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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 84



Santa Monica Daily Press

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SO FAR, SO GOOD ISSUE



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

CREATING A WINNER: **SMMUSD is among the districts that have built a solid foundation in the arts, including adopting policies and plans.**

District's art programs remain strong

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Through the years of budget headaches and funding cuts from the state to public education, threatening the continuation of certain services, at least one district program has continued to shine in the face of it all — the arts.

That success by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District was recognized in a new report released today about arts education in the county, finding that the organization is just one of six that exhibit four out of five known characteristics of a strong infrastructure for enriching students in visual and performing arts.

The 2008 Arts Education Performance Indicators Report by the L.A. County Arts Commission examines strides that have been made by 81 school districts, concluding that much progress has been made toward developing a sound infrastructure for sequential K-12 arts education since 2005.

SMMUSD is among the districts that have instituted most of the five indicators for a solid foundation in the arts, including adopting policies and plans, hiring a district-level arts coordinator, and keeping the ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers below 400-to-1. The one factor that the district — and most in the county — lacks is setting aside at least 5 percent of its total budget for arts education. The district spends about 3 percent of its budget on the arts and receives support from the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, which has an endowment of $1.5 million.

"The pendulum is finally swinging in

SEE ARTS PAGE 8

Octuplet fertility doctor under investigation

BY SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A national medical society is investigating whether a fertility doctor followed its guidelines when he implanted six embryos into a Southern California woman who gave birth to octuplets last month.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine confirmed Tuesday that it's investigating because Nadya Suleman says she received in vitro fertilization for all 14 of her children at the same Beverly Hills fertility clinic.

Suleman, 33, told NBC's "Today" show that she was implanted with six embryos in

SEE DOCTOR PAGE 9

Group moves to improve special ed

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE When it comes to improving special education in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, an ad hoc committee of parents and students have more than one idea.

Just several months after the 16-member Working Group was assembled to review a pile of studies, audits and strategic plans that have been conducted for the troubled special education department, a set of proposed recommendations was presented to the community during a town hall meeting on Monday.

"My hope is we become the model for others and we can then share our success of the ways in which we approached some very, very difficult times," Superintendent Tim Cuneo said.

The list covered six different areas in which the committee felt improvement was needed, including communications and new media, recruitment and retainment of staff, integration of special education students, negotiation sessions for Individualized Education Plans, early intervention, and program development.

Many of the recommendations addressed the underlying problem of the culture and attitude toward parents and students with special needs, suggesting changes that include expanding the elementary school buddy program to include special education children and hiring a liaison to act as a go-between for IEP meetings.

The nature of the meetings has been one of the more contentious issues in recent years as parents have alleged "secret deals" and being coerced into signing confidential-

SEE SPECIAL ED PAGE 9



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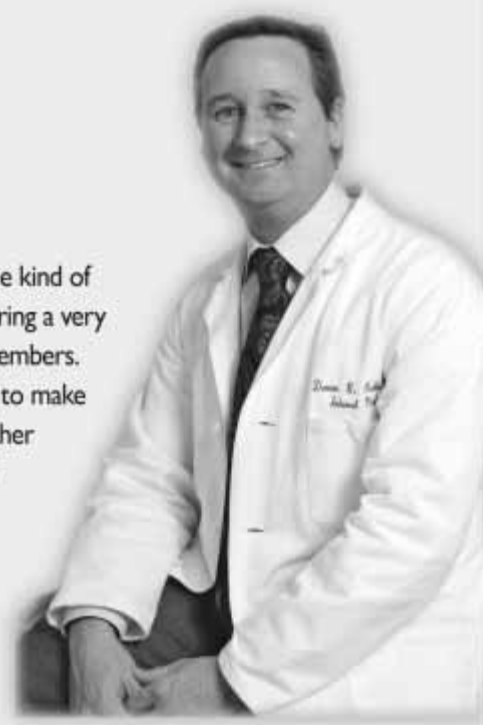
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Kiwanis Club weekly meeting
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 6th 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.

Walk the labyrinth
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Come to the Simkins Hall at First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica to walk the labyrinth, an ancient form of meditation where one follows an inlaid path in quiet contemplation. Call (310) 393-8258 or e-mail Mary Garbesi at mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Join us for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad. Subjects cover politics, the economy, society and culture. Discussion moderator, Jack Nordhaus, is a former college history professor. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Robbie Kaye photo exhibit
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave. Call for times
A retrospective of vintage and antique dolls, mannequins, ceramics, glass and other materials will be the centerpiece of this new exhibit. Robbie Kaye is a native of New York and has focused her recent work on Santa Monica's seaside vistas, buildings and fauna. For more information, call (310) 828-4001.

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Movies and more
WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Come for the twice monthly showing of an entertaining and thought-provoking film. A movie and discussion will be held followed by a lively discussion led by peer counselor Bert Dragin, who has written, directed, and produced three motion pictures. Each session is $3, which includes the film, popcorn, and discussion. Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373.

Get your yoga on
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Increase your focus and flexibility while revitalizing in this gentle yoga class. Space is limited, and advance sign up and a personal yoga mat is required. Call (310) 392-3804 or visit www.smpl.org for more information. Call (310) 458-8606 for disabled services.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

'A Little Princess'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Based on Frances Burnett's timeless story of a very different type of princess, whose generous spirit is undimmed by a change in circumstances, "A Little Princess" is the perfect play for both girls and boys. Donations of new or gently used books in English or Spanish, ages 0-10, will be forwarded to the Venice Family Clinic for their young patients to take home. Seats are reserved for $6-8 by calling (310) 828-7519 or by going to www.morgan-wixson.org.

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.



Inmate release fuels debate

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Unless California gets a reprieve from the U.S. Supreme Court, it will have to free roughly a third of its prison inmates within the next few years.

State officials and inmate advocacy groups are at odds over whether that can be done without jeopardizing public safety.

To find a blueprint, they won't have to look far. The Schwarzenegger administration and a special commission established by the corrections department have offered recent recommendations for reducing the prison population by tens of thousands of inmates.

Corrections officials said Tuesday they are still struggling with their response to this week's tentative federal court ruling that the state must remove as many as 57,000 inmates over the next two or three years.

A special three-judge panel said that is the only way to correct unconstitutionally poor medical care that primarily is caused by inmate overcrowding.

"It's still too new. We are just now beginning to have discussions (about) who these types of inmates would be. Then, how do we get to that number?" said Matthew Cate, secretary of the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The department has no contingency plan, he said, other than appealing the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court once it becomes final.

The judges want the state to create a plan for reducing the prison population to between 100,800 and 122,000 inmates. The 33 adult prisons now hold about 158,000 inmates, forcing a reduction of between 36,000 and 57,000 inmates — the equivalent of seven to 10 prisons.

The judges said their ruling does not amount to throwing open the cell doors.



HE'S GOT THE JAZZ

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Acclaimed author of 'Satchmo Meets Amadeus' and associate professor of modern history at the University of Salzburg, Dr. Reinhold Wagnletiner, accompanied on piano by Tom McDermott, presents an 'Informance' in music, words, and images on the history of jazz and its wide-ranging impact on the global community at Santa Monica College Tuesday. This event will take place again today at SMC.

DA sends Brown case back to cops

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Prosecutors said Tuesday they want more evidence from police before determining whether to press charges against Chris Brown, who's accused in a domestic dispute that reportedly involves pop superstar Rihanna.

Police presented a case regarding Brown on Tuesday, but did not release any of its details, Los Angeles County District Attorney spokeswoman Jane Robison said. She said the office would have no further comment on the case.

Brown was arrested Sunday night after surrendering to police, who sought the 19-year-old singer when a woman identified him as he attacker during a fight the night before. Numerous media outlets, citing sources and police officials who were not named, have identified the woman as 20-year-old Rihanna, Brown's longtime girlfriend.

Though an initial police news release indicated that they were investigating a battery on a woman who was injured, Brown was booked only on suspicion of making a criminal threat, a felony. Police have said that prosecutors would determine what charges, if any, were warranted.

The district attorney's kicking the case back to police could signal that prosecutors are seeking to build stronger charges against Brown; or it could mean the current evidence is too flimsy or has holes that would drop it to a misdemeanor or make it go away altogether, Loyola University law professor Stan Goldman said.

"Sending it back certainly isn't the death penalty," Goldman said.

"If you're Chris Brown," he added, "it's both bad and good."

A police spokeswoman said the department had no comment about the district attorney's decision.

The department has said it was alerted to the incident in the upscale Hancock Park neighborhood by a 911 call, but have provided few official details beyond the initial report. Brown's attorney and spokesman have not returned multiple calls and e-mails seeking comment since Sunday.

Brown remains free on $50,000 bail.

The allegations have at least momentarily tarnished Brown's squeaky-clean image. At least one major sponsor, Wrigley, has suspended ad campaigns featuring the singer, who has scored with hits such as 2005's "Run It!" and a Grammy-nominated duet with Jordin Sparks, "No Air."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cohousing works

Editor:

Thanks for publishing that informative article, "Cohousing offers green living to its adherents," in the weekend edition (page 17, Feb. 7-8, 2009).

On behalf of the several dozen families involved with the local manifestation of this trend, Santa Monica CoHousing, we would like to point out that Santa Monica and Cohousing are a perfect fit for each other, in several ways: First, Cohousers generally like to cut back on their use of non-renewable energy and their overall environmental footprint, and Santa Monica offers unmatched opportunities to walk or bike instead of drive to food shopping, entertainment and recreation, community services, and even work. Second, Cohousers like to feel connections to their immediate neighbors and also their larger community, and Santa Monica is a leader in offering involvement opportunities and that indefinable "neighborly feel" that makes daily living so much more enjoyable. Third, Cohousing is a relatively new concept that was never contemplated when traditional zoning and land use regulations were enacted, and Santa Monica is unusually receptive to the kinds of citizenship values and intangible benefits that Cohousing brings not only to its immediate residents but to the larger community in which it exists.

There are a great many opportunities to move forward with Cohousing in Santa Monica in both the short- and long-term. Anyone interested in exploring these opportunities can visit SantaMonicaCohousing.com (also at SaMoCoHo.com) and connect with their like-minded neighbors.

Robert Moskowitz
Santa Monica

Drug goes too far

Editor:

By approving a drug produced in the milk of genetically engineered goats, the FDA has given its blessing to the use of living beings as manufacturing factories, opening the floodgates to devastating mistreatment of animals. But the drug that is being created in goat's milk can be made in human cell cultures. While animal-derived drugs pose a threat to human safety because of contamination and the risk of zoonoses (transmission of diseases from animals to humans), human-derived pharmaceuticals are much safer and are far more likely to be therapeutically beneficial than the animal-derived versions.

More than 90 percent of the animals bred through genetic manipulation are killed immediately because they do not incorporate the desired gene. Those who survive this Frankensteinian tinkering suffer profoundly from severe birth defects, degenerative joint disease, and liver and kidney diseases. In prioritizing profits for agribusiness, the FDA has given short shrift to animal welfare as well as patient safety.

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Laboratory Oversight Specialist
Laboratory Investigations Department
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals





Going Postal

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

Part 1: Neither snow nor rain nor sleet ...

Editor's note: This is part one of a four part series.

"... nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."
— Herodotus

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE HAS NO OFFICIAL motto yet Mr. Herodotus' quote is frequently proffered as the raison d'etre to "... establish Post offices and post roads ..." which provides for the existence of my current employer under the U.S. Constitution when actually a reverse reading of the foregoing would be more accurate. You will not find in the Constitution a prescription for the departments of Treasury, Commerce nor Health and Human Services which only exist as the spoils of political brigandage for tax evaders and influence peddlers.

And yet the service you get from the Post Office is free.

Yup, that's right, ladies and gentlemen, FREE! You don't have to sign up for this service. There is no initiation nor yearly maintenance fee. No salesmen will call. Of course, however, provided that you're not a future U.S. Cabinet nominee on the dodge from the IRS, we may or may not, political pedigree pending, be required by law in assisting the IRS to find you. More importantly, NO TAX PAYER money is spent for this service.

The tab is paid when you shell out to the USPS a measly 42 cents for a 1st class stamp.

And we will deliver bloody near anything. In 1904, a prohibition against sending small children through the mail had to be enacted. No joke, there are pictures of this. I delivered a small canoe once as well as the cremated remains of someone's dearly departed to "point B" from "point A."

The USPS "Smurf Army" of 690,000 handles half of the world's mail [no exaggeration] so that you may enjoy the comfort and succor of your letters from Grandma, books from Amazon and recycled lingerie from Khyrgistan.

OK, so what service do you really get for less than half a buck from the USPS?

Let's say you live in Key West, Florida. Your long lost Uncle Bronco lives in Nome, Alaska. You send him a smarmy all-vegan post-consumer waste Tantra-colonic birthday card from the Aura Shop affixed with one of our 1st Class stamps. We then fly that little bit of personal fluff all the way from sunny Florida to the farthest popsicle precipice of the planet.

However, Uncle Bronco has since moved from the quiescent confines of Eskimo-ville to the bottom of the sweltering Grand Canyon in Arizona. The USPS, on that same 42 cents, re-routes your missive from Alaska to Arizona and then delivers it to the bottom of the gorge by mule train [no kidding] so Uncle Bronco can then enjoy your natal day salutations only to quip, "Who the hell is this from?"

Please name for me any other entity, public or private, that can pull off that stunt for under half a buck.

So the next time you pull up at the gas pump to fund autocratic oil-fed terrorist dictatorships or bump up against the counter of Starbucks to aid small time Colombian drug lords or whine about your crappy mortgage "deal" while bankers and politicians grease the wheels of commerce and call it "stimulus," please desist from squealing when the USPS raises the price of a stamp by a crappy dime over a 10 year period!

AND WE WILL DELIVER BLOODY NEAR ANYTHING. IN 1904, A PROHIBITION AGAINST SENDING SMALL CHILDREN THROUGH THE MAIL HAD TO BE ENACTED. NO JOKE, THERE ARE PICTURES OF THIS.

Recently, the Post Master General of the USPS went before Congress and informed them that due to upper managerial ineptitude that mail service may have to be cut to five day/week from the current six days/week due to declining mail volumes.

Suffice it to say, when was the last time that you actually sat down, wrote a letter to a loved one, business associate or ex-girlfriend [sometimes these are all the same thing], sealed it in an envelope and then affixed one of the USPS' low cost non-cyberspace alternatives that would directly stimulate the economy? Forget about the hopey-changey Congressional pinheads arguing about how condom and abortion subsidies stimulate "job growth." Mail a letter instead.

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Write a letter and print it from your Apple iDooDad, stick a stamp on the darn thing and then drop it in the mail in order to preserve one of the best American inventions that Benjamin Franklin ever devised! Akin to Al Gore inventing the internet, Ben invented lightning.

Like Horndog-in-Chief Billy Jeff Clinton, Ben was also a whizzbang favorite of the ladies of the French court.

Is it an inconvenient truth that the primary governmental representative with which you have the most regular contact is your mailman? When was the last time that the Hag of the House Nancy Pelosi rolled by your crib? And the closest that you'll ever get to President Zero is the bumper sticker of your arugula fed Prius. Sorry, folks, but you're stuck with li'l ol' me..

Lucky you!

STEVE BREEN and his merry band of postal Smurfs are happy to make your day and is still "the best looking mailman in the US Post Office" He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com
Byron Kennerly
news@smdp.com

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

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Ashley Archibald, Rob Lawrence, Teddy Leshnick
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Raymond Solano, Rachel Dardashti
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

Visit us online at smdp.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Council should call for a special election

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT MANY A TRUTH HAS been spoken in jest. Last year, I wrote an April Fool's column in which I pretended to announce my candidacy for a seat on the Santa Monica City Council because I believed that it needed "an injection of energy, youth, style, soul, and sex appeal."

Maybe the council doesn't really need sex appeal, but I stand by the rest of the statement. With the dearly departed Herb Katz's seat now open, Santa Monica has an opportunity to look toward the future and make our representative government more closely resemble our residents. The best way to do that would be for the Santa Monica City Council to refrain from appointing someone to serve out the rest of the late Mr. Katz's term at their meeting on the 24th of this month and to hold a special election.

Every time I look at the current make-up of our City Council, I keep coming back to one word: homogenous. Of the six, there are five white men and one white woman — all middle-aged or older. In the last 10 years, the only seat which has turned over is occupied by Robert Sargent Shriver III. He's a good guy who has helped a lot of people through his DATA and (PRODUCT)RED programs, but he's a Kennedy, a venture capitalist, and a friend of Bono. I've got nothing against him and I'm sure he tries, but to me his demographic profile doesn't exactly say "I can relate to the needs of ordinary Santa Monicans."

The rest of the council has been working together since at least 1999 and I don't care who you are or what you do, when you spend a decade around the same people, you will develop patterns of behavior. It's just human nature. If you don't believe me, just think back to this past holiday season and tell me your Thanksgiving or Christmas or Chanukah didn't include at least one tired, old family dispute or ritualized tradition that never seems to go away no matter how bad you wish it would.

One thing we should have learned from the events of recent years is that elections are good things. Not too long ago the field of candidates vying for the top job in our federal government was bigger and deeper than the Lakers' roster. After an insufferably long primary and exhaustive general election campaign, we now have the best person for the job sitting in the Oval Office. We need the same kind of process here. The winner of the special election would have to run again when Herb Katz's term expires in 2010, and I think it's safe to say that two elections in two years would ensure that we also end up with the best person for the job occupying the seat. It's a classic win/win for us.

The alternative would be to allow our City Council, Santa Monica's ultimate political insider's club (which has had less than 75 members in 50 years), to name its next member. Does anyone really believe they will look very far outside their immediate circle? I don't. And that would be tragic for Santa Monica's future because these seven people will be instrumental in developing the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) strategy, the long-term plan to "preserve our city's character, enhance transportation systems, expand healthcare services, maintain our quality of life, encourage creative arts and small businesses, increase mobility for all who live, work and visit here and ensure the long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability."

These are the people who will be making crucial decisions about development, neighborhood conservation and historic preservation, traffic reduction, zoning and planning, and the best way to use the Exposition Light Rail service to connect Downtown Santa Monica to Downtown Los Angeles. LUCE is an outgrowth of the city's General Plan, which hasn't been officially updated since 1984, and should be developed with a focus on what the place we all call home might look and feel like in 2034. I would like to see at least one person in city government who doesn't see things through the prism of the 1940's, 50's, or 60's and I think we have a much better chance of finding that person through the electoral process than by appointment.

If nothing else, it will serve as a real-life civics lesson for the students at Santa Monica HIgh School, St. Monica, and Santa Monica College. Since all politics is local, we have the opportunity to show the real future of this city, our young people, how important it is that they are informed and involved in their government. And it would be a fitting tribute to a man who lived and died for Santa Monica, the late, great Herb Katz.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider living in Santa Monica who is shopping his book, "Word In Edgewise: The Collected Opinions of America's Smartest Columnist" to forward-thinking publishers. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

The Q Line

Love on the cheap

Everybody knows that the economy is in a bad place, but that doesn't mean your sweetheart has to go without this Valentine's Day.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What would be your perfect affordable date this Valentine's Day?

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


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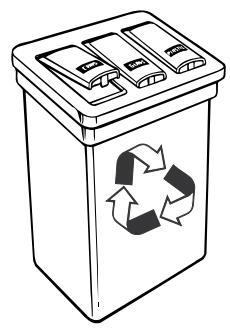
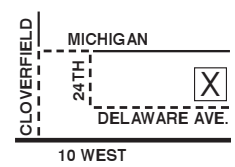
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ECONOMY

Bailout plan includes scant details

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The new bank rescue plan landed with a thud on Wall Street.

Worried that the revamped financial bailout was far too short on details, especially on how to clean up the books of the banks, investors drove the Dow Jones industrials tumbling more than 380 points.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced a plan that could send as much as $2 trillion coursing through the banking system and the broader economy and stressed the government would act to stop "catastrophic failure" of financial institutions.

But investors fretted that the government was nowhere near untangling the crisis that has paralyzed the financial system and hammered the economy.

Wall Street suffered its worst day since Dec. 1.

"The good news is they are going to spend a trillion dollars," said James Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group. "The bad news is they don't know how."

The administration called it the Financial Stability Plan, abandoning the old TARP, or Troubled Asset Relief Program.

And while it may have a new name, investors were also quick to point out a whole new set of problems.

Besides worrying the plan is too light on details, Wall Street seemed concerned it does not solve the problem of how to get the soured mortgage-backed assets off banks' books — the heart of the crisis.

Asked about the negative investor response, President Barack Obama told ABC News that Wall Street "is hoping for an easy out on this thing, and there is no easy out."

For now, the Obama administration says it does not need more than the second $350 billion chunk of the bailout fund, but it concedes that may change.

"We are going to have to adapt our program as conditions change. We will have to try things we never tried before," Geithner said. "We will make mistakes. We will go throughout periods in which things get worse and progress is uneven or interrupted."

The new approach aims to use both public and private cash to buy soured assets off the books of the banks.

But the plan provides almost no detail on how the assets would be priced — only that it would be left to the private sector.

Pricing the bad assets is key, in part because pricing them too low would force banks to take devastating writedowns.

It's far from clear that the government approach, using federal loans to entice private buyers to take the soured assets, will work.

"Most fund managers see these assets and don't want to touch them," said Christopher Whalen, managing director of Institutional Risk Analytics. "They can't sell them."

The government will also use some of the bailout cash to try to kick-start as much as $1 trillion in lending — hoping that getting the private market for bundled loans humming again will unlock credit in the rest of the economy.

Geithner also wants to put all banks with more than $100 billion in assets through a "stress test" to determine whether they can handle the losses that could come from an extended economic downturn.

But details on that part of the plan were sketchy, too, and some observers worried that the process would be messy. It also raises legal questions about what would happen to banks that refuse to participate.

"Let's say they do a stress test and conclude that a bank is insolvent. The bank could say, 'No, that's not the case and we're going to challenge you,'" banking analyst Bert Ely said. "There's a potential for a lot of litigation."

Banking industry officials reacted with caution.

"There are a lot of details that have not been provided yet, and the devil is in the details," said Scott Talbott, senior vice president of government affairs for the Financial Services Roundtable.

Critics of how the Bush administration handled the first half of the bailout say it doled out money to banks with few strings attached and failed to get banks to resume more normal lending.

It will be at least a week before the Obama administration provides details of how it plans to help homeowners. Geithner did say the government will use $50 billion of bailout money for that, and suggested it would help reduce mortgage principal and lower mortgage rates.

Even so, "There's not a hell of a lot here to get a sense of," Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., told Geithner in an appearance later Tuesday before the Senate Banking Committee.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the committee's ranking Republican, faulted Geithner for "a conceptual plan with many details yet to be filled in."

Geithner said the administration was laying out the "broad architecture" for the program with more details to come as the new plans are designed. He stressed the urgency of moving boldly, given the troubles facing the economy and the financial system.

Details of the new bailout plan came as the Senate passed Obama's $838 billion economic stimulus plan, clearing the way for talks with the House on a compromise measure.

In his speech outlining the plan, Geithner stressed the huge $1 trillion figures represented loans that would ultimately be repaid.

And he said the cost of doing nothing would be far higher.

"The complete collapse of our financial system would be incalculable for families, for businesses and for our nation," Geithner said.

Consumer advocates, who had unsuccessfully pressed the Bush administration to help individual borrowers, saw some of the changes as welcome.

"Certainly the flavor has changed and that's encouraging, but we need the meat on the bone here," said John Taylor, chief executive of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, a consumer group in Washington.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The next 'catastrophe'

THE MEDIA TENDS TO GET CAUGHT UP on buzz phrases. One of my favorite phrases from the election, which has carried over to the current economic situation, is "Main Street." Politicians were trying to separate "Wall Street" from the rest of the population that owns businesses. Buzz phrases can be effective in delivering a quick meaning, but sometimes they oversimplify problems.

I was talking to a colleague about loan defaults and asked her what she thought was going to transpire in terms of foreclosure rates.

She said they were going to go up, and mentioned one of the reasons why. She brought up a good point, which has been mentioned in the media recently and is getting "buzz phrase" worthiness: "Alt A loans are the next type of loans to go bad."

Before I define Alt A loans, let me give a synopsis of subprime loans, since understanding subprime loans and the subsequent subprime debacle will clarify what the media believes is the ensuing Alt A catastrophe.

Subprime loans were for borrowers who had lower credit scores, usually in the 600-650 range.

Some subprime loans were given to borrowers with credit scores below 580. Subprime borrowers usually "stated" financials, with no documentation needed to prove liquidity or income.

To mitigate these riskier loans, lenders charged a premium in terms of interest rates. However, to make the loans competitive and attractive, many subprime loans were offered with "teaser rates."

A common teaser rate program started the loan at a low rate, which was fixed for two to three years.

After the fixed period, the payment adjusted to a market level, which usually caused an increase, often skyrocketing to twice the fixed payment.

Since many individuals who took subprime loans were barely able to afford the low fixed payment, they ended up falling behind on payments and eventually lost homes when the payments adjusted.

Currently, the majority of the subprime loan adjustments have been made. However, according to CBS' "60 Minutes," we have not even begun to feel the pain of the housing mess that will be caused by Alt A loan adjustments.

An Alt A loan is a loan that essentially falls between prime and subprime loans. Alt A loans were not considered risky because of the borrower's credit worthiness, but rather because of the structure of the loan itself.

Alt A loans were larger loans that did not meet the Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac guidelines. Moreover, Alt A loans usually had high loan-to-value (LTV) and high debt-to-income ratios. The problem with high LTV loans is when the real estate market corrects itself and recedes, the loan to value ratio elevates, placing more risk in the lender's hands.

For example, if a property is worth $500,000 and the value drops by 10 percent or $50,000, the value of the property drops to $450,000. If a lender placed a 95 percent LTV loan on the property at the original value, the lender would have a $475,000 loan against the property.

Once the value drops, the borrower has a loan that is higher than the property's value, causing the borrower to be upside down on the property.

This is problematic to the lender because if the owner decides to walk away from the property, the lender is left with a minimum $25,000 loss, which is the difference between the loan amount and decreased value. High LTVs are partially why Alt A loans were considered risky.

Another reason Alt A loans are risky is because of high debt-to-income ratios — DTI. A debt-to-income ratio is used during the underwriting process. The debt-to-income ratio is usually expressed as two numeric numbers.

The first number represents a borrower's front-end ratio, which is expressed as a percent of housing costs to income, while the second number — known as the backend ratio — represents the borrower's debts including the mortgage as a percentage of their gross income.

For example, if a borrower had an annual income of $120,000 or $12,000 a month, and the required ratio was 25/35, the max principal and interest mortgage payment plus taxes and insurance would be $3,000 ($12,000/mo x .25) which would represent the front-end DTI ratio.

While the max backend ratio, which includes the mortgage payment along with all recurring debts, is $4,200 ($12,000/mo x .35).

Alt A loans were considered risky because DTI ratios exceeded conforming limits. Over time, the marketplace became saturated with Alt A loans that had aggressive DTI ratios.

The one major difference between Alt A loans and subprime loans was the fixed period. Alt A loans were fixed for between five and seven years, with some fixed for 10 years.

The issue now is all of the Alt A loans that have not adjusted, will do so beginning in the fourth quarter of 2009. People say that Alt A loan adjustments will be catastrophic to California, even more so than subprime because more than 50 percent of the Alt A loans were originated in this state.

I do not know if Alt A loan adjustments will be "catastrophic" to California. Yes, the unemployment rate is escalating and values continue to correct in a downward direction, but many borrowers who took Alt A loans were credit worthy and would not want a short sale or foreclosure on their credit report.

The wildcard is where the indices are at the time of adjustment. If an Alt A loan is tied to the six month LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) and adjusts while the index is low, the payment may be lower than the borrower is paying on the fixed rate. Of course, the inverse is possible, which could elevate a payment substantially each month.

People's memories are short, but history will remember the unsustainable housing appreciation, aggressive loan terms and the ensuing financial hangover. I am hopeful that lessons will have been learned and history will not repeat itself.

MIKE HEAYN is a Commercial Loan Consultant, specializing in Multi-Family Lending. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at maheayn@yahoo.com.



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

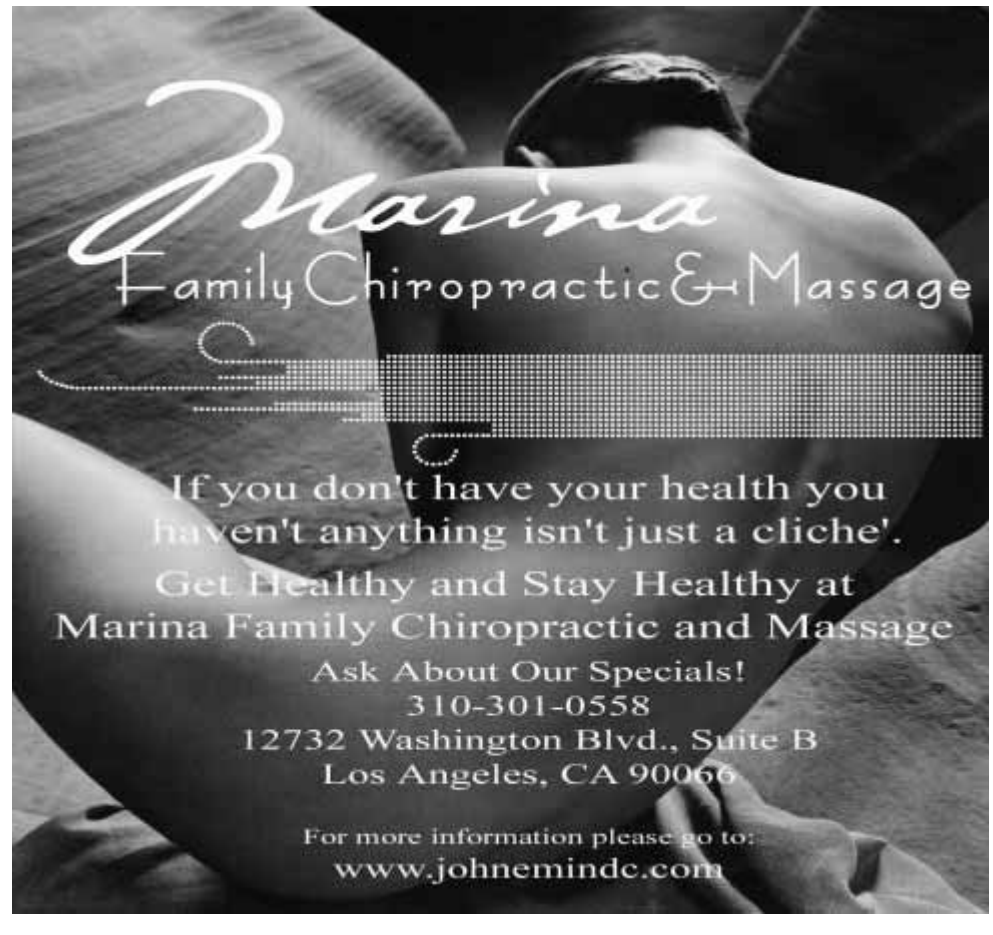
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council at the Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 24, 2009 for patrons of the Big Blue Bus. The hearing will be held as an agendized part of the City Council meeting, which starts at 6:45 p.m.

The City Council will consider cancellation of the TIDE Ride.

Anyone may comment in person at the hearing, or prior to the meeting by:
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For additional information, contact Dan Dawson, Customer Relations Manager, at (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831. City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Disability-related accommodation requests should be made at least 3 days prior to the hearing by calling (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831 or TTY (310) 395-6024, or email: Bus-Info@BigBlueBus.





Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

Districts move forward despite funding battles

FROM **ARTS** PAGE 1

the right direction for arts education," Laura Zucker, the executive director for the Arts Commission, said. "This new report shows that K-12 arts education is the strongest that it's been in a generation."

The report was conducted as part of the county's Arts for All initiative, which was adopted by the county Board of Supervisors in 2002 to provide every student in every school district quality sequential arts education.

The initiative encourages Arts for All districts to take a series of actions to build the foundation for a program, including adopting a policy and plan.

The problem before the initiative was the patchwork delivery system for arts education in which some students had access some of the time, Zucker said.

"What was happening in SMMUSD was very much a reflection of what was happening throughout the county, which was uneven delivery," she said. "While there were wonderful things happening in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified, it was not consistently available to all students throughout the school district and that is one of the key changes that we've seen happen since (the district) has been participating in Arts for All."

The district was one of the first five to adopt the initiative.

Tom Whaley, the coordinator of Visual & Performing Arts for the district, said that Arts for All has led to more grant funding opportunities, including one for $2 million from the Department of Education.

"It helps us look stronger for funding because (it says) we really have our ducks in a row," he said.

One of the strongest attributes of the district's program is music education for all students K-12. A recent study showed that while enrollment in the district has dropped over the past few years, participation in music has steadily increased.



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

RAISING THE BAR: **Santa Monica High School's orchestra is a good example of what the school district is doing right in the arts.**

But the district remains weak in the visual as well as some areas of the performing arts, including theater, Whaley said.

The district no longer has a theater program at Lincoln and John Adams middle schools, primarily because of funding issues.

To make up for shortfalls, the district partners with Santa Monica College, which offers guitar courses, as well as dance, mariachi and jazz band classes through its dual enrollment program at Santa Monica High School.

There is also the help that the district receives from the Education Foundation, which has supported the high school drama program and dance classes at the middle school.

"As a trend the arts are always the first to be cut, which is why our foundation decided we didn't want that to happen and therefore do something pretty powerful and create the endowment so we could secure funding for the arts and not rely on state budget cuts," Linda Gross, the executive director of the foundation, said.

Though funding always remains an obstacle for the arts, Zucker said that many of the Arts for All districts are moving ahead with their plans.

"The great unknown is what is going to happen with the state budget," she said. "However we believe that Los Angeles County school districts are going to continue their commitment to arts education because such a strong foundation has been laid."

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Board to hear final recommendations

FROM SPECIAL ED PAGE 1

ity clauses in their children's IEP, a practice that has since been banned by the Board of Education.

The committee suggests that the IEP process can be improved by holding training sessions for parents before the school year and mandating that the person running the meetings have consistent teaching contact with the student in questions and is familiar with the case.

The recommendations also speak to ways in which teacher can be involved in early intervention, requiring training for all general education teachers and CREST — a City Hall-sponsored afterschool program — staff members on how to identify students with special needs.

The issue of inclusion is also reflected in the set of recommendations, which suggest ensuring children with special education are able to participate in all activities, including field trips. One parent at the meeting said that her child was excluded from a recent trip to an amusement park because the school administrator had determined it would not be appropriate for students with special needs.

The recommendations also touch on ways in which the district could recruit the best educators available, including reaching out to local community colleges and universities to attract qualified students from the teaching field and instituting an exit interview to acquire feedback on the reason for leaving.

While many parents spoke positively of the committee's efforts to date, the concern remained that the recommendations would be shelved. Administrators have assured that the report won't just collect dust.

"There's a big commitment in the group to say 'we don't want this to die,'" said Laura Peck, a consultant with the Claros Group who is facilitating the group's meetings.

The Working Group has met six times since its formation last fall. It is expected to reconvene on Thursday to digest all of the information and input received at the town hall meeting before sitting down with the superintendent to go over the recommendations, which will be presented to the Board of Education before the end of March, Peck said.

John Joseph, the parent of a kindergarten student with autism, said that while the workshop was positive, he still had concerns about whether any of the recommendations would be instituted.

A parent in the district for just a few years, Joseph spoke of a difficult experience with the district, going to court at least once over a dispute with his son's IEP and signing one of the "secret deals."

"I hope what is going on now isn't just going to be empty words, that they will change the culture," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Doctor did 52 procedures in '06

FROM DOCTOR PAGE 1

each of her six pregnancies, resulting in four single births, a set of twins and the octuplets. No more than three embryos are considered the norm for a woman her age, and fertility experts and medical ethicists have been critical of the Jan. 26 birth of the octuplets.

The society has contacted Suleman and her doctor, and is prepared to assist the Medical Board of California, which is also looking into the pregnancy, the society's president, Dr. R. Dale McClure, said in a statement.

"Our guidelines provide the flexibility to give each patient treatment individualized to her needs, and her best chance to become pregnant without risking high-order multiple pregnancy," said McClure. "However, it seems that the guidelines may not have been followed in Ms. Suleman's case."

Neither the society or the medical board identified Suleman's physician, Dr. Michael Kamrava.

Kamrava, a specialist who pioneered a method of implantation, was identified Monday as a result of an NBC interview with Suleman, who said she went to the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills and that all 14 of her children were conceived with help from the same doctor. In 2006, Los Angeles TV station KTLA ran a story on infertility that showed Kamrava, the center's director, treating Suleman and discussing embryo implantation.

Kamrava, 57, did not return calls seeking comment Monday or Tuesday. When confronted by reporters outside his clinic Monday, he said he had granted a television interview but would not give details.

The state medical board said last week it was looking into the Suleman case to see if there was a "violation of the standard of care." The medical board said it had not taken any previous disciplinary action against Kamrava.

Kamrava's clinic is a member of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology, a sister organization of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Clinics that clearly violate guidelines can be kicked out of SART. Neither group is a regulatory agency so a removed doctor could still practice medicine.

The state medical board cannot close the clinic if it is found at fault, but it can censure the doctor, putting the violation on his record.

Kamrava's clinic performed 52 in vitro procedures in 2006, according to the most recent national report compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, five resulted in pregnancies and two in births. One of the births were Suleman's twins.

Kamrava's pregnancy rate that year was among the lowest in the country. Experts say many factors affect a clinic's success rate, including a patient's health and types of procedures done.

Several lawsuits have been filed against Kamrava over the past two decades, including one in which a former employee accused him and his wife of hiding income to avoid taxes and defrauding insurance companies.

Former office administrator Shirin Afshar sued Kamrava in 1998, claiming discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination and infliction of emotional distress.

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Passport deadline creates questions for legions of kids

BY CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

ALAMO, Texas The citizenship of hundreds, possibly thousands, of people who insist they are Americans is being called into question because they were delivered by midwives near the U.S.-Mexico border.

The federal government's doubts have arisen as many people in the border region try to meet a June 1 deadline to obtain U.S. passports so they can freely cross from one country to the other.

The people delivered by midwives have documents such as birth certificates and medical records. But the agency that grants passports is challenging the credibility of those papers, citing a history of some midwives fraudulently registering Mexican-born babies as American.

The passport applications being questioned include those of children of Mexican women who crossed the border to give birth in the United States, and even employees of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency who were born on the border and now work to protect it.

The government has "effectively reduced to second-class citizenship status an entire swath of passport applicants based solely on their being of Mexican or Latino descent and having been delivered by midwives in nonhospital settings in Southwestern border states," according to a federal lawsuit against the State Department filed last year in the border town of McAllen, about 120 miles south of Corpus Christi.

Immigration attorneys and the American Civil Liberties Union hope to have the case certified as a class action because they believe thousands of people could be affected, with most still living near the border.

Since 1960, 75 Texas midwives have been convicted of fraudulently registering Mexican-born babies as American. At one point, the government assembled a list of nearly 250 "suspicious" midwives but never explained what made them suspicious.

State Department spokesman Andy Laine declined to comment because of the litigation. The agency also declined to release statistics on passport application refusals.

After June 1, anyone re-entering the United States from Mexico or Canada will have to show a passport, not just a driver's license and birth certificate, which are the only current requirements.

For families who have lived in the area for generations, the border is just a river in the middle of one community. Many people live on one side of the border and work on the other.

"Going back and forth is as natural for them ... as going across town is for the rest of us," said Lisa Graybill, legal director for the ACLU in Texas.

If the lawsuit is not resolved before June 1, families "will have to choose if you're going to live in Mexico or you're going to live in the U.S. You won't be able to cross," said Lisa Brodyaga, the immigration attorney who filed the lawsuit against the State Department.

Anna Karen Ramirez had to sue the State Department to get her passport, even though she had a birth certificate, medical records and receipts from her 1989 birth at a clinic in Hidalgo, just south of McAllen. She also had signatures of two police officers who witnessed the event.

> **"IT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MODERN STANDARDS COLLIDE WITH OLD COUNTRY PRACTICES."**
>
> **Mark Krikorian**
> Executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies

Ramirez's parents lived in Mexico and raised their daughter there. But they decided to have their child in the United States.

With the deadline looming, and the State Department suspicious of her citizenship, the family met several times with U.S. consular officials to obtain a passport, but their request was refused.

Ramirez's father, Narciso, drives a taxi back and forth across the border every day. He said he was warned that the family's dogged pursuit of the matter could threaten the visa that allowed him to operate his cab.

Anna Ramirez sued, and while waiting, voted unchallenged in the U.S. presidential election. A month later, she received her passport but never got a clear statement of citizenship.

"Every 10 years she's going to have to prove she's a U.S. citizen" to renew her passport, said her attorney, Naomi Jiyoung Bang.

The State Department practices are "a holdover from an older, less-regulated world," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for more restrictive immigration laws. "It's what happens when modern standards collide with old country practices."

Krikorian said the government cannot just believe everyone, nor can it turn down everyone delivered by a midwife.

Because Ramirez is young, her parents were able to find documents the government requested. The midwife who delivered her was still alive and able to testify. They could also afford to hire an attorney to help.

David Hernandez had a harder time locating evidence.

He was born in San Benito, Texas, in 1964, to a Mexican mother who was visiting friends when she went into labor. Hernandez was delivered by a midwife who appeared on the suspicious midwife list, though without a conviction. He returned to Mexico with his mother.

The two moved back to the U.S. a few years later. He attended schools in Texas and served in the Army.

In response to government requests, he collected mounds of documentation including papers from his military service, immunization and baptismal records, and witness affidavits. When he requested his school records, he was told that his elementary school papers no longer existed.

In April 2008, the government refused his passport application.

"I was born here," he said last fall when the ACLU took on the case. "I've lived and worked here and served in the Army. I feel betrayed, like my country is stabbing me in the back just because my mother didn't have the luxury of having me in a hospital."

HIGH SCHOOLS

Schedules trimmed to save cash

BY MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. Here's a new play call courtesy of the recession: shorter seasons for high school athletes.

The group that oversees public high school athletics in New York state recently approved shaved-down schedules next school year as a cost-cutting measure, the latest to take the step nationwide.

Cuts vary by sport in New York: Baseball teams that play 24 regular-season games will go to 20, football teams will go from 10 games to 9 or 8, depending on regional officials.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association says the shorter schedules allow schools to cut budgets without cutting programs. Critics — including coaches and kids — claim the new policy unfairly targets student athletes.

"Pick up your gear after eight? That's terrible," said Clarence High School varsity football coach Tom Goddard. "That's a terrible thing to do to the kids."

Trimming games to save money is not a new idea. A school district outside Cleveland met Monday to discuss dropping all sports, though the school board in suburban Richmond Heights delayed its vote until April. Oklahoma schools shortened seasons early in this decade to save money.

Mississippi last year voted to cut schedules by 10 percent — except for the beloved moneymaker, football. Schools in Idaho are considering a reduction, though officials there noted there is some opposition. And while a season-reducing proposal was rejected in Maine last month, officials set rules that will result in fewer teams qualifying for playoffs.

New York athletic officials say incremental cuts to all programs will save sports with fewer participants, like gymnastics and bowling, from the budget knife, as well as modified sports programs for seventh- and eighth-graders.

The measure passed by a majority vote in the last weekend of January. By hitting every sport — boys and girls — the cuts also avoid violating any provisions of the 1972 federal Title IX law to prevent discrimination in education spending based on gender.

"Losing one game in a basketball season when you're playing 18 or 20 games, that's not the end of the world," said Pat Pizzarelli, the president of the association. "And if you do that across the board, you're going to get some savings. But if you don't do that, you can lose an entire sport."

The cost savings might seem small — a referee here, a bus trip there — but they add up. A high school umpire in New York averages $83 a game, without travel reimbursement, said association executive director Nina Van Erk. Schools need two umpires a game, so two fewer home games saves a district $332.

Van Erk estimates that schools statewide will save more than $3 million in officiating costs alone. Add to that bus trips, chaperones and scorekeepers and the savings approach $10 million among 776 schools statewide, she said.

Some parents support the restrained, universal cuts rather than the more drastic option of wiping out whole teams.

"I'd hate to see any sport eliminated. I think it's a better answer," said Pete Cure, who has two daughters and a son playing sports for Guilderland High School near Albany.

Critics concede the economy is tough, but they focus on the policy's cost to kids — even it's a few basketball games.

"Those two or three games are for us as a team to build team chemistry, and to figure out what's going to work and what's not going to work" said Will Reutemann, a senior on the La Salle Institute basketball team in Troy, N.Y.

Susan Garrigan-Piela, president of the Columbia Football Booster Club near Albany, complained that students in New York already play fewer games than their counterparts in states like Texas. And she is concerned about cuts to programs that allow students to fill their time productively.

"A lot of people say sports aren't needed," she said, "but the real fact is, what are you going to do with all those kids with nothing to do?"



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

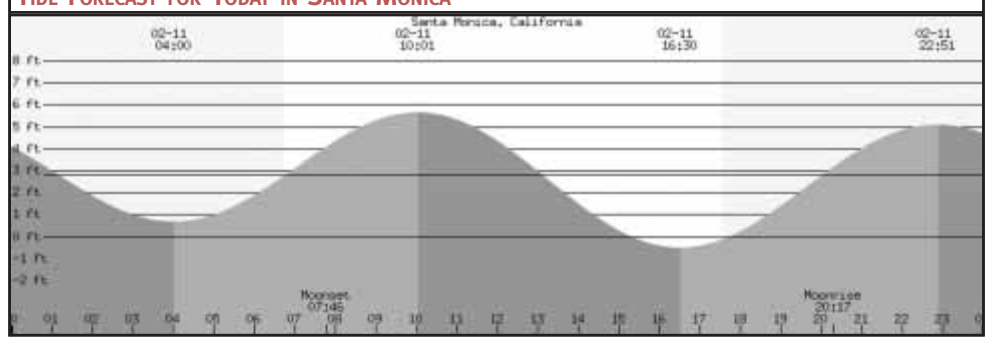
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

Wednesday the 11th it looks like wind swell will fade as conditions begin to clean up. Chest high max is the call for west facing breaks, mostly from wind swell.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday should see an increase towards chest to head high for west facing breaks. Standout west facing breaks that can work a steep 310 may see some bigger sets.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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City of Santa Monica

The City of Santa Monica announces it has committed funds to Community Corporation of Santa Monica for the acquisition and predevelopment of affordable housing as follows:

- A loan of $6,582,323 for the acquisition and predevelopment of affordable housing at 2602 Broadway.
- A loan of $5,595,897 for the acquisition and predevelopment of affordable housing at 2802 Pico Boulevard.

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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: February 3, 2009

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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 Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
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+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	B

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R) 1hr 32min
2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35

Fanboys (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

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

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
Closed Captions and Descriptive video
1:15, 4:45, 8:15

New in Town (PG) 1hr 36min
1:35, 4:05

The Uninvited (PG-13) 1hr 27min
2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 9:50

Coraline 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:25

Push (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
2:10, 4:55, 7:30, 9:45

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

Revolutionary Road (R) 1hr 59min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

Slumdog Millionaire (R) 2hr 1min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

The Wrestler (R) 1hr 45min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Gran Torino (R)
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:50am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:40am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:20, 10:10

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

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

Paint the town red, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You cannot deny the seriousness of a situation. If you make light of it, others will feel that you are not honoring their priorities. Express your issues, and listen to the feedback. You don't need to reach an agreement, but you do need to respect each other's views. Tonight: Off to the gym, or squeeze in some exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your playful side emerges with a boss or someone you look to as in charge. Though you might not be totally in sync with what is going on, you can go with another's ideas. Communication flourishes at an unprecedented level. Tonight: Play as if there is no tomorrow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Basics play a strong role in upcoming events. Don't go off on mental fantasies; rather, stay practical and logical. You will be much happier with the end results. There will be plenty of time to use your intellect. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Holding back will get you and others nowhere. How you phrase your sentiments makes a considerable difference in their reception. A partner plays a big role in bolstering your ego and making you feel very cared about. Tonight: At a favorite hangout.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be taken aback by all the options that surround you. Still, don't commit unless you are sure about the financial implications. The unexpected runs riot if you're not careful. Don't risk past bingo! Tonight: Treat yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You'll make what you want happen with a little help from a friend or two. Communication flourishes. What a great time to clear the air. Tonight: As you wish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Know when to do something totally different - like right now. You'll do best away from the madding crowd. Investigate an offer that sounds too fun and perhaps too good to be true. Expect to be surprised and delighted. Tonight: Paint the town red.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ A meeting inspires you to head in a new direction. A brainstorming session points you in a new direction. Know when you have had enough. Success touches nearly anything you touch. Tonight: A party starts where a party is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You cannot skip work or a major obligation. If you think in terms of growth, you will see this obligation as an opportunity. Your perspective could change radically. Listen to suggestions, but still do what you want. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance, or perhaps you might need to find an expert. Be willing to push beyond your normal extremes. Success will greet you if you walk a new path or take a reasonable risk. Tonight: Follow the music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You work better as a team. Someone you trust gets needed information and will share it. The direction you head in could vary considerably after you hear the whole story. Know what works, and don't hesitate. Tonight: In the thick of things.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could have difficulty getting a word in edgewise and might feel more than pressured. If you relax and go with the flow, you might find a situation amusing. Some thoughts are best kept to yourself. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

Happy birthday

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

This year, discover the many possibilities that your life has to offer. Your biggest issue will be making the right decision, as each choice eliminates a road. Staying at a standstill might be close to impossible and a bad idea. If you are single, your life takes a new, exotic tone, where you will want to be with others. Relax; the right person will come forward. If you are attached, a newfound closeness draws the two of you together. Trust your partner, even if you are very different. His or her ideas could be significant. VIRGO wants to get to the bottom of a problem.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



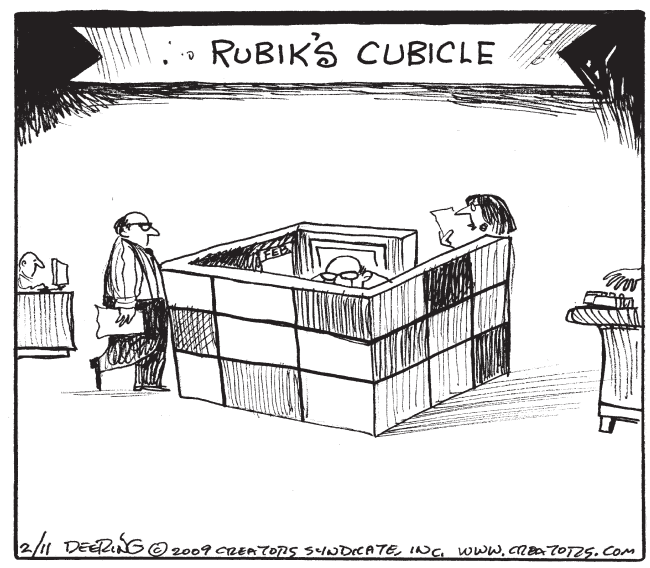
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



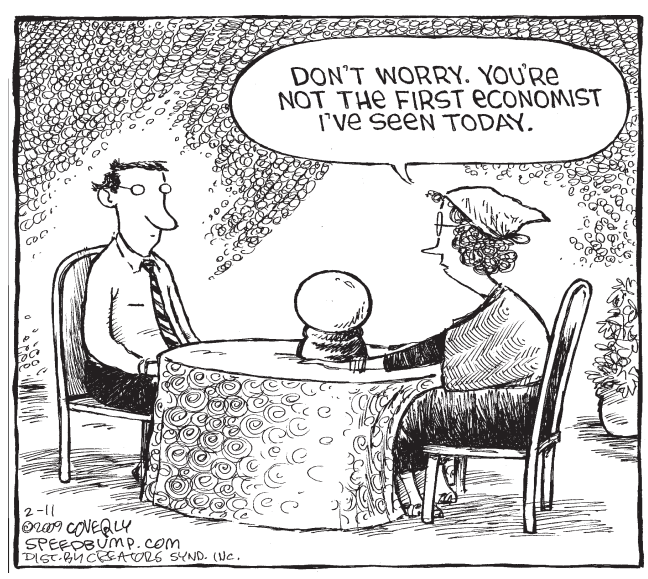
Garfield
By Jim Davis



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 City on the Nile
6 Foolish
10 Bitter
11 Famed lover
12 Got up
13 "Don't Cry for Me" singer
14 Farm fowl
15 Made flat
16 Wedding words
17 Corp. VIP
18 CIA's forerunner
19 As a rule
22 At hand
23 Afternoon socials
26 "I'm serious!"
29 Heel
32 Young fellow
33 Father's Day gift
34 Source
36 Pollux's mother
37 Daughter of Lear
38 Tennis star Becker
39 Writer Brookner
40 Operative
41 Overdue
42 Potentially dangerous

DOWN

1 Redeem
2 Took, as advice
3 Smelter's need
4 Mexican rivers
5 Eccentric
6 Pigeon's cousin
7 Acid type
8 Fancy parties
9 Frogs' kin
11 Rose up
15 Twisty fish
17 Designer Herrera
20 Fellow
21 Supporter's vote
24 Changed
25 Like some doors
27 Campaigned
28 Like some breads
29 Deep pink
30 Concert venue
31 ZIP code part
35 Fence feature
36 Company sign
38 Naughty

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

2-11

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 12 18 28 31
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $73M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 14 23 24 25 44
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 2 10 17 23 32

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 0 2
EVENING: 5 6 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:42.76

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

■ One Industry That Needs No Stimulus: (1) Drug officials in California's Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties (north of San Francisco) estimated in January that two-thirds of the area's economy is based on probably illegal marijuana farming (illegal under federal law, but permitted for medical use by the state). One federal agent told MSNBC, "Nobody produces any better marijuana than (they) do right here." (2) In January, the director of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime acknowledged that during the bleak banking days of September and October 2008, with panic in the economy over the shortage of cash, often the main source available to some banks was drug dealers' steady deposits of money to be laundered.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1861 President-elect Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Ill., for Washington.

1929 the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

1937 a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

1945 President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement during World War II.

1975 Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

1979 followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power in Iran.

1989 the Rev. Barbara C. Harris became the first woman consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church, in a ceremony held in Boston.

1990 South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

WORD UP!

osteopath \OS-tee-uh-path\, *noun*:
a practitioner specializing in treatment chiefly by manipulation of the bones and muscles

Santa Monica Daily Press

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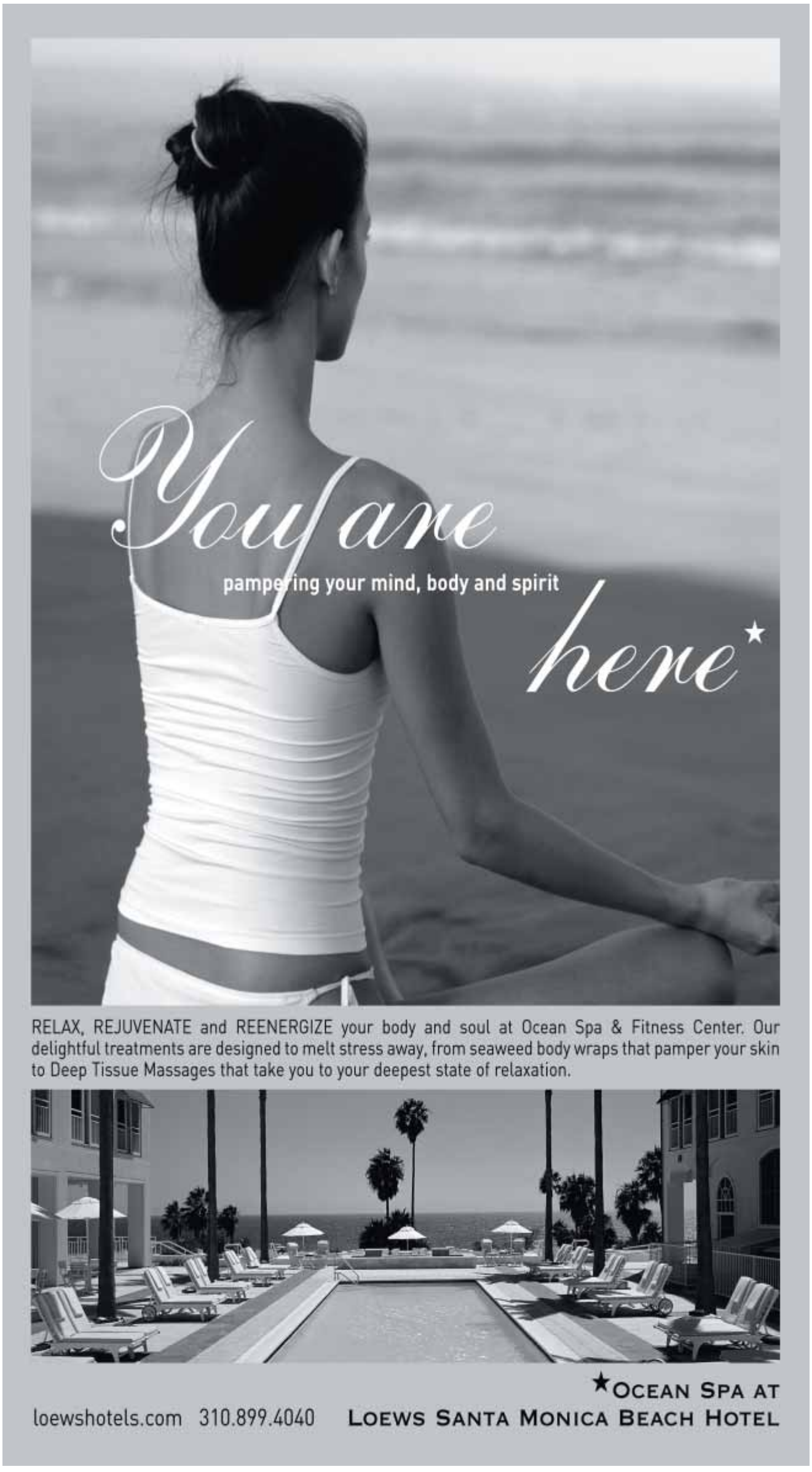
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North of Montana	=	$3,372,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$799,250
South of Wilshire	=	$1,010,000	$789,000
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