record-breaking $1.56 trillion.

Obama's new budget blueprint preaches the need to make tough choices to restrain run-away deficits, but not before attacking what the administration sees as the more immediate challenge of lifting the country out of a deep recession that has cost 7.2 million jobs over the past two years.

The result is a budget plan that would give the country trillion-dollar-plus deficits for three consecutive years. Obama's new budget projects a spending increase of 5.7 percent for the current budget year and forecasts that spending would rise another 3 percent in 2011 to $3.83 trillion.

"Until America is back at work, my administration will not rest and this recovery will not be finished," Obama declared in his budget message.

Addressing the fact that his budget first projects big increases in the deficit before starting to lower these imbalances, Obama told reporters, "It's very important to understand, we won't be able to bring down this deficit overnight given that the recovery is still taking hold and families across the country still need help."

Obama's budget offers tax cuts for businesses, including a $5,000 tax credit for hiring new workers this year, help for the unemployed and $25 billion more for cash-strapped state governments. All the temporary measures would boost the deficit over the next two years by $245 billion.

The deficit for this year would surge to a record-breaking $1.56 trillion, topping last year's then-unprecedented $1.41 trillion gap, a number which had dwarfed the previous record of $454.8 billion set in 2008 under former President George W. Bush.

The administration is forecasting that deficits over the next decade will add an additional $8.5 trillion to the national debt, even if Congress adopts the administration's package of proposals to trim future deficits starting in 2011. Those include a three-year freeze on spending for government programs, an effort which does not touch popular benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare and which also exempts defense and homeland security. It also proposes a boost in taxes on the wealthiest Americans, families making more than $250,000 annually, by allowing the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 to expire.

Republicans were not impressed with Obama's deficit cutting, saying that it fell far short of the bold steps needed in light of the fiscal challenges the country is facing.

"This country is sinking into a fiscal quagmire," said Sen. Judd Gregg, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee. "These circumstances call for a bold, game-changing budget that will turn things around."

The administration argued that Obama inherited a deficit that was already topping $1 trillion when he took office and, given the severity of the downturn, the president had to spend billions stabilizing the financial system and jump-starting economic growth.

Obama's new budget carries forward the pledge he made in his State of the Union address: To put full attention on reviving the moribund U.S. economy, an effort to convince recession-battered voters that Democrats are in tune with the issues that affect their lives.

Obama's new budget assumes enactment of a comprehensive health care program, the issue that dominated the president's first year in office. Passage of that proposal is currently stalled with Democrats trying to figure out how to cope with the loss of a key Democratic seat that gave them the 60 votes they needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

Obama's job proposals would push government spending in 2010 to $3.72 trillion and increase that amount to $3.83 trillion in the 2011 budget year, which begins on Oct. 1.

The deficit in 2011 would total $1.27 trillion, the third straight trillion-dollar-plus imbalance. The deficit would fall to $828 billion in 2012 but would remain at levels surpassing any previous deficits through 2020.

The deficit for this year would be 10.6 percent of the total economy, a figure unmatched since the country was emerging from World War II. The administration does not trim the deficit below 3.6 percent of GDP for any year in the next decade, failing to meet its goal of lowering the deficit to 3 percent of GDP by 2015.

White House Budget Director Peter Orszag said the administration will rely on a deficit commission which the president will create by executive order to recommend ways to further reduce the deficit plus cope with deficits projected to soar further in the next decade with the retirement of millions of baby boomers.

Much of the spending surge starting in 2008 reflects the cost of massive economic stimulus measures passed by Congress to deal with the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The surge in the deficits reflects not only the increased spending but also a big drop in tax revenues, reflecting the 7.2 million people who have lost jobs since the recession began and weaker corporate tax receipts.

Obama's new budget attempts to navigate between the opposing goals of pulling the country out of a deep recession and getting control of runaway deficits. The administration insists that once the recession is history, the government will turn its attention to attacking the deficits.

On the anti-recession front, Obama's new budget proposed extending the popular Making Work Pay middle-class tax breaks of $400 per individual and $800 per couple through 2011. They were due to expire after this year. The budget also proposes making $250 payments to Social Security recipients to bolster their finances in a year when they are not receiving the normal cost-of-living boost to their benefit checks because of low inflation. Obama will also seek a $25 billion increase in payments to help recession-battered states.

In a bow to worries over the soaring deficits, the administration proposed a three-year freeze on spending beginning in 2011 for many domestic government agencies. It would save $250 billion over the next decade by following the spending freeze with caps that would keep increases after 2013 from rising faster than inflation.

Military, veterans, homeland security and big benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare would not feel the pinch. Federal support for elementary and high school education would get what the administration termed the biggest increase in history. The Pell Grant college tuition program which would see an increase of $17 billion to just under $35 billion, helping an additional 1 million students.

The budget reveals some of the changes the administration is seeking in an overhaul of the No Child Left Behind school accountability law. The administration wants to change how schools are judged to be succeeding or failing, looking not only at a single year's test score but at how kids and schools are progressing over time.

In Obama's new budget, there would be substantial increases for homeland security and veterans programs — exempt from Obama's partial freeze — with a 3.4 percent increase in the Pentagon's core budget to $549 billion for next year.

The administration would kill $175 billion worth of Environmental Protection Agency clean water accounts used as a pork-barrel kitty by Congress.

Obama also kills his predecessor's signature space program to return astronauts to the moon. NASA had already spent $9.1 billion on the program, which was projected to cost $100 billion by 2020. Obama's new budget said NASA will be "launching a bold new effort" with an extra $1.2 billion annually for five years, money expected to be used to encourage private companies to build, launch and operate their own spacecraft for the benefit of NASA and others. NASA would pay the private companies to carry U.S. astronauts.

The new Obama budget will also include a proposal to levy a fee on the country's biggest banks to raise an estimated $90 billion to recover losses from the government's $700 billion financial rescue fund.

AP writers **ANDREW TAYLOR, STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, SETH BORENSTEIN, DARLENE SUPERVILLE AND LIBBY QUAID** contributed to this report.

States seeking to ban mandatory health insurance

DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press Writer

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. Although President Barack Obama's push for a health care overhaul has stalled, conservative lawmakers in about half the states are forging ahead with constitutional amendments to ban government health insurance mandates.

The proposals would assert a state-based right for people to pay medical bills from their own pocketbooks and prohibit penalties against those who refuse to carry health insurance.

In many states, the proposals began as a backlash to Democratic health care plans pending in Congress. But instead of backing away after a Massachusetts election gave Senate Republicans the filibuster power to halt the health care legislation, many state lawmakers are ramping up their efforts with new enthusiasm.

The moves reflect the continued political potency of the issue for conservatives, who have used it extensively for fundraising and attracting new supporters. The legal impact of any state measures may be questionable because courts generally have held that federal laws trump those in states.

Lawmakers in 34 states have filed or proposed amendments to their state constitutions or statutes rejecting health insurance mandates, according to the American Legislative Exchange Council, a nonprofit group that promotes limited government that is helping coordinate the efforts. Many of those proposals are targeted for the November ballot, assuring that health care remains a hot topic as hundreds of federal and state lawmakers face re-election.

Legislative committees in Idaho and Virginia endorsed their measures this past week. Supporters held a rally at the Pennsylvania Capitol. And hearings on the proposed constitutional amendments were held in Georgia and Missouri. The Missouri hearing drew overflow crowds the day after Obama urged federal lawmakers during his State of the Union address to keep pressing to pass a health care bill. The Nebraska Legislature plans a hearing on a measure this coming week.

Supporters of the state measures portray them as a way of defending individual rights and state sovereignty, asserting that the federal government has no authority to tell states and their citizens to buy health insurance.

"I think the alarm bell has been rung," said Clint Bolick, the constitutional litigation director at the Goldwater Institute in Phoenix, which helped craft an Arizona amendment on this November's ballot that has been used as a model in other states.

"These amendments are a way to manifest grass roots opposition" to federal health insurance mandates, Bolick said. "They kind of have a life of their own at this point. So while some of the pressure may be off, I think that this movement has legs."

Separate bills passed by the U.S. House and Senate would impose a penalty on people who don't have health insurance except in cases of financial hardship. Subsidies would be provided to low-income and middle-income households. The intent of the mandate is to expand the pool of people who are insured and paying premiums and thus offset the increased costs of insuring those with preexisting conditions or other risks.

The federal bills also would require many businesses to pay a penalty if they fail to provide employees health insurance that meets certain standards, though details and exemptions vary between the House and Senate versions.

Obama and Democratic legislative leaders were working to merge the two bills when Republican Scott Brown won the Massachusetts Senate seat long held by the late Edward M. Kennedy on Jan. 19, leaving Democrats one seat shy of the number needed to break a Republican filibuster.

Since then, the federal legislation has been in limbo. But state lawmakers have not.

"We need to move ahead no matter what kind of maneuvering continues in Washington, D.C.," said Missouri Sen. Jane Cunningham, a Republican from suburban St. Louis.

Since suffering resounding defeats in the 2008 elections, Republicans have seized upon voter unease over the federal health care legislation to help revitalize their fortunes.

A USA Today/Gallup poll conducted the day after the Massachusetts vote found that about 55 percent of respondents — including a majority of self-described independents — favored putting the brakes on the current health care legislation. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

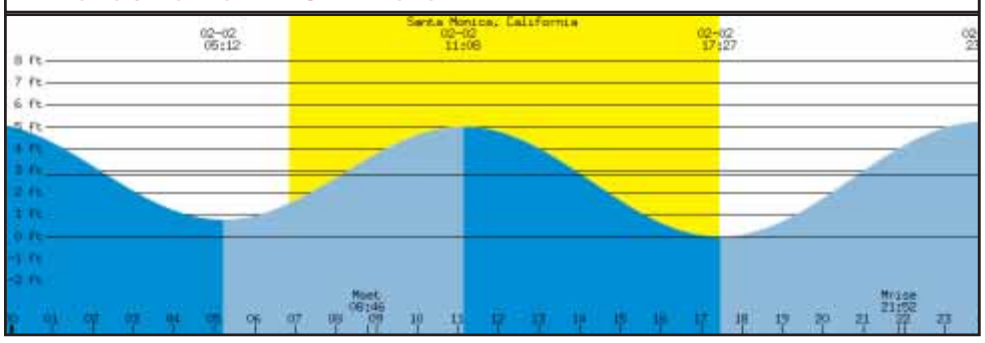
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, about waist to chest at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

We should see some NW swell head our way, but weather is a concern then. Current thinking is for head high swell around west facing breaks with some pluses, but conditions could be trashed.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 20, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 43 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 34

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

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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

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

Heal the Bay is a 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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Napolitano: Security plan in place for Super Bowl

CURT ANDERSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. After touring a rain-soaked Sun Life Stadium, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Monday that preparations are in place to thwart any terrorist threat or safety problem at the Super Bowl.

"We are doing everything we can think of in preparation to make sure it is a great event," Napolitano told reporters. "I'm here today to see the operation myself. I thought it was important to get down here."

Milt Ahlerich, the NFL's vice president for security, said Napolitano's tour of the stadium in nearby Miami Gardens was the first time a Homeland Security secretary had visited a Super Bowl site before game day.

About 1,000 federal, state and local law enforcement and security personnel are working Sunday's game and events leading up to it, said James Loftus, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Even though the FBI reports no credible threat against the Super Bowl, al-Qaida and other terror groups have frequently expressed interest in attacking a major U.S. sporting event.

"Rest assured, we're going to look out for you," Loftus said of what fans attending the game can expect. "We do this stuff week in and week out, and we're good at it."

The nerve center for security is the FBI-run Joint Operations Center, which includes representatives from 64 agencies at all levels of government, said John Gillies, agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office. He said preparations have included intensive training and tabletop exercises involving various threat scenarios.

"There's security that the public will see, and there's security the public will not see," Gillies said.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will have its battalion of bomb-detecting dogs on hand, many of them veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, said Hugo Barrera, chief of ATF's Miami office. He said the dogs are able to find over 19,000 separate explosives components.

"They can detect about anything," Barrera said.

Fans themselves can also play a role by reporting any suspicious activity or unattended bags, Ahlerich said. And Napolitano said there will be a number flashed on screens at the stadium where fans can send a text message if they see anything amiss.

Other preparations include temporary flight restrictions and a 100-yard security perimeter around the stadium on game day. Fans attending the game face a long list of prohibited items, including long-lens cameras, camcorders, backpacks, noisemakers, coolers and camera tripods.

Louganis celebrates 50th

CHERYL WITTENAUER
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS Greg Louganis has always had chutzpah.

When he was a toddler, the boy who would become history's greatest diver sneaked into his sister's dance class and outshined the older kids. By 3, he was singing and dancing on stage, and at 8, was doing gymnastic stunts off the diving board at home. By 9, he was diving competitively.

"I've been performing all my life," Louganis said. "I always need a creative outlet, no matter what."

Louganis is in the midst of some tough times, 22 years after becoming the only man to sweep springboard and platform diving gold medals in consecutive Olympics. Now 50, the speaking engagements on diversity, HIV education, depression and domestic violence have dried up in the recession.

"Everybody's hurting across the board," he said.

He took a financial hit when the apparel company Speedo stopped sponsoring him in 2007. He is at risk of losing his home in Malibu, Calif., which he shares with his partner of almost three years, Daniel McSwiney, a one-time computer programmer who now manages Louganis' schedule.

He's getting more serious about acting, but regional theater, like the Indian Wells in Palm Desert, Calif., where he'll perform in "The Little Dog Laughed" in April "is not a living," he said.

"It doesn't pay the mortgage. You do it for the love of it, to get up there and play."

It's been 15 years since Louganis revealed his homosexuality and HIV status in his 1995 best-selling autobiography, "Breaking the Surface." He had held the secret since learning himself in the months leading up to the 1988 Seoul Games.

Louganis, who said he never expected to see 30, turned 50 on Jan. 29, and is proud of the achievement.

Today, he is fit and tan, and physically challenges himself with daily hikes, mountain biking, spinning classes, gym workouts or yoga. He has dipped in and out of dangerously low levels of white blood cell counts that are a barometer of the immune system, but refuses to play the AIDS numbers game.

He said he mentally files away his periodic blood test results to a place that won't paralyze him.

"I take my medicines in the morning and evening, and go about the business of living," he said during a recent stop in suburban St. Louis, where the avid dog lover participated in the national finals of the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge.

Louganis speaks warmly of his late adoptive parents, and was especially close to his mother, his confidante, who dismissed his nervous, youthful disclosure of his homosexuality as no big deal. He said his father could be abusive when he drank, but Louganis made peace with him, and cared for his father in his last months of life.

Louganis said a Samoan man who claims to have been his biological father introduced himself after a speaking engagement a few years ago in Hawaii. Louganis' birth parents were only 15 years old when they placed him for adoption, leading to feelings of rejection and trouble with alcohol, drugs and the law at an early age.

Juvenile authorities released Louganis to his adoptive parents on the condition that he would go straight home from school and help his mother with chores.

"I'd tell her dirty jokes and she'd come back and shock me," he said. "I knew I could tell her anything. We were so tight."

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Creation (PG-13) 1hr 48min
2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
3:40, 6:30, 9:25

Its Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50

To Save a Life (PG-13) 2hrs
1:00

Up in the Air (R) 1 hr 49 min
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

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

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

The Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30

Edge of Darkness (R) 1 hr 48 min
1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15

When in Rome (PG-13) 1 hr 31 min
12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:50

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

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
12:05, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

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

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

The Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 59min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Crazy Heart (R) 2hr 07min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

A Single Man (R) 1hr 55min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:30

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

The Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:10, 10:10

The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20

Extraordinary Measures (PG) 1hr 46min
Noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

The Spy Next Door (PG) 1hr 32min
11:50 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 6:50

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

Some great dinner conversation, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Let bygones be bygones -- someone feels bad enough as it is. Realize what is going on with this person and how down he or she truly might be. Understanding evolves. Tonight: Try out another person's idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might be more vested than in the past. Your inability to follow through might be coming from a past experience. Distance yourself rather than trigger. Understand rather than carry on. Off to the gym, or find another form of exercise!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Realize that you have quite possibly pushed someone too hard, and he or she is reacting way beyond the obvious. How you handle a child or loved one has much to do with your own resourcefulness. Tonight: Just ask.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay close to home if possible, or don't venture far, even if at work. Many unexpected elements are at work. If you are feeling sad or depressed, take this opportunity to discuss the situation. Tonight: Order in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might intend for your words to come out clearly and that someone understand what is happening. Your inability to move forward will start a problem. Listen to news that is forthcoming with a grain of salt. It is coming from a point of negativity. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your spending continues to be a major issue. Invariably, you are thinking about a lot of changes. Evaluate what is happening behind the scenes before making a decision involving your finances. There is more to the story. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You could be overly serious about what is happening. By being heavy or not looking at a situation, you'll see someone from a different perspective. You could be inadvertently pushing someone too hard. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take your time evaluating what is happening. Consider news with open eyes. Think positively and get to the bottom of an issue. You easily could be blocking some of the information. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Zero in on more of what you honestly desire. Meetings could prove to be key in implementing a project or gaining supporters for a venture. You have the wherewithal to hit a home run. The only person stopping you is you. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by others' expectations, but as usual, you will walk up to the plate and hit a home run. Knowing what you want and where you are heading remains crucial to your success. Stop periodically to review your goals. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Stay on course, but review your methods of getting to the final goal. Perhaps an update might be in order. You frequently are overwhelmed by events and information. Staying centered remains instrumental to your success. Tonight: Try a movie.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Working with an individual rather than a group points to success, though that could change in a few days. You could be surprised by the mammoth amount of material you need to go through. A little help is always nice. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

Happy birthday

This year, you will see many new opportunities, but don't take your finances for granted. Your money situation appears to be on an upswing. Your funds could seem like a train coming in and out of the station, leaving even more quickly than they arrived. You might be thrilled by the end results if you use some self-discipline. If you are single, you easily meet people, being such a friendly sign. Choosing the right person depends on being your authentic self. You want someone to care about the real you, not a facade. If you are attached, the two of you will gain through planning a special trip together. LIBRA understands you well.

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

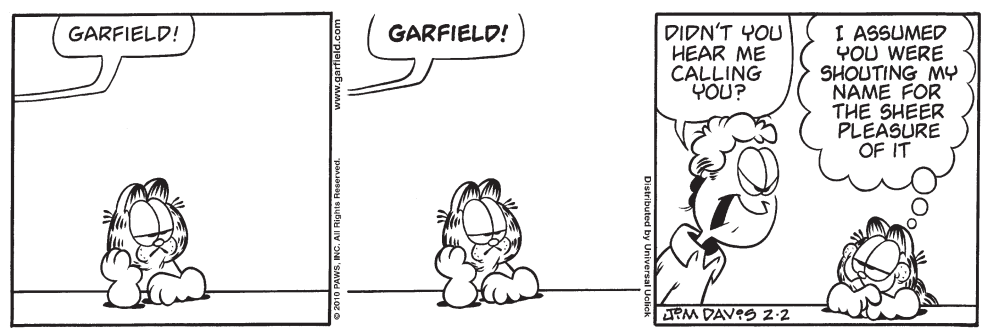
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Custom
6 Chores
11 Snow house
12 Politico Stevenson
13 Hamburger makeup
15 Glutton
16 Candy-counter buy
17 "Golly!"
18 Coffee additive
20 Typical soldier
23 Havana native
27 Revered one
28 Lasso
29 Lecturer's aid
31 Sent, in a way
32 Compete in a bee
34 Switch setting
37 — tizzy
38 Floor cover
41 Buildup of opinion
44 Wake up
45 Reeves of "Speed"
46 Plumed bird
47 March honoree, for short

DOWN

1 In the clouds
2 Farming: Prefix
3 Online journal
4 Debt reminder
5 Taste-bud setting
6 Runway material
7 Bustle
8 Wallop
9 "Citizen —"
10 Team
14 Used a shovel
18 Shoe parts
19 From the country
20 Martini base
21 Wedding words
22 Write hastily
24 Carton
25 Big galoot
26 Homer's neighbor
30 Small piano
31 Whiskey holders
33 Finish
34 Shrek, for one
35 Marsh hopper
36 Quartet's makeup
38 Harvest
39 Arm bone
40 Over-supply
42 Purpose
43 Drenched

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

2-2

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 10 22 23 38
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: 12$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 12 14 44 47
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: 18$M

FANTASY 5: 12 15 27 36 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 4 9
EVENING: 6 6 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:43.29

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **World's Greatest Lawyer:** In May 1999 a jury in Birmingham, Ala., ruled in favor of Barbara Carlisle and her parents in their lawsuit against two companies responsible for charging them 18 more monthly payments than what the salesman originally promised when they had two satellite dishes installed. The total overcharge was $1,224. The jury awarded the plaintiffs punitive damages of $581 million.

■ **What Recession?** A December USA Today analysis revealed that during the first 18 months of the recent recession, beginning December 2007, the number of federal employees with six-figure salaries shot up from 14 percent of the federal workforce to 19 percent. Defense Department civilian executives earning more than $150,000 went from 1,868 to more than 10,000, and the Department of Transportation, which had only one person earning $170,000 in December 2007, now has 1,690. The average federal salary is $71,206, compared with the private sector's $40,331.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1976 The Groundhog Day gale hits the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada.

1980 Reports surface that FBI were targeting Congressmen in the Abscam operation.

1980 The Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey is founded.

1982 Hama Massacre: Syria attacks the town of Hama.

1987 After the 1986 People Power Revolution in the Philippines, Philippines made a new constitution.

1989 Soviet war in Afghanistan: The last Soviet Union armored column leaves Kabul.

1989 Satellite television service Sky Television plc launched.

1990 Apartheid: F.W. de Klerk allows the African National Congress to function legally and promises to release Nelson Mandela.

WORD UP!

mondegreen \MON-di-green\ , noun; 1. A word or phrase resulting from a misinterpretation of a word or phrase that has been heard.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1575.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

3206 BAGLEY AVE. 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, dishwasher, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. $1075 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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1234 11th St. #11, 2+1, Hardwood floors, D/W $1975

1214 Idaho Ave. #8, 2+1 1/2 Townhouse, $2495

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Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit B lower duplex unit 1+1 w/office, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1575/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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www.molloyrealtorsinc.com

SANTA MONICA

1531 – 17TH Street, Apt C
1+1, st, fr, ldry **$1100**
2842 Exposition Blvd, 'B'
2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

WEST L.A.

1920 Manning Ave #6
2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
1800 Kelton Ave, #5 & #7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #4
Sgl, st, fr, pkg **$875**

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st *(stove),* ***fr*** *(fridge),* ***cpt*** *(carpet),* ***sgl*** *(single),* ***bach*** *(bachelor),* ***ldry*** *(laundry),* ***gar*** *(garage),* ***hdwd*** *(hardwood floors),* ***lwr*** *(lower),* ***upr*** *(upper) ,* ***htpl*** *(hotplate),* ***pkg*** *(parking),* ***w/d*** *(washer/dryer),* ***hkp*** *(hook-up),* ***d/w*** *(dishwasher),* ***c-fn*** *(ceiling fan), (fireplace)*

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. $995 & up stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

Mar Vista $1750.00 2Bdrms, 2 Baths No pets, Stove, Refrig, Dshwshr, Wshr/Dryr, Parking, 4077 Inglewood Blvd., # 6, Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $995 & up (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1325/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 2bdrm/1bath, 11461 Washington Place.Unit D, upper, stove, blinds, carpet, laundry, garage parking, no pets $1350 $300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1350/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage gas-fireplace. 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit Mgr#100 or #101

MV/MDR adj. Large Studio, single, Full kitchen, stove & refrigerator, large closets, carpets, laundry, parking. $900 Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1350/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 2+DEN, 1 1/2 bath, stove, refrigerator, new carpet, and appliances, parking $1390 (310) 842-4876

PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 5 $895 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $500 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS NEWER building ask about move-in specials $1145 + 1bdr, Gated entry + park. Tile floors + granite, 2 elevators, A/C 3848 Overland Ave (310)839-3647

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WLA 1+1 2656 South Barrington Ave. unit 7, $1025. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate A & E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1200/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA, OCEAN VIEW, top of hill, private driveway, $1950 sundeck, patio, newly redeco (310)390-4610

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Notices

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To receive a copy of the IFB, either telephone (310) 306-0495, send an e-mail with SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE SERVICE in the subject line to ttate@bh.lacounty.gov, visit http://lacounty.info/doing_business/main_db.htm, or write:

Department of Beaches and Harbors
Septic Tank Maintenance Serv-ice/Attn: Contracts Unit
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Fax: (310) 821-8155

The bid is also available for download by visiting:

http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Marina/Development.htm

The bid submission deadline is Tues-day, March 2, 2010, 2:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time. The County reserves the right to cancel the IFB and to modify any and all terms and condi-tions of the IFB, including minimum requirements. For further information, call Nicolette Taylor at (310) 577-5736.



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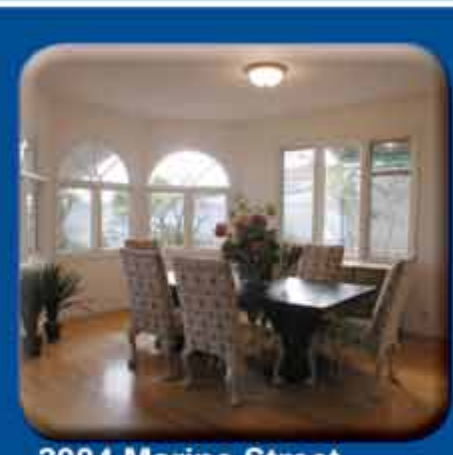
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Sunset Park Home
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847 5th Street # 206

2 Bed, 2 Bath

$688,000

N of Wilshire Condo!

Easy to Show

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302 Ashland Ave #102

1 Bed, 1 Bath

$429,000

Ocean Park Condo

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1:00 - 4:00 pm

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	$2,897,500	$974,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,935,000	$679,500
South of Wilshire	$900,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$997,000	$599,000
Ocean Park	$1,750,000	$551,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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