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Volume 10 Issue 82

Santa Monica Daily Press

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION

WHAT PRESSURE?
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE GREEN AND BLUE ISSUE

Council axes commitment to commission meetings

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY The Santa Monica City Council ended a long-standing practice of sending council members to board and commission meetings for fear of prompting litigation at its retreat Sunday.

In a 5-2 vote, the council passed a resolution to end the current liaison system, and further directed staff to create a formal policy surrounding the relationship between individual council members and the boards.

The conflict was raised by a December 2010 article that appeared in the League of California Cities publication, Western City, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie.

Councilmembers who attend the meetings as official liaisons run the risk of violating due process, influencing the independent commissions or compromising the ability of the council member to vote on issues later, Moutrie wrote in a staff report.

The presence of an official with the ability to appoint or remove commissioners can also have a chilling effect.

"This is a theoretical concern," Moutrie said. "I'm not suggesting in any way that anyone in Santa Monica that has served as a liaison acted improperly."

Certain boards and commissions are more likely to result in a negative outcome, particularly quasi-judicial entities such as the Landmarks Commission, Architectural Review Board, Personnel Board and the Planning Commission.

The designation "quasi-judicial" refers to the processes that commissions like the Planning Commission go through by applying local laws to approve or deny modifications to properties.

"They apply local law to facts and properties," Moutrie said. "If a council member were there on the dais and then the matter were appealed, there could be a legal issue with pre-judgment."

By either modifying how council members fulfilled those liaison responsibilities, or

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 10



Photo courtesy Heal the Bay

BIG HAUL: **Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp weighs trash collected by his team of volunteers at a Heal the Bay beach cleanup in Santa Monica on Tuesday morning.**

Dodgers, Heal the Bay team up to clean beach

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH Almost 300 volunteers gathered here to pick up trash with their favorite Dodgers baseball stars Tuesday.

The clean up was part of the Dodgers Community Caravan, a two-day event that connects Dodgers players and their fans in community service activities.

The beach clean up, a two-hour effort coordinated with Heal the Bay, split the 300 volunteers into five teams, each with a designated Dodger. The teams then competed to see which could collect the most trash.

Outfielder Gabe Kapler's team trashed the competition, collecting 30 pounds of Styrofoam, cigarette butts and other refuse.

All five teams disposed of 75 pounds of accumulated waste.

Teresa Evans, traveled from the San Fernando Valley to participate in both caravan days. Monday, the team and some volunteers cleaned up an area of the Los Angeles River.

"I'm glad the Dodgers are doing this," she said. "They're thinking green and blue."

Carolann Shapiro and her three children, Liala, Cami and Zach, live in a neighborhood next to the Dodgers Stadium.

The family aimed to see Fernando Valenzuela, Sweet Lou Johnson and Matt Kemp, and enjoyed walking and talking with the players.

Overall, Heal the Bay considered the event a success despite the rain which dampened the first hour of collection, said Meredith McCarthy, program director.

Beyond cleaning up the beach, the event gives Heal the Bay a chance to educate inlanders on the consequences of littering.

A cigarette butt dropped 20 miles from the ocean finds its way untreated into a storm drain and washes out to the beach, she said.

"It starts at your front door," McCarthy said.

ashley@smdp.com

SoCal home prices drop in January

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Southern California's median home price dipped 0.6 percent in January, as a nearly unprecedented portion of homes were snapped up by bargain-hunting investors in cash transactions while more traditional buyers remained apprehensive, a tracking firm said Tuesday.

San Diego-based DataQuick Information Systems said last month's median in the six-county region fell from $271,500 in January 2010 to $270,000, the lowest median since July 2009. Last month's median also fell 6.9 percent from $290,000 in December.

DataQuick President John Walsh said record-low new-home sales, tougher credit requirements and a persistent reluctance among would-be buyers kept prices from appreciating over the previous year.

"Sales were lousy, but many investors and others looking for bargains stayed active," Walsh said. "They kept working the distress-heavy, lower-cost markets through the holidays, which translated into a relatively high level of investor and cash deals closing last month."

All-cash buyers accounted for 29.5 percent of sales in January, compared with an average for that month of 16 percent, DataQuick said. The 10-year monthly average for Southern California homes bought with cash is about 13 percent.

Riverside County-based property investor Derek Walkington said he has spent the past couple months loading up on bank-owned homes, most of which he plans to fix up and sell during what he anticipates will be an active spring buying season.

He said the current environment has been good for investors like him, with the normally sluggish winter season made even more so by the down economy.

"There's a lot of fear, so a lot of people were sitting on the sidelines," he said. "To go back to the old Warren Buffett line, 'You should be fearful when there are too many investors out there buying, but you should be buying when everybody else is fearful.'" (Buffett's actual quote is, "Be fearful when others are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful.")

Absentee buyers, which include investors

SEE HOMES PAGE 11

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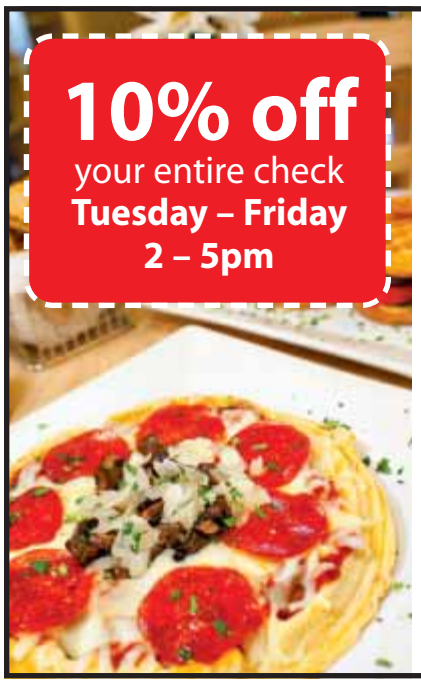

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011

Creating safer streets
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
The Santa Monica Parks and Recreation Commission will host a community meeting on bike and pedestrian safety. Also on the agenda are updates on the progress of Santa Monica bikeways and bicycle signage. The public is encouraged to attend. Parking under the building is free after 6 p.m. and 2-hour free parking is available in the Santa Monica Place south lot. Biking, busing or walking is encouraged.

Author talks
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Author Candace Ryan reads from her funny picture book, "Animal House." Kids will be able to create art based on the book. For grades K-4.

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011

Film focus
Lincoln Middle School
1501 California Ave., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Check out the eye-opening documentary "Race to Nowhere," which focuses on the needs of America's youth and how to best prepare them for the future. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at www.rtnlincolnmiddleca.eventbrite.com. This event is open to the public. If the screening does not sell out on-line then tickets will be sold at the door for $15. There will be dessert and a short time for discussion after the screening.

In the eye of the beholder
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 7 p.m.
Like training for a marathon, cultivating your eye to understand contemporary art takes guidance and practice. SMMoA's "Trust Your Instincts" seminars will help you hone your collecting skills and stay apprised of evolving trends in the art world. This seminar is the second in an annual series of three. Access to this series is an exclusive benefit of members at the SMMoA fellows ($500) level or higher. To RSVP or upgrade your membership, please contact kim.newstadt@smmoa.org or call (310) 586-6488 x 116.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

Pressure is nothing new for Samohi

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI When Santa Monica High School's boys' basketball team hits the court tonight for a first-round playoff matchup with Upland it won't be the first time the Vikings have been in a pressure situation.

After starting the Ocean League season 0-4 with little hope of making the playoffs, the Vikings turned things around to the tune of six-straight wins to end the regular season. In the space of two weeks, Samohi went from last place to finishing the season second in league. With every contest being treated like a playoff game, the Vikings hit their stride, Head Coach James Hecht said.

St. Monica boys open at home

St. Monica's boys' basketball team will host Newport Beach Sage Hill in the first round of the CIF-SS Division 5AA playoffs tonight on campus. The game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

"We could have easily folded mentally," Hecht said. "But, to their credit, they have stayed focus. I couldn't be more proud."

Hecht said that it was his trio of seniors that resuscitated what appeared to be a lost season, propelling the Vikings into the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 1AA playoffs.

He credited the group, led by Holden Foshag, for galvanizing the team at a time when the Viking's prospects for returning to the playoffs were dim.

"They have really taken ownership of the team," Hecht said of his seniors, including Logan Foster and Jeremiah Shevlin. "We talked about playing with a sense of urgency. If there is any time for a sense of urgency, it was then."

Making this late-season resurgence even more amazing was the fact that the top 11 guys from last year's team that made it to the finals of the Division 1A playoffs all graduated. Left with a young team with little senior leadership, the Vikings struggled to find their rhythm.

"For all these guys, this is their first expe-

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 10



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

GET IT! **Samohi's Trevis Jackson (left) battles Hawthorne's Marcus Malone for a loose ball on Friday at home. Samohi won the game to complete a late-season six-game winning streak.**

Computer crushes the competition on 'Jeopardy!'

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK The computer brained its human competition in Game 1 of the Man vs. Machine competition on "Jeopardy!"

On the 30-question game board, veteran "Jeopardy!" champs Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter managed only five correct responses between them during the Double Jeopardy round that aired Tuesday. They ended the first game of the two-game face-off with paltry earnings of $4,800 and $10,400 respectively.

Watson, their IBM supercomputer nemesis, emerged from the Final Jeopardy round with $35,734.

Tuesday's competition began with Jennings (who has the longest "Jeopardy!" winning streak at 74 games) making the first choice. But Watson jumped in with the correct response: What is leprosy?

He followed that with bang-on responses Franz Liszt, dengue fever, violin, Rachmaninoff and albinism, then landed on a Daily Double in the "Cambridge" category.

"I'll wager $6,435," Watson (named for IBM founder Thomas J. Watson) said in his pleasant electronic voice.

"I won't ask," said host Alex Trebek, wondering with everybody else where that figure came from.

But Watson knew what he was doing. Sir Christopher Wren was the correct response, and Watson's total vaulted to $21,035 as the humans stood by helplessly.

Watson blew his next response. But so did both his opponents. He guessed Picasso. Jennings guessed Cubism. Rutter guessed Impressionism. (Correct question: What is modern art?)

Back to Watson, who soon hit the game's second Daily Double. But even when he was only 32 percent sure (you could see his precise level of certainty displayed on the screen), Watson correctly guessed Baghdad as the city from whose national museum the ancient Lion of Nimrud ivory relief went missing (along with "a lot of other stuff") in 2003. Watson added $1,246 to his stash.

He even correctly identified the Church Lady character from "Saturday Night Live."

One answer stumped everyone: "A Titian portrait of this Spanish king was stolen at gunpoint from an Argentine museum in 1987." (Correct response: Philip.) Jennings

SEE **COMPUTER** PAGE 11

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        of talk or read the paper
        & chew on the croissant
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bangs on the ceiling
& the world is normal
what is normal
        it includes the variation
        of the crooked line
        every superb music runs
        contrary to expectations
by pulling the rug out
from under the fixed table
outside these windows
green trees stand knee deep
        in the asphalt parking lot
        they are waiting
        for a form of pleasure
        that eludes me
redemption is selling
at high rates these days
most nutritionists nominate
vitamin C as captain
        of the ship of flesh
        funerals are slowly mutating
        into wedding ceremonies
        ritual celebrations
the word finally got out
dead is in
& laughter is remedial
therapy for the yet living
        thus parody is also
        the latest shape of religion
        it makes mincemeat
        of Darwin & Marx & Jesus

RL Greenfield
Santa Monica

Procrastination is a problem when it comes to doing my disaster plan. As a business owner I have a lot to do. It's not like a disaster is going to happen tomorrow. Besides, we have that new business pitch. I've been waiting for this to happen for a while now. I'll get the disaster plan finished eventually. Nothing to worry about, it'll happen.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Look out, tweens

I DON'T WANT TO BRAG, BUT I EASILY beat an 11-year-old at Trivial Pursuit for Kids last week. Technically the margin of victory was only a single piece of pie, but he never had a chance, really. With questions like "Why should you be kind to your web-footed friends?", that duck, his mother and I could collectively taste my impending win only moments after the very first roll of the dice.

I mastered the art of multiple choice like Trivial Pursuit for Kids back when I took Seventeen magazine quizzes instead of gym class in middle school. Besides, when any question requires digging into my extensive well of utterly useless and infantile pop-culture knowledge ("Which of the Seven Dwarfs has the longest beard?" and "What four words follow "Oops" in a Britney Spears song?", for example), I'm a shoo-in for success.

Lately it has become quite clear that I peaked mentally and physically somewhere in the range of 12 to 25 years ago. Since it's evident that I'm not going to get much better at anything, I figure it's best for my ego if I can dominate at that which will make me feel best about myself. Look out, tweens: I'm coming for you.

When I was in New York visiting my family last month, I cuddled up in bed with my mom each night after dinner. When she'd read The New York Times, I'd ask for the Arts section so I could do the crossword puzzle. You know, on Monday and Tuesday.

I polished them off — in ink — in 30 minutes or so and then tossed the paper on or next to her lap when I was through to ensure she saw how I annihilated the easiest puzzles of the week. Especially because I'm pretty sure she doesn't know they're easier earlier in the week. And of course, what she doesn't know will make her that much more proud of me. For the puzzles later in the week, I'd casually leave them 75 percent unfinished and face down under a few other discarded newspaper sections in the pile outside of her room. Parents and children don't need to share everything.

In late December my husband and I took our 2-year-old skiing for the first time on Panda Peak at Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen. I don't want to say I'm a great skier, but I was a standout on the bunny hill, and I could sense that when Rick and I inched down the hill while holding her upright by the wrists in all of her dead weight glory, she was impressed with my ability to carve out some masterful turns on the 15-degree slope. And the way I flawlessly unloaded from the child-size chairlift while simultaneously holding her aloft? The admiration and gratitude in her eyes were overflowing.

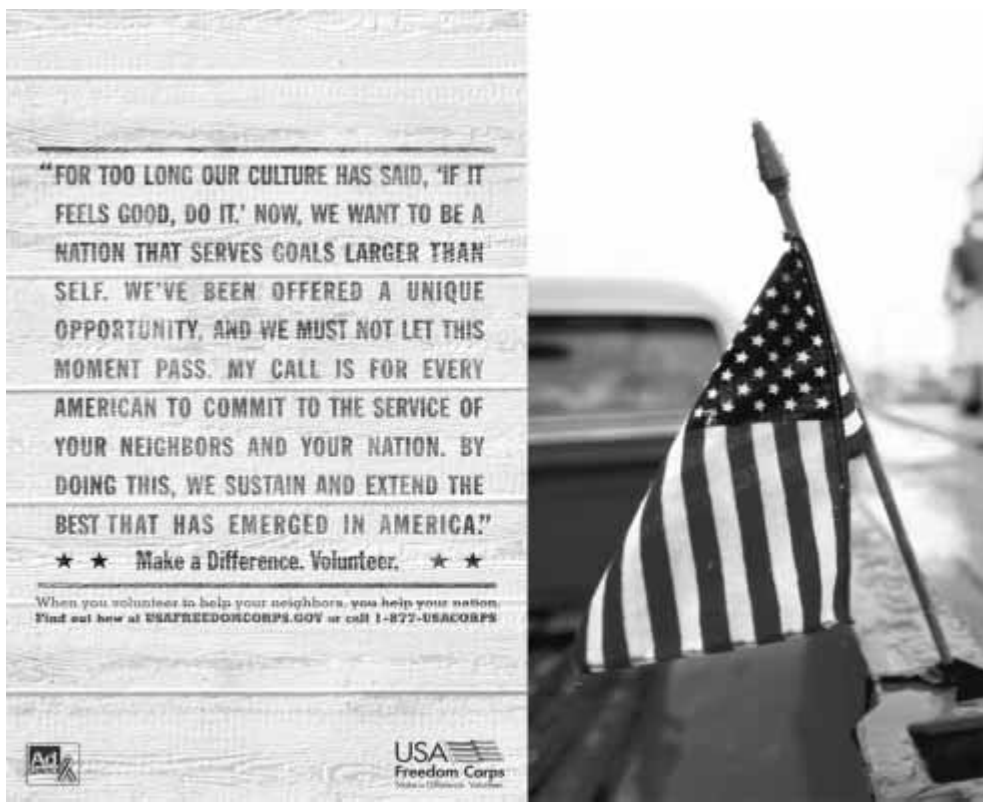
It's not nearly the first time she's been impressed with me. As far as my daughter is concerned, no one could possibly create a more meaningful and deep portrait of a butterfly fluttering over a rainbow than yours truly. We occasionally paint side by side at the kitchen table and I'll watch as she peeks over at my paper with what seems to be a feeling of awe and wonder.

When Rick comes home from work and she shows him my paintings proudly as if it they were her own, I smile and chuckle in a motherly sort of way, but quickly make sure to give him a wink so that that he understands the true identity of the artist. After all, credit where credit is due, right? Take no prisoners, even (and especially) when arting and crafting with a toddler. I mean, what's next? Is she going to try and pass off my smiley face doodles on the grocery list as her own? I don't think so.

When I was a volunteer in a big buddy-type program, I never once threw a game of Connect Four; after all, it took years for me to hone a strategy in a game that leaves so many others cross-eyed over the black and red circle tiles. I don't let my nephew cheat at checkers. I happily out swing my nieces on the playground if it means they'll understand afterwards who's boss. And one time, during a mile race when I almost got beat by a 4-year-old, I smirked as I left him in the dust just feet before the finish line. I figure I did him a favor; after all, you can never prepare enough for the competitive rigor of kindergarten.

I just can't wait until my daughter's old enough to battle it out in Candy Land. One round with me and she'll never look at a gumdrop the same way again.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.



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Lawsuit challenges ban on paying bone marrow donors

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

PASADENA A group that wants to pay people to become bone marrow donors asked a federal appeals court Tuesday to overturn a law that makes it a crime to offer such compensation.

Lawyers for MoreMarrowDonors.org, along with leukemia survivors, a mother of anemic children and medical experts, are suing the government. They contend that Congress made a mistake when it included bone marrow in the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act, which prohibits the sale of kidneys and other body organs.

Bone marrow cells are stem cells that can turn into blood cells and can be used to treat blood diseases. Unlike kidneys, the body constantly grows bone marrow cells, and donors can replenish their supply in a few weeks, argued Jeff Rowes of the nonprofit Institute for Justice.

He argued that the law violates the constitutional right of equal protection to the plaintiffs because it arbitrarily allows compensation for other renewable or plentiful cells such as blood, eggs and sperm.

A three-member panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals took the case under submission but did not indicate when it would rule.

MoreMarrowDonors.org wants to offer donors $3,000 in the form of a scholarship, housing allowance or gift to charity.

There are millions of bone marrow types, and matching donors to patients is difficult. As many as 3,000 people in the U.S. die each year because they are unable to find a genetic match even among close relatives, and compensating donors might result in many more opportunities to save lives, Rowes said outside court.

A plaintiff in the lawsuit, Kumud Majumder, said his 11-year-old son, Arya, died of leukemia last April.

The family had resorted to an imperfect bone marrow donor match in desperation because no perfect match was available, the father said at a news conference outside the circuit court's Pasadena chambers.

"Every day, he and his friends would ask, 'Do you have a match?'" Majumder said, fighting tears and holding up a photograph of his son on a Bahamas vacation shortly before his death.

His marriage broke down under the strain, said the 54-year-old resident of Upper Saddle River, N.J.

"From American dream, I am in a living nightmare," Majumder said. "If we had a perfect match, maybe I'd still have my son living and standing next to me."

His insurance company paid more than $1 million for his son's treatment, "and what do we have? I have a dead son," Majumder said.

Akiim Deshay, 39, a plaintiff from Irving, Texas, said a bone marrow match from his sister saved his life after he contracted leukemia.

"In 2011 so many people do not have access to a treatment that's been around for 30 years. ... I just can't understand it," he said.

In court, the appellate judges noted that the 1984 law never specifically defines the term bone marrow. They asked whether a constitutional issue could be avoided by narrowly defining the definition to be the spongy material inside bones and not the bone marrow cells that it produces and sends into the bloodstream.

"How do we know what Congress meant by bone marrow?" Judge Susan Graber asked.

She asked if MoreMarrowDonors.org could legally compensate donors it if renamed itself "baby red blood cells."

Judge Andrew Kleinfeld noted that bone marrow cells can be separated from drawn blood — a procedure known as apheresis — instead of taken directly from the bone marrow.

"It's like giving blood, and instead of getting a felony conviction for that, you get a gold star," he noted.

"If you can sell your blood ... why can't you sell whatever's in the blood in your veins, even if it comes from bone marrow?" he asked government attorney Helen Gilbert.

That would go against Congress' intent in passing the law, which was to prevent a marketplace for organs, encourage volunteer donations and keep people with rare bone marrow types from "extorting" money from the sick, Gilbert told the court.

"This ban was ... one part of a very large regulatory scheme," Gilbert argued.

Outside court, Rowes said that it would be impossible for patients to bid for bone marrow donations because they are matched anonymously. Also, the extremely small odds of finding a match makes it impractical for a donor to hold off and try to charge higher prices, he argued.

"It's not a situation in which a billionaire could somehow outbid other people for bone marrow. It is just impossible," he said.

The Q Line

Paying to play

The City Council recently approved fee increases for a number of recreation programs.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks: Will the new fee rates dissuade you from participating in recreation programs?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**



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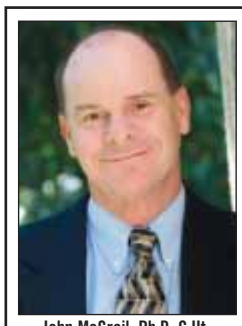
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Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 16	F/S/J/V	CIF Playoffs	St. Monica	7pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 17	F/S/J/V	CIF Playoffs	St. Monica	7pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 17	F/S/J/V	CIF Playoffs	home	TBA
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 16	F/S/JV/V	CIF Playoffs	away	TBA
BOYS BASEBALL				
Feb 19	J/V	Alumni		3pm/TBA
COED CROSS COUNTRY				
Feb 19	All	State Cross CoSamohi All Comers	Samohi Track	8am

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Lawyer with Jackson ties wants to represent doctor

A lawyer who worked for attorney Mark Geragos during his representation of Michael Jackson wants to join the defense team representing Jackson's doctor on an involuntary manslaughter charge.

The move Tuesday by attorney Nareg Gourjian raised an issue of possible conflict of interest.

Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor said he wants to hear from Geragos and an attorney for the Jackson estate on whether Gourjian's involvement in the case of Dr. Conrad Murray would be a breach of loyalty to Jackson under California's Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys.

The judge set a hearing for Feb. 24 on the issue.

Geragos represented Jackson in a child molestation case but stepped out before the trial in which Jackson was acquitted.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Condo sale caps complex's final stage

The builder of downtown Los Angeles' LA Live development says the entire hotel and entertainment complex is now officially open for business, with the first buyer closing escrow on a unit in the center's luxury condo tower.

Entertainment company AEG says the completion of the unit's sale Tuesday in the Ritz-Carlton Residences completes the 5-year process that began with the development's groundbreaking.

LA Live, which also includes concert venues, hotels, restaurants and a Grammy Awards museum, has been credited with helping revive the city's long-neglected downtown.

The company says some 60 percent of the Ritz-Carlton's 224 condos are in escrow. Prices range from $850,000 for one-bedroom unit to $9.3 million for a penthouse suite.

AEG's attentions have now turned to plans for an NFL stadium it wants to build nearby.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Casino mogul Kirk Kerkorian donates $100M to UCLA

Billionaire investor and casino mogul Kirk Kerkorian donates $100 million to the University of California, Los Angeles, money that will be used for medical research, scholarship and other projects.

UCLA will also be able to administer another $100 million for other charitable causes nationwide.

The gift by Kerkorian, the largest stockholder in MGM Resorts International, comes weeks after animal feed mogul and UCLA alumnus Meyer Luskin donated $100 million to the university.

Kerkorian's gift, announced Monday, calls for transfer of $200 million in Kerkorian Lincy Foundation assets to a new organization called the Dream Fund, which will be based at UCLA. The Los Angeles Times says UCLA will be able to use half the total for its own research and student support without any specific requirements.

AP

LOS ANGELES

22 years for man in Ponzi, mortgage schemes

A Southern California man who preyed on investors and distressed Spanish-speaking homeowners in a pair of fraud schemes has been sentenced to 22 years in federal prison.

Los Angeles prosecutors say 47-year-old Juan Rangel of Downey ran a Ponzi scheme through his Commerce-based Financial Plus Investments that took in at least $30 million from more than 500 investors. He also operated a mortgage scheme that stole money and property from homeowners in trouble with home loans.

Rangel, whose lavish lifestyle included a $3 million estate and a Lamborghini, pleaded guilty on Oct. 27 to one count of mail fraud and one count of money laundering.

The plea deal called for a 15-year sentence, but the judge decided Monday that 22 years was needed because of the devastating impact on victims.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Reburial brings Raymond Chandler, wife together

Author Raymond Chandler's wish to spend eternity alongside his beloved wife was fulfilled Monday after her remains were buried over his casket in a Valentine's Day ceremony in San Diego.

More than 100 literary fans watched Cissy Chandler's ashes arrive at San Diego's Mount Hope Cemetery in a caravan of 1920's-era cars as a Dixieland band played "When the Saints Go Marching In." The reverend from the Episcopal church in La Jolla that conducted the author's funeral in 1959 presided over the ceremony, where a new grave marker commemorating their reunification was unveiled.

"It was wonderful, everyone was thrilled," Chandler historian Loren Latker, who worked for years to reunite the couple, said after the ceremony.

For more than five decades, the dead couple was kept a block apart — Chandler in the cemetery and his wife in a metal locker in the basement of a mausoleum. That was because Chandler died with his affairs in disarray, leaving no instruction for what to do with his wife's ashes, which were placed in the mausoleum after she died in 1954.

The two might have remained apart forever had not Latker found references to Chandler wishing to be buried alongside his wife. With the help of Aissa Wayne, an attorney and daughter of film star John Wayne, he was able to persuade a Los Angeles judge in September to bring the two together by approving reburial.

"To honor their last wishes and be able to go and pay respect to these people, that's why we did what we did," Latker said.

Guests at the ceremony included actor Powers Boothe, who starred in the 1980's HBO series "Philip Marlowe, Private Eye" based on Chandler's detective novels. Besides listing their names, birth and death dates, the new grave marker mentions the couple's nicknames and a famous line from Chandler's novel, "The Big Sleep."

It said: "Dead men are heavier than broken hearts."

AP

AP poll delves into opinions on cat declawing, dog debarking

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Cats scratch and dogs bark. Is declawing or debarking the answer?

Nearly 60 percent of American pet owners, including 55 percent of cat owners, say it is OK to have a cat declawed, but only 8 percent approve of having a dog's vocal cords removed, according to an Associated Press-Petside.com poll.

Experts say both surgeries are painful and alter the way the animals walk or talk.

Declawing a cat "is amputation. If you look at your fingers, declawing would be like amputating the last section of each finger. If you were declawed, you would have 10 little short fingers. It's amputation times 10," said veterinarian Louise Murray, vice president of the Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital in New York City. The hospital is part of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Most vets won't do all four feet, because that is considered extremely inhumane and unsafe for the cat, she said.

Mary Sullivan, 84, of Chicago, said she had a cat declawed once because he kept slipping on slick floors in her apartment. "Shortly afterward he died. He was in agony the whole time. It broke my heart that I had it done. I'd never do that again," she said.

When she got Roger from Tails of Hope about seven years ago, a condition of the adoption was no declawing.

She said they showed her how to cover her furniture if there were a problem, but Roger, who's 14 now, doesn't care about furniture.

"It's not cruel to declaw your cats," said Jennifer Soloway, 60, a retired judge in Sacramento. Her cats, including Willie, who just died at 14, and Nemo, who is 15, were both declawed when they were young.

"They do not know they've been declawed. They made the same kneading movements. The recovery process was very short. They never showed any sign of pain," she said.

Declawing was necessary, she said. "My little daughter had scratches all over her. Everyone in the family had scratches. They destroyed our wallpaper. It was the only solution we could come up with," Soloway said.

Murray said it's hard to assess pain in cats. After surgery, they are "walking around on stumps with stitches" and if they dig around in their litter, they can be in a lot of pain.

The ASPCA opposes declawing, debarking, defanging, ear cropping and tail docking — any elective surgery done to conform to breed standard or eliminate undesirable behavior — except in extreme circumstances. For example, the health of a cat owner may be at risk if the owner has an immune system disorder or illness that leaves them susceptible to serious infection if scratched.

Ninety percent of pet owners oppose removing a dog's vocal cords. Forty-seven percent would favor a law making the procedure illegal, while 44 percent would oppose a law.

Last July, Massachusetts became the first state to ban elective devocalization surgeries for cats or dogs. Violations are punishable under the state's animal cruelty laws. Virginia lawmakers are considering a similar measure.

Of dog owners who took part in the poll, only 1 percent reported having the procedure done on their pet. There was no difference between dog owners and others who were asked if it was OK — 89 percent who own dogs said no.

Veteran dog trainer and behaviorist Jonathan Klein of Culver City, Calif., would support a state ban on debarking because even though 90 percent sounds like a lot, it still means that for every 900,000 dog owners who oppose it, there are 100,000 who would not, he said.

"Devocalization needs to stop, but we have to approach it through education," said Klein, who has trained nearly 7,500 dogs over the past 23 years.

Debarking is a quick fix, but a good trainer can achieve the same result by working with a dog to find the cause instead of just looking at symptoms, he said.

"Dogs bark for so many reasons that are beneficial to us," Klein said. Without the ability to bark, dogs can no longer communicate with humans or other animals.

Many vets refuse to do debarking surgery. "Good for them," Klein said.

Sharon Klawender, 70, of Kingston, Mich., does not object to declawing or debarking.

Her two female cats, Treebark, going on 18, and Kisha, 4, are both declawed in the front because "we have a lot of wood in our house, so when we moved we didn't want them clawing up the woodwork."

Neither cat has had a problem, Klawender said. Her older cat still goes outside and "she can still catch birds, so it hasn't stopped her as far as protection or prowling. She can still hunt."

As for her decision to have the cats declawed, "I'm happy with it. It didn't affect the cats at all."

Her dog, Grace, an English Lab mix, is 2 and barks very little. She has not had Grace's vocal cords removed, but "our neighbor has 40 dogs and quite a few of them are devocalized because of barking and howling," she said.

Klawender would oppose laws against debarking or declawing because she believes those decisions should be left up to the owners.

Soloway echoed that sentiment: "There's got to be a limit on how much government interferes."

Thirty-two percent of the cat owners polled have had their pets declawed. Just over a third — 36 percent — of all pet owners said declawing was "not OK," but only 18 percent say they would favor a law making the procedure illegal. Sixty percent would oppose a law.

Cat owners are more apt than others to favor a law banning the declawing of cats — 24 percent favor such a law, 16 percent strongly.

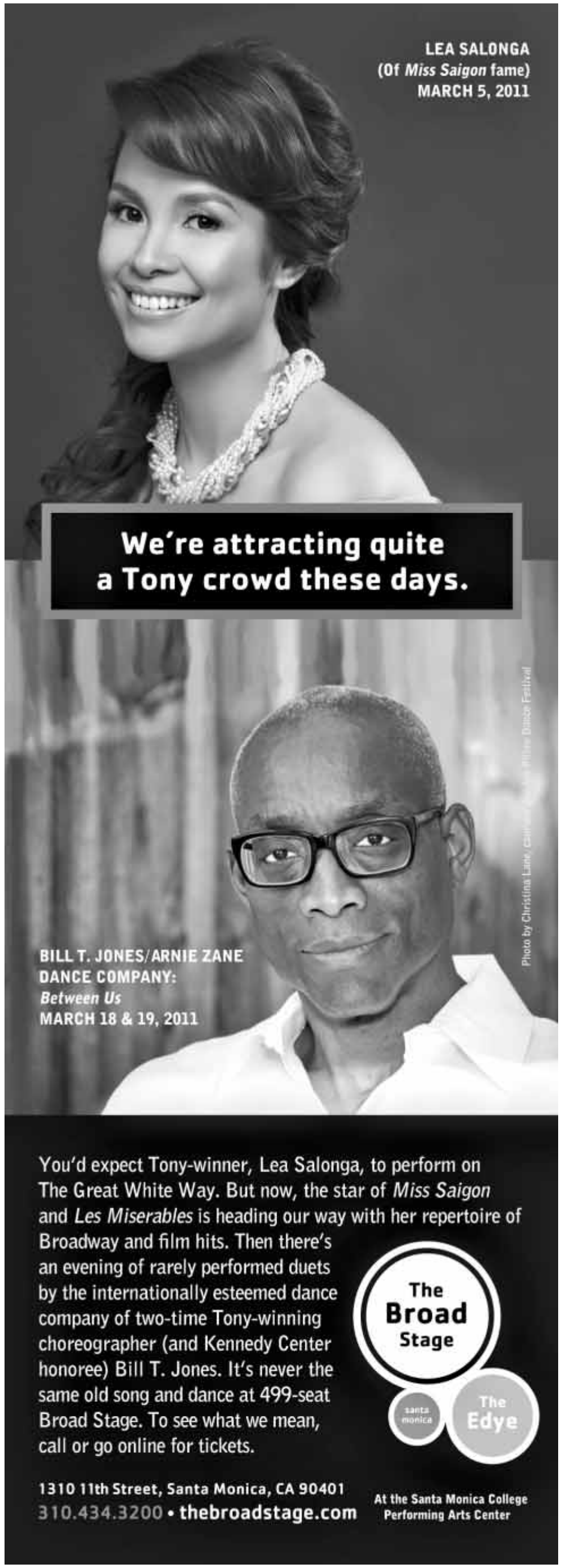
Sullivan isn't one of them. She would oppose laws to ban declawing and debarking because there might be times when the surgeries would be needed for medical necessity, she said.

Kim Berry, 39, of Columbus, Ohio, wouldn't have a cat because she's seen the damage they can do to furniture, cars and people.

She and her husband, Kurt, had to give up Brutus, their Staffordshire terrier, last August when one son went to college and the other joined the Marine Corps. Brutus wasn't getting any attention, so he went to live with a friend.

Now they have only three pet piranha fish.

They hope to move to a bigger house and there will be another dog, Kim Berry said, and they won't take away his bark.



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Register ONLINE at www.smchamber.com or contact Shelly at 310-393-9825 x10
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Bell official tells of compiling false info

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES An administrator for the scandal-ridden California city of Bell testified Tuesday that she compiled false information that was given to a resident who demanded to know how much elected officials were paid.

Lourdes Garcia, administrative services director, said she was following the orders of Bell's disgraced former city manager, Robert Rizzo, and didn't feel good about what she was doing.

The salary figures she provided were only a fraction of what Rizzo and other top officials were actually making, Garcia said.

"I felt uncomfortable and that's why I didn't put my name on it," she said of her report.

Garcia, who has been granted immunity from prosecution, testified during the sixth day of a preliminary hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence to send the mayor, vice mayor and four other current and former members of the Bell City Council to trial on charges of taking part in a scam to loot $5.5 million from the working-class suburb of Los Angeles.

Rizzo, who had an annual salary and benefits package of $1.5 million, is accused of illegally funneling millions of dollars of taxpayer money to himself, council members and others.

He faces a separate preliminary hearing.

Each of the current and former officials who are subjects of the current hearing were paid about $100,000 a year for service on a City Council that meets about once a month. Garcia testified that as far as she knew, all six were honest, hardworking people. She said she didn't believe they knew that Rizzo had her compile inaccurate salary figures for the public or that he paid himself and others through salary contracts that he never had the authority to issue.

In the case of the City Council members, prosecutors say the bulk of those salaries were for sitting on bogus boards and commissions that did no work.

Garcia testified Tuesday that Bell resident Roger Ramirez asked for the figures after hearing rumors of huge salaries paid to city officials.

She said she didn't know the figures were for a legally mandated public records request filed by Ramirez.

Garcia's husband, who also works for the city, sat in court during her testimony until Superior Court Judge Henry Hall ordered him removed, accusing him of trying to pass messages to his wife.

"They said I was signaling but I wasn't," he said outside court. He declined to give his first name.

Garcia herself was one of Bell's highest-paid employees, earning more than $400,000 a year until the salary scandal broke last summer. She has since taken a 61 percent pay cut.

She testified that she received several raises from Rizzo over the years and never questioned them.

"I believed it was a legal contract," she said.

Like other Bell employees, she also received loans from Rizzo that were taken from public funds — one for $100,000 and another for $77,000. She said she believed those were also legal.

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NASA craft snaps pics of comet in Valentine fling

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

PASADENA Nearly six years after an 800-pound copper bullet excavated a crater on a comet, a NASA spacecraft revisiting the site has seen evidence of the destruction in images snapped during a Valentine's Day flyby, scientists said Tuesday.

Instead of a well-defined pit, the Stardust craft saw what looked like a crater rim that was filled in the middle — a sign that the plume of debris from the 2005 high-speed crash that created the crater shot up and fell back down.

"The crater was more subdued than I think some of us thought," said mission scientist Pete Schultz of Brown University. "It partially buried itself."

Stardust zoomed past Tempel 1 Monday night, passing within 110 miles of the comet's surface. Along the way, it snapped six dozen pictures.

It was NASA's second visit to Tempel 1, but the first time a spacecraft had imaged the manmade crater.

In 2005, another NASA probe, Deep Impact, fired a projectile into Tempel 1 that carved a football-sized hole, but so much dust spewed out that it blocked Deep Impact's view.

Astronomer Michael A'Hearn of the University of Maryland, who led Deep Impact, was pleased to come full circle.

"It's wonderful to go back and see the effects we had on the comet due to our impact," A'Hearn said.

Revisiting with Tempel 1 also allowed scientists to examine changes on the surface since Deep Impact.

Tempel 1 has since made a full loop around the sun. Every time comets orbit the sun, they lose material from the surface and become less bright.

Scientists found evidence of erosion in then-and-now images of the Deep Impact site, said principal investigator Joe Veverka of Cornell University.

Stardust continued beaming back images from the Valentine encounter Tuesday. Scientists planned to spend the next several weeks analyzing the data.

Stardust's trip to Tempel 1 was a bonus mission. Launched in 1999, Stardust's original target was comet Wild 2, where it collected dust samples that were later jettisoned to Earth.

The Tempel 1 flyby went off almost flawlessly. Stardust got knocked several times by dust grains, but its protective bumpers bore the brunt of the blast and it came out unharmed.

A slight problem occurred during download. Since Stardust's antenna was pointed away from Earth during the flyby, it stored all the images and data in its memory, waiting to be played back at a later time.

NASA's plan was to downlink close-up pictures to the ground first, followed by shots farther away. For reasons that engineers are still troubleshooting, the pictures came down in the order they were taken with the most distant views popping up first.

Normally, it wouldn't be a big deal. But since Stardust's camera is a spare from the Voyager program, it takes a long time for each image to be received.

The glacial download disappointed some space fans who stayed up on Valentine's night for a glimpse of the comet nucleus. After NASA announced that the closest approach images won't be ready until Tuesday, scores of people on Twitter, Facebook and other social networking sites signed off.

Cuts jeopardize meetings law

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Gov. Jerry Brown's efforts to cut state spending could jeopardize one of the cornerstones of California's open records laws — the requirement that government bodies give the public fair notice about meetings.

The state Legislature already has suspended the funding — about $63 million a year — that local governments receive for posting public notices. Now Brown is seeking to suspend it for the entire 2011-12 fiscal year, leaving the mandate in legal limbo and raising the prospect that some local government bodies will stop complying altogether.

Voters in 2004 overwhelmingly approved Proposition 59, which amended the California Constitution to give the public access to information about the people's business, requiring that meetings of public bodies and records of public officials and agencies shall be open to the public.

But because of a lawsuit against the state over unfunded mandates to local governments, the state is required to pay for the costs of following the open meetings law, which they claim runs into tens of millions of dollars a year for things such as photocopying agendas, posting them online and e-mailing members of the public.

Now, with the state facing a $26.6 billion budget deficit through June of 2011, Brown is seeking savings in most areas of state government. That includes suspending payment for dozens of state mandates — from law enforcement training on how to spot elder abuse to requiring counties to create a 15-day report of voter registration before an election.

Suspending funding for all the mandates is estimated to save the state $176.2 million annually in reimbursements, according to the state Department of Finance.

"If you don't provide funding for the mandate, then it is suspended. So this wasn't an effort to single out the Brown Act in any way, shape or form," said H.D. Palmer, a finance spokesman. "We proposed suspension of all state mandates that weren't involved with either public safety or property tax."

But that leaves an open question about whether local governments still need to follow the laws.

"I haven't heard of any cities trying to take advantage of the loophole when it comes to the Brown Act," said Dan Carrig, legislative director with the California League of Cities. "But the locals are facing budget problems as well, so that's not to say that if there's a way down the road to do something more efficiently, that some city might not look at it."

The California State Association of Counties has not given its members any official guidance but also considers the mandate suspended, spokeswoman Erin Treadwell said.

"The Legislature does not really agree with that assessment, but they've not done anything to provide assurance that the claims for reimbursement will be paid," she said.

Although the law only requires the Legislature to pay for costs that are "clearly and unequivocally" incurred from complying with the law, the expenses submitted by local governments and school boards have risen in recent years as cities and counties look to the state to pay for paper, photocopying and staff time for compiling meeting notices.

A handful of state laws govern Californians' right to government access. Two cover the public's right to attend meetings — the Ralph M. Brown Act of 1953, for local jurisdictions, and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act of 1967 for state agencies. While public officials can face misdemeanor charges for subverting the laws by deliberately voting on matters at improperly scheduled public meetings, the primary recourse for citizens who believe they have been denied access is a lawsuit.

The California Public Records Act, approved by the state Legislature in 1968, establishes the right to inspect and obtain copies of state and local government documents. If agencies deny access, citizens' only available recourse is to file a lawsuit.

State law even says that no budget-related enactment "shall, in any manner, be interpreted to suspend, eliminate, or otherwise modify the legal obligation and duty of local agencies to fully comply ... in a complete, faithful, and uninterrupted manner."

The uncertainty over the status of the Brown Act has left some open-government advocates worried that agencies will use the funding shortfall as an easy way to avoid complying with a law that technically costs them very little.

Stores face lawsuits after ZIP code ruling

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Consumers have filed lawsuits against more than a dozen national retail chains operating in California since the state Supreme Court ruled it's illegal for clerks to ask customers for their ZIP codes.

The high court unanimously ruled last week that a ZIP code is part of a customers' address, and a state consumer privacy law forbids stores from requiring addresses during credit card transactions.

The decision against Williams-Sonoma Inc. set off a flurry of litigation, with most of the lawsuits being filed in San Francisco or Los Angeles courts.

Among the retailers facing lawsuits that seek class-action status are Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp., Macy's Inc. and Cost Plus Inc. The lawsuits say the companies requested ZIP code information from their customers during the past year.

Attorney Mike Burns, who represents Michaels Stores Inc. in a ZIP code case, said it's difficult to assess how much each lawsuit could cost each company. State law calls for maximum fines of $250 for the first violation and $1,000 for each additional one, exposing each company to millions of dollars of liability.

But state Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno made clear in the ruling he wrote for the court last week that judges are free to award token fines for any violations.

Burns said he expects the retailers to defend themselves by arguing that clerks' requests are voluntary and consumers are free to refuse to divulge that and other personal information while paying by credit card. Burns said that legal argument hasn't been taken up by the appellate courts, so it's unclear whether that will absolve the retailers of liability.

The state's consumer privacy law, adopted in 1997, exempts some businesses such as gas stations that require ZIP codes for security purposes. Unlike the retailers, the gas stations don't collect the information and store it in databases that allow the consumer to be identified and targeted for marketing through personal information gathered at the cash register.









COUNCIL
FROM PAGE 1

by eliminating the liaison position altogether, the potential for litigation could be eliminated before it began.

At the meeting Sunday, staff presented the council members with two options: either modify the practice to maintain the first-point-of-contact with specific council members, or end it outright.

Several council members reacted to the news with sentiments akin to relief, while others expressed concern that the council could lose contact with the active commissions.

The sheer quantity of commissions makes it difficult for council members to commit to attending each meeting, said Councilmember Robert Holbrook.

"It's awfully hard to be the official liaison for three to five councils," Holbrook said Tuesday. "The problem for some of us is that we have other things in our lives. It just became hard."

Mayor Robert Bloom noted that the liaison positions can cause more harm than good.

"It's apparent to me that liaisons, for various reasons usually related to time, weren't attending meetings," he said. "There was an expectation on the part of the boards and commissions, and disappointment when the liaison didn't attend the meeting."

Councilwoman Gleam Davis pointed out that she as a council person appreciated her opportunities to be the formal liaison to commissions as a resource rather than an active participant, and that the position allowed boards and commissions to connect directly with a council person that was familiar with their issues.

"The important thing is that they know that this is their entree to the City Council," Davis said.

Councilman Bobby Shriver objected, noting that no citizen had ever seemed shy about expressing their opinions to him.

"I do find that people are pretty aggressive. They tend to get a hold of you. I think that's a tradition in the community that's good," Shriver said.

The City Council voted to end the current system in a 5 to 2 vote, with Davis and Councilmember Kevin McKeown against.

McKeown, who attends a large number of extra commission meetings, felt that the current system created a strong connection between the council and its subordinate commissions and boards.

"I regret changing something that I do not think is broken," McKeown said.

ashley@smdp.com

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 3

rience in the CIF playoffs," Hecht said. "But, we just need to keep doing what we've been doing. Our guys have done a nice job of keeping that in mind."

The Vikings will certainly be quizzed by the No. 11 seeded team from Upland. Hecht said that Upland likes to play on the perimeter, something the relatively under-sized Vikings should matchup well with. The one concern Hecht has is matching Upland's energy on their home court.

He said that the emphasis will be on protecting the ball while handling Upland's pressure defense.

"They are going to be a good test for us," Hecht said. "We feel confident."

daniela@smdp.com



HOMES
FROM PAGE 1

as well as purchasers of second homes, bought 24.8 percent of the homes sold in January, a record for the month since 1988, when DataQuick's statistics began.

But investor activity didn't do much to prop up sales, which fell 5.9 percent from 15,361 in January 2010 to 19,528 last month, their lowest level for a January since 2008.

Sales dropped 26 percent from 19,528 in December, consistent with the December-to-January sales drop seen most years. The decline between those months has averaged 28.3 percent since DataQuick's statistics began.

Foreclosures accounted for 37 percent of resales last month, down from 42.1 percent a year ago but up from 35.1 percent in December.

G.U. Krueger, principal economist at research and consulting firm HousingEcon.com Inc., said January's weak performance shows that the market has yet to recover from the slump that followed the end of the federal tax incentives that expired last summer.

"The housing market continues to be in the post-tax-incentive doldrums," he said. "It's basically waiting for the economic fundamentals to improve and work themselves through into the housing market, and that will take time."

COMPUTER
FROM PAGE 3

shook his head. Rutter wrenched his face. Watson, as usual, seemed unfazed.

Even when he bungled Final Jeopardy, Watson (with his 10 offstage racks of computer servers) remained poised.

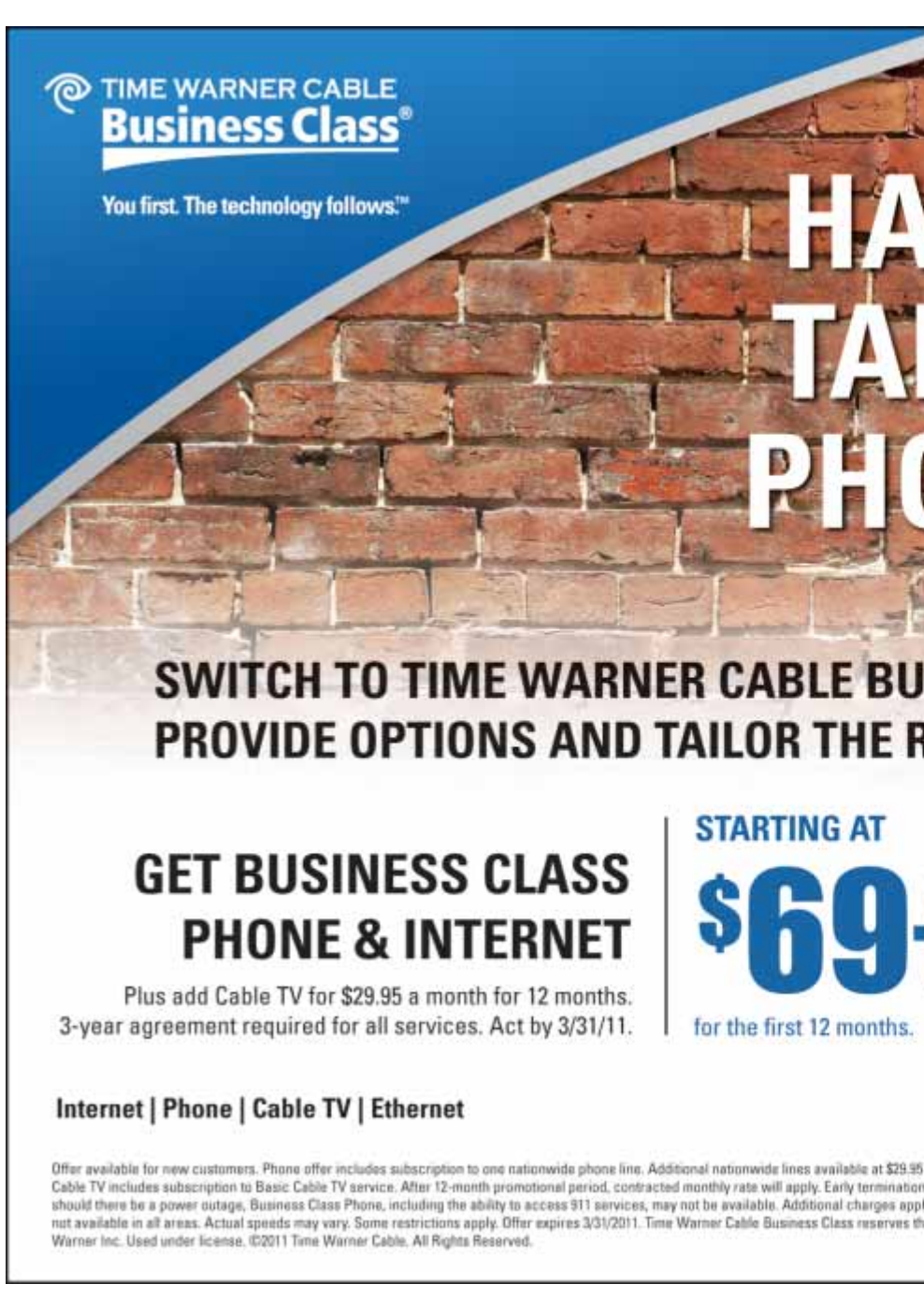
The answer: "Its largest airport is named for a World War II hero; its second largest, for a World War II battle."

Both Jennings and Rutter knew the right response was Chicago.

Watson guessed doubtfully, "What is Toronto?????" It didn't matter. He had shrewdly wagered only $947.

The trio will return on Wednesday, when their second game is aired. The overall winner will collect $1 million.

The bouts were taped at the IBM research center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., last month.





Community Workshop



BERGAMOT Transit Village

Please Join the City of Santa Monica for the intitial **Community Workshop** on guiding the evolution of the Bergamot Transit Village and Bergamot Art Center

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEB. 17th at 6:30-9PM

WHERE: PIER 59 STUDIOS, 2415 MICHIGAN AVENUE, BERGAMOT STATION

At this special meeting of the Planning Commission we will discuss

- **THE AREA PLAN:** Including the Bergamot Transit Village and Bergamot Art Center
- **CREATING AN URBAN TRANSIT VILLAGE:** Characteristics of an urban transit village, mix of uses, gathering places, pedestrian-oriented design and scale
- **NEW CONNECTIONS:** Pedestrian and bike linkages from the village to the Expo Light Rail, Bergamot Arts Center and other destinations to reduce car trips

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Esto es una noticia sobre talleres para planear el futuro de Santa Monica. Para mas información llame a Peter James al numero 310.458.8341.

Official: 100 foreign agencies tried to breach U.S. networks

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON More than 100 foreign intelligence agencies have tried to breach U.S. defense computer networks, largely to steal military plans and weapons systems designs, a top Pentagon official said Tuesday.

Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn said that while foreign governments and rogue states may try to launch more destructive attacks against military networks, most may stick to theft and spying because they are worried about a U.S. counterattack.

The greater threat, he said, are terror groups such as al-Qaida, who are more difficult to deter. Terrorists have vowed to unleash cyberattacks, and over time may be able to either develop their own malicious computer threats or buy them on the black market.

Lynn's remarks, made at a cybersecurity conference in San Francisco and released in Washington, come as the U.S. government is struggling to ramp up its abilities to block cyberintrusions and to lay out policies for launching the high-tech attacks when needed. U.S. government sites are scanned and attacked millions of times a day, and there have been a number of serious breaches in recent years, including into the electric grid and Pentagon weapons contractors.

In a meeting with reporters after his speech, Lynn declined to specify how many of the 100 foreign intelligence agencies that he says have tried attacks on the U.S. were successful in breaching government defenses, saying that would include classified information. He said the attacks involved espionage, such as seeking weapons design or diplomatic information, and didn't appear to be aimed at causing destruction of physical infrastructure.

The biggest challenge faced by the U.S. as it looks to better gird against attacks, Lynn said, is finding ways to share threat information with private industry — which owns or operates as much as 85 percent of the networks. Those include much of the nation's critical infrastructure, ranging from the electric grid, banking and other financial systems and nuclear power plants.

The idea raises privacy concerns with the prospect of U.S. military or government eyes or ears on private networks.

Lynn said the government's intelligence capabilities give it broad knowledge of cyberthreats, and the U.S. already has shared unclassified information on a limited basis with defense companies that have sensitive data on their networks. The challenge, he said, is developing the policies and legal structure so that classified information about threats can also be shared.

Lynn also unveiled two new programs that will allow the government and industry to exchange cybersecurity experts and make better use of National Guard and Reserve members who have technological expertise.

Apple unveils iPhone, iPad subscription policy

DANA WOLLMAN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Apple Inc. announced a subscription system for buying newspapers and magazines on iPhone and iPad applications on Tuesday, making it easier for publishers to mine the popular mobile devices for more revenue.

The update announced Tuesday enables publishers to sell subscriptions by the week, month, year or other period of time, instead of asking readers to buy each issue separately.

The added convenience promises to help publishers sell more digital copies as they look to smart phones and tablet computers to replace some of the revenue that has disappeared over the past few years as readers and advertisers migrated from print editions.

But publishers won't be allowed to automatically collect personal information about people who buy subscriptions through the Apple apps. That data is prized by publishers because they use it for marketing purposes.

Instead, subscribers who sign up through an app on an Apple device will be given the option to share their information with publishers, a choice most people don't make. If people don't share their information with publishers, Apple will still hold onto it, though it will not pass it on to the publishers or other third parties.

Time Inc., whose magazines include Sports Illustrated, People and Time, applauded Apple for allowing publishers to sell app subscriptions, but said it still has questions about access to customer information. Sports Illustrated, for one, already has worked out deals to sell subscriptions with access to customer data on computer tablets running on software made by Apple rivals Google Inc. and Hewlett-Packard Co.

Apple will take its standard 30 percent cut from all app and content sales made in its iTunes store, which peddles a variety of music, movies, games and e-books. This new subscription system also applies to video and music services — for instance, the app for Netflix.

Content providers that don't want to automatically give Apple a slice of the revenue can try to sell subscriptions outside the app, too. One way to do that would be through the Web browser, although that might prove too much of a hassle for people already used to buying apps, music and other things on iTunes.

Apple is insisting the financial terms of the digital subscriptions sold outside the app be no better than those offered in the iTunes store. And people must have the option to buy subscriptions within iTunes, if they want.

"We believe that this innovative subscription service will provide publishers with a brand new opportunity to expand digital access to their content onto the iPad, iPod touch and iPhone, delighting both new and existing subscribers," Apple CEO Steve Jobs said in a statement. Jobs, a cancer survivor, is on medical leave but continues to serve as chief executive.

Apple's new subscription policy follows News Corp.'s launch of the first iPad-only newspaper, The Daily, earlier this month. Its subscribers are charged through iTunes, making it the first iPad app to take advantage of this subscription feature.

More newspapers are focusing on digital devices because their biggest source of revenue, print advertising, has plunged during the past four years. Digital advertising has been steadily rising, but those increases have only made up for a fraction of the losses on the print side.

Subscriptions to print editions also have been dropping in recent years as more people turned to the Web to get news and other information for free.

Drug may slow growth of early prostate cancer

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

A new study suggests a way to help men with early, low-risk prostate cancer avoid being overtreated for a disease that in most cases will never threaten their lives. It found that a drug can slow the growth of these tumors in men who opt to be monitored instead of having treatment right away.

This is the first time that a drug for treating enlarged prostates also has been shown to help treat prostate cancer in a rigorous study. It may persuade more men to choose active surveillance, or "watchful waiting," instead of rushing to have treatments that can leave them with urinary or sexual problems, doctors say.

However, the results also show that most of these men do very well with no treatment at all.

"We're identifying men who are not likely to need even a pill," said Dr. Maha Hussain, a University of Michigan cancer specialist. But Americans fear cancer so much that they want some kind of treatment and underestimate the financial and medical risks of treating low-risk cases, she added.

She is program chair of a cancer conference in Florida where the study will be presented later this week. Results were released Tuesday in a telephone news conference sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Oncology.

Roughly half of the 218,000 men diagnosed each year in the United States with prostate cancer have low-risk disease — PSA blood levels under 10 and low tumor aggressiveness scores.

"The American view of cancer" is that it's always best to treat, so about 80 percent of these men choose to have that right away, said Dr. Otis Brawley, a prostate cancer expert who is chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

In Europe, though, most choose watchful waiting — close monitoring and treatment only if the cancer progresses or causes pain or other problems.

Doctors know that drugs that shrink the prostate — GlaxoSmithKline PLC's Avodart and Merck & Co.'s Proscar — can help prevent prostate cancer. But federal health advisers recently recommended against taking them for this purpose because of potential risks.

The new study tested Avodart "not to prevent cancer, but to prevent the progression" of it in men who already have the disease, which may be a much better use of such drugs, said the study's leader, Dr. Neil Fleshner of University Health Network and Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

"We know the vast majority of these men are not destined to die from that cancer," and wanted to see if Avodart could make "watchful waiting" safer, Fleshner said.

The study enrolled about 300 men in the United States and Canada with low-risk cancer that was confirmed by a biopsy. They were given daily Avodart or dummy pills and new biopsies 1? and three years later.

Prostate cancer got worse in 38 percent of men taking Avodart and 49 percent of those on dummy pills. Final biopsies showed no signs of cancer in 36 percent of men on Avodart versus 23 percent of those on dummy pills. Doctors say this last result shows how tiny many of these cancers were to start with, that they couldn't even be found when new biopsies were done.

Doctors don't think Avodart can cure cancers, but it seems to suppress it, said Dr. Howard Sandler, a prostate cancer specialist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He had no role in the study but is involved with the cancer conference.

Researchers gave no details on Avodart's side effects, but said no new ones appeared in the study. Avodart and Proscar are known to cause sexual problems for some men, but many men over 50 have this anyway and only about 5 percent more do when taking these drugs, said Brawley, who helped test Avodart for cancer prevention.

The new study was sponsored by Avodart's maker, GlaxoSmithKline. Avodart and Proscar cost about $4 a pill; generic versions of Proscar are available for about $2. Proscar is similar to Avodart but has not been tested for treating early cancer as this study did.

Sandler said Avodart might relieve some men's anxiety about monitoring their disease and may make them more comfortable not having immediate treatment.

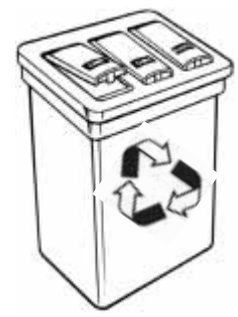

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Comes to Your Door


On February 1, 2011, the City of Santa Monica will launch the **Household Hazardous Waste Door-to-Door Collection Pilot Program**, a pick-up system where the "Haz Mat" technicians come to you. The goal is to expand levels of service for residents while reducing costs. The service will be provided on a free and unlimited basis to home owners and renters alike.

Also, beginning February 1, 2011, the **Household Hazardous Waste Center** will be available for drop-off service on **SATURDAYS ONLY**. If the pilot program is successful, the city will transition to a permanent pick-up system in June 2011.

The new service is provided in a few easy steps:
1. Reserve collection service: call **1 (800) HHW-PKUP** (1.800.449.7587), Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; or e-mail **hotline@curbsideinc.com**;
2. Receive collection kit in the mail (includes detailed instructions with collection day reminder);
3. Prepare collection kit at your doorstep or at a predetermined location on collection day;
4. Leave prepared materials and we'll do the rest.

For additional information or feedback please visit www.sustainablesm.org/hhw or call (310) 458-2213.

The door-to-door collection program is managed by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and WM Curbside, LLC
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Panel: FBI overstated science in 2001 anthrax investigation

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

HAGERSTOWN, Md. Federal investigators overstated the scientific case against the late Army researcher blamed for the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people, but the evidence is also consistent with the government's finding that Bruce Ivins was behind the mailings, a panel of scientists said Tuesday.

The National Research Council committee held a briefing in Washington on its 170-page report, which examines the novel microbial forensic techniques used by the FBI to determine that Ivins, a researcher at Maryland's Fort Detrick, acted alone in making and sending the powdered spores.

The panel that conducted the 18-month review faulted government assertions that the mailer must have had a high level of technical skill and that the parent material of the anthrax strain used in the attacks had to have come from a flask that Ivins alone maintained.

"We find the scientific evidence to be consistent with their conclusions but not as definitive as stated," said Lehigh University President Alice P. Gast, who chaired the 16-member panel.

The FBI said in a written statement that its conclusions were based on a traditional investigation as well as scientific findings. The agency said the science provided leads but that science alone rarely solves cases.

"The FBI has long maintained that while science played a significant role, it was the totality of the investigative process that determined the outcome of the anthrax case," the agency said.

Gast declined to comment on the guilt or innocence of Ivins, who died of an apparently intentional Tylenol overdose in 2008 as the U.S. Justice Department prepared to indict him for the attacks. He had denied involvement, and his lawyer and some colleagues have maintained he was an innocent man hounded to self-destruction.

Early last year, the FBI formally closed its investigation into the anthrax letters that unnerved a nation still reeling from the 9/11 attacks, saying it had concluded that Ivins planned and executed the mailings by himself.

Five people died in October and November 2001 from anthrax inhalation or exposure linked to the letters. They were a Florida photo editor, two postal workers in Washington, a hospital employee in New York City and a 94-year-old woman in Oxford, Conn. Seventeen others were sickened.

Postal facilities, U.S. Capitol buildings and private offices were shut for inspection and cleaned by workers in hazardous materials suits from Florida to New York and elsewhere.

Investigators have acknowledged that the case against Ivins, who worked at Fort Detrick in Frederick, is circumstantial. Still, Jeff Taylor, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said in 2008 that prosecutors could prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that Ivins was responsible for the attacks.

The FBI asked the congressionally chartered council to validate its use of new and emerging science in the investigation.

The panel said the science didn't support the Justice Department's statement in a 2010 report that "the anthrax mailer must have possessed significant technical skill," an assertion that narrowed who could have been responsible.

Various experts told the panel it could have taken anywhere from two days to several months to prepare the spores.

"Given uncertainty about the methods used for preparation of the spore material, the committee could reach no significant conclusions regarding the skill set of the perpetrator," the report states.

The report also challenges investigators' conclusion that the parent material of the Ames strain of anthrax spores used in the attacks came from a flask labeled RMR-1029 that was created and solely maintained by Ivins.

"The scientific link between the letter material and flask number RMR-1029 is not as conclusive as stated" by the Justice Department, the report says.

For example, the scientists found that investigators did not rigorously explore the possibility that certain genetic mutations common to the mailed anthrax and the material in Ivins' flask could have evolved separately in anthrax grown elsewhere.

Stocks fall after surprisingly weak retail sales

CHIP CUTTER & MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK A surprisingly weak retail sales report drove stocks lower on Tuesday, giving the Dow Jones industrial average its second straight day of losses.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that retail sales rose just 0.3 percent in January, the smallest increase since June and half of what economists had predicted.

Kim Caughey Forrest, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group, said higher prices for gasoline and raw materials are beginning to be passed along to consumers. That's hurting retail sales and spending, she said.

"Without wage gains," she said, "people are going to buy less."

Energy companies led the way down. Exxon Mobil Corp. lost 2.3 percent, the largest drop among the 30 large companies that make up the Dow. Exxon Mobil said it added 3.5 billion barrels of oil and gas last year to the company's massive reserves, more than twice what Exxon produced in 2010.

The Dow fell 41.55, or 0.3 percent, to close at 12,226.64. That's only the third day this month the Dow has closed lower.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 4.31, or 0.3 percent, to 1,328.01. The Nasdaq composite index fell 12.83, or 0.5 percent, to 2,804.35.

The parent company of the New York Stock Exchange agreed to combine with the operator of the Frankfurt stock exchange, Deutsche Boerse AG, creating the world's largest financial markets company.

Shares of both companies fell after the deal was announced. NYSE Euronext's shares lost 3.4 percent in New York, while Deutsche Boerse's lost 2.4 percent in Frankfurt.

One of NYSE's biggest competitors, Nasdaq OMX Group Inc., fell 4.6 percent.

Limelight Networks Inc. jumped 27 percent after the provider of streaming video services narrowed its fourth-quarter loss and issued a better-than-expected forecast for the current quarter. The company is benefiting from consumers turning to the Internet to watch TV and movies; one of its customers is online video company Netflix Inc.

Roughly three stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated trading volume was 4 billion shares.

NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA considers options for home games during renovation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES UCLA officials hope to determine within two to three weeks where the men's basketball team will play its home games next season.

Historic Pauley Pavilion will be closed on April 1 as it undergoes $136 million in renovations and won't be reopened until the 2012-13 season.

UCLA sent season ticket holders and fans who bought single game tickets a survey to determine which arenas they would prefer the Bruins to play in for the 2011-12 season.

Their options included the Los Angeles Sports Arena, Staples Center, Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif., and Citizens Bank Arena in Ontario, Calif.

"So far we're getting a lot of responses," said Mark Harlan, UCLA's senior associate athletic director-external relations. "It will serve as a guide for leadership to put together the season for next year."

Harlan said the Bruins would most likely play their 18 home games at several different venues, depending on their availability.

UCLA junior guard Lazeric Jones' face lit up at the prospect of playing in the Staples Center, home of the Lakers and Clippers.

"It's great when you can play in an NBA arena," Jones said. "Most basketball players dream to play in the NBA and to play in those arenas gives you hope, so it feels good."

One arena that has been ruled out is the former home of the Lakers, the Los Angeles Forum in Inglewood.

Madison Square Garden bought the Forum and it will be undergoing renovations.

The Sports Arena, which was once home to the UCLA and Southern Cal men's basketball teams and the Clippers, is the only one available for the entire season.

UCLA head coach Ben Howland said he didn't have a preference where the team plays.

"We know it's going to be obviously more difficult when you're traveling to a home game," Howland said. "For the long-term health of the program, the facility being redone is great and much needed. There will be some difficulties in terms of practice, but ultimately it will be great once it's done."

To encourage students to attend games, Harlan said the school would consider providing buses and maybe offer other incentives.

The women's basketball team, men's and women's volleyball teams and the gymnastics squad will most likely compete next season in the John Wooden recreation center.

MLB

Giants' Bumgarner confident as spring training begins

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. He was called up to the San Francisco Giants in the middle of the 2010 season and was a major contributor to the team's drive to the World Series championship.

Catcher Buster Posey had an amazing season.

But the description also fits pitcher Madison Bumgarner.

The left-hander was summoned from Triple-A Fresno on June 26, about a month after Posey, and went on to post a 7-6 record with a 3.00 earned-run average in 18 starts. He gave up three hits in eight shutout innings against Texas to win Game 4 of the World Series.

Now he is back in the Giants' camp. Part of him is the same as he was a year ago when he was a wide-eyed, 20-year-old, never taking anything for granted, and part of him is much more confident.

"I still have the same attitude. I'm not expecting anything to be handed to me. I'm going to have to work for everything I get," Bumgarner said before taking the field at Scottsdale Stadium on Tuesday, the team's first day of workouts for pitchers and catchers.

A year ago, Bumgarner threw amid much fanfare in camp and was thought to be a lock for the starting rotation. It didn't happen. The death of his sister took an emotional toll and physically his velocity wasn't where it needed to be.

"Last spring, everybody expected him to make the club, but we decided he wasn't quite ready," said Giants manager Bruce Bochy. "But we brought him up and he was ready.

"He did an incredible job, gave us a shot in the arm, particularly down the stretch. He wasn't even 21 (when he was called up), but he was mature way beyond his years."

Bumgarner is expected to be part of a rotation that could have Bochy using three left-handers in a row — Bumgarner, Jonathan Sanchez and Barry Zito. Bochy said Tuesday that he would have no problem with that.

Even at this early stage, Bumgarner's pitches are buzzing toward the plate with greater consistency. Part of that has come with fine-tuning his mechanics with pitching coach Dave Righetti and part of it has come through working with Posey on a regular basis.

Bumgarner also worked with Posey in Fresno, and the transition was smooth when he joined the big club.

Posey, who went on to earn the National League Rookie of the Year award, "has always been able to see what I am doing, good or bad and come and tell me if I need to make a change. We are almost always on the same page," Bumgarner said.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

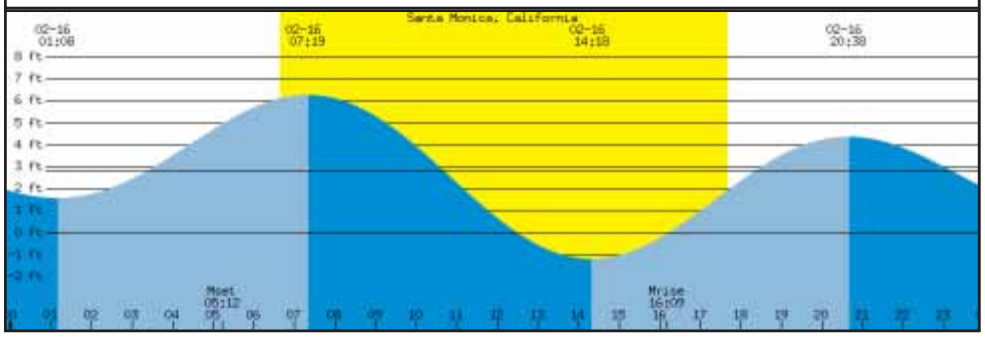
Swell Forecast

NW swell should come ashore with chest high surf at west facing breaks in the AM, bigger later in the afternoon. Conditions though look poor as weather moves through the area and winds pick up early.

Long Range Synopsis

Estimates point to surf running head high+ at most west facing breaks, with standouts seeing sets running 2-3' overhead.

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 **February 8, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 27
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 10

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

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 Cerrillos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alins creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	B	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C
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..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	D
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.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
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.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	D
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	A
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+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	B	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	B	F

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

MLB

Rodney most likely to be Angels closer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. One constant heading into spring training throughout Mike Scioscia's 11-year tenure as manager of the Los Angeles Angels has been having an established closer.

The question this year: Who is that going to be?

Scioscia stopped short of choosing Fernando Rodney as his 2011 closer Tuesday, but he also made it clear the 32-year-old right-hander is at least in the picture and the most likely to get the first crack at it.

"If he does what he did in the first half of last season — he was lights out — obviously, it's going to get a lot of things in our bullpen lined up the way we need them," Scioscia said. "I think he's a guy that's going to pitch in the back end of our game. We need him. If it's at the end being the closer, great. If he's in the eighth inning and it progresses, so be it."

Scioscia also mentioned right-handers Kevin Jepsen and Jordan Walden and left-handers Scott Downs and Hisanori Takahashi, both newcomers via free agency, as possible closer candidates.

From an experience perspective, Rodney is the favorite. Last season, he finished 30 games for the Angels, with 14 saves in 21 opportunities, initially setting up Brian Fuentes and then taking over as closer after Fuentes was dealt in late August.

With Detroit in 2008, Rodney saved 38 games in 39 attempts, but finished with a 4.40 ERA. His ERA dropped to 4.24 in 2009.

With Fuentes in Minnesota, Rodney faded when handed the closer's role. He faced 74 hitters in September and October and posted a 5.65 ERA.

Scioscia noticed a few mechanical problems.

"Certainly (there were) some delivery aspects that, maybe, had him a little more inconsistent," Scioscia said. "It's nothing that shouldn't be able to be handled this spring. Sometimes he got a little long with his kick and a little inconsistent with his tempo. He probably put more variables into his delivery than he needed to. He's also a veteran. He knows how to make adjustments out there to get back to what he needs to do."

Downs, 34, one of the game's top left-handed relievers, notched nine saves in 13 chances with Toronto in 2009. He did not pick up a save in 67 games with Toronto in 2010 but finished the season with a 2.64 ERA, the fourth consecutive season he's finished with an ERA of 3.09 or lower.

The versatile Takahashi went 10-6 with a 3.61 ERA in 53 appearances, 12 of them starts, with the New York Mets last season. He also finished 21 games with eight saves.

SANTA MONICA CIVIC CENTER PARKS
PALISADES GARDEN WALK + TOWN



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Please join the Recreation and Parks Commission for a review of the latest park designs at the next Community Workshop. James Corner and the design team will present Design Development plans and renderings which were revised based on feedback received from community members, City Commissions and the City Council. After the presentation, participate in break-out groups and contribute your comments and ideas to the process. Be sure to **Shape Your Parks** and **Make your Mark** by attending.

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1 PM TO 3 PM
WHERE: SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Bike and car parking available in the lot adjacent to the Civic Auditorium. Walk or use Big Blue Bus Lines 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9 or 10. To request a disability-related accommodation, call (310) 458-8310 at least three business days before the workshop. For questions: (310) 458-8310 or ccs@smgov.net. Updates and more info: **www.smciviccenterparks.com.**

Taxi ! Taxi !



20th Anniversary

2009 Grand Prize Sustainable Quality Award
City of SM, SM Chamber & Sustainable Works

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SM to LAX $30
SantaMonicaTaxi.com

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

Blue Valentine (NC-17) 1hr 54min
4:40pm, 10:00pm

Company Men (R) 1hr 53min
2:05pm, 7:25pm

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Rite (PG-13) 1hr 52min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

AMC Santa Monica 7
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Gnomeo & Juliet 3D (PG) 1hr 24min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:10pm, 6:30pm, 8:50pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Sanctum 3D (R) 1hr 43min
11:05am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:05pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Justin Bieber Never Say Never 3D (G) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 12:45pm, 2:05pm, 3:00pm, 4:45pm, 6:15pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 10:15pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

Dogtooth (Kynodontas) (NR) 1hr 34min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Carancho (Las heridas) (NR) 1hr 45min
1:50pm

King's Speech (R) 1 hour 58 min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Another Year (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 10:10pm

Biutiful (R) 2hrs 27min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Harmony Game: The Making of Bridge Over Troubled Water (NR) 1hr 12min
7:30pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Roommate (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:25pm

Eagle (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Mechanic (R) 1hr 40min
2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
1:20pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

From Prada to Nada (PG-13) 1hr 47min
12:00pm

Gnomeo & Juliet (PG) 1hr 24min
12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:05pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm

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

Let your mind wander, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Others cannot help but smile when interacting with you. You are energized, excited and vibrant. Good ideas pop up from out of nowhere. Others seem unusually receptive and more than willing to pitch in. Take advantage of the turn of the tide. Tonight: Only what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might feel pushed by a seemingly unchangeable situation. Understand what is going on with a family member. Being more open and vulnerable works wonders and bonds the relationship even closer. Maintain a low profile in general. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. If someone hasn't returned your call, don't stand on ceremony. In the long run, you will be a lot happier. A meeting flourishes because of your willingness to express what you feel. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Stay sensitive to a situation right now. What you see going on can only add to your financial security ultimately. Push to complete a project, even if you need to take the lead. More is going on than meets the eye. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for what you want. Don't give up on a concept. Listen to your instincts. Understanding by detaching allows greater give-and-take. You know which path is the right path. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Dealing with an issue comes naturally if you kick back. Come to an understanding, knowing when enough is enough. Listen and share, even if you feel more vulnerable than usual. Your audience needs to be limited to only those you trust. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might see a situation differently after a meeting or a discussion. You might feel like you have a lot of ground to cover. At least you know that you are heading down the path. Your supporters rally around a key idea. Tonight: Midweek-break time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You make an impression wherever you go. Others assume you know more. Consider being more open about where you feel a lack. Others would be happy to support you. Teamwork brings success to a project. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Handle a matter directly. Your ability to see the big picture helps clarify a problem. Spontaneity works. Your fiery nature opens up many more possibilities. Impulsiveness differs from spontaneity. Knowing the difference can empower you. Tonight: Let your imagination play out one more time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Explain to a trusted associate, partner or loved one your need to back out or at least to become a silent partner. Let someone else step into your shoes for a while. He or she might understand a lot more. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might want to deal with others instead of trying to handle some solitary work. Flying solo would be bucking the trend, trying to do the impossible. You cannot go off and ignore others. Instead, go with the flow, lessening tension. Tonight: So many invitations!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Allow yourself the luxury of work and only work. Quite possibly, if you are retired, you might enjoy throwing yourself into a project without interruption. Stress seems to be eliminated through this process. Curb wild spending. Tonight: Enjoy what you do. Choose accordingly.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you often swing back and forth on issues. You might even feel like a glow rock with your feelings. Know that you are a pendulum, and ultimately, everything will even out. Define your boundaries more clearly. If you are single, you will draw a lot of excitement and emotions with your choice of sweetie. If you are attached, you could be very confusing to your significant other. Share your thoughts more often, and clarity will result. LEO is passionate.



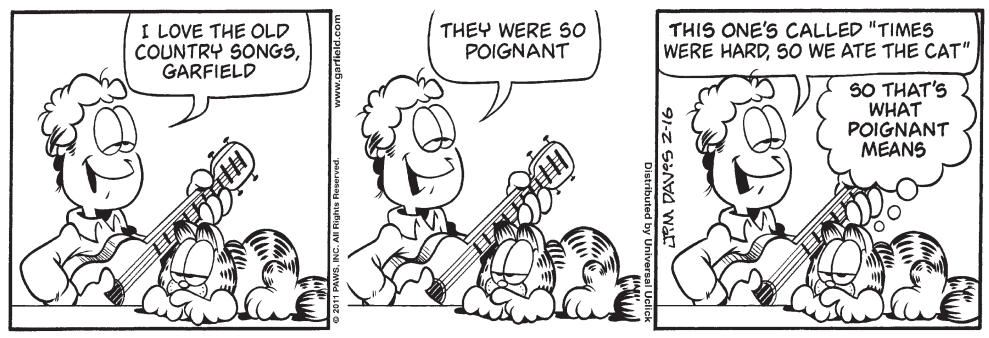
MYSTERY PHOTO

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*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

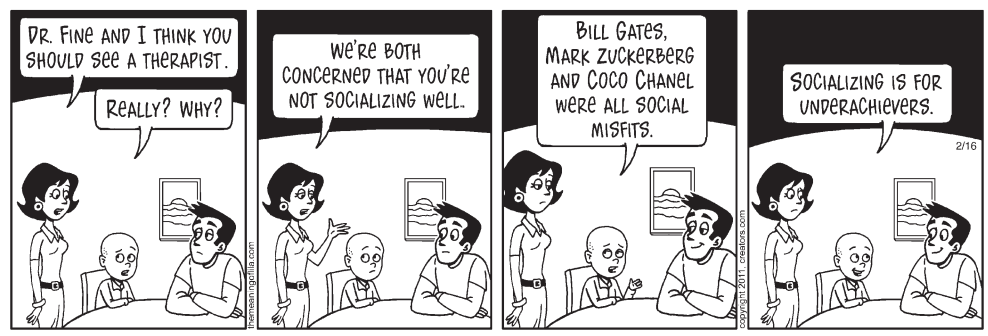
Garfield

By Jim Davis



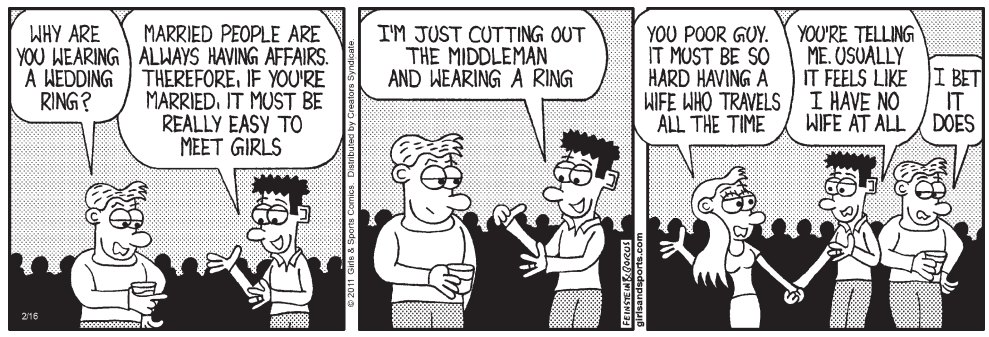
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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 ★★★

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

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

"IRA Rollover Do's and Don'ts"

"Retirees and Soon to be Retired Make These Mistakes Losing Thousands of Dollars"

A nationally known financial expert says many retirees and boomers who rollover their retirement savings accounts make these mistakes, costing themselves and their families thousands of dollars! They risk their retirement security, increasing the chance they could outlive their money. This is true whether they handle their savings themselves, or with help from a professional! Are you needlessly losing thousands of dollars? **Find out NOW, Call toll-free, 800-238-1719 for a free consultation on the do's and don'ts of IRA rollovers and generating income in your retirement. CALL NOW, before it's too late!**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Clock part
5 Like some prunes
11 List-ending abbr.
12 Take a breath
13 Endanger
14 Brother of Isis
15 Utmost
16 Bravado
17 Wipe clean
19 Gloss target
22 Crosses creeks
24 Madrid museum
26 Clickable picture
27 European capital
28 Veracity
30 Different
31 Filming site
32 Degrade
34 Police vest initials
35 Braille unit
38 Exotic market
41 Music's Ono
42 Slow passage
43 Franc replacer
44 Start of a workout motto
45 Sports figure

DOWN

1 Forest plant
2 Fighting
3 Redeemed one's chips
4 Caribou's cousin
5 Devout
6 Shoe part
7 Not that
8 Mariner
9 Quarterback Manning
10 — Moines
16 Oven fuel
18 Budget amount
19 Made verbal attacks
20 Goofing off
21 Substandard
22 Funny folks
23 Realty unit
25 Goes bad
29 Michener book
30 Cereal bit
33 British nobleman
34 Long story
36 Gumbo veggie
37 Horn sound
38 Prohibit
39 Commotion
40 Use a ray-gun on
41 "You betcha!"

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

2-16

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 8 9 17 32 34 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: $40M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 11 30 31 33 42 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 11 13 24 28 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 6 9 EVENING: 6 8 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 02 Lucky Star 2nd: 09 Winning Spirit 3rd: 07 Eureka RACE TIME: 1:48.95

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

■ In January, Thalia Surf Shop of Laguna Beach, Calif. (named by OC Weekly in 2009 as Orange County's best), ran a special Martin Luther King Jr. promotion featuring "20 Percent Off All Black Products," illustrated with a doctored photograph of Dr. King, himself, in one of the shop's finest wet suits (black, of course). (Following some quick, bad publicity, the shop's management apologized.)

■ Questionable State Regulation: (1) William MacDonald, restricted by state law wherever he and his wife relocate to because he is a "registered sex offender," told The New York Times in January that his case is particularly "galling," in that his only crime was violating Virginia law by having oral sex with consenting adults, which most legal scholars believe is not a crime (following a 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision). (Virginia still believes that its law is valid.) (2) Tennessee, the "second-fattest" state, according to a recent foundation report, continues to pay for obese Medicaid recipients to have bariatric surgery (at an average cost of about $2,000), but to deny coverage for an overweight person to consult, even once, with a dietitian.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1868 In New York City the Jolly Corks organization is renamed the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

1899 President of France Félix Faure dies in office.

1899 Knattspyrnufélag Reykjavíkur Iceland's first football club is founded.

1918 The Council of Lithuania unanimously adopts the Act of Independence, declaring Lithuania an independent state.

1923 Howard Carter unseals the burial chamber of Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

1934 The Austrian Civil War ends with the defeat of the Social Democrats and the Republican Schutzbund.

1934 Commission of Government is sworn in as form of direct rule for the Dominion of Newfoundland.

WORD UP!

uxorious
\ uk-SOR-ee-us; ug-ZOR- \ , adjective;
1. Excessively fond of or submissive to a wife.

ARITHMO™
CrossMath + × − ÷

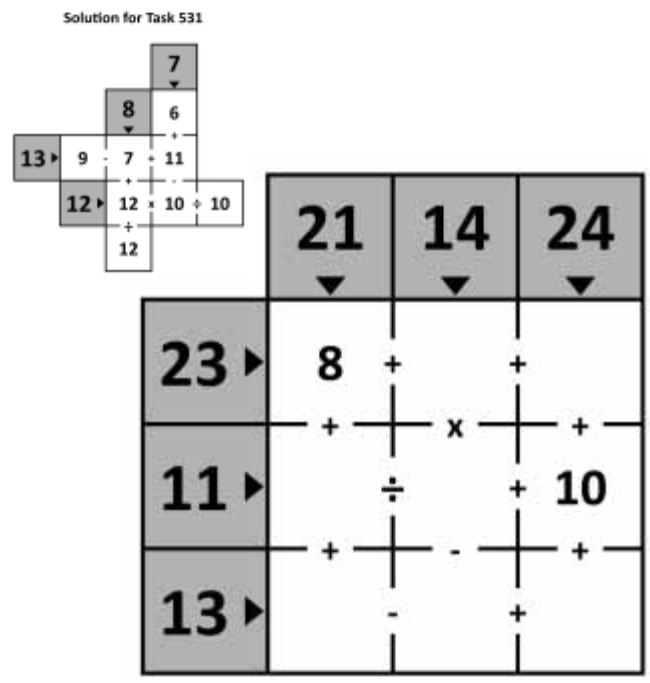
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

2, 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 11

Solution for Task 531



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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PREVIOUS RENTAL
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$10995

08 MAZDA 6
PREVIOUS RENTAL
R900484/M23595
$11995

09 CHEVY IMPALA
PREVIOUS RENTAL
R121895/265897
$13995

09 TOYOTA MATRIX
PREVIOUS RENTAL
R900483/112363
$13995

07 HONDA ACCORD SE
900481/033705
$15995

800-614-3020

Miller Toyota
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www.MillerToyota.LA

98 NISSAN ALTIMA
306102A/239457
$5995

05 TOYOTA COROLLA CE
306297A/483652
$10998

07 TOYOTA COROLLA S
306126A/800584
$12998

04 TOYOTA CAMRY SE
1000746/321434
$14498

07 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
305658DTA/551870
$15775

10 SCION XB
CERTIFIED
1000714/098368
$16989

05 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
1000718/081651
$16989

08 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
CERTIFIED
1000672/027433
$16998

866-966-4553

Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous

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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type A or B or C20 or C34 or C 36 license, on the following Bid#10.35.BB-03-112541, Gas & Furnace Replacement at Point Dume Elementary. This scope of work includes; Demolition of existing gas lines and associated furnaces as called out on the contract documents. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Purchasing Office, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, California 90404 on or before Thursday 3/24/11 at 2:00PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. All bidders must attend one Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on Tuesday, 3/1/11 at 10:00 AM or Thursday, 3/3/11 at 10:00 AM. All Bidders must be prequalified prior to submittal of bids. Please contact Sheere at BBprojectinfo@smmusd.org for prequalification requirements, contract documents and bid information.

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20110060582 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/11/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NIDO DESIGN. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ALEKSEJS FLACUKS 1745 BELOIT AVE #216 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/23/2004 . /s/: ALEKSEJS FLACUKS; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/11/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/26/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/09/2011, 02/16/2011.

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