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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 89

Santa Monica Daily Press

SAMOHI GIRLS AT HOME
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE WHO WILL IT BE? ISSUE



GOING LIKE HOT CAKES

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Chefs cook up free pancakes on National Pancake Day hosted by the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) on Wilshire Boulevard Tuesday.

Homeless population down 19 percent

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The number of homeless people living on the streets or in shelters in Santa Monica is down 19 percent from a year ago, City Hall's division of human services announced Monday.

In revealing the results of Santa Monica's annual homeless count, which took place in January, officials attributed the lower tally to several factors, including better coordination of services, new housing subsidies and rental assistance programs.

Programs like the Homeless Community Court, which aims to get chronically homeless individuals out of the criminal justice system and into treatment, and Project Homecoming, which seeks to connect homeless people with their families and friends, also helped reduce the homeless population, officials said.

The count took place Jan. 29, with 160 volunteers helping span each block of the city between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. to count every homeless individual. Homeless people in jail or living in shelters also were counted.

Of 742 homeless people counted, 264 were on the street, 423 were in shelters or other institutions and 55 were in cars or encampments.

Last year 915 homeless people were tallied, which was 8 percent fewer than 2007.

In the latest count, 71 percent of homeless people were single individuals, while 29 percent were members of families. There were 68 percent fewer encampments identified and 59 percent fewer people living in cars compared with 2009.

Julie Rusk, the director of Santa Monica's human services division, said the city's homeless population continues to be mainly people who are "mentally ill, drug and alcohol addicted, or both."

She said a centerpiece of City Hall's strategy for reducing homelessness in recent years has been to focus on directing

SEE COUNT PAGE 9

Chamber bashes development delay

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM CHAMBER With 10 proposals for "development agreements" — specialized contracts generally used for large-scale real estate projects — pending at City Hall, members of the City Council are under pressure from all sides.

Groups like the Coalition for a Livable City have long sought to reign-in the pace and scale of development, calling on the council, which has final say on whether the projects get built, to postpone hearings on development agreements until after a major update to City Hall's general plan, the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), is completed.

Waiting until after the LUCE is adopted will give officials a better idea of the community's vision for areas of the city where development is proposed, these groups argue, thus giving the council a better framework for considering potential projects.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown has proposed a development agreement "time-out" to his colleagues on the council, placing the idea on last night's agenda. The council had not voted on the item by deadline Tuesday.

His proposal, though, had already enlivened the opposition.

In a letter sent Monday, the council got an earful from the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, which opposes any plan to delay hearings on projects that are in the midst of City Hall's approval process.

The letter written by Chris Harding, an attorney who co-chairs the chamber's land use committee, argued that a plan to postpone development agreement hearings is "unnecessary and would be counterproductive."

In his proposal, McKeown said the "time-out" would free up City Hall planners' time and allow them to focus on completing the LUCE. But Harding argued that continuing with the so-called "float-up" process in which proposed projects get preliminary reviews before the Planning Commission and City Council isn't a distraction from planners' other work.

"We fully expect that city staff will continue to prioritize the LUCE over potential [development agreement] projects, as they should. There is no need to stop [development agreement] hearings to achieve this

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 8


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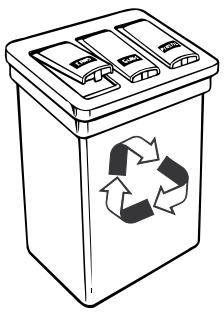
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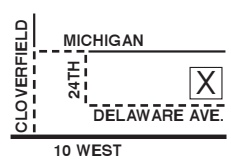


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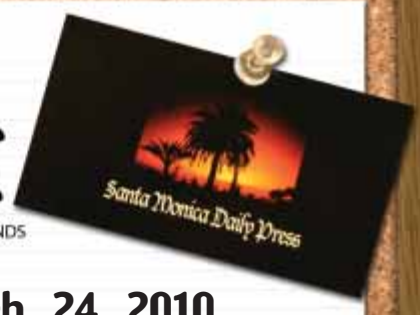


Wednesday,
February 24, 2010
6pm – 8pm

$15 for members and $20 for non members
Admission will include 2 drink tickets and some light appetizers

Please RSVP as space is limited!
For reservations, please email Adam Jolivet – adamjolivet@yahoo.com

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010

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

In between
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Working in film, video, and installation, Diana Thater has been an innovator in her medium for 20 years and is best known for creating complex visual and spatial environments. "Between Science and Magic" is a simple, and beautiful, interpretation of "movie magic" — a century-old expression that still conjures the mythology of Hollywood filmmaking. Thater's project is conceived as a brief history of cinema.
For more information, call (310) 586-6488.

Divorce detox
212 Marine St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Everybody needs a break, especially with the added stress of divorce, which (after all) sometimes feels like your in a war zone. This one-hour class provides a brief break from the challenges and hurdles in your day and gives you the opportunity to de-stress, refocus, and revitalize yourself. Sign up 48 hours in advance and get lunch included. Phone registration also available at www.divorcedetox.com. For more information call (310) 439-8964. Cost: $20.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad moderated by Jack Nordhaus.
For information, call (310) 458-8681.

Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

'Rent'
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica High School theatre presents the Tony-award winning musical "Rent." The show runs Feb. 26-27. There are two shows on Saturday: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for students. Call (310) 395-3204 ext. 239 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Vikings hope to exploit home advantage

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Santa Monica's girls basketball team hopes that home is where the win is.

As the second-seeded Vikings prepare to host eighth-seeded Rancho Cucamonga in the third round of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 1A Playoffs tonight at home, Head Coach Marty Verdugo said he's excited about having home-court advantage, but is even more ready for the chance for his team to erase the memory of last season's playoff experience.

The Vikings lost in the semi-finals to Canyon Springs last season, a feeling Verdugo doesn't want to revisit.

"We would like to redeem ourselves from last year," Verdugo said.

This is the fourth year in a row that the team has made it to the third round with last season representing the deepest the team has played into the postseason in Verdugo's four years as head coach.

He'll look to senior Thea Lemberger, who has been a key contributor since she stepped foot on campus, to lead the team on offense, but was clear to note the importance of point guard Kristina Johnson and shooting guard Lilly Feder. He praised both guards' ability to make tough shots under duress and their all-around savvy play.

"As far as hitting big baskets ... without them we're not nearly as effective," he said.

He said that Johnson's ability to open up the defense allows Lemberger to focus on scoring, which is her strong suit.

Johnson's sharp play at point guard has also elevated the rest of Samohi's offensive players. Moriah Faulk, who transferred to Samohi this season from a school in Arizona, had proven to be a clutch performer late in the regular season, but has yet to appear in the playoffs.

Since injuring her knee during the last game of the regular season, Faulk has been a game-day decision. She was cleared to play by doctors on Tuesday, providing much-needed reinforcements. Verdugo said he will be wise with the way he plays her, monitoring her condition as the game progresses.

He doesn't expect her to be at full-strength, but her shooting touch and aggressive play will be a boon for the Vikings as

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

AGAINST ALL ODDS: **Santa Monica High School's Lilly Feder struggles to get a shot off against Arcadia during the first round of the CIF-SS Division 1A playoffs last week. Samohi Head Coach Marty Verdugo considers her a key to the Vikings' playoff hopes.**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Suspect held in stabbing

A valet at a luxury apartment complex on the beach was arrested Monday night after allegedly stabbing a fellow valet as the two argued about a personal matter, police said.

The stabbing occurred around 10 p.m. in the 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk at the Sea Castle apartment complex. The victim suffered stab wounds in the attack and was transported to a local hospital, said Santa Monica police Sgt. Jay Trisler.

The suspect drove to South Los Angeles, where he was taken into custody at a gas station parking lot at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Figueroa Street, near USC.

The suspect was arrested for attempted murder and his bail was set at $1 million, Trisler said. Officers would not elaborate on what sparked the attack. The name of the suspect was not available at presstime.

DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Cops conduct placard sting

Santa Monica police officers confiscated 12 handicap parking placards, five residential parking permits and issued 21 citations for parking violations during a sting last week, police announced Tuesday.

The officers focused on the neighborhood surrounding Santa Monica College after receiving tips from residents about college students misusing preferential parking permits.

Officers were able to determine that 12 drivers used handicap placards illegally and issued misdemeanor citations. Under state law those who are caught displaying a placard that does not belong to them are subject to a fine not less than $250 or more than $1,000 and possibly face six months in jail. The court can also impose a civil penalty as high as $1,500 for each conviction.

"Some disabled placards belonged to other family members," said Santa Monica police Sgt. Jay Trisler.

DP

Cost to clean county debris basins put at $30M

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles County officials say it will cost up to $30 million to clean out debris basins that helped protect foothill neighborhoods from mudslides during recent winter storms.

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich

SEE STORMS PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Do the right thing, council

Editor:

No matter what you thought of his politics or his tactic of arguing ad infinitum to wear his opponents down, Ken Genser loved Santa Monica and wanted the best for us. He was a dedicated student of all issues that came before the City Council. The best way to honor his memory is to appoint someone with similar dedication and knowledge to fill his seat.

Only one person now under consideration fills that bill: Ted Winterer. Ted has demonstrated his commitment to Santa Monica in many ways over many years as president of a neighborhood group (the Ocean Park Association), organizer of the wonderfully funky Main Street Fourth of July Parade, recreation and parks commissioner, board member of the Coalition for Excellence in Public Schools, and now planning commissioner. Like Genser, Ted does his homework. When he ran for council in 2008, his knowledge and thoughtfulness on a wide range of issues was inspirational.

Ted was a strong first runner-up in the 2008 election and should have been appointed to fill Herb Katz' seat last year. But politics trumped what would have been best for the city. Now the council has a second chance to choose the most highly qualified and dedicated candidate. I hope, this time, they will do the right thing.

Rachael Lerner
Santa Monica

Some drivers let it slide

Editor:

I found the article on eating food on the buses to be astonishing ("Kid busted by food cops," Feb. 17). I occasionally ride Line 8 to and from UCLA. Twice I have seen drivers allow students or other passengers to board the bus with food in their hands. Since the drivers must look at the passengers' hands to see whether they pay the correct fare they can observe whether people also have food. In one case it was fast food and a drink. The bus company needs to review policy with their drivers first.

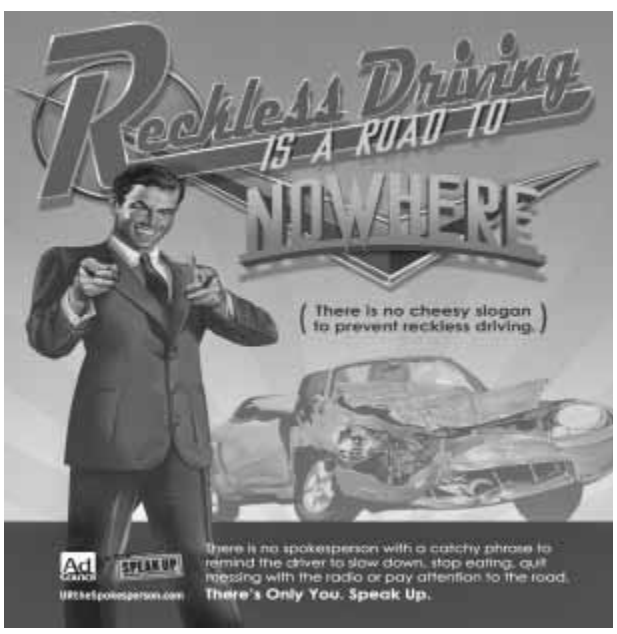
Helen Porter
Santa Monica

In agreement over park

Editor:

Hats off to Wilma Frances Stone for writing the letter, "Trailer Park Shame," Feb. 19. The city of Santa Monica should be ashamed of themselves for what they did to this park. I am a tenant here at Mountain View Mobile Home Park. I own my own unit and what they did to my unit and the surrounding area is uncalled-for. There are so many wrong things done to this park. My plumbing has been inspected three times and has failed each time. Now I am told that the inspections are all over. All I want is for my unit to be inspected and passed, hopefully by a qualified plumber and not someone with a C-4 license.

Geno Schotte
Santa Monica



Hiding in the Open



David Alsabery — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dreaming of a board meeting

I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT AND IT was very strange. You see, I fell asleep and landed in a conference room in early January of 2009, at some big health care, or maybe it was a pharmaceutical corporation, I'm not sure which, but what matters is, I was one of them. Suddenly, like watching myself sleep walking, I could see myself speaking in this room to the other executives. I told them, "We have a problem. We have a new president and he's stated that he would give all Americans 'the same kind of health care' he has as a federal employee. Well, we can't allow that to happen now can we?"

Addressing the stern faced executives I lead the conversation forward. "People, we have a deal already in place with Federal Health Services, which provides health care to all the federal employees. The services and products we sell them are over-regulated, which doesn't allow us to make reasonable profits. We can't let that system keep expanding into our profits." Then I told everyone "that isn't going to happen, because in the end, we'll get our government to not offer that health care, while at the same time we get the people to vote against the idea." One of the other executives cynically asks: "How are you going to do that if this was one of the president's main campaign promises?" I quip, "It's easier than you think.

"First, we'll have a bunch of meetings with the president right after he takes office." An older gentleman, sitting near the head of the table, says in a smoker's voice: "You'll have a hard time getting private meetings set up. This president has figured out we used that trick the last time with the Clintons. He's demanding that all meetings have CSPAN televising them to the world." Without missing a beat I answer: "We'll tell him that we'll make a whole bunch of concessions. But, we'll only do it in private. Once in the room with him, we'll promise him the moon, and that we'll work with Congress to integrate our private, non-binding, informal agreements into the larger healthcare reform bill."

Then I say: "How about we convince him this is complex stuff, and far beyond the scope of a president, who's also having to deal with a financial a crisis. We'll recommend that he turn the project over to Congress." Well, the cynical executive then asks, "With one party owning both houses of Congress, and both being behind the idea, how do you plan on stopping them?" I laugh and tell him, "The old fashioned way, of course. We'll buy their votes. Then each one of us has only to recommend a different plan to our representative to divide and conquer. Lets face it, the Democratic representatives will spend at least a year fighting over what to name the plan." This causes everyone to break into laughter.

Mr. Cynical, then says, in his loud booming voice, "The media will catch on to that quickly." I casually respond by telling him, "Nope. We just need to run more ads for our products on every channel to buy their silence." At this point some of the other executives start to enter the fray. A quiet, gray-haired man, sitting on the other side of the room looking out the window, speaks up in a soft but authoritative voice, "You can't stall them forever. What then?" Being the dashing, young orator that I am, I take a moment to look out the window as I think through this dilemma. While still looking out the window, I tell the gentleman, "We must give the Democrats and the president a way out; a chance to blame someone else." The only Latina executive in the room quickly points out the obvious, "Gentlemen, we can't get them to blame the Republicans — they lost the last election. The Democrats have the ability to pass any legislation they want without having to ask for even one Republican vote. Who will they blame this time?" She was right.

One of the other executives who hadn't spoken yet says, "It's not public knowledge but our sources tell us Sen. Kennedy will not survive the year. If we can hold out until he drops, we can make sure a Republican who's against healthcare reform gets elected." Mr. Cynical breaks into laughter and yells, "Are you mad? Democrats outnumber Republicans three to one in Massachusetts." Without missing a beat, I answer, "No. It's perfect! Not only will it break the Democratic super majority, but it will scare the pants off of the rest of the Democrats running for office in the November mid-term elections in 2010. By the time we're done with them the Democrats will tell you that the people don't really want health care. Let's donate $20 million for his memorial center and thank him."

In closing I tell the other executives, "Once we get that Senate seat, the Democrats and the president can blame the Republicans again, and everything is back to normal. The worst case scenario is we help them create a healthcare bill that is profitable for us, at the same time get the voters to force it on public employees so we can get rid of that federal system as well. Either way, we win and none will be the wiser. Let's go drink some scotch and smoke some Cuban cigars."

DAVID ALSABERY is a high performance driving instructor, closet pharmaceutical/healthcare executive and all around nice guy. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

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

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

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

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

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

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

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

Visit us online at smdp.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Health care reform will happen

BEFORE LAST SUMMER'S RECESS, Democrats in Congress were working to pass a health care reform bill and Republicans were doing whatever they could to stop it. Around that time, New Jersey's own Bill Maher asked, "If you can't shove some real reform down (the Republicans') throats now, then when?"

Nobody ever accused Maher of being a charmer or a policy wonk, so I can excuse his lack of subtlety and his not understanding we had only completed the second of five or six steps in the process. Jon Stewart, also from Jersey, knows better than to presume to tell the president what to do. He was on Bill O'Reilly's show on Fox News a few weeks ago and admitted, "I can't I can't tell if (President Obama) is a Jedi Master, playing chess on a three-level board way ahead of us, or this is kicking his ass."

For months, everyone from late night comedians in L.A. and New York to pundits and members of Congress in Washington has been trying to get the president to show his hand in the high-stakes poker game that is health care reform. On Monday, three days before tomorrow's blockbuster bi-partisan health care reform summit at the Blair House, he showed that he has developed a policy as well as a plan to get around a Republican filibuster (otherwise known as a political full house). So for Bill Maher, the answer is Thursday, Feb. 25th at 10 a.m. EST and Jon Stewart can stop wondering, the answer is clearly "Jedi Master."

I give the Republicans credit for being able to drag this thing out for so long. Their strategy since last summer has been to demonize the health care reform bills in order to delay them to death, then start all over. By then, it would be campaign season and they could try running on a "they didn't get anything done, so vote for us" platform because they would have stopped health care reform and prevented an energy bill from even being discussed. They don't seem to realize that while they were spending so much political capital to block these two proposals — even going so far as to oppose measures they once supported — they lost any credibility they may have had with the political center. Meanwhile, the Democrats have quietly overseen one of the most productive sessions Congress has seen in 50 years and are poised to win the support of key centrist voters in 2010.

The $787 billion Recovery Act contained $288 billion in tax relief, making it one of the largest tax cuts in American history. It's an $80 billion investment in clean water, a smart energy grid, green technologies, and expanded broadband and wireless Internet capacity. This Congress reformed defense procurement, expanded children's health insurance, passed the largest land conservation law in 20 years, and gave credit card holders a bill of rights.

No matter what happens tomorrow, the White House has already combined the House and Senate bills into one measure that can either be passed in 24 hours or be pushed through via budget reconciliation. That takes away the Republicans' main offensive weapon: the filibuster. By broadcasting the meeting live on C-SPAN, they've also removed the Republican leadership's main defensive weapon: lies, damned lies, and statistics supporting the status quo repeated ad nauseam on Fox News. Republican ideas will go directly into the bill if, for the first time in a year, they don't just say no to health care reform. The Dems have made it clear they're coming to make a deal, they're willing to compromise, and that the point is to find something the GOP is willing to trade "yes" votes for.

They may not realize it yet, but the Republican leadership is negotiating the terms of surrender for their party tomorrow. The president's plan is going to become law, one way or another, and the Democrats will put it at the top of their long list of legislative achievements during the upcoming campaign. Republicans can't claim that they wanted to reform health care because they had control of Congress and the White House for six years and did nothing, they can't claim to be fiscal conservatives because they exploded the deficit during the Bush years, and their ideas for growing the economy are the same ideas that caused the recession in the first place. They're not likely to find any new ideas before the Democrats start campaigning on their record of legislative accomplishments, so they can kiss 2010 goodbye.

The spring of 2009 found us on the verge of a second Great Depression, but the spring of 2010 looks much better thanks to the Recovery Act. If the spring of 2011 finds more people covered and health care costs being held down thanks to the health care reform bill passed this year, the GOP will lose seats in 2012 the same way they will lose seats this year. That will mean losses in four consecutive election cycles – including two presidential elections – and total political irrelevance.

That's 3-D Jedi Master check and mate.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who will be watching tomorrow's fireworks live and recording them on DVR. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmial.com.

The Q Line

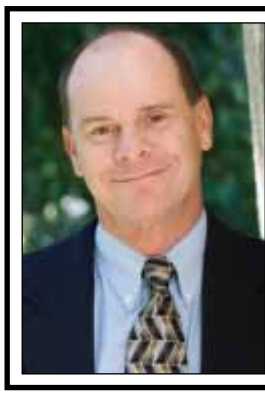
Taking a 'time-out'

City Councilman Kevin McKeown would like the city government to take a "time-out" from approving large-scale developments until the Land Use and Circulation Element is completed, spelling out the direction the city will take in terms of development.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think a time-out is a wise choice or should business continue as usual?

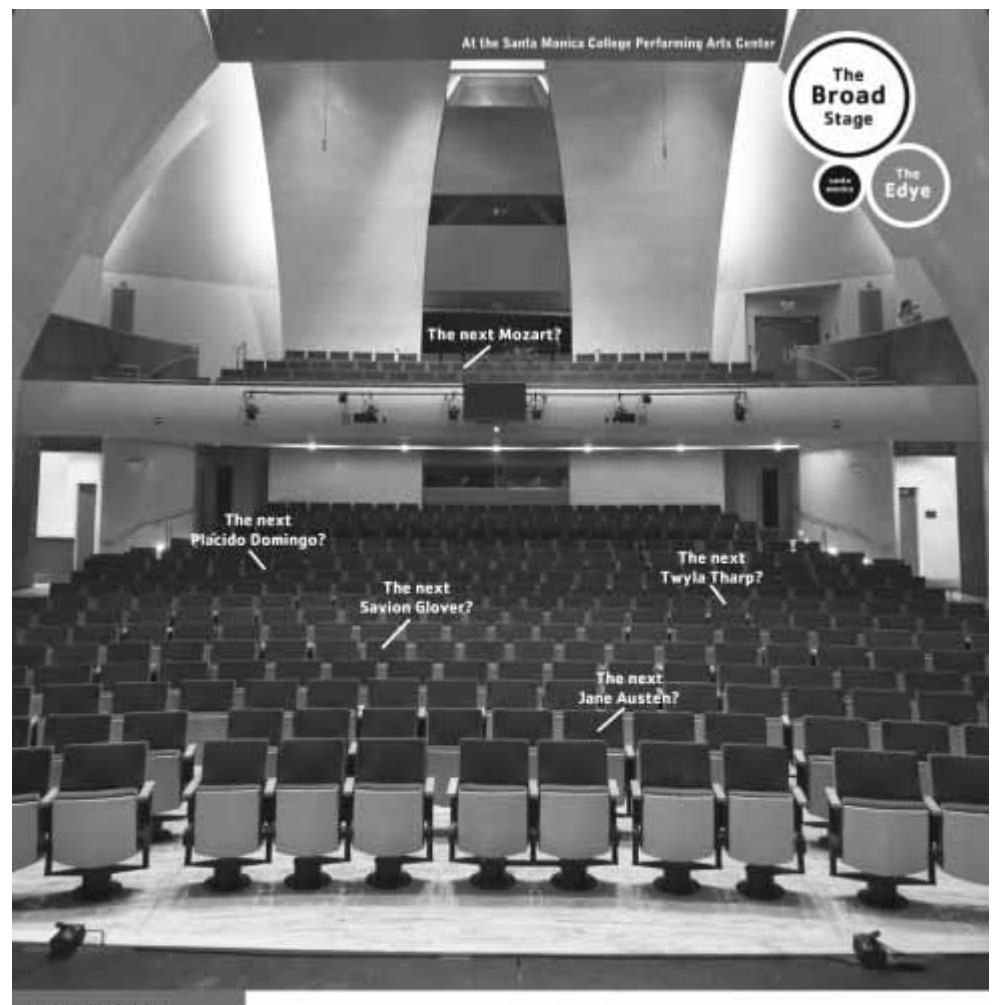
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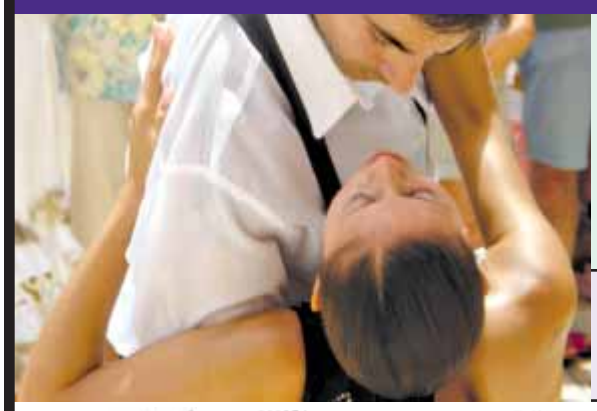
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ECONOMY

Lack of consumer confidence intensifies fears of investing

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Americans' confidence in the economy has suffered a sudden relapse, dimming hopes that they will start spending — and spurring job growth — any time soon.

The Consumer Confidence Index figures released Tuesday were much worse than analysts had expected and showed that Americans are morose about the job market and their economic prospects. That bodes ill for the sort of uptick in consumer spending that normally powers economic recovery, and could raise pressure on the Obama administration and Congress to create jobs themselves.

The index fell almost 11 points to 46 in February, down from a revised 56.5 in January and the lowest level since a 40.8 reading in April 2009. It erased three consecutive months of improvement, according to the Conference Board, the research group that releases the monthly index.

Analysts were expecting only a slight decrease to 55. Economists watch the confidence numbers closely because consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Outside of the Great Recession, the index hasn't been this low since December 1974.

"It still feels like a recession" to consumers, said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center.

Confidence has been recovering fitfully since hitting a historic low of 25.3 in February 2009. Many economists believe it will remain well below healthy levels for at least another year or two. A reading above 90 indicates an economy is on solid footing. Above 100 signals strong growth.

Dana Huskey of Chattanooga, Tenn., said she's being very cautious with her spending — limiting her trips out to eat and her drives around town. The 26-year-old lost her job at Ann Taylor in July and has lined up a job at a yarn store, but it won't open until this summer. Her family has been helping her since then.

"I try not to go out to eat unless I have to," said Huskey. "I got a subscription to the local paper for the weekend edition, to do coupons."

Some economists say Americans won't start to feel better and spend more until they see clear evidence of sizable job growth. In past recessions, however, the employment picture didn't improve dramatically until after a recovery in consumer spending and confidence.

Many economists say business investments and exports can help drive the nascent turnaround in the short term, but a rise in consumer spending is essential to keep it going.

"Without a sustained acceleration in consumption growth, this recovery will eventually fade," said Paul Ashworth, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics Ltd.

The consumer confidence report put a scare into the stock market, overshadowing retailers' reports that showed stronger holiday profits but also offered cautious sales outlooks. There were also signs that the U.S. housing market is continuing its bumpy recovery: A key index showed home prices rose for the seventh straight month in December.

Executives at discount chain Target Corp. said they expect the recovery to continue — slowly — as shoppers grapple with high rates of unemployment and pay down debt.

"I think we're going to see two steps forward, one step back," said Gregg Steinhafel, Target's chairman, president and CEO, in a conference call with investors Tuesday.

The Dow Jones industrials were off more than 90 points. Interest rates also fell as investors moved money out of stocks and into the safety of Treasury bonds.

The confidence index is based on a sample of 5,000 U.S. households surveyed between Feb. 1 and Feb. 17.

A surprising aspect of the report was that the index's key gauge — consumers' expectations over the next six months — took a big hit. The gauge had been on the rise since last October. Consumers' assessment of the current economy slipped to a 27-year low.

Several factors may have aggravated the decline. Heavy snowstorms in many areas of the country may have dampened confidence as they shut down businesses and thwarted job searches. Worries about Greece's national debt hammered the U.S. stock market.

The unemployment picture has become a full-time preoccupation in Congress. The Senate cleared a key hurdle Monday on its way to passing a $15 billion package that includes tax breaks to encourage hiring. Final passage on that measure is scheduled for Wednesday. The measure, however, is likely to boost hiring only modestly.

A second measure for broader and longer-term assistance was under discussion as well. Such a package could include a full-year extension of unemployment insurance and a 65 percent health insurance subsidy for the unemployed through the federal COBRA program. States could also get direct assistance to help them with their straining Medicaid budget.

The overall economy expanded at an annual rate of 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter, but only about one-fourth of that growth came from consumers. Most of the growth came from companies replenishing low inventories.

For those out of work, the economy's recent improvement has been invisible.

"The jobs aren't coming fast enough," said Jim Fox, who was laid off from a steel mill in Sharon, Pa., last August. "The jobs that I do see pay less than what I was making."

Many economists expect new jobs to be created in coming months. Unemployment fell to 9.7 percent in January from 10 percent in December, and employers shed 20,000 jobs. Economists believe the unemployment rate fell because many unemployed people gave up on their job searches, and worry that it will climb back up by summer as those without jobs start trying again.

Gary Thayer, chief economist at Wells Fargo Advisors, believes big improvements in jobs, confidence and spending will be "marching together."

"This is going to be a year when people are waiting to see what happens rather than assuming the best going forward," he said.

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FINANCING

New credit card warnings not as shocking online

CANDICE CHOI
AP Personal Finance Writer

NEW YORK It's meant to jolt borrowers from the complacency of debt: A new credit card statement that spells out the price of making only minimum payments.

Yet the shock factor may be lost on the growing number of cardholders who bank online and no longer check their paper statements.

As part of the credit card law that went into effect Monday, banks are now required to present some jarring math. Namely, how much you need to pay each month to wipe your balance clean within three years, and how long it would take to be debt-free if only minimum payments are made.

It's valuable information, but there's a glitch for those who do most of their banking online.

Rather than putting the new minimum payment warnings front and center for cardholders when they log on, most banks are taking refuge by limiting the changes to monthly statements.

That means cardholders will need to download or view a PDF copy of their full statements to see the new calculations.

"The warning was designed to ensure people are aware of just how expensive credit can be," said Ruth Susswein of Consumer Action, an advocacy group. "If they don't have easy access to this information, it makes that element of the law moot."

There's no telling how many cardholders click past the account summary page, which typically provides the essentials — the current balance, minimum payment due and recent transaction activity.

Ideally, that's also where the minimum payment warning would appear, even if cardholders had to scroll down to see it, Susswein said. None of the biggest banks are putting it there, however.

Bank of America, Chase, Citi and others meanwhile note that they're educating customers via mail and e-mail about the new statements.

At Capital One, for example, cardholders will see banner ads about the new disclosures for at least the next few months when they log on.

"We're going to lengths to ensure our customers are aware that their statements are different," said spokeswoman Pam Girardo.

She also noted that the majority of cardholders still opt for paper statements, although she declined to provide exact numbers.

For anyone who banks online, getting to a copy of your full statement usually takes a couple of extra clicks. At Bank of America and Discover, for example, the full statement is two or three clicks away once you've accessed your account.

It sounds simple enough, but scanning a PDF statement isn't always a habit.

That's the case for Frantzie Bazile, 28, who works as a payment administrator in music publishing. She usually just logs on to note her balance, but now plans to start pulling up her full statement more regularly so she can refer to the minimum payment warning box. The numbers will motivate her to pay off the $14,000 or so she owes over five credit cards, she said.

On her Chase card, for example, her latest statement says she can pay off her $2,350 balance within three years if she pays $100 a month. As much as she appreciates the new guidance, Bazile said she would like it even better if it appeared on the first page of her online account.

REAL ESTATE

Prosecutors accused of misconduct

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The former head of building giant KB Home asked a federal judge to look into alleged prosecutor wrongdoing in his stock-options backdating case, citing two similar cases that were tossed out last year because of official misconduct.

U.S. District Judge Otis Wright was scheduled Tuesday afternoon to consider that motion and about 20 others filed by lawyers for Bruce E. Karatz.

Karatz, 63, pleaded not guilty in March to 19 counts, including mail, wire and securities fraud and making false statements in reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission. He remains free on bond and could face up to 415 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Prosecutors contend that Karatz acted illegally in retroactively setting stock-option exercise prices to a low point in the stock's value. The maneuver, known as backdating, can boost profits when the shares are sold. It is legal when properly accounted for, but if not properly disclosed it can allow companies to overstate profits and underpay taxes.

Karatz, 63, was forced to step down in 2006 after KB discovered that he benefited from favorably dated option awards between 1998 and 2005. He agreed to repay the company $13 million.

Karatz agreed to pay another $7.2 million in September to settle civil charges of backdating stock options but did not admit any wrongdoing.

In one of their motions, Karatz's lawyers asked the judge to explore allegations that federal prosecutors bullied or tricked two witnesses into making damaging statements against their client in government interviews. Their motion cited findings of prosecutorial misconduct that led federal courts last year to toss out criminal convictions in stock-backdating cases against William Ruehle, former chief financial officer of Broadcom Corp., and Gregory Reyes, former chief executive of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc.

Prosecutorial misconduct also was cited by an Orange County judge who threw out prosecutions against Broadcom co-founders Henry Samueli and Henry T. Nicholas III.

The U.S. attorney's office called the Karatz allegation "bogus" in a court document opposing the motion and said there was no connection to the other cases.

Karatz "offers only his own fanciful, self-serving inferences of alleged witness intimidation to explain why the two witnesses have provided statements adverse to him," the reply argued.

One witness was identified as Gary A. Ray, former KB Homes head of human resources. He pleaded guilty last year to conspiring to obstruct justice by causing KB Home to file a false report on its option-granting practices in a bid to avert an SEC probe. He is awaiting sentencing.

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Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time

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Feb 25	Var	Practice	Westchester	4pm
Feb 26	Var	Practice	Westchester	4pm
Mar 1	Var	Bishop Amat	Rancho	4pm
Mar 2	Var	Practice	Penmar	4pm
COED TENNIS				
Feb 22-24	Var	Try-outs	Reed Park	3pm
Feb 25	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Feb 26	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 1-5	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 24	Var	Rancho Cucamonga	Samohi	7pm
COED WRESTLING				
Feb 26	Var	CIF Masters		TBA
BOYS BASEBALL				
Feb 27	Var	Alumni Game		2:00pm
Feb 28	Var	Alumni Game		10:00am

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Chamber official calls delay unnecessary

FROM **DEVELOPMENT** PAGE 1

objective," he wrote.

Harding also argued the "time-out" proposal would likely have the unintended consequence of speeding up the approval process for developers.

Participating in "float-up" hearings is optional, he pointed out, so if appearing at the hearings causes a burdensome delay, most developers would simply opt to skip the entire process. That, he said, would mean the public and City Hall officials would receive less information about development proposals and would play less of a role in shaping projects.

"Suspending the float-up process, even for a relatively short time, would be contrary to the public interest," Harding concluded.

Before Tuesday's meeting, McKeown said he was standing by his proposal.

"Development agreement hearings absorb tremendous staff and commission time," he said, and allowing hearings on the agreements to continue before the LUCE is adopted creates a risk that council members will make "site-by-site decisions without the context of a master plan."

McKeown's proposal also generated a response at City Hall, with Planning and Community Development Director Eileen Fogarty issuing a memo that laid out several compromise positions the City Council could opt to take. She said the council could elect to specify a date when development agreement hearings would resume, opt to exempt certain projects that are farthest along in the float-up process or make exceptions for two projects in the pipeline that are proposed for city-owned sites.

> **SUSPENDING THE FLOAT-UP PROCESS, EVEN FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST."**
>
> **Chris Harding,**
> Co-chair of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Land Use Committee

Fogarty also cautioned that "it may be advisable to provide an assurance to project applicants that the [review] process will resume by a [certain date] in the event that the LUCE is not adopted by mid-summer as currently planned."

Contacted Tuesday, Councilman Bob Holbrook, regarded as a business-friendly vote on the council, said he was open to a compromise. He said a planned expansion of St. Monica's Church, for instance, should not be delayed. But he added: "I don't mind us slowing down where it makes sense."

nickt@smdp.com

Forecast calls for rain this week

FROM **STORMS** PAGE 3

said Tuesday that an estimated 1 million cubic yards of mud, boulders and timber must be removed from the basins — and soon, before more rain comes.

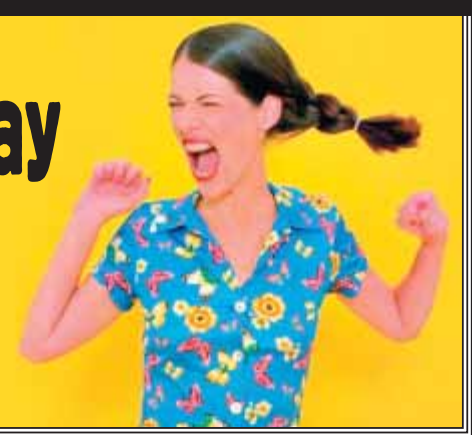
The Board of Supervisors then voted to waive fees and tonnage limits at a local landfill for 90 days to accommodate the need.

Storms a few weeks ago filled many basins in areas of the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles that burned in last year's massive Station wildfire.

One undersized basin overflowed, causing mud damage to 43 homes in the foothill town of La Canada Flintridge.

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Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

UP LATE: **Volunteers Shamira Kassam, 44, and Alishan Jadhavgi, 25, count homeless at Ocean Park Boulevard and Third Street during the 2010 Santa Monica Homeless Count on Jan. 27, 2010.**

Recession not adding to SM homeless population

FROM **COUNT** PAGE 1

services to these most vulnerable people.

The latest count gives "a sense that we're going in the right direction," she said.

Though Santa Monica hasn't been immune from the effects of the worst recession since the Great Depression, City Hall officials who work on homeless issues said they haven't seen evidence of an increase in homelessness because of economic hardship.

"There are certainly a lot more people in economic distress as a result of the recession, there's no doubt about that," said John Maceri, executive director of homeless services provider OPCC. But he said often times those who have recently lost a job and fallen on hard times have some savings and a safety net of family and friends to prevent them from ending up on the streets.

"I think the real test of the long-term impact of the recession is what will happen with the numbers next year and the year after that," he said.

People who have recently lost their housing, he said, can also be difficult to find.

"That's a difficult face of homelessness," Maceri said. "They tend to be more invisible than people who are chronically homeless."

> **"WHAT WE DON'T HAVE IS AN ACCURATE HANDLE ON WHAT'S GOING IN THE REGION."**
>
> **John Maceri,**
> executive director of the Ocean Park Community Center

Santa Monica had previously counted its homeless population every other year but beginning this year has committed to tallying the number of homeless annually.

Maceri said the annual count is an important tool for gauging the effectiveness of programs, but would be more useful if surrounding communities followed suit.

"What we don't have is an accurate handle on what's going on in the region," he said.

nickt@smdp.com

Samohi home for the third round

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 3

they attempt to return to the semifinals.

Aside from Faulk, the team has been forced to play without starting center Sabrina Norton. Her father, Ken Norton Jr., has accepted an offer to join former USC Head Coach Pete Carroll on the staff of the Seattle Seahawks. He removed her from school upon reaching the decision, creating a void in the Vikings' starting lineup.

Filling that gap has been transfer Bianka Balthazar. Since being cleared by the CIF mid-season, she has been a force on the block giving the Vikings an added physical presence.

Verdugo said she's been able to blossom of late and expects her to impose her will on Rancho Cucamonga's post players.

Even without Norton, Verdugo said he likes his team's size advantage, but admitted that Rancho Cucamonga's team speed may give his Vikings fits on defense.

"We're going to have to slow the game," he said. "We have to play good defense and control the tempo offensively.

"I believe we're more skilled."

Verdugo encourages fans to wear either blue or gold to present the road team with "a sea of blue and gold."

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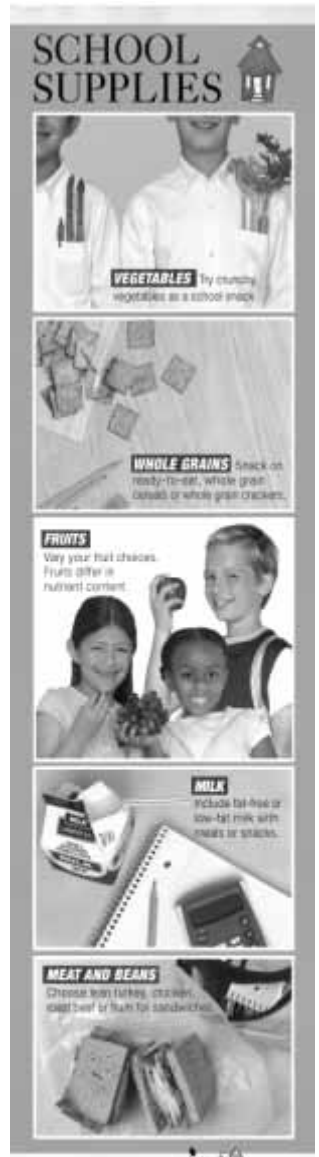
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Los Angeles prosecutors file complaint citing new sign ban

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles city attorney's office filed its first charges under a ban passed last year on the giant building-cloaking signs known as supergraphics.

The civil complaint filed Monday accuses billboard company World Wide Rush LLC and 26 associates, property owners and sign installers of putting up supergraphics in violation of the City Council's ban.

The complaint, which also alleges violations of California's Outdoor Advertising Act and other state laws and local ordinances, argues that supergraphic signs endanger the covered building occupants, distract drivers and hurt the look of streets.

It seeks the signs' removal and damages that could total more than $10 million, as well an injunction to prohibit new signs from being installed.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Isaacs said the lawsuit, which lists 12 Los Angeles locations where illegal signs were allegedly installed, is part of his office's new strategy of aggressive enforcement of the city's sign laws.

"This, we anticipate, will be the first of a number of lawsuits like this," he said.

The City Council passed its permanent ban in August on giant billboards known as supergraphics, as well as digital billboards with changing images or flashing lights.

The vote, which also prohibited new billboards from being built alongside freeways, came after exceptions in past bans prompted challenges to their constitutionality.

The city is currently appealing a judge's ruling that led to contempt proceeding because officials violated an injunction to enforce a sign ban that was deemed unconstitutional because of such exceptions.

World Wide Rush lawyer Gary Mobley said the newest lawsuit was another example of the city acting in contempt.

"It appears that the City Attorney believes he is above federal law and does not have to respect a federal court injunction," he said.

The defendants named in the case include subsidiaries of World Wide Rush's parent company, World Wide Mediacom LLC and executives of those companies. Also named are companies that installed signs for World Wide Rush and the owners of properties where they were installed.

Standard & Poor's reduces L.A.'s credit rating

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Standard & Poor's has lowered Los Angeles' credit rating as the city struggles to close a $200-million budget shortfall.

City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana told the City Council on Tuesday that the city's general credit rating was downgraded from double-A to double-A minus.

Santana says the move and a recent decision by Moody's Investors Service to put Los Angeles on its negative watch list may force the city to pay millions in higher interest when borrowing money.

The move comes only days after the council ordered 4,000 jobs cut.

Santana says Standard & Poor's indicated it was optimistic that the city will close the budget gap but wants to make sure the city follows through on its financial roadmap.

Another agency, Fitch, downgraded L.A.'s credit rating in November.



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Charlie Sheen enters rehab

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Charlie Sheen has entered rehab and is taking a break from television's top-rated comedy, "Two and a Half Men," his publicist said Tuesday.

"As a preventative measure, Charlie Sheen has entered a rehabilitation facility," publicist Stan Rosenfield wrote in a four-sentence statement that did not specify why Sheen, 44, was seeking treatment. The statement sought privacy for the embattled actor.

The move comes roughly two months after Sheen, who attended Santa Monica High School, was arrested after a fight with his wife at his Aspen, Colo., home. Prosecutors later charged the actor with felony menacing and misdemeanor charges of third-degree assault and criminal mischief. The most serious charge carries a maximum three-year prison term.

Sheen's wife, Brooke, is also in rehab seeking treatment for an undisclosed reason, her attorney Yale Galanter said Monday. She is still asking that the charges be dismissed, he said.

Galanter and Rosenfield confirmed Monday that Los Angeles child protective services workers visited the actor and the couple's infant sons over the weekend. Galanter and Rosenfield said it was a routine, previously scheduled visit related to the Aspen court case.

Until Tuesday, Sheen's legal problems hadn't disrupted taping of "Two and a Half Men," which is one of CBS' top shows and television's top-rated comedy.

Last week, 10.6 million people tuned into a rerun of the show, according to ratings released by the Nielsen Co.

CBS spokesman Chris Ender had no immediate comment Tuesday on Sheen entering rehab.

In early January, CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler said the network was being sensitive to what it considered a "very personal and private matter for Charlie."

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Wall Street bonuses shoot up 17 percent in 2009

DAVID B. CARUSO & MICHAEL GORMLEY
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK Wall Street bonuses climbed 17 percent in 2009 to $20.3 billion as many of the investment banks that were bailed out at taxpayer expense reported blowout profits.

The announcement Tuesday by New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli was likely to outrage many Americans who are barely getting by. And it happened on the same day that private economists reported a plunge in consumer confidence — a blow to hopes that spending by shoppers would help speed up an economic recovery.

"Wall Street is vital to New York's economy, and the dollars generated by the industry help the state's bottom line," DiNapoli said. "But for most Americans, these huge bonuses are a bitter pill and hard to comprehend. ... Taxpayers bailed them out, and now they're back making money while many New York families are still struggling to make ends meet."

The reason for the surge in bonuses was simple: Wall Street firms had a great year.

Broker-dealer operations associated with the New York Stock Exchange earned a record $49.9 billion through the year's first three quarters. The firms probably closed out the year $55 billion in the black, DiNapoli's office said.

The 2009 bonuses were actually modest compared to the bonanzas Wall Street workers enjoyed between 2005 and 2007. The annual payout in those gilded days averaged $31 billion, or around $173,000 per worker.

The average bonus in 2009 was $124,850, according to the comptroller's projections, although that number was likely skewed by high bonuses among top earners at the largest firms.

In 2008, Wall Street firms gave out $17.4 billion in bonuses, even though the year was one of their worst.

Critics of Wall Street pay said the fact that bonuses are rising even as consumers grow more despondent reflects a growing class divide in the wake of the recession.

"It's exposing a deep rift in American society," said Chuck Collins, a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal Washington think tank. "This isn't the rising tide lifting all boats. This is the rising tide lifting a few yachts, while other people's boats sink further underwater."

News of the windfall came amid fresh signs that the public's mood was darkening. A monthly poll gauging consumers' confidence unexpectedly fell to a 10-month low in February as Americans worried more about jobs, the Conference Board said Tuesday.

The pessimism cast doubt on hopes that shoppers would begin spending more and accelerate a recovery. Economists watch the confidence data closely because consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

At the White House, press secretary Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama believed that some progress had been made toward curbing executive compensation. But "I think it's fair to say the president remains frustrated and believes that the compensation practices of Wall Street have a long way to go."

States consider ban on public release of emergency calls

DESIREE HUNTER
Associated Press Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. Linda Casey dialed 911 and screamed, "Oh, God!" over and over again into the phone after finding her daughter beaten to death in the driveway of their North Carolina home.

Later that day, she heard the 911 recording on the local news and vomited.

"This was not only the most painful thing I have ever been through, it should have been the most private," she said in an e-mail.

Because of situations like Casey's, lawmakers in Alabama, Ohio and Wisconsin are deciding whether to bar the public release of 911 calls.

Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wyoming already keep such recordings private. But generally, most states consider emergency calls public records available on request, with exceptions sometimes made for privacy reasons or to protect a police investigation.

"Nationally there is a growing concern about the release of audiotapes that don't involve newsworthy people or events — just things that people like to hear because of their sensational nature," said Sonny Brasfield, executive director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which drafted legislation in the state to bar the release of 911 recordings. "There is a concern nationally that these kinds of things are having a chilling effect on people's willingness to call 911."

Open-government advocates disagree and say that prohibiting the release of the recordings takes away a valuable tool that has exposed botched calls.

For example, a Detroit dispatcher in 2006 scolded a 5-year-old boy for "playing on the phone" while his mother lay unconscious. When police arrived, the boy's mother was dead. In a 2008 call in Memphis, Tenn., a 911 operator asked, "What's your emergency?" then fell asleep.

"It's crucial that we're able to hear how our public safety calls are being handled," said David Cuillier, chairman of the Society of Professional Journalists' Freedom of Information Committee.

The public release of audio has also led to accolades for dispatchers who have helped save lives, and helped vindicate operators accused of mishandling a call.

In states where 911 calls are made available to the public, news organizations generally make their own case-by-case decisions on whether to air a recording, taking into consideration issues of taste, sensitivity and news value.

"We strongly believe that 911 recordings should be public record because they can reflect on the performance of public agencies," said Thomas Kent, standards editor of The Associated Press. "It certainly can be hard to listen to 911 recordings, and we use them very sparingly on the air and online. Our decision to use such recordings depends primarily on their relevance to important news, not the atmospherics."

Cuillier, a professor at Arizona State University's School of Journalism, said the answer is better self-regulation by the media.

"I see this all around the country. There'll be a media outlet that maybe goes a little too far — pushes the boundaries on something — and people do not like that," he said. "And then you'll have demands that it be taken down, you'll have a backlash, you'll have legislation that makes it all secret."

WSPA, the Spartanburg, S.C., TV station that aired Casey's 911 call in 2008, apologized a day later and removed the recording from its Web site.

"That 911 call was me realizing my daughter was dead," Casey said. "I did not care to share that with the world and that private moment of grief should never have been used to sell papers, or up ratings."

Brasfield cited one particularly upsetting example from Alabama involving a call made by a boy whose grandmother was being mauled by a dog.

Gary Allen, editor of an online magazine for dispatchers, said new technology makes it easier than ever to splice and copy 911 calls. And cell phone calls are more dramatic and on-the-spot, making the audio irresistible.

Celebrity 911 calls have proved to be enormously popular, as illustrated recently by cases involving Tiger Woods and Charlie Sheen.

"In general, the issue has boiled down to the need for people to feel that they can call 911 at any time and their situation won't be splashed across the media, either creating embarrassment or emotional harm," said Allen, a former dispatcher for 20 years who now works with www.911dispatch.com. "On the other side of that is the very legitimate and obvious public concern that everyone involved in 911 is doing their job correctly. I think it's pretty clear that the public has a right to know what is happening in a communication center."

Nancy Morgan wants every state to ban handing out the 911 recordings. The Florida woman's daughter and son-in-law were murdered by a friend-turned-stalker in 2005, and her granddaughter — 5 at the time — called 911 to report that her parents were dead.

Morgan said the call was played over and over on TV and radio but she managed to avoid hearing it for two years, until she went on a national TV show to speak out about stalking. The producers included the audio without telling her.

"It was devastating to me," she said. "I'd worked through a lot of my grief issues, but to do things like that and trigger painful issues is not appropriate. Now I can't get that out of my head."

On the Net:
Society of Professional Journalists: www.spj.org
National Center for Victims of Crime: www.ncvc.org
National Emergency Numbers Association: www.nena.org

Utah wary over national monument list

BROCK VERGAKIS
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY The possibility of a federal land grab throughout the West is stoking fears and generating resentment for the federal government in energy-rich states that could see millions of acres of land made off-limits to development if the president designates the sites as national monuments.

An internal U.S. Department of the Interior document lists 14 sites in nine states that could be designated as national monuments through the federal Antiquities Act, which gives presidents the authority to designate monuments without congressional approval. Three sites in Alaska and Wyoming are listed as worthy of protection but ineligible for monument designation.

The Interior Department insists the document is a product of brainstorming and nothing more.

Many people here are still furious about then-President Bill Clinton's designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996 after his administration made public assurances that it had no plans to do so. Conservative state lawmakers on Tuesday moved forward with legislation that would allow the state to use eminent domain to take federal land that they hope will spark a U.S. Supreme Court battle.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar met with Western governors over the weekend in Washington to assure them that President Barack Obama's administration doesn't intend to repeat Clinton's actions.

Republican Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said he doesn't have any reason not to trust Salazar, but it's a harder sell among some state residents.

"The issue in the past is that they told us one thing and did the other. They never have taken into account how important the public lands are in the state," said Vaughn Johnson at a protest Tuesday at the Utah Capitol. "The last time they did that in Grand Staircase, they locked out a lot of ranchers, they locked out a whole bunch of clean coal."

"I keep thinking about what President Clinton did to us ... came in here, snuck in here, did the land grab. I can see that happening right now. That's my biggest concern," said Gary Wilcox of Hurricane, in southern Utah.

Johnson was one of more than 200 people who showed up to support a measure introduced a day earlier by U.S. Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, that would require congressional approval of future monuments in Utah. A similar exemption was granted to Wyoming in 1950.

The Interior Department document mentions two possible designations in Utah — the San Rafael Swell and Cedar Mesa in the southern part of the state.

The San Rafael Swell is home to tar sands and natural gas that could be used commercially and has geological formations that could be of use to trap carbon dioxide, according to the Utah Geological Survey. It's also home to eight rare plant species as well as other wildlife, including bobcats, eagles and coyotes.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

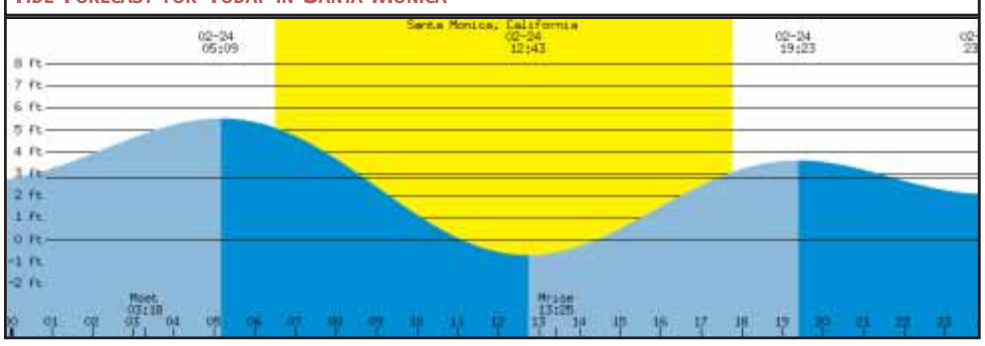
Swell Forecast

The NW swell should back off to around chest high max around well-exposed west facing breaks. Conditions are questionable as a storm approaches the area.

Long Range Synopsis

We should see NW swell come in from about 290° with 16-second periods.

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 16, 2010**

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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 20
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 11
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 30

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

MLB

Ramirez jokes about future

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Manny Ramirez is having some fun with those quirky comments he made about his future.

The enigmatic outfielder caused quite a stir Monday by saying this will be his last year with the Los Angeles Dodgers — and possibly the final season of his career. He was so amused by all the attention his quotes received that he started throwing changeups Tuesday.

Playfully joking with a pair of reporters in the clubhouse, Ramirez said that after he practiced Monday, he felt as though he could play five more years.

"I'll play three more for this team and two more in Japan. Put that in there. I want to see myself on ESPN again," he said.

Dodgers manager Joe Torre wasn't surprised at how much attention Ramirez's comments got Monday.

"All it takes is one particular sentence," Torre said. "And you know Manny. He says a lot of stuff. It's not that he doesn't mean it, but as an outsider looking in, I hope he plays a lot of baseball. He still has a lot to give."

After two spring training workouts, Ramirez appeared to be in a good mood Tuesday. He spent part of the morning showing off an energy drink with a racy label that was sitting in his locker

"He likes to play around, and after all those years in Boston, you try not to take yourself too seriously," Torre said. "But he certainly is a fun-loving guy and he's in a good frame of mind right now. I don't see somebody who is thinking about the drudgery of the season right now."

The 37-year-old Ramirez is heading into his 17th major league season. The 2004 World Series MVP served a 50-game drug suspension last year and batted .290 with 19 home runs and 63 RBIs. He is entering the final year of his contract with Los Angeles.

In an attempt to keep Ramirez fresh late into the season, Torre said he plans to give the left fielder more days off.

Third baseman Casey Blake, 36, also will get more down time after dealing with hamstring issues in both legs last season. He missed a handful of games in May and even more down the stretch in September.

Blake said he took pilates and yoga classes with his wife this winter. He'll also drink as much water as possible because he's convinced dehydration led to his leg problems.

"On the days (the hamstring injuries) happened, my body had trouble warming up," Blake said. "I had trouble getting loose and felt really lethargic."

Blake came to the Dodgers in a trade-deadline deal in 2008, but last year was his first full season in Los Angeles. He said that not being used to demanding West Coast travel could have led to the exhaustion that prompted the dehydration.

"I'm just going to have to crush water," he said.

Another significant change for Blake is the absence of his familiar beard, which he started growing in 2007. With that beard, Blake appeared in a league championship series for three consecutive seasons (2007 with the Indians, and 2008-09 with the Dodgers).

His teams never advanced to the World Series, though. But he says that's not the reason he's now clean-shaven.

"The last duck hunt we had of the season, I was so mad about the season that I came home and shaved it," Blake said. "I'll see how it goes. People say it makes me look younger, so maybe I'll re-negotiate my contract."



MOVIE TIMES

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

Commando (R) 1hr 30min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

When in Rome (PG-13) 1hr 31min
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
9:35

Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

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

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

The Wolfman (R) 1hr 42min
1:35, 2:30, 4:10, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20, 10:15

Shutter Island (R) 1hr 35min
1:00, 3:15, 4:15, 6:30, 7:15, 9:40, 10:20

Dear John - Digital Presentation (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35

From Paris With Love (R) 1hr 35min
2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:50

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

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:50, 4:30

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

Last Station (Ein Russischer Sommer) (R) 1hr 52min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00

Single Man (R) 1hr 39min
9:45

Ajami (NR) 2hr 15min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Fish Tank (NR) 2hr 17min
9:45

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40

The Good Guy (R) 1hr 30min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) 2 hrs
11:10 a.m., 12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:30, 6:20, 7:20, 9:00

Valentine's Day (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:00 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:00,

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

Hang out with pals, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your sensitivity to a domestic, personal or real-estate issue needs to come out. In some fashion, you might need to revamp your thinking, or try another person's logic on for size. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Feelings flow; ideas flourish. A great brainstorming session can evolve as long as you aren't locked in to any one idea. You'll find a get-together -- whether it is friends or a business meeting. Communication happens. Tonight: Hang out with pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Know when enough is enough. You might have been trying to negotiate a financial agreement. Just when you think you see eye to eye with someone, there is a change. Perhaps you want to be less proactive. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be pushed beyond your normal level and are wondering how to handle a personal matter. Lighten up about someone at a distance. In some fashion, you might be overwhelmed by this person or the possibilities provided by him or her. Tonight: Conjure up a dream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take your time making a decision. Not everyone has to agree with you, nor will they. Still, you seek out diverse feedback from various key people. Your mind could be on overload by the end of the day. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Being focused might be a good quality, as so much could be tossed into your path. Try not to push too hard when determining which course to take. A discussion or meeting provides serious, viable options. You have a lot to choose from. Tonight: Where crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Continue on your chosen path, but don't be surprised by all the suggestions and stops on the way. It seems as if everyone wants to add in his or her two cents. Learn how to say "no" nicely, or maybe "later." Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your creativity surges, especially if you detach from a draining situation or one that triggers you. Ideas start popping up out of the blue. A new friend made right now could be most interesting. Tonight: Follow the music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner continues to dominate. You might need to determine what you must have control over and establish effective boundaries. A family member's changing moods could have you shaking your head. Tonight: Be a duo.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Return messages, ask questions and get a project off the back burner. Your understanding of how others work will add strength to your ideas. You cannot say "no" to an invitation. It is too alluring! Tonight: So many choices.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Toss yourself into each project or meeting. With intense focus, you'll get through a lot of work. New ways of making money or increasing your stature appear. You might wonder which way to go. Tonight: Do something just for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You could be distracted by your emotions. Dealing with a situation is important, and you will come out on top of your game. Excitement surrounds your ideas, and you might overwhelm others if you blurt them out. Tonight: Let your mind go.

Happy birthday

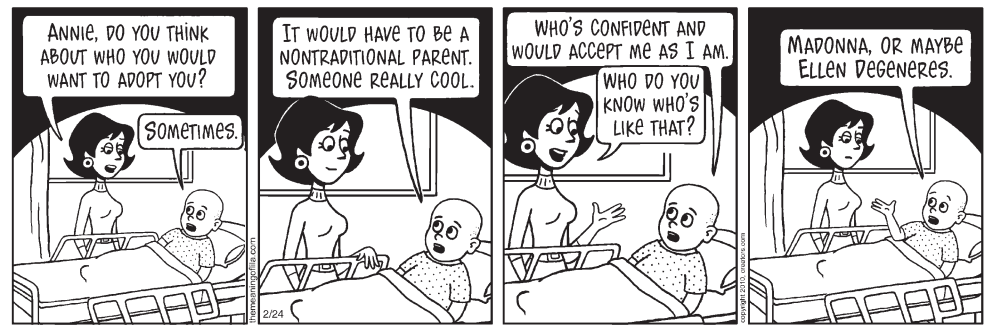
You could be taken aback by all the opportunities that head in your direction this year. You often feel pulled between your feelings and your goals. You will see them in opposition to each other and try to juggle them. A strong possibility this year will be the ability to merge both. You are in the first year of an 11-year luck cycle. Start it well. If you are single, you will have your choice of suitors. If you are attached, the two of you could act like lovebirds again. CANCER understands and appreciates your depth. Enjoy the bond that forms or already exists.

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

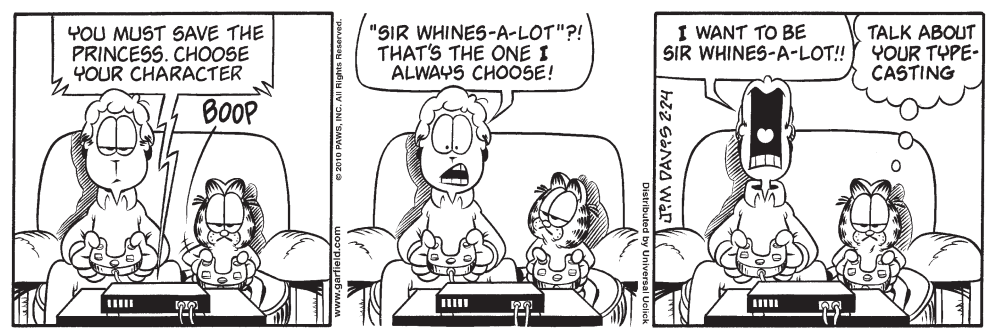
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



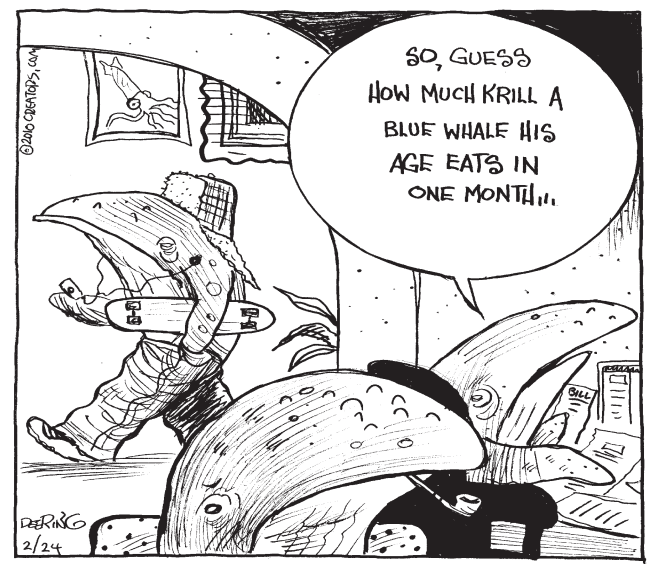
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Be a Fraud Fighter!
Senior Fraud Prevention Call Center
Volunteers needed ages 55+
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• As little as 3 hours per week
• Parking available
WISE & Healthy Aging
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1527 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Toot one's own horn
5 Rainbow maker
9 Gushed
11 Simpleton
12 Designer Simpson
13 Take, as advice
14 Knight title
15 Combinations of two songs
17 Cannabis extract
19 Maiden name label
20 Dog line
21 Nap site
22 Release
24 Take to court
26 Chopper part
29 Program, for short
30 Doc's friend
32 Glides along
34 Tall tale
35 Court event
36 Plain silly
38 Made over
39 Piper of rhyme
40 German river
41 Ties the knot

DOWN

1 Audacious
2 Tire type
3 Disinclined
4 Hair goop
5 A lot of
6 Harmonious
7 Checked (out)
8 High-strung
10 Downfall
11 Hyphen's kin
16 Butt holder
18 Robust
21 One and the other
23 Grapevine talk
24 Didn't punish
25 Positive aspect
27 Recently
28 Destroyed
29 Houston player
30 Lacking locks
31 Lewd looks
33 Salon concern
37 Fresh

C	A	L	A	I	S	■	S	T	A	Y
A	M	A	N	D	A	■	P	O	S	E
T	I	D	D	L	Y	W	I	N	K	S
■	■	■	R	E	S	I	N	■	■	■
■	C	H	E	R	■	R	A	S	H	■
S	H	O	W	■	W	E	L	L	E	S
E	A	T	■	N	O	D	■	O	A	T
T	R	E	B	E	K	■	T	O	R	Y
■	S	L	O	P	■	M	O	P	S	■
■	■	■	L	A	B	O	R	■	■	■
D	I	D	D	L	Y	S	Q	U	A	T
E	R	I	E	■	R	H	U	M	B	A
B	E	E	R	■	D	E	E	P	E	N

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			

2-24

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 22 39 42 46
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: $83M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 19 20 21 24 45
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 10 15 16 31 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 9 9
EVENING: 1 7 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.43.86

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 all likelihood, convicted murderer Paul Powell would have been sentenced to life in prison for his 1999 crime, but he could not resist gratuitously ridiculing the prosecutor. Powell's original sentence of death was overturned because of a technicality in Virginia law: The "aggravated" circumstance in a murder that warrants the death penalty must be committed against the actual murder victim (whereas the prosecutor had proved only that Powell had also raped the victim's sister). Powell assumed that the prohibition against "double jeopardy" thus ruled out the death penalty and so decided to gloat, calling the prosecutor "stupid" and taunting him with details of his crimes. For the first time, Powell admitted that he had also raped the murder victim. That was evidence of a new aggravated circumstance (i.e., no "double jeopardy"), and the prosecutor obtained a death sentence. In January 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected Powell's appeal.

■ A Toronto restaurant, Mildred's Temple Kitchen, announced that its Valentine's Day promotion this year would not just be a romantic dinner but would also include an invitation for couples to have sex in the restrooms. Toronto Public Health officials appeared unconcerned, as long as there was no sex in food-preparation areas and as long as the restrooms were clean. "Bodily fluids" were not a concern, said one unruffled health official, because after all, that's what restrooms are for.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1968 Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive is halted; South Vietnam recaptures Hué.

1970 National Public Radio is founded in the United States.

1971 The All India Forward Bloc holds an emergency central committee meeting after its chairman, Hemantha Kumar Bose, is killed 3 days earlier. P.K. Mookiah Thevar is appointed as the new chairman.

1976 Cuba : national Constitution proclaimed.

WORD UP!

fructuous
\FRUHK-choo-uhs\ , adjective;
1.
Fruitful; productive.

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1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1540.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

12746 Pacific Ave. unit 6 1+1 stove, fridge, dishwasher, wall ac, carpet, blinds, laundry,intercom entry, parking, no pets. $1195.move-in special $500 off (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

3206 BAGLEY AVE. 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, dishwasher, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. $1050 $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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

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

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd.
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2331 20th St, #4
1+1, remodeled, pkng **$1400**

WEST HOLLYWOOD
8206-C DeLongpre
1+1, st **$1100**

WEST L.A.
11321 Massachusetts, #4
Sgl, st, fr, pkg **$850**
1800 Kelton Ave, #1,5,7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1050**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1050**
1657 Federal Ave, #11
1+1, st, fr, pkg, ln, **$1050**
1920 Manning Ave, #6
2+1¾ , st, fr, hdwd **$1450**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr,cpt, pkg,ln **$1450**
11757 Kiowa, #4 & #7
2+1¾, st, dw, pkg, ln **$1900**
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MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. Unit 1, 2+2 lower $1295/Mo, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, balcony, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 5 $875 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS/BVRLYWD ADJ. $880.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 8am-7pm .Additional info in unit

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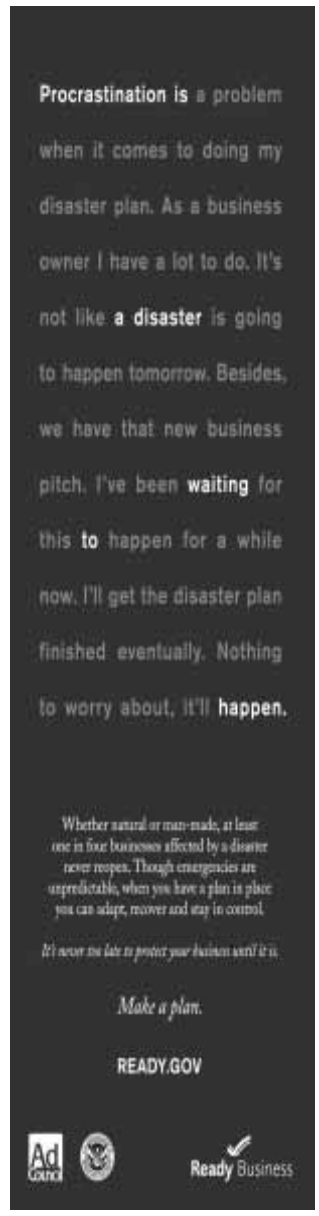
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Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS019058
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of MAURICE GOLCHIN for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: MAURICE GOLCHIN filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: MAURICE GOLCHIN to REESE GOLCHIN. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: MARCH 18, 2010 Time: 8:30AM, Dept. A., Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: FEB 1, 2010
GERALD ROSENBERG
Judge Of The Superior Court
02/10/2010, 02/17/2010, 02/24/2010, 03/03/2010





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W/ Finished Basement
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February 28th
1:00 - 4:00 pm



1328 Berkeley St #101
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$769,000
Front-Facing Townhome
Open Sunday
February 28th
1:00 - 4:00 pm



847 5th Street # 206
2 Bed, 2 Bath
$688,000
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February 28th
1:00 - 4:00 pm



1044 19th Street # 5
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$739,000
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February 28th
1:00 - 4:00 pm



1127 10th Street #301
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North of Montana	$3,045,000	$974,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,649,000	$675,000
South of Wilshire	$884,000	$657,000
Sunset Park	$1, 099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,750,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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