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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 71



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE GREEN PLANET ISSUE

BOOM OR BUST?
SEE PAGE 12

Spreading sustainability across globe

BY MIRIAM FINDER
Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL Delegates from Gumi, South Korea visited Santa Monica Tuesday as part of a seven-day sustainability tour of some of California's greenest cities. The delegates hoped to observe and learn green policies and programs while sharing some environmental ideas of their own.

The industrial city of Gumi — 95 percent of all Samsung phones are made there — is home to 400,000 residents. In 2009, Mayor Yoo Chin Nam launched the Gumi "Eco City

SEE GREEN PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TALKING POINTS: **Mayor Yoo-Chin Nam (center) of Gumi City, South Korea talks with Councilman Richard Bloom (left) at City Hall on Tuesday.**

Resident critically injured in hit-and-run

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MAIN STREET A 28-year-old Santa Monica woman was in critical condition with severe head trauma Tuesday after being struck by a car while in a crosswalk on Main Street, police said.

The woman, who was hit Monday night by a driver going at least 40 mph, may not recover from her injuries, leaving open the possibility that more serious charges could be filed, said Investigator Chris Dawson with the Santa Monica Police Department.

The driver, Cathy Jones, 40, of Malibu, allegedly fled the scene of the accident and was arrested minutes later and booked for felony hit-and-run.

Police said Jones was driving northbound on Main Street around 9:37 p.m. Monday when she attempted to pass a slower moving vehicle by using the bicycle/parking lane. The victim, who witnesses said was using a personal music device and did not look at oncoming traffic, had just stepped into the crosswalk at Pacific Avenue when she was struck.

SEE HIT-AND-RUN PAGE 8

School board asks voters for $5.7M

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Voters will be asked in a special election in May to support an "emergency" $198 per parcel property tax to prop up the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, which is facing a projected $14.5 million deficit.

In a nod to the recession, the board decided not to ask for $225 per parcel, which a district committee had determined was the maximum feasible amount voters might support.

Two-thirds of voters in Santa Monica and Malibu would have to approve the measure in a special mail-in election scheduled for May 25 in order for the tax to take effect.

The school district aims to raise $5.7 million with the tax, less than half the latest deficit projection based on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed state budget.

Cuts to programs, teacher layoffs and furlough days will all be necessary even if the tax passes. But the additional tax revenue would lessen reductions to elementary school music programs, high school sports and the number of security officers and school librarians.

The proposed tax would require all residential and commercial property owners to pay the $198 assessment on each parcel, regardless of property size, which critics have blasted as being unfair for homeowners and small property owners. The measure includes a tax exemption for senior citizens.

The school board coalesced around the $198 tax after a nearly two-hour discussion Monday night. In adopting the amount the board concurred with Superintendent Tim Cuneo's recommendation.

Board member Maria Leon-Vazquez initially voted against the $198 tax, saying she thought the ballot measure should seek no more than $175 because of the struggling economy and the hardships families are facing. Minutes after going into closed session, the board reconvened and Leon-Vazquez changed her vote to make the board's decision in favor of the $198 tax unanimous. School board member Oscar de la Torre did not attend the meeting.

In comments before the vote, Leon-Vazquez said the district should act quickly to implement fundraising programs that the district's Financial Oversight Committee has identified to shift some of the burden away from tax payers. She said

SEE TAX PAGE 9


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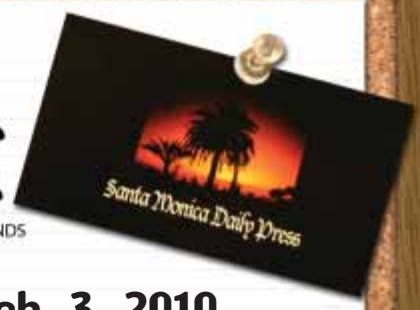
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010

Jane Doe on the mind
Powerhouse Theatre
3116 Second St., 8 p.m.
The Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble will present the world premiere of "In the Company of Jane Doe," telling of one woman's fight for self-discovery. The show is written by award-winning playwright Tiffany Antone and directed by Mary Jo DuPrey. This play is presented each Thursday, Friday and Saturday through Feb. 6.

ICE extended
Arizona Avenue at Fifth Street
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — and create new ones — as you slice through the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer and balmy ocean breezes. The ice rink has been extended to Feb. 15. Admission is $10 and includes skate rental. The rink is periodically cleared for short periods to groom the ice. If raining, the rink will remain open in light rain or drizzle conditions, closing only for heavy downpours. For more information go to www.downtownsm.com.

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.





Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

COMMON SIGHT: **A homeless person seeks shelter underneath the stairs of Santa Monica Place during a bout of bad weather.**

U.S. Census prepping for homeless count

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY WIDE U.S. Census Bureau workers are gearing up to count the nation's homeless as part of the 2010 Census at the end of March, a once-per-decade effort that this year will rely heavily on the expertise of local homeless service providers.

In Santa Monica, which conducts an annual count of its homeless population and completed its latest count last week, that means reaching out to City Hall and independent non-profit service providers to ensure a thorough survey.

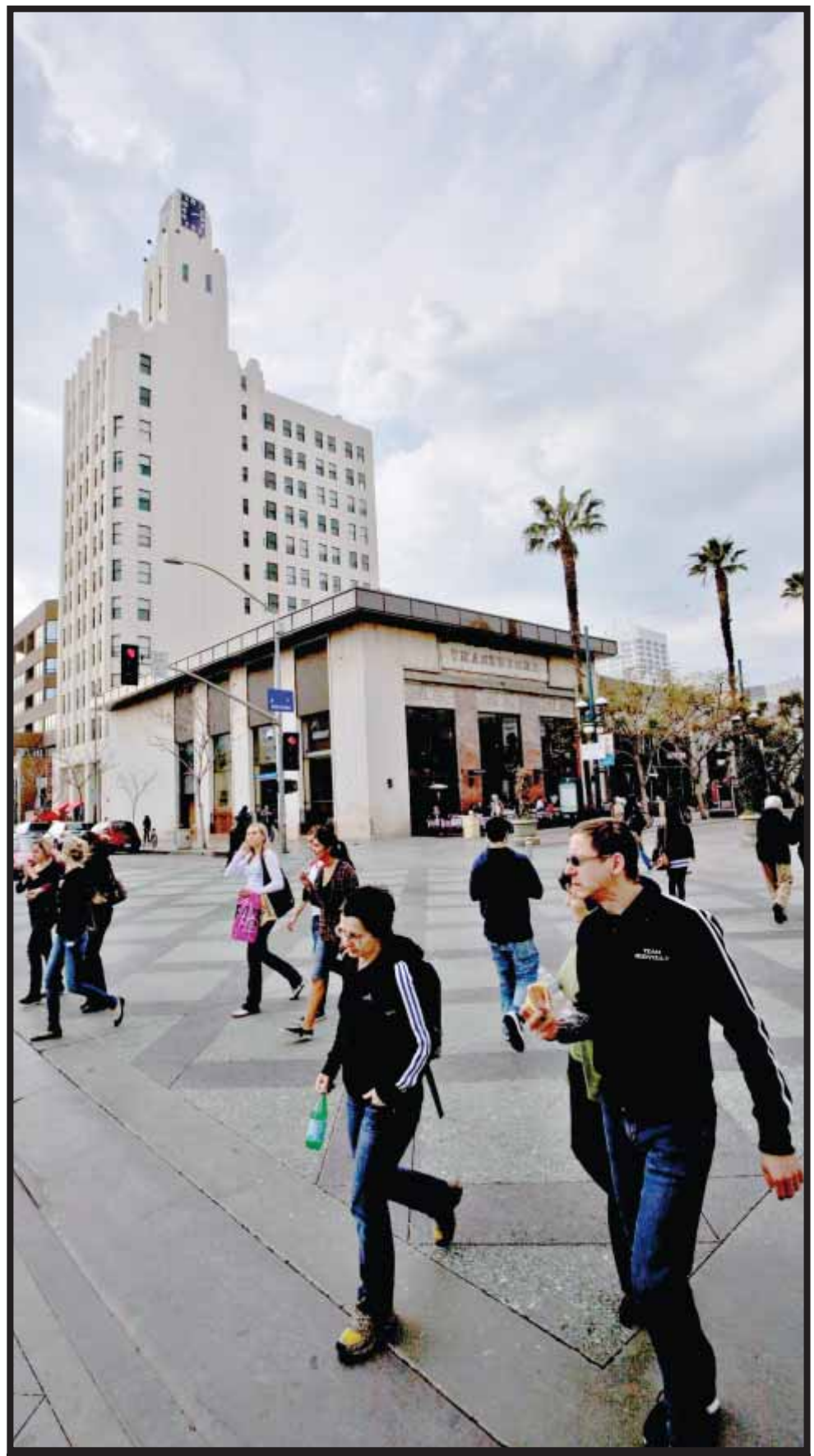
John Maceri, who chairs the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition and is executive director of Santa Monica-based OPCC, said the last census in 2000 fell short of the goal of providing an accurate picture of the country's homelessness problem. But this year he said the census appears to be taking a different approach.

"It feels to me this time like there's much more of a focused effort and they've started earlier," he said.

The count will take place during the last three days in March. One day will be devoted to surveying shelters and other temporary living facilities, another day will be focused on holding "be counted" events where free food and other giveaways will be offered, and the last day will be for seeking out the homeless on the streets.

Cherie Beasley, a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census who is assisting with the homeless count in Los Angeles County and other areas, said local service providers are a key part of preparing for a job that can seem daunting.

SEE **CENSUS** PAGE 9



GLOOMY DAY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Gray clouds filled the skies over Santa Monica for part of the day on Tuesday. The National Weather Service forecasts temperatures in the mid 60s for Wednesday.

Gangs go online to spread influence

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES When a gang member was released from jail soon after his arrest for selling methamphetamine, friends and associates assumed he had cut a deal with authorities and become a police informant.

They sent a warning on Twitter that went like this: We have a snitch in our midst.

Unbeknownst to them, that tweet and the traffic it generated were being closely followed by investigators, who had been tracking the San Francisco Bay Area gang for months. Officials sat back and watched as others joined the conversation and left behind incriminating information.

Law enforcement officials say gangs are making greater use of Twitter and Facebook, where they sometimes post information that helps agents identify gang associates and learn more about their organizations.

"You find out about people you never would have known about before," said Dean Johnston with the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, which helps police investigate gangs. "You build this little tree of people."

In the case involving the suspected informant, tweets alerted investigators to three other gang members who were ultimately arrested on drug charges.

Tech-savvy gangsters have long been at home in chatrooms and on Web sites like MySpace.

Exclusive Malibu beach to get $4-million seawall

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MALIBU Homeowners in Malibu's Broad Beach are building a giant seawall to protect the wealthy, exclusive area from washing away.

The 4,100-foot-long, 8-foot-high wall will protect about 80 homes in the community, which is home to celebrities such as Pierce Brosnan and Steven Spielberg. As with other Southern California coastlines, Broad Beach has eroded. Some homes are now sandbagged to protect them.

The city and the California Coastal Commission have approved the wall, saying erosion could be a public health threat by unearthing septic systems.

Residents are paying for the $4-million project. They hope the wall will keep back the surf until they can build a more permanent wall and import sand to restore the eroded beach.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Soured on SMC bonds

Editor:

I'm a resident of Santa Monica with one school-aged child enrolled in Will Rogers Elementary currently, with two more heading that way in the next few years. I really appreciate the points Jon Kean made in his letter to the editor on Friday, Jan. 29 ("Support the school parcel tax"), and agree with all of them. I am torn also though, because we've been bombarded with parcel taxes for years now for education in Santa Monica. They all seem worthy at the time, and not terribly expensive, but every year when I get my property tax bill, they are starting to add up to some real money. I will be voting "Yes" on the upcoming ballot because as a resident it's so important to my kids and other's kids, plus the fact that a great school system also translates into a desirable area to live, thereby supporting home values. But I guarantee that I will not support any more parcel taxes for SMC. It's a wonderful institution, but it's a college for all of Los Angeles, and I just don't understand why only Santa Monica and Malibu residents have to pay for that. Imagine if the parcel taxes for SMC renovations, new buildings, etc. were being used for the basic educational needs of children who live in Santa Monica instead of supporting the college education of people from all over the Los Angeles area. Stop taxing us for SMC, so we can afford the taxes we need to pay for Santa Monica schools.

Joshua Strauss
Santa Monica

No need for partisan politics

Editor:

Watching the Obama/Republican caucus in Virginia, I felt the same stirring of emotions that I felt on election night. The possibility of actually being able to work together for a common cause is so exciting, and sadly, so rare that I feel both hopeful and depressed at the same time. And yet I know it's possible, and on a deep level, it's what all of us really long for. So, congressmen, senators from all sides of the aisle, put aside your personal agendas, look deep into your hearts and ask yourselves what is the right thing to do? And do it! Before it's too late.

Joyce Dvoren
Santa Monica

For the record

Editor:

I believe Helen McRoskey wrongly blamed Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights for not initiating a more comprehensive application process to fill the City Council vacancy left by the sad passing of Mayor Ken Genser ("Anoint not appoint," Jan. 29).

For clarification, it was Councilmembers Shriver and Holbrook – both who are not affiliated with SMRR – who did not vote for SMRR-affiliated Councilmember McKeown's more expanded and public-serving process.

Jerry Rubin
Santa Monica





Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The state of the onion address

OK, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, Massachusetts, the bluest bedwetting bellwether state in the union went "Brown" as career party hack Martha Coakley, got teabagged by the Fenway Park proletariat and dropped a 30-point lead to lose in a dogmatic dogfight for rental rights to Ted Kennedy's senatorial barstool against a former Cosmopolitan pin-up boy? Mary Jo Kopechne was unavailable for comment.

As a proud "teabagger" myself, allow me to point out that it is much better to be a "teabagg-ER" than a "teabagg-EE." This is a tough tonic for most liberals to swallow even while they sit there with their jaws agape in awe. Meanwhile, the Demo-party apparatchiks of the Bolshevik Bay state, with POTUS in the vanguard, just sat there in cluttered cluelessness as those racist, sexist, homophobic, teabagging, KKK cranberry bog farmers from suburban Massachusetts, while bitterly clinging to their guns and bibles, preferred "Downtown" Scotty Brown over crown princess-select Coakley.

Folks, if the most liberal candidate for the most liberal Senate seat in the most liberal state in the union can eat red rubber from under the oolong-flavored mud flaps of Scotty Brown's electoral dump truck, then the Oxymoron-in-Chief might want to step back from the legislative passing lane.

On the night of the State of The Onion address (SOTO), I sat in communal repast with my SMDP colleague, Dave Alsabery. We consumed marbled slabs of roasted dead animal flesh, Yamazaki single malt scotch and aged Bolivar cigars while hiding in plain sight behind enemy lines in the Democratic People's Republic of ObamaMonica at an undisclosed bunker with Uncle Dick Cheney. We availed ourselves on this fulsome "man-date" to critique the SOTO address. We cackled ourselves silly while plotting a South American coup.

OK, despite the fact that this farcical event of Obama-monomania was a political snooze-party that had Janet "Nap Time" Napolitano snoring like a beached cetacean, Dave and I had our own acerbic observations on the landscape of Hopeychangistan 2010. My highlights, in no particular order, are based upon the amount of scotch I might have imbibed consequent to the ratio of stupidity that the president uttered during this constitutionally-required drivel festival. Maybe it was the scotch but the rewind function on TiVo was a godsend of technological jocularity.

Obama did a deciduous doh-si-doh during his SOTO speech. Folks, no matter which way you cut this onion, it still stinks while bringing tears to your eyes even when you're laughing your tea bag off! He declaimed that tax cuts were the way to stimulate business? Has he become Cpt. McCain's campaign parrot? Obama then subtly invoked "drill, baby, drill!" in support of nuclear power and drilling for oil on American soil. Does this now make him as smart as Sarah Palin.

Last May, the Astrologer-in-Chief prognosticated that "The stars are aligned" vis-à-vis KevorkianCare. OK, if reality was a stellar black hole, then KevorkianCare just collapsed under the weight of it's own corpulent flatulence. It is also not "smart power" to score cheap political style points and pimp slap the members of the Supreme Court in a public forum just because one disagrees with a recent legal decision which is inconvenient to one's future career plans. Life's tough, Mr. President. Wear a helmet. You're not on food stamps anymore.

The combined legal experience of the Supreme Court is 381 years while Obama's is a scant two years as a practicing part-time associate litigator. I'm more predisposed to trust the court's jurisprudence over his. Justices Scalia and Kennedy began practicing law in the same year Obama was born. Justice Sam "That's not true" Alito began his law career when Obama was a teen. If Obama was arrogance in motion, he'd be the Bolshoi ballet.

Additionally, the alleged Constitutional-Scholar-in-Chief then later made a statement during his SOTO address: "We find unity … on the promise enshrined in our Constitution: the notion that we are all created equal." OK, misquoting the Declaration of Independence as the Constitution hardly qualifies one for "The Smartest Guy in the Room Award."

Grade: D+

Lastly, to support his infantile fantasy of cutting "discretionary funding," the Obama administration plans to impose a freeze on discretionary spending which could put a stop to a long term health bill for 9/11 first responders and clean-up crews at Ground Zero. It was $11 billion spread out over 30 years (approximately $366 million per year) for long term medical needs and early death benefits for police, fire and rescue workers. Meanwhile, terrorists get government-funded ACLU lawyers and Gitmo is still Club Med for al-Qaida.

Care for some tea, Mr. President?

STEVE BREEN is as mad as a hatter at a tea party and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp, Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Kate Mather
Carlee Jensen, Miriam Finder
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Carlos Escalante
carlose@smdp.com
Scott Zubor
scottz@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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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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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Turning Santa Monica into ancient Rome

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. is totally out of touch with the concerns of the average American. For 50 years, they've had two solutions to every problem: cut taxes and reduce government spending. That's because the GOP is the party of wealthy people whose only concern is protecting their money. On the one hand, I'm disgusted by the fact that far too many of these people would deny poor kids a good public education or decent health care in order to maintain their account balances. On the other hand, I appreciate that their primary motivation (greed) makes them predictable.

In our fair city, we also have a political party that is totally out of touch with the concerns of the average person. They're called Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights. They were a tenant's organization that somehow morphed into the political force to be reckoned with in Santa Monica; controlling the levers of power at Santa Monica College, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, the Rent Control Board, and on our City Council. The organization (and by extension, the city it runs) claims to be focused on a progressive, people-first agenda, but too often fails to meet the liberal smell test. Look at other famously hip cities like Cambridge in Massachusetts or Berkeley in the Bay Area and you'll find a local government where decisions are made out in the open, after public debate, and by people who are accountable to voters. Look at Santa Monica, and you'll find two City Council vacancies being filled by appointment, not election, in one year. You'll also find that SMRR doesn't care about democracy, only about power.

When Herb Katz passed away last year, the City Council had to find a replacement. Appointing someone was the first option. The SMRR majority on the council chose appointment and supposedly opened the process to any Santa Monican registered to vote. They received 27 applications and chose SMRR's Gleam Davis. With that appointment, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights controlled five of the seven seats on the council. From the beginning to the end of the process, I was surprised to see that SMRR had adopted the GOP attitude that ignores public opinion, the appearance of impropriety, and any potential conflicts of interest. But then why concern yourself with how bad your naked power grab looks when you can crush anyone who complains?

With the recent passing of Ken Genser, it's déjà vu all over again. Only this time, a special election wasn't even on SMRR's radar. This time, the question was whether to solicit applications for SMRR to approve or just choose directly from a list of SMRR members. By a vote of 4-1, the council chose not to ask for applications. The bedfellows on this vote were especially strange with Bobby Shriver joining the SMRR caucus in a "keep it real" protest vote, and SMRR's Kevin McKeown as the only vote for an open application process. Potential candidates are supposed to just call up a council member to see if they might be considered. Thanks to Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, our City Council has gone from an elected body to a country club where membership has its privileges.

I almost joined SMRR last year. Then I realized I was highly unlikely to have any effect on the organization's vision or direction. As best I could tell, I'd have to whip up a bunch of votes for candidates for the Steering Committee in hopes that I might someday be a candidate myself. If I kissed enough butt on the Steering Committee, I might get a seat on a city board or commission. If I toed the SMRR line well enough and long enough, I might be considered for one of those City Council appointments — at which point I become a council member for life because SMRR candidates don't lose elections. That would take way too long, so I decided to keep shaming them in print.

Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights came into its own in 1979 and we all know that as tough as it is to be anti-establishment in your 30s, it's that much tougher to recognize when you've actually become the establishment. But that's what SMRR is. They may have set out to give the seven-out-of-10 Santa Monicans who don't own property a moderately priced beachfront paradise to enjoy. But three decades later, what they've given us is a college with less than 20 percent local enrollment that constantly begs for millions of dollars from local taxpayers; a school district that protects and enables pedophile sexual predators like Thomas Beltran; and a City Council that permits developers like Sister Sue at Saint John's to literally crap on our community. With people like SMRR's Kelly Olsen advocating for SMRR's Patricia Hoffman at the funeral of SMRR's Ken Genser, what we have in Santa Monica is ancient Rome by the Sea. A place where political power is handed out as a favor from one family to another, not earned from the voters through the democratic process — and they don't even give us bread and circuses.

KENNY MACK is a muti-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who never has to wonder who runs this town, but constantly wonders when they're going to do the right thing. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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?

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


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BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 3	F/J/V	Bosco Tech	Bosco Tech	4/5:30/7pm
Feb 5	F/J/V	St. Paul	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
Feb 8	F/J/V	La Salle	La Salle	4/5:30/7pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Feb 3	Var/JV	Serra	Serra	3:30/5pm
Feb 5	JV/Var	St. Paul	Airport Park	1:30/3:00pm
Feb 8	JV/Var	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	3:30/5pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 4	JV/Var	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	5:30/7pm
Feb 9	JV/Var	La Salle	La Salle	5:30/7pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Feb 3	Var	Inglewood	JAMS	3:30pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 3	Var	Inglewood	Inglewood	6:00pm
Feb 5	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	6:00pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Feb 5	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	3:00pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 5	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	7:30pm
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Feb 4	Var	So Cal Championship		TBA
Feb 5	Var	Mira Costa Novice Tournament I		TBA
Feb 5	Var	So Cal Championship		TBA
Feb 6	Var	So Cal Championship		TBA
COED WRESTLING				
Feb 4	Var	Beverly Hills		3:00pm
Feb 6	Var	Pioneer League Finals	El Camino	TBA

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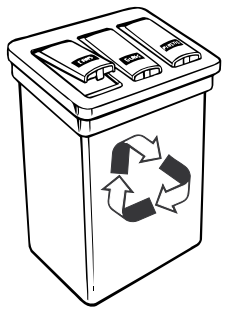
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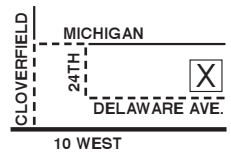
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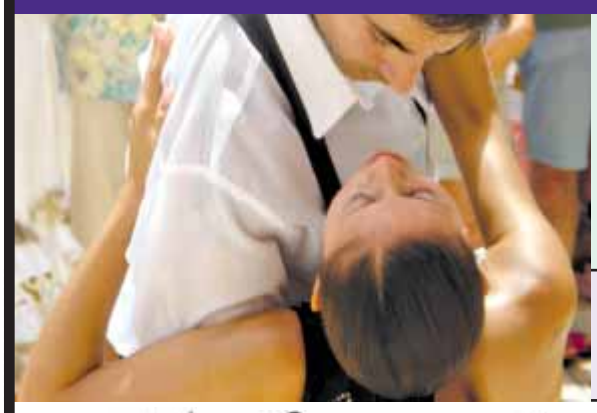
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ECONOMY

Auto sales rise overall; Toyota loses business

DAN STRUMPF &
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT The U.S. auto industry rebounded from last January's sales collapse with one big exception: Toyota, which lost an estimated 20,000 sales after it stopped selling eight models because of defective gas pedals.

Last month, U.S. sales of cars and light trucks to consumers rose 6 percent from a year earlier, thanks to increases in fleet sales and strong demand for newly redesigned vehicles such as the Hyundai Tucson SUV and Buick LaCrosse sedan. Big winners included General Motors Co., Ford Motor Co., Nissan Motor Co. and Hyundai Motor Co., which all posted double-digit sales increases.

But Toyota's sales slipped 16 percent, and they could fall further as its sales stoppage drags into February. It was the first time since February 1998 that Toyota's monthly U.S. sales fell below 100,000 vehicles, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

Toyota's troubles helped to knock the Camry off its traditional perch as the top-selling car in the U.S. Last month the Camry ranked fifth in car sales, passed by Honda's Accord, Nissan's Altima, Toyota's Corolla and the Chevrolet Malibu. The Camry has been the top-selling car in the U.S. for the last eight years.

Toyota announced a recall of eight models, including the Camry, on Jan. 21 and halted sales of those models five days later because the accelerator pedals could stick and cause a crash The recall has affected a total of 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. Besides the Camry, the other models in the recall include Corolla and Avalon cars, the Matrix hatchback, the Tundra pickup, the Sequoia SUV and the RAV4 and Highlander.

Bob Carter, Toyota's group vice president and general manager, said the suspended models amount to 60 percent of Toyota dealers' inventory. All eight saw sales declines. In December, most of them saw increases. The hybrid Prius, which wasn't affected in the recall, posted a 13 percent gain.

Toyota's pain wasn't a gain for other automakers. They saw more Toyota owners browsing in their showrooms but few sales despite incentives offered by GM, Ford and some New York-area Honda dealers.

Ken Czubay, Ford Motor Co.'s vice president of sales, said Toyota's actions may have hurt overall sales because consumers and dealers were unsure of the value of Toyota trade-ins.

"There was a tremendous amount of uncertainty. I don't think the month enjoyed its normal pickup on the last weekend," Czubay said.

John McEleney, who operates a Toyota dealership in Clinton, Iowa, expected January sales to be up 40 percent over last year until the automaker halted them. Now, January sales will be up 10 percent at the most, said McEleney, who is also president of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

"It died off last week because of the stop sale," he said. "It comes at a tough time for dealers coming out of the recession."

Carter said Tuesday that parts to fix the recalled vehicles are on their way to Toyota dealerships. Customers will also start receiving notices this week, staggered over time, about where and when they can have their vehicles repaired.

Carter emphasized that dealers would repair customer vehicles first and only then repair new vehicles on their lots. Dealers can resume selling vehicles affected by the recall, but he had no estimate for when that would be.

January is typically a weak month for U.S. auto sales, but automakers expected sales to improve over last January, when they dipped to a 26-year low because of the tough economy.

Sales to fleets — rental companies as well as corporate and government sales — boosted numbers last month. GM's fleet sales surged 225 percent, while Ford's jumped 154 percent. Other automakers didn't release percentages of fleet sales.

While fleet sales can hurt automakers by flooding the market and lowering resale values, Czubay said the return of those customers was a good sign. It indicated corporations are investing again and business and leisure travel is increasing.

"We are hopeful that this is an early sign of recovery," he said.

Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends for truecar.com, an automotive Web site, said a high percentage of fleet sales is acceptable for a month as long as it doesn't become a trend.

"If the pattern exceeds 20 to 25 percent for a long time, it's going back to the old game of overproduction, dilution of the brand and a drop in resale value," he said. GM and Ford said about 30 percent of their January sales went to fleets.

So far, only Chrysler is in the long-term trend of rising fleet sales, he said. Analysts estimate fleet amounted to about 40 percent of Chrysler sales last month. He said the company is either sending a large number of vehicles to rental companies or selling them to individuals with big incentives.

"They don't have much to sell. What they have isn't compelling," he said.

Ford's sales rose 25 percent, although its non-fleet sales fell 5 percent. Hyundai's sales rose 24 percent for the month. GM said its sales increased 14 percent, including a 3-percent rise in non-fleet sales, while Nissan's rose 16 percent.

Chrysler fell 8 percent on declining sales of Ram trucks and Jeeps, while Korean automaker Kia said its January U.S. sales were flat. Honda Motor Co. sales slipped 5 percent on weaker demand for SUVs and wagons, a surprise since Honda is the brand most likely to be considered by Toyota buyers. Honda sells few vehicles to fleets.

Mike DiGiovanni, GM's top sales analyst, said despite mixed economic news, there are enough signs of recovery for the largest U.S. automaker to raise its estimates for total U.S. sales. Last month, GM predicted sales of 11 million to 12 million for 2010, and on Tuesday, it raised the low end of the range to 11.5 million.

"We are slightly more optimistic," DiGiovanni said.

Last year's sales totaled 10.4 million cars and trucks, the lowest since 1982.

LABOR

Democrats continue to promise jobs

CHARLES BABINGTON
STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON Scuffling over jobs and taxes, congressional Democrats began refining their election-year jobs package Tuesday in a challenge to Republicans to balance their party's complaints about big spending with action to help unemployed Americans.

At the same time, the Democrats' effort promises to test President Barack Obama's own ability to set the legislative agenda,

Democratic senators were seeking bipartisan support for tax incentives to businesses that add payroll this year. Many Republicans were noncommittal, but they promised an election year fight against Obama's long-stated plan to let income tax rates return to higher levels for families making more than $250,000 a year.

Republicans said the income tax increases would hurt the same small businesses Obama is trying to help, because many small businesses are taxed the same as households. Many Democrats have opposed the tax cuts, initiated by President George W. Bush, for years.

Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, a moderate Republican who sometimes votes with the Democrats, said small businesses won't add jobs, even with a new tax credit, if they are worried about paying higher taxes next year.

"There is no way they are going to move forward to job creation," Snowe said. "Who is going to take the risk, depending on what they're hearing coming out of Washington these days?"

Democrats hope to pass a series of jobs bills in the coming weeks, starting with one that features tax incentives for businesses that add payroll. The proposal emerging in the Senate is modeled after a bill by Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah.

The Schumer-Hatch bill would exempt companies from paying the employer's share of Social Security payroll taxes for new workers hired this year, as long as those people had been unemployed at least 60 days. The plan would save companies 6.2 percent of the workers' salaries that are subject to Social Security taxes. It would cost an estimated $10 billion over 10 years.

Schumer said the money would be repaid to Social Security through unspecified future spending cuts.

Obama's proposal has an additional provision that would award $5,000 tax credits to companies that add workers in 2010. Tennessee Sen. Lamar Alexander, a member of the GOP leadership, suggested that Republicans will look dubiously on the plan because previous efforts had little effect.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the jobs bill would also extend at least three programs for another year: funding for the highway trust fund; tax breaks for small businesses that buy new equipment; and a bond program to help state and local governments pay for infrastructure projects.

WALL STREET

Signs of strength in housing market boost stocks

STEPHEN BERNARD &
TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Signs of strength in the housing market pushed the Dow Jones industrial average to its second straight gain of more than 100 points.

An increase in the number of people with contracts to buy homes and the first profit at homebuilder D.R. Horton in three years raised hopes that one of the weakest parts of the economy is improving.

The Dow rose 111 points Tuesday, boosting its two-day gain to 230 points and extending a recovery from a slide in January. It was the biggest back-to-back advance for the Dow in three months.

The National Association of Realtors, a trade group, said its index of sale contracts rose 1 percent in December. It was the ninth improvement over the past 10 months as buyers scrambled to take advantage of a first-time homebuyer tax credit before it was set to expire in November.

"It's a slow, sustainable growth," said Daniel Penrod, senior industry analyst for the California Credit Union League. "Most people would prefer a quick rebound but that's not likely to happen."

The home sales report was the latest bit of encouraging news on the economy. Stocks rose on Monday after a surprisingly strong reading on the manufacturing industry, and on Friday the government reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 5.7 percent in the final three months of 2009, a faster pace than expected.

D.R. Horton Inc. posted its first earnings since 2007 during its fiscal first quarter. Much of its $192 million profit during the October-December period came from a tax gain, but its revenue rose because of a 36 percent jump in home sales. Orders increased 45 percent.

The reports brought a positive tone to the market, which stumbled in the second half of January as concerns arose that the recovery might be stalling and that the market's 10-month advance was running out of gas. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.7 percent in January, its worst month since hitting a 12-year low nearly a year ago.

On Tuesday, the Dow rose 111.32, or 1.1 percent, to 10,296.85. The Dow's two-day climb of 229.52, or 2.3 percent, is the biggest point and percentage gain since Nov. 4-5.

The S&P 500 index rose 14.13, or 1.3 percent, to 1,103.32, while Nasdaq composite index advanced 18.86, or 0.9 percent, to 2,190.06.

Bond prices rose, pushing yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note slipped to 3.65 percent from 3.66 percent late Monday.

Crude oil jumped $2.80 to $77.23 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, its biggest one-day gain in four months as stocks advanced and hopes grew that the economy is strengthening. The dollar fell against other major currencies, while gold rose.

Investors are turning their attention to a series of economic reports this week to see whether the growth of late last year has a good chance of continuing. The most important indicator will come on Friday when the Labor Department releases its January employment report.

Confidence also grew after Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner told the Senate Finance Committee that the economy is in better shape than a year ago but that the government still needs to take steps to bring down unemployment, which stands at 10 percent.

The market's two-day climb is helping stocks recover from its mid-January slide.

Michael Cannivet, portfolio manager and senior analyst at Palo Capital Inc. in Newport Beach, Calif., said the recent drop drew in people who were waiting to buy on dips.









Driver was arrested minutes after accident

FROM **HIT-AND-RUN** PAGE 1

Jones allegedly stopped for a few seconds and then took off. Witnesses were able to follow the vehicle and get a license plate number, which they provided to police. Officers located the driver a few minutes later in the area of Second Street and Ocean Park Boulevard.

Dawson is awaiting the results of a blood-alcohol test and planned to check video footage from security cameras in the area to see if the accident was captured. The SMPD is continuing to investigate the cause of the collision.

The collision serves as a reminder that pedestrians should always be aware of their surroundings and to never take crosswalks for granted, Dawson said.

"If you are a pedestrian you are never safe in a crosswalk," he said. "You always have to look both ways before you cross. People have a false sense of security when they step into a crosswalk. They absolutely have the right of way, but frankly some people just don't see them."

Santa Monica has had its share of fatal traffic accidents involving pedestrians in crosswalks, raising concerns about pedestrian safety on congested streets.

Monday's crash was the first serious incident involving a pedestrian in 2010, Dawson said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Dawson at (310) 458-8954 or Sgt. Jay Trisler at (310) 458-8971.

kevinh@smdp.com

Gumi delegates compare notes

FROM **GREEN** PAGE 1

Project," which dedicated the city to becoming a green leader and Korea's first carbon neutral city.

The stop in Santa Monica marked the end of the week-long tour that took delegates all over California, including San Jose, Palm Desert and Anaheim.

Upon their arrival in Santa Monica, the 10 delegates were greeted at City Hall, where gifts and city pins were exchanged, pictures were snapped and the partnership between Gumi and Santa Monica in their mission to be leaders and innovators of green cities was recognized.

After a presentation on Santa Monica's sustainability measures, the group took to the streets to view the city's environmentally-friendly sites, including the Civic Center Parking Structure and its solar panels. Officials from the two cities discussed techniques for not only creating green programs, but also for garnering government and community support.

Mayor Nam said that in some cases, Gumi's policies are better, but in others, different cities' policies prevail. For instance, Gumi recently planted 10 million trees, which far outshadows the 1,000 planted in Los Angeles recently.

Of the programs he saw, Mayor Nam said he would most like to replicate Palm Desert's sustainability plan and the environmental education he saw taking place through programs like TreePeople and Anaheim elementary school students learning how electricity works. These types of programs reinforce how important reducing energy and encouraging environmentally friendly living are.

"It is astonishing that 15 years ago, at that time I thought the environmental problem was not serious," Mayor Nam said. Now Gumi is a leader in sustainable cities. Mayor Nam said that whether government wants to make energy efficiency a priority is not a matter for debate. At this point, he said, it is imperative.

"The city of Gumi is one of the most industrial cities," Mayor Nam said of the home to around 2,000 companies. "[We] produce a lot of carbon gas so we should reduce and we should repair."

The delegates consisted of public officials from offices such as green policies and investment and trade, in addition to an environmental engineering professor at the Kumo Institute of Technology.

IT IS ASTONISHING THAT 15 YEARS AGO, AT THAT TIME I THOUGHT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM WAS NOT SERIOUS."

Mayor Yoo Chin Nam
Gumi, South Korea

After the tour, the group plans to sit down and prioritize a list of environmental programs they have seen in different cities that the delegates will attempt to gradually reproduce in Gumi.

"[What is] very important is how to deal with these problems," Mayor Nam said. "It is not important to do everything at once."

Mayor Nam said that many Korean think that the environment is a very serious problem. In fact, working toward low carbon rates became part of the national agenda in 2008.

An important positive outcome of the trip, Mayor Nam said, is the newly-opened lines of communication. Now there can be an open exchange of ideas on the environment and green policy any time.

Ted Flanigan, EcoMotion president and leader of the trip, was equally pleased by the chance to exchange information and ideas. He said officials in the cities the delegates visited were all eager to share their stories with the Gumi leaders. The mood was genial, Flanigan said, but the California officials were doing more than just being friendly — they were fulfilling a responsibility.

"We have a global situation at hand," Flanigan said. "All the leading cities have a duty to educate those just getting on board. … I think Santa Monica can be very proud."

Mayor Chin similarly noted the importance of the meeting as it transpired.

"Everything I visited and I saw gave me some ideas," Mayor Nam said. "Today is a history-making event."

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Poll shows support below level needed to pass tax

FROM TAX PAGE 1

the district should tap its alumni who have moved out of the area to contribute to the district.

Board member Jose Escarce led the charge for the $198 amount, saying he believed it represented the board's best chance to pass a tax that would provide a cash influx of substantial benefit to the district. He argued against lower amounts, saying a tax of $175 per parcel would bring in $700,000 less, representing a loss of 10 more teachers.

But he noted there was some risk involved with asking voters to contribute nearly $200 per parcel on top of an existing, permanent $346 per parcel tax.

"If we adopt this recommendation and we get 66.3 percent of the vote, obviously we'll kick ourselves, there's no question," he said. "On the other hand, I think it's the best shot we have to save the most that we can for our district."

Before voting to hold the special election, the board spent $61,500 to hire Goodwin Simon Strategic Research to survey voters' attitudes toward various tax amounts.

The firm's poll showed 61 percent of those queried supported a parcel tax of $16.50 per month, or $198 per year, to the school district. Sixty percent said they would approve paying $225 per year and 55 percent approved of a $425 per parcel tax, an amount high enough to erase all or nearly all of the district's deficit.

Despite the polling, Paul Goodwin, a principal of the research firm, said there was still a substantial amount of uncertainty in the numbers. Before the vote he told board members there was no way to know how many more voters would support a tax of $198 compared to a tax of $225.

> **"I THINK IT'S THE BEST SHOT WE HAVE TO SAVE THE MOST THAT WE CAN FOR OUR DISTRICT."**
>
> **Jose Escarce**
> School Board member

"I can tell you that less is better than [more] in terms of getting votes, but we don't know how many more votes" a lower tax will garner, he said.

Jan Maez, the school district's chief financial officer, said the superintendent recommended the lower amount because of the perceived psychological benefit of being under the $200 mark and because the poll indicated price sensitivity would be a factor in the election.

A campaign committee to urge passage of the tax is being formed, said Rochelle Fanali, a co-chair of the effort. She said past campaigns to support public schools have attracted a broad cross section of the community.

"We will probably see even more [support this year] because there is so much at stake," she said.

nickt@smdp.com

Census partnering with local homeless service providers

FROM CENSUS PAGE 3

"They're helping us by identifying places [where] homeless people congregate" and by providing facilities for events, she said. "We have reached out to them and we've had an overwhelming response."

Events aimed at attracting the homeless will be held March 30 nationwide. No events have yet been scheduled for Santa Monica.

Advocates for the homeless agree that coming up with an accurate count is the first step in obtaining adequate resources.

Locally, City Hall has insisted on an annual count to gauge the success it is having with programs for the homeless it funds.

Between 2007 and 2009 Santa Monica saw an 8 percent drop in its homeless population, with 915 homeless people tallied in last year's count, 480 of whom were encountered on the street, rather than at a shelter, said Setareh Yavari, City Hall's homeless services administrator.

"For us as a city it's a benchmark. It is about resources, it is about how we direct our resources, it is ... [about] the impact that our efforts are having on ending homelessness in our community," she said.

Yavari said her department is providing support for the census by making facilities available for the count and by providing information on sites where homeless people can be found on the streets.

> **"IT FEELS TO ME THIS TIME LIKE THERE'S MUCH MORE OF A FOCUSED EFFORT AND THEY'VE STARTED EARLIER."**
>
> **John Maceri,**
> Chair of the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition

"We're definitely a partner with them ... in trying to make this a meaningful census and we're happy to work with them," she said.

Los Angeles County, meanwhile, had more than 48,000 homeless in 2009, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's latest count, making the area the nation's capital of homelessness.

Maceri said it's likely the census data will confirm that ranking.

"I hope not, but I wouldn't be surprised," he said.

nickt@smdp.com

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SACRAMENTO

Senator seeks cadmium ban

State Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Santa Monica) has introduced a bill that would ban cadmium use in children's jewelry in California. Pavley previously authored the nation's first ban on using lead in children's jewelry. She created the new bill after learning manufacturers are using cadmium in place of lead.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists cadmium as the environment's seventh most hazardous material. The soft metal cadmium causes developmental issues in children.

"Cadmium is a known cancer causing agent and there is no reason for our most vulnerable citizens – our children – to be exposed to this highly toxic metal," Pavley said. "It's completely irresponsible for manufacturers to use cadmium in jewelry marketed to children."

Pavley said less toxic metals, such as zinc, are reasonable alternatives.

After Pavley's ban on lead passed in 2006, national concern over lead grew, resulting in a 2008 federal ban on lead use in toys and jewelry. However, the law allows for cadmium substitution in jewelry, even though simply biting or sucking the jewelry exposes children to dangerous levels of cadmium, said the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

"It's a shame that jewelry makers are using a loophole in the law to harm our children," said Pavley.

Pavley's proposed bill would test cadmium levels the same way lead levels are tested in jewelry. Restrictions on cadmium are currently only upheld for painted toys.

DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE

Calling all writers

The Santa Monica Public Library, in conjunction with City Hall's Office of Sustainability and the Environment, are looking for entries for the fourth annual Green Prize for Sustainable Literature Awards.

The Green Price was created to encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality books that make significant contributions to, and broaden public awareness of sustainability. City Hall's Sustainable City Plan defines sustainability as "meeting current needs – environmental, economic and social – without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same."

Green prizes will be awarded in fiction and nonfiction categories. Books published in the United States in 2009 are eligible for the prize. Authors, illustrators and publishers are encouraged to submit titles for consideration, as are members of the public.

Criteria include effective presentation of material; distinctive literary quality; and originality of scholarship. Youth titles to be considered should have potential for classroom use and be appropriate for students in grades K-12.

Books may be submitted by following the guidelines on the Santa Monica Public Library Web site at www.smpl.org/greenprize.htm. The submission deadline is April 30.

A selection committee consisting of librarians and local authorities on sustainable issues will choose the winning titles that demonstrate outstanding achievement in their respective categories. The winners will be announced at a presentation ceremony at the Santa Monica Public Library in October.

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Court: Sentence for millennium plotter lenient

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A federal appeals court said Tuesday a 22-year prison sentence was too lenient for an al-Qaida-trained terrorist convicted of plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport at the end of the millennium.

A divided three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Ahmed Ressam, 41, deserved a much longer prison term because he had reneged on a deal to cooperate with terrorism investigators around the world.

U.S. prosecutors said Ressam's change-of-heart after two years of cooperation compromised at least two terrorist cases in the U.S., resulting in charges being dropped.

"We are gratified that the Court of Appeals recognized the importance of public safety at sentencing and that Mr. Ressam remains a threat to the public," said U.S. Attorney Jenny A. Durkan of Seattle.

Ressam's public defender Thomas W. Hillier II declined comment.

The appeals court also took the rare step of removing from the case the Seattle trial judge who imposed the initial sentence because his "previously expressed views appear too entrenched to allow for the appearance of fairness."

Federal guidelines suggest that Ressam should receive a prison sentence of 65 years to life after a jury convicted him of attempting to smuggle explosives meant for LAX across the Canada border in a rental car in December 1999.

Prosecutors argued for life in prison during a 2008 hearing held after Ressam recanted his cooperation and insisted that lawyers and prosecutors had badgered him into making false allegations against other alleged terrorists.

"Sentence me to life in prison or anything you wish," Ressam told the judge. "I will have no objection to your sentence. Thank you."

The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the trial judge to impose a new sentence based on the federal guidelines.

Instead, U.S. District Court Judge John Coughenour sentenced Ressam to 22 years in prison, citing his two years of cooperation, and said Ressam's "life history and personal characteristics support favorable sentencing consideration."

The appeals court said Coughenour's conclusions were "clearly erroneous," and Ressam has an extensive criminal history. Writing for the majority court, Circuit Judge Arthur L. Alarcon said the trial judge failed to take into account public safety with the 22-year prison sentence.

"This factor is particularly relevant in a terrorist case such as this, where Ressam, who has demonstrated strongly held beliefs about the need to attack American interests in the United States and abroad, will be only 53 years old upon his release," Alarcon wrote.

Circuit Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez dissented, writing that he would have respected Coughenour's sentence.

Coughenour declined comment when The Associated Press told him of the decision. President Reagan appointed Coughenour to the bench in 1981 and he assumed semiretired status in 2006.

Investigators say Ressam attended three training camps for Islamic terrorists in Afghanistan between March 1998 and February 1999. He learned to handle weapons, construct bombs and the black art of sabotage before he was assigned with five other terrorist to a cell to be based in Montreal.

Ressam traveled to Canada in February 1999 with $12,000 in cash, bomb-making instructions and a key chemical used in explosives. The other members of his cell didn't make it to Canada, but Ressam continued plans to bomb LAX.

Ressam hid 100 pounds of explosive materials in the wheel well in the trunk of a rental car, and on Dec. 14, 1999 drove it on to the American ferry M/V COHO at Victoria, B.C. He was also carrying a bogus Canadian passport.

A U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agent didn't discover the explosives during a search of the car and allowed Ressam to board the ferry and travel to Port Angeles, Wash.

When Ressam arrived at the U.S. port, suspicious U.S. Customs inspector Diane Dean ordered the rental car searched. This time the explosives, complete with four timing devices, were found and Ressam was arrested.

"An explosives expert later determined that the materials found in the car were capable of producing a blast forty times greater than that of a devastating car bomb," Alarcon wrote for the appeals court.

Ressam rejected the government's offer of 25 years in prison if he pleaded guilty to nine felony charges, including conspiracy to commit an international act of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

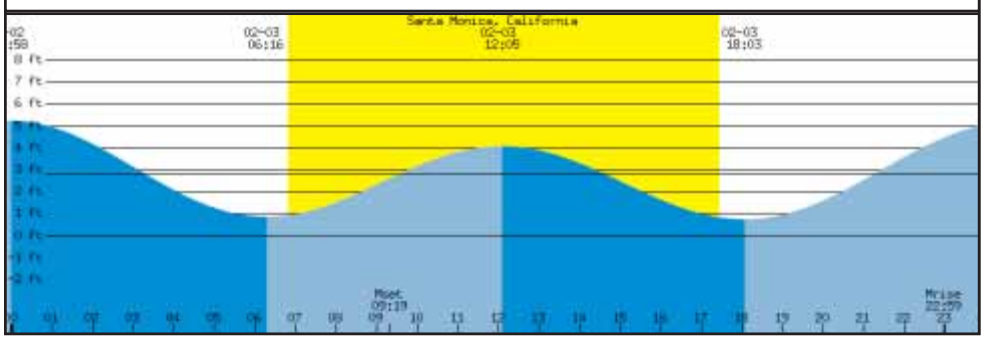
Swell Forecast

Steep angled NW swell should back down to around chest high max for west facing breaks. Winds should be lightly offshore for a good part of the day.

Long Range Synopsis

End of week looks very small as well.

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 28 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
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa 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 Ramirez 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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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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NFL

Bush tries to live up to hype

BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

MIAMI Reggie Bush can make the spectacular look routine.

And he can make the routine look too hard to handle.

Since the New Orleans Saints made the dynamic running back from Southern California the second overall pick in the 2006 draft, Bush has been a revelation and a disappointment. At times, he resembles the breathtaking game-breaker who won the Heisman Trophy in 2005. Then he morphs into a fumbling, pass-dropping, injury-ravaged nonentity — a third-stringer with little impact in the NFL's most potent offense.

Unquestionably, the Saints need him to display every one of his award-winning talents and none of his weaknesses in Sunday's Super Bowl against the Indianapolis Colts.

"I haven't lived up to the expectations I set for myself," Bush admitted Tuesday while seated on a podium at media day, surrounded by dozens of reporters. "Before I got to the NFL, I thought it would be the Super Bowl every year, make the Pro Bowl every year. You discover it's hard. It's hard to get to the Super Bowl. I've been in the league four years and just got here. There's a lot of great players who never get to the Super Bowl.

"I haven't lived up to the expectations I set for myself," he repeated, "but I know it will come.

"All I want to do is be the best player ever to play this game, and I'd be remiss if I didn't feel that way," Bush said. "If I didn't feel that way when I step on the field, I'd be selling myself short."

Some might argue Bush has come up far too short for the Saints. He hasn't made the Pro Bowl or All-Pro team. He hasn't approached 1,000 yards rushing in any season, and his career total of 1,940 yards is 66 fewer than second-year back Chris Johnson's for the Titans in 2009.

He hasn't beaten out Pierre Thomas, an undrafted free agent in 2007, for the starting job, but, worse, sometimes Bush is coach Sean Payton's third choice to carry the ball. His second choice is another undrafted player, Mike Bell.

Then there is Bush's inability to stay in the lineup. He's missed 12 of 48 regular-season games with a variety of knee injuries.

Ah, but then there are glimpses of greatness.

Two of them came in the divisional round victory over Arizona: an 83-yard punt return and a 46-yard run, each for scores. On both, Bush's burst past would-be tacklers was jaw-dropping.

Bush generally has lived up to his billing as a punt returner and is an important piece of Payton's passing schemes — so much so that opponents must plan for him at all times, even to the point of making sure a cornerback covers him.

"They have really good backs, fast backs with Reggie Bush," Colts linebacker Clint Session said. "We try not to get a lot of separation with a guy like him in the open field, so we're probably playing him a little tighter than normal.

"We have to know the beast, as we call it. Know the beast, respect his speed, and try to keep a close eye on him."



MOVIE TIMES

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

Black Sunday (NR) 2 hr 23 min
Two-Minute Warning (NR) 1 hr 55 min
7:30

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, 7:30, 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

Where the action is, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Stay in tune with the positive. Know that you are not the only person who feels a bit awkward at times. How you handle someone could change radically because of a side that he or she manifests. Tonight: Be the audience and the listener.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Easy does it. You could be exhausted and dragging after a certain point. You have a lot of charm and a positive attitude, which carry you through a tense moment or two. Know what it is you seek. Tonight: Put your feet up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Give a problem a shot of your ingenuity and then see where everything lands. You could be taken aback by your alternatives, as strange as that might seem. How you deal with someone you care about could change radically. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Easy works better than you realize. Sometimes you get uptight imagining what-if scenarios. Toss them to the wayside, as they won't serve you. Realize your limits within your domestic circle. You might not be the only one who is uncomfortable. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ The Lion roars and wants no one and nothing to stop him. Listen to what someone shares within your immediate circle before leaping in. Remain optimistic in a conversation. Someone is most certainly getting your point. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your discomfort with one issue easily could be coloring other issues, despite all efforts to stay clear. Listen to a close friend or associate. Not only does this person mean well, he or she has your best interests in mind. Tonight: Treat yourself to a not-too-expensive item you have desired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others might be a lot tougher than you anticipated. Yet there appears to be no problem in you having your way. Dominate and express your preference. Think positively about an offer that could be surprising. Tonight: Only what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ How you see an evolving situation could change radically. If you understand what is happening, you might opt to do something differently. Give yourself time to sort through recent confusion. More conflicting facts are heading your way. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your ability to zero in on problems comes through in a meeting. You might feel a bit strange about what comes up. Think in terms of growth. You could be worn out by everything that is happening. Certainly you are in a period of transformation. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others continue to look to you for decisions and insight. You feel pressure from a misunderstanding or a mixed message. You could be a bit uncomfortable until you understand that you need to release some of these issues. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Your ability to get past a problem energizes many. If you are confused about info you are hearing, say so and get more confirmation. You cannot have all the answers all the time. Tonight: Be adventuresome when making plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Work with someone directly without having any expectations. Realize what happens when you let go and don't feel the need to do anything a certain way. Investigate options with someone you trust. Tonight: Try dinner for two.

Happy birthday

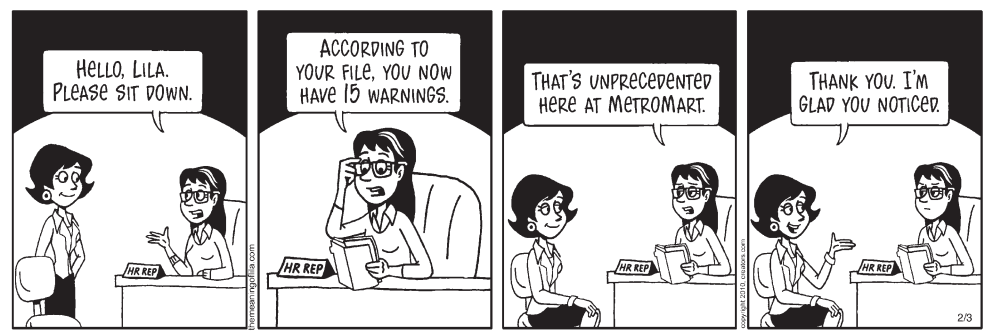
You could become overwhelmed quickly by everything that is happening. Even if you don't understand what is occurring, you will be able to make progress. Your way or style makes friends and eliminates problems. Confusion or mixed messages can toss projects left and right. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Take your time getting to know a new suitor. You will have a tendency to choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from weekends spent together. LIBRA understands more than you realize.

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 "What a pity!"
7 Litmus reddener
11 Go by
12 Ticked off
13 "The Bathers" painter
14 Understood
15 Fled
17 Support
20 Magician's cry
23 Previously
24 Greg Kinnear movie
26 Heir, at times
27 Poorly
28 Try out
29 Advises
31 Agent, for short
32 Deception
33 Sassy
34 Vacillate
37 Friend
39 Found darling
43 Mystique
44 Interstellar cloud
45 Hammer part
46 Prepares to propose

DOWN

1 That woman
2 Corrida cheer
3 Pale
4 Hybrid eating utensil
5 Nepal setting
6 Laura of "Jurassic Park"
7 Request
8 Arrange
9 Anger
10 Grass cover
16 Squashed circles
17 Cook's herb
18 Extreme pain
19 Fruit preserves
21 Schlemiel
22 Skilled
24 Mournful music
25 Shade source
30 Kind of band or show
33 Thorough investigation
35 Aquarium
36 Paradise
37 Topper
38 Shade
40 Wish undone
41 Building wing
42 "— Kapital"

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

Yesterday's answer

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

2-3

DAILY LOTTERY

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

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

FANTASY 5: 1 6 8 24 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 7 5
EVENING: 2 1 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1.45.85

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

■ Being the first licensed male prostitute in Nevada (and thus the U.S.), explained "Markus" in a January interview for Details magazine, is to him "a civil rights thing." "It's just the same as when Rosa Parks decided to sit at the front (of the bus) instead of the back."

■ Lame: (1) Ex-convict John Stephens told a Floyd County (Ind.) judge in December that he had a full-time job and intended to turn his life around, but had slipped when he tried to rob the Your Community Bank. "If I hadn't been watching the news and seeing (other successful) bank robberies," he said, he wouldn't have been tempted. He said he was especially impressed by one serial robber, who had made it look easy by vaulting over banks' counters. (2) In Kansas City, Mo., in December, the mother of Charles Irving tried to protect her 27-year-old son from a charge of being a felon in possession of a gun. She told police (without success) that he had needed the gun to protect her from vampires.

■ Rod Jetton, a former speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives and creator of Common Sense Conservative Consulting, LLC, was charged with felony assault in December after visiting a woman in her home in Sikeston, apparently for a sexual encounter. The woman later charged that Jetton punched her in the head and choked her into unconsciousness as his idea of foreplay, but Jetton said the "assault" was consensual, in that she was to utter a pre-arranged "safe word (phrase)" if things got too rough and that he would have immediately stopped. Jetton told police that the woman never spoke the agreed-on phrase "green balloons."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1989 After a stroke, P.W. Botha resigns party leadership and the presidency of South Africa.

1989 A military coup overthrows Alfredo Stroessner, dictator of Paraguay since 1954.

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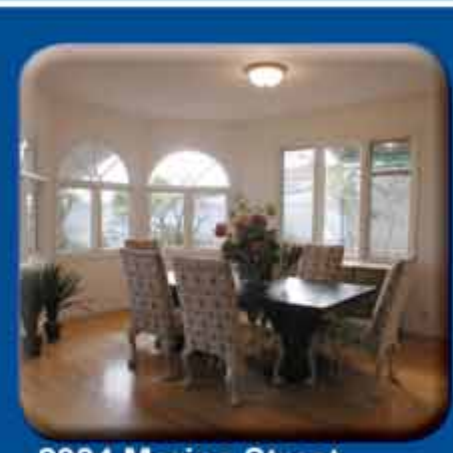
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North of Montana	$2,897,500	$974,500
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South of Wilshire	$900,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$997,000	$599,000
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Statistics Updated Every Monday

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