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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 96

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

PLAYOFF FEVER
SEE PAGE 3

THE CAREFUL COUNTING ISSUE

Homeless population on decline

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER During a recession that has seen people losing jobs and homes comes some interesting news that the local homeless population is actually shrinking.

That was the outcome of the 2009 Santa Monica Homeless Count in which more than 250 volunteers last month spent one long night physically tallying individuals living on the streets, finding an 8 percent drop in the final figure from the 2007 survey.

The results were announced during a community meeting at the Civic Center on Monday just a few weeks after the citywide census was conducted to determine the efficacy of City Hall's year-old Action Plan to Address Homelessness, which seeks to tackle the issue by engaging the Santa Monica's most vulnerable in the many services that are available to them.

"This is an important event in the evolution of our program to help people in our community," Mayor Ken Genser said.

Officials attributed the decline to the success of the action plan.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, to see a decline in street homelessness," Julie Rusk, the Human Services Manager, said. "The city

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 8



CHOW TIME

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The Brooks family enjoys an early morning breakfast at the IHOP on 20th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard on Tuesday for National Pancake Day. IHOP restaurants nationwide offered guests a free short stack of buttermilk pancakes in an effort to raise awareness and funds for the Children's Miracle Network. For every short stack of pancakes served IHOP made a donation to the noted charity.

New ad hoc committee to explore airport issues

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After a long contentious relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration over regulations at Santa Monica Airport, local officials have formed a new committee to better position themselves when it comes to legislation.

The Airport Commission on Monday formed a two-member ad hoc committee that will identify issues, policies and legislative advocacy positions which they believe will be important to City Hall when it concerns SMO, a facility that has put city officials at odds with the FAA for years on matters including the now-suspended ban on the fastest jets.

"If they feel a certain position or legislative discussion should be advocated, then they can make a recommendation to the City Council because the council does the advocacy," Airport Manager Bob Trimborn said.

Commissioners Peter Donald and Jean Gebman have been appointed to serve on the committee, which is scheduled to meet monthly.

The committee is also expected to discuss the expiration of the 1984 settlement agree-

SEE SMO PAGE 10

Bank faces scrutiny for tournament spending

BY STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

Northern Trust Corp., a bank that received $1.6 billion in government funds, is facing scrutiny for hosting parties and other events connected to its sponsorship of a professional golf tournament in Pacific Palisades.

Reports of the parties brought a swift protest from Washington, with Democratic lawmakers pressing the bank to return the money spent on the events, and Sen. John Kerry proposing legislation restricting banks that received government funds from hosting, sponsoring or paying for conferences or entertainment events.

Many banks that received money as part of the government's $700 billion government package passed last fall have come under heavy criticism from politicians in Washington in recent weeks about their spending habits — from hosting conferences to buying corporate jets — after obtaining the funds.

The Chicago-based custody bank was the

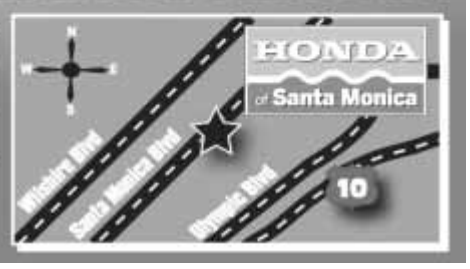
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Kickin' it with Kiwanis

Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds its weekly luncheon with guest speakers. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Walk the labyrinth

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Quiet your mind and nurture your soul as you walk the permanent labyrinth laid in the floor of Simkins Hall at First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. The Labyrinth is an ancient walking meditation tool. Walking the Labyrinth provides a contemplative time for prayer and meditation, and all are invited to participate. Call (310) 393-8258 or e-mail mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

Meet Cornelia Funke

Every Picture Tells A Story Gallery
1311-C Montana Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Come for a chance to meet best-selling author of "Inkheart" and "The Thief Lord." Enjoy exciting book readings, refreshments, and get your book signed. Call (310) 451-2700 for more information or visit www.everypicture.com.

Friday, Feb. 27, 2009

Movies and more

WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
A movie and discussion will be held the second and fourth Friday of each month, followed by a lively discussion led by peer counselor Bert Dragin, who has produced, written, and directed three motion pictures. $3 per person covers film, popcorn, and discussion. Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373 for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009

Woman power

Masonic Center
926 Santa Monica Blvd., 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
The YWCA and the Libbie Agran Financial Literacy Center present a conference designed for women in all stages of life and will be concentrating on the emotional and economic transitions faced by women in today's economy. Also included will be life planning, investment strategies and the economic outlook for 2009. A $50 fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and materials, though limited scholarships are available. Park for free across the street. Call (310) 452-3881 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.



Lawmaker pressures bad brokers

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SACRAMENTO Corrupt mortgage brokers who defraud homeowners and lenders would face stiffer penalties under legislation introduced Tuesday by state Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Santa Monica.

The nation's foreclosure crisis has uncovered an all too widespread practice of mortgage brokers using false information to obtain loans for borrowers, who are in turn often misled about the terms of those loans, Pavley said.

Reports of mortgage fraud nationwide rose by more than 1,400 percent between 2000 and 2008. California's current law, which defines mortgage fraud as a misdemeanor, doesn't do enough to deter these offenders, Pavley said.

California currently ranks fourth in the nation in a population-adjusted measure of suspected mortgage fraud. Among the 56 FBI regions in the country, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento ranked first, third and seventh respectively in mortgage fraud complaints.

"Dishonest mortgage brokers often prey on the most vulnerable people in our society," Pavley said. "They have abused elderly, low-income and non-English speaking borrowers, deceiving them into taking out expensive sub-prime loans they cannot afford.

"Whole neighborhoods have been decimated by rampant foreclosures as a result. We need to take action now to prevent another mortgage foreclosure crisis in the future."

Today, a mortgage broker charged with stealing or vandalizing an item worth $500 from a house would face more potential time behind bars than if he was charged with facilitating a $500,000 fraudulent mortgage loan on the same property. California's only dedicated mortgage fraud law currently defines the practice as a misdemeanor, punishable only by fines.

Senate Bill 239, sponsored by the California District Attorneys Association, would make it a felony to commit fraud in connection with a mortgage application. Brokers convicted of making deliberate misstatements, misrepresentations and omis-

SEE BILL PAGE 9



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

END OF THE LINE: **Santa Monica High School's Melissa Sanchez battles Santiago's Tatiana Valentin for a loose ball Tuesday at John Adams Middle School. The Vikings lost the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division III second round playoff game, 6-0. The loss ends the Vikings' season. Samohi finished the regular season in first place in the Ocean League.**

Playoff roundup

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

• Santa Monica High School's boys soccer team hosts Corona del Mar in the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division IV playoffs today at 3 p.m. The Vikings qualified for the playoffs by defeating Covina's Gladstone in a wild card game. Samohi advanced to the second round by defeating Norwalk, 3-1, in the first round. Corona del Mar finished the regular season second in the Pacific Coast League. The Vikings are the defending all-around state champs.

• St. Monica boys soccer hosts St. Margaret's in the second round of the CIF-SS Division VII playoffs today at 3 p.m. The Mariners dispatched Upland Christian, 5-0, in the first round to advance. St. Margaret's finished the regular season in first place in the Academy League.

• Pacifica Christian's boys soccer team was eliminated from the CIF-SS Division VII playoffs on Friday. The Seawolves were routed by Avalon, 12-0, in the first round. Pacifica Christian finished the season third in the Mulholland League.

• Santa Monica High School girls basketball will take to the road to face Chino Hills in the third round of the CIF-SS Division I-A playoffs tonight. The Vikings are the no. 2 seed in the division. Chino Hills is the no. 10 seed. This is the third year in a row that Samohi has advanced to the third round. The Vikings lost the two previous times it reached the quarter finals.

• The girls basketball team at St. Monica was eliminated from the playoffs on Saturday by St. Bonaventure, 55-42. The Mariners finished the season third in the Camino Real League. St. Bonaventure advances to take on Campbell Hall today in a quarter final matchup.

• The season is over for Crossroads' girls basketball team. Crossroads was defeated, 83-28, by Pacific Hills on Saturday. Pacific Hills, the no. 2 seed in the division, advances to play Fillmore in the quarter finals today.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Blue whales rule the coast

Editor:

As February comes to a close, so too does another extraordinary migratory season of the largest animal ever to have lived on Earth – the majestic blue whale. It graces California, as close as half a mile from the mainland coast, during its spring migration to the most productive ecosystem on our planet – the polar seas.

People have much in common with whales: We both like to eat, mate, touch, talk, sing, sleep, travel and listen.

Prior to commercial whaling, the number of blue whales was estimated at 200,000. Today only about 10,000 of these awesome creatures remain.

The enormity of a blue whale is breathtaking. They are about five times larger than the largest dinosaur. The only other organism comparable in size are the few remaining champion trees. About 17 blue whales would fit, end to end, inside the largest known tree in the world, a giant California mountain sequoia, General Sherman.

Blue whales are 98 feet long with a mass of about 146 tons. Their hearts weigh 992 pounds (the size of a Volkswagen Beetle) and pump 14,109 pounds of blood. Their horizontal tail has the power of a 500 horsepower outboard motor. They can travel at 31 miles per hour for two hours at a time and 43 miles per hour for 10-minute intervals.

When a blue whale takes a breath it is equivalent to eight for a human. As they surface, they fill 80 to 90 per cent of their lungs with air. Humans fill only about 20 per cent. At rest, their heart rate is nine beats per minute. They can remain submerged for up to two hours and dive to depths greater than 379 feet (equivalent to the tallest tree on Earth – a California coastal redwood, Hyperion).

Although single-celled algae stick to the whale's under-belly making them appear yellow to silver, their real skin color is dark. That's because their bodies use oxygen very efficiently due to special muscular protein (myoglobin), which also prevent them from getting nitrogen in their blood preventing an affliction known to divers as the bends.

There are two distinctly different populations of blue whales: one in the northern and one in the southern hemispheres.

They do not intermingle. They both spend the summers feasting in the polar seas where long days promote growth of billions of tons of plankton (minute plants and animals). They spend their winters mating and calving in warm equatorial waters.

Blue whales don't have teeth. Instead they have an exquisite filtration system called a baleen. Three-hundred-and-sixty plates hang from the upper jaw. One gulp contains about 5.5 tons of water.

As the mouth closes, water is expelled through the baleen plates and filled with plankton, crustaceans and small fish. On average a blue whale will eat between 1,984 and 9,039 pounds of plankton for about 120 consecutive days.

Whales use sonar for radar and as a communication system. They are the loudest animal on earth at 188 decibels (louder than a 747 jet engine). We have yet, and may never come to, understand their complex language.

Blue whales are the monarch of the seas; invincible yet gentle. To be in the wild and in the presence of a whale is the most humbling of experiences. They teach us a message; a message of respect for one another, and a respect for all nature.

Dr. Reese Halter
Founder of Global Forest Science
Santa Monica



Going Postal

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

Part 3: Neither snow, nor rain, nor sleet …

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!" — AOL ZOMBIE

After my last article on United States Postal Service managerial ineptitude, I had some useful suggestions for management to curb costs, improve morale and accentuate public visibility, but some folks in the managerial field are bereft of a sense of humor while I'm busy pushing their envelope.

However, just to make things fair and thus prove that I am not in an unmedicated "slash and burn mode" myopia upon the overseers of the USPS plantation, I will address the stultifying culture of labor unions and the relative impotence of their outdated message. Quite frankly, labor and management have proven themselves to be such a parliament of asses that the subtleties of proactive business acumen appear to have escaped them both at the expense of all, themselves included.

According to a recent appearance before Congress by Postmaster General John Potter, the USPS is, like banks, mortgage companies and summer weekend lemonade stands, on the recessional skids resonant with the doom and gloom augury of depressed services, layoffs, no ice cream on Thursdays, yada-yada.

So much for choosing "hope over fear."

The National Association of Letter Carriers [NALC] has obscenely swooned over this allegedly pro-labor president. Is it an inconvenient truth that the e-president's success at acquiring a majority of his campaign largesse was done, not through the postal system but, over the Internet? Trust me, O Mighty Mandarins of NALC, the e-president is not your beer drinking buddy. Remember, "[He] won" your vote. Your worth is now moot.

How much money was sent to the e-president's campaign coffers over the Internet instead of the postal system by postal workers? How much moola was then subsequently lost to the postal industry which would have had a direct bottom line benefit to those same postal workers if they would have sent in their donations by a stamped envelope? Talk about putting both feet in the wood chipper!

Why hasn't NALC petitioned the e-president to retire his techno-doodad to the charger, stick a stamp, without pre-conditions, on a letter to Iran in order to stimulate the rank and file postal worker economy here at home and thereby demonstrate by deed rather than blather to utilize the most reliable courier service in the world? When have you ever heard, "the server is down" from the USPS?

To paraphrase PMG emeritus Ben Franklin's "In Praise of Older Women" that, like an older woman, the USPS might not be pretty but we're cheap, easy, dependable and fun!

Postmaster General John Potter recently received a $79,000 pay raise and a juicy $135,000 performance bonus which is part of an $850,000 pay and compensation package. How does one get a raise and a bonus for propelling the USPS into the economic ravine? The question remains; what has NALC actually done about this shameless travesty of quasi-corporate prostitution? I don't see NALC asking for a 70 percent increase of the Smurf Army's pay yet they will still nobly enter into the collective bargaining circus and ask for a pittance that simply isn't there.

The solution is simple.

How about faking a football bootleg around USPS management and then lobbing a "Hail Mary" pass to their good labor buddy, e-President Obamaberry, who possesses such a quiescently demonstrative legislative labor record as a U.S. senator? Maybe propose the Geithner/Daschle Act so that grunt workers can conveniently forget about paying income taxes entirely and claim the "honest mistake" exemption for the next four years?

Or, quite seriously, how about NALC and other labor unions lobbying the e-President to cut every American worker's Federal employment taxes by half?

If President Obama wants to stimulate my economy, I'd gladly spend the extra $500 bucks per month in gross financial filet mignon I'd keep from that real time manifestation of tax relief rather than the net sum chicken nugget of $13 per week that I'll receive from his newly minted Porkzilla Act of 2009. That is "change" that not only I could believe in but that I would readily spend to stimulate my Frederick's of Hollywood addiction.

Where's the union on this? They need to pull the thong out of their crack.

While the unions regularly win against management in EEO and grievance tussles, it is a hollow victory if the cash awards can't be paid back from an empty USPS piggy bank. Maybe the union can ask PMG John Potter with whom he spoke in Congress to get postal workers some extra spare change. Potter obviously knows "somebody."

An aphorism from Postmaster General emeritus Ben Franklin sums it best: "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately". The question remains, "How much slack do you want in the rope?"

STEVE BREEN is still gunning for Postmaster General John Potter's job and is still "the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office". He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making some amends

STUMBLING HOME FROM AN after-hours party one night, I noticed a neat row of jackets hanging just inside of the open door of Engine Company No. 3 of the Boston Fire Department. I always thought those jackets with the bold yellow stripes and the giant "BFD" across the back were pretty cool, and I decided this was my golden opportunity to own one.

I turned my Stanford Cardinal hat around backward, crept in, and eased the nearest jacket off its hook and onto my back. As I snuck out, I heard someone yell, "Hey!" So I ran. What you don't know about firefighters' jackets until you wear one is they're heavy, their buckles are noisy, their stripes and letters are reflective, and they're fitted for the firefighter who wears them. This one practically dragged on the ground as I flew up Wareham Street with one of Boston's bravest in pursuit. I tried to jump a fence, but was surprised when I wasn't my usual nimble self. Something was weighing me down. I decided to dump the jacket and split, figuring the chase would be over once they had it back.

A few minutes later, a Boston police cruiser rolled up on me. The firefighter who ran after me couldn't provide a positive ID because all he saw was "a black kid in a red hat," but that was enough to get me placed under arrest. I was 19. Luckily, that momentary lapse in judgment didn't come to define the rest of my life — and I don't think 19-year-old Chris Brown's momentary lapse in judgment should become the defining event of his life, either.

Brown was recently booked on suspicion of making criminal threats in connection with an incident with his girlfriend, R&B superstar Rihanna, that left her battered and beaten. More charges could be filed against him, but I doubt that will happen for a number of reasons. First, she probably won't want to press charges or won't cooperate with D.A. Steve Cooley if he decides to pursue felony counts of domestic violence and assault. Especially since she reportedly went to see Chris after she was discharged from Cedars-Sinai, has apparently been in contact with him, and has been quoted as saying she "still loves him."

Then there's the Harvey Levin effect. Levin's gossip-as-news Web site, TMZ, obtained the official LAPD photo of Rihanna's face (taken at the time of the incident) and posted it online. Other Web sites and legitimate news services picked it up and have run it all over the world. When contrasted with the angelic visage people are used to seeing, the image of her bruised face, bloodied nose, and split lip is so grossly prejudicial to potential jurors that on the off-chance this gets into a courtroom, there will literally be no way to seat an impartial panel. With the only witness to the alleged crimes most likely refusing to cooperate, Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, will easily get the charges dismissed.

But the case of Chris Brown (teen heartthrob) vs. Chris Brown (abuser) is already being tried in the court of public opinion. Gossip monger Perez Hilton wants a full boycott, on-air personalities (like Ryan Seacrest) are discussing the topic ad nauseam, celebrities with a connection to the couple (like Jay-Z and Kanye West) are weighing in with statements, and even people who have nothing to do with Chris or Rihanna and are in no position to judge other peoples' relationships (like Jessica Simpson) are suddenly sharing their opinions on domestic violence. Outside of the "Thirty-Mile-Zone," at least two radio stations have stopped playing his songs, Wrigley pulled his Doublemint Gum ads, and his "Got Milk?" campaign isn't being renewed. Corporate America seems to have already decided that Chris Brown is a bad guy and Madison Avenue appears to no longer believe in his marketability.

Luckily for him, he still has millions of fans who are his age or younger; so they're less judgmental and more likely to forgive him than people who are older and more set in their ways. That means there is still a chance for him to restore his image and save his career. But he has to go public. Sitting around for a week, then releasing two sentences of contrition isn't going to be good enough.

He needs to make a statement about his anger management issues and his intent to seek counseling for them. Then he should become a major donor to and poster-boy for an organization that provides services to women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse. If Rihanna does still love him, perhaps she'll forgive him and be by his side through it all. Then maybe they, as a couple, can parlay their public foibles into increased awareness about the very common danger of domestic abuse. The world won't see her as a victim, won't see him as a monster, and they just might help some people in the process.

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

The Q Line

Making tracks

The Expo Light Rail Line is coming to Santa Monica, but which route it takes is still a subject of debate. The pair of routes being kicked around would either have the line make its way down Colorado Avenue to the terminus or travel along Olympic Boulevard.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Which route do you think the rail line should take and why?

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


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Relief workers wait for pay

BY KELLEY SHANNON
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas Hundreds of businesses that provided transportation, portable toilets and other assistance after Hurricane Ike are still waiting to be paid six months after the storm, the result of a $134 million dispute between Texas and the federal government.

Small businesses around the country are struggling because of the delay, and many of them say next time a hurricane threatens the Texas Gulf Coast, they might be reluctant to help.

"I've just been working off my lines of credit," said Brian Touey, president of Central Coast Industries in Nipomo, Calif., which is owed nearly $1 million for supplying water and portable showers last summer after Ike and the smaller hurricanes Dolly and Gustav.

Touey secured credit before the financial crisis unfolded last fall. "Thank God that I did that because we needed to tap every bit of it."

Gov. Rick Perry blames the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the delay in payments. FEMA has said that Texas should pay the businesses, then seek reimbursement from the federal government.

The state owes money to 350 companies who accepted contracts to provide help after the hurricanes, according to a list of vendors obtained by The Associated Press through a Texas Public Information Act request.

After a lawmaker complained about the unpaid bills, Perry's office announced that money was being freed up to pay the businesses, though Perry said $120 million of the amount was owed by FEMA.

Businesses and nonprofit groups contacted this week said they had yet to receive any money.

On Tuesday, Perry spokeswoman Allison Castle responded to an inquiry from the AP by saying the payments were "in the process of being made."

Castle later issued a statement saying "any further delays in getting these payments out the door are unacceptable.

"The state of Texas depends on these vendors to provide much-needed services in times of emergency, and we want to be able to do business with them in the future."

The governor's emergency management office e-mailed Touey in October to say invoices were being processed. But he still has not been paid.

Then the state told Touey that some vendors would be paid in two installments — 75 percent from FEMA and 25 percent from the state — and some would be getting all their money from FEMA.

More recently, Touey said, he heard Texas is making state funds available for full payment.

"I'm not really sure what the truth is," he said. "You can't get a straight answer."

Among those owed large amounts are the Salvation Army, a large grocery chain, a Baptist child and family charity, and scores of Texas cities, school districts and fire departments, as well as out-of-state bus companies.

Express Transportation Inc. of Orlando, Fla., is not eager to work with Texas again.

"That's sad, because the people in Texas didn't do this — the bureaucrats did," said co-owner C.W. Newman. The firm is waiting for $206,000 for providing eight buses during the hurricane response. He said he is having to adjust other payments and operational costs to account for the payment delay. The sinking economy compounds the problem and has led to company layoffs, he said.

"In today's economy, when you're waiting for $206,000 since September, it does put you behind the eight-ball," he said. "If I could afford to go out do this as a charity, I would, but I can't."

A smaller charter bus company, Bay Limousine Services in southeast Alabama, subcontracted with one of the big bus companies that is owed money by Texas.

BLS is waiting for about $90,000 in payments. The company halted insurance payments on three buses that are not being used to save about $3,000 per month. It also is giving fewer hours to its part-time drivers.

Global warming satellite crashes after launch

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES A NASA mission to monitor global warming from space ended Tuesday when a satellite plunged into the ocean near Antarctica minutes after launch. An equipment malfunction was apparently to blame, officials said.

The loss of the $280 million mission came a month after Japan launched the world's first spacecraft to track global warming emissions. The failure dealt a blow to NASA, which had hoped to send up its own satellite to measure carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas behind human-caused global warming.

The crash came just after liftoff from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on California's central coast. A Taurus XL rocket carrying the Orbiting Carbon Observatory blasted off as scheduled shortly before 2 a.m.

Three minutes into the flight, the nose cone protecting the satellite failed to come off as designed, NASA officials said.

The extra weight from the cover caused the rocket to dive back to Earth, splashing into the ocean near Antarctica, where a group of environment ministers from more than a dozen countries met Monday to get the latest science on global warming.

"Certainly for the science community it's a huge disappointment," said John Brunschwyler, Taurus project manager for Orbital Sciences Corp., which built the rocket and satellite. "It's taken so long to get here."

The 986-pound satellite was supposed to be placed into a polar orbit some 400 miles high. The project was nine years in the making, and the mission was supposed to last two years.

The observatory was NASA's first satellite dedicated to monitoring carbon dioxide on a global scale. Measurements collected by the satellite were expected to improve climate models and help researchers determine where the greenhouse gas originates and how much is being absorbed by forests and oceans.

"Wow! Bad news this morning," said Scott Denning, an atmospheric science professor at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., and a member of the team that planned to analyze data from the satellite. "We put years into getting ready for this."

Gov. Palin to pay up for travel by her children

BY ANNE SUTTON
Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin will reimburse the state nearly $7,000 for costs associated with nine trips taken by her children, her attorney said Tuesday.

Palin must reimburse the state within 120 days, according to a settlement agreement filed by a special investigator hired by the Alaska Personnel Board to investigate an ethics complaint filed against her. The exact amount will be determined by the Alaska Department of Administration, said Palin's attorney, Thomas Van Flein. He estimated the amount would be $6,800.

There is no state law prohibiting the governor's family from traveling with her and the personnel board found no wrongdoing on the part of the governor. But the investigator, Timothy Petumenos, interpreted the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act to require that state only pay if the first family serves an important state interest.

Petumenos said "some of the travel raised by the Complaint does not meet this standard," according to the agreement.

Van Flein said 72 travel authorizations were studied, with nine found to be of questionable state interest.

Those include airfare and one meal for her daughter Bristol Palin, who accompanied the governor to New York for Newsweek's Third Annual Women and Leadership Conference in October 2007. Other trips include Bristol attending "Beauty and the Beast" at the Valley Performing Arts Center, airfare for daughters Piper and Bristol to travel to Juneau from Anchorage for the State of the State address and airfare for Piper to attend the start of the Iron Dog snowmachine race and the Alaska Outdoor Council Banquet.

ECONOMY

Reserve's Bernanke says recession may end soon

BY MADLEN READ AND TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave Wall Street a double dose of reassurance. Now it's President Barack Obama's turn.

Bernanke told Congress on Tuesday the recession might end this year, and that regulators aren't planning to nationalize banks. The news alleviated some of investors' worries about the economy and the banking industry, and lifted the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index off their lowest levels since 1997.

And investors are hopeful that Tuesday night, Obama will provide specifics about his plans to stabilize the financial system and further stimulate the economy. Anticipation of his remarks helped drive beaten-down financial shares up sharply.

"There's growing optimism that Obama can deliver the details that the market is so desperately looking for in his speech," said Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyageur Asset Management. If it gets those details, Larson added, the market's upward momentum could continue.

Stocks remain on shaky ground, however. Bernanke may have helped stem the market's slide Tuesday, but the market also found stability from temporary technical factors: bargain-hunting, the unwinding of short bets, and selling exhaustion after six straight down days for the S&P 500.

And though it appears the government is trying to quash the notion of bank nationalization, the Obama administration still has not demonstrated how exactly it will repair the banking system. The nation's financial system remains "zombie-like," said Nick Kalivas, vice president of financial research at the brokerage MF Global.

"We had an up day today, but nothing has really changed on that front," Kalivas said. "If nothing is articulated on that tonight, we're moving to the downside again."

The continued focus on the stability of the financial system comes a day after the government moved closer to dramatically expanding its ownership stakes in the nation's banks, including Citigroup Inc. The Treasury Department, the Fed and other banking regulators said Monday they could convert the government's stock in the banks from preferred shares to common shares.

The Dow rose 236.16, or 3.3 percent, to 7,350.94. On Monday, the major indexes tumbled more than 3 percent, including the Dow, which fell 251 points and hit its lowest close since May 7, 1997.

Broader stock indicators also rebounded Tuesday. The S&P 500 index rose 29.81, or 4 percent, to 773.14. On Monday, it logged its lowest finish since April 11, 1997.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 54.11, or 3.9 percent, Tuesday to 1,441.83, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 17.90, or 4.5 percent, to 412.48.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 6 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 7.09 billion shares, compared with Monday's 6.35 billion.

In his semiannual report to the Senate Banking Committee, Bernanke predicted the economy is likely to keep contracting in the first six months of 2009, but that "there is a reasonable prospect" the recession will end this year.

He warned that a recovery will require getting credit and financial markets to operate normally, and that the government must continue working with ailing banks to bring them back to profitability.

To the market's relief, though, the Fed chief said formally nationalizing the banks "just isn't necessary."

Traders were encouraged that the S&P 500 index has so far managed to stayed above its Nov. 21 trading low of 741.02. Investors searching for a recovery look for signs that market can test its lows from the worst of the credit crisis and then bounce higher.

Still, many analysts expect the market to remain volatile for the foreseeable future.

Rich Hughes, co-president of Portfolio Management Consultants in Los Angeles, said the market's rallies are likely to be based on hope or on rebounds from selloffs. He contends Wall Street still hasn't seen the wrenching decline that is often needed to scare investors from the market and set the ground for a lasting recovery.

"The underlying fundamentals just aren't there to support anything that's sustainable right now," Hughes said. "We haven't seen the capitulation that you'd want to see before you'd get thoroughly enthused."

The market's slide has been tough on long-term investors. A person who in 1997 put $50,000 in a fund that tracks the S&P 500 would now only have about $46,256.

Bond prices fell Tuesday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.80 percent from 2.76 percent late Monday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, was unchanged at 0.29 percent.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude rose $1.52 to $39.96 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Home Depot posted a loss but the nation's largest home improvement retailer's results topped expectations when excluding costs for shutting four home-improvement brands. The stock rose $1.96, or 10.5 percent, to $20.67.

Target Corp. and Macy's Inc. said fiscal fourth-quarter earnings fell sharply as shoppers cut back on purchases. Office Depot Inc. posted a loss for the quarter. Target fell 60 cents to $27.83, while Macy's rose 89 cents, or 12 percent, to $8.29.

Two big drags on the Dow this year — Citigroup and Bank of America Corp. — regained ground Tuesday. Citigroup rose 46 cents, or 22 percent, to $2.60, and BofA rose 82 cents, or 21 percent, to $4.73.

Another bank in the Dow, JPMorgan Chase & Co., rose $1.51, or 7.74 percent, to $21.02 after announcing late Monday it would slash its quarterly dividend to 5 cents from 38 cents in a move to save $5 billion a year.

The only loser in the Dow Tuesday was Microsoft Corp., which dipped 4 cents to $17.17 after it reiterated its belief that the economic crisis will persist at least into the second half of 2009.

Stocks fell in Asia and Europe following Monday's drop on Wall Street. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.5 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.78 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 0.73 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.73 percent.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NAPPING: **A homeless woman sleeps in front of the Senior Center at Palisades Park on Tuesday.**

Homeless population down from last count

FROM **HOMELESS** PAGE 1

has been working hard for a long time to develop a compassionate and effective plan to address the issues of homelessness in our community."

Using a more aggressive methodology in which all 19 census tracts were covered and no multipliers were factored in to estimate the number of people living in vehicles, tents and boxes, which was a formula used in the previous survey, the 2009 Homeless Count showed 915 total homeless individuals on the evening of Jan. 27. The figure includes 435 individuals in shelters and other institutions and 480 who were found on the streets.

The census involved a different approach from the count two years ago when only 12 census tracts were counted and projections were made for the remaining seven, leading officials to say they have high confidence in the figures this time around.

City officials concluded that the homeless population dropped by 8 percent over the past two years assuming the two censuses applied the same methodology. Doing so would show a lower final figure for the 2007 census from 1,506 — which is inflated due to the use of multipliers — to an estimate of 999.

"We don't think we missed many people." said Danielle Noble, the senior administrative analyst for homeless services.

The count was conducted in conjunction with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) during its own countywide count, which took three days to complete.

In Santa Monica, the volunteers split into 70 teams covering 226 linear miles for several hours in the late evening and early morning hours.

The volunteers included Bryan Adams, a Santa Monica resident who long wanted to fulfill his desire to help out more in the community.

Adams, who has a relative on the East Coast who has at times been homeless in the past, said he has seen first hand how it can affect families.

He was up until 2 a.m. counting individuals last month.

"I'm proud to see the city I live in take a leadership role in homelessness and a humane one at that," he said.

Some volunteers were formerly homeless themselves, such as Renee Buchanan, who sought services at OPCC seven years ago.

She considers herself one of the lucky few who never had to spend a single night on the streets.

Buchanan said she participated in the count to honor OPCC and all the people who were not as fortunate.

"Because they don't have a place to call home," she said.

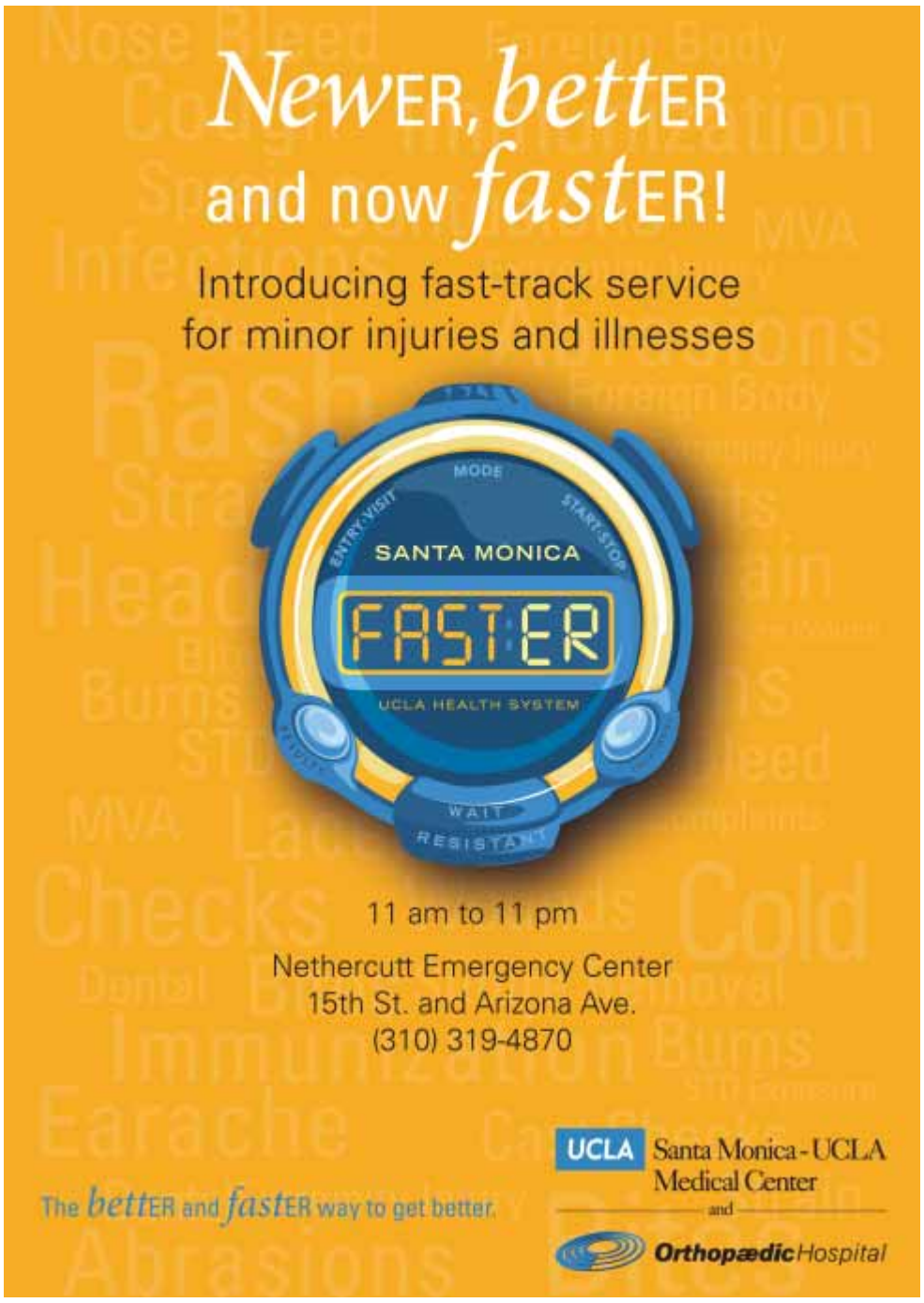
The count is just one part of a continuing effort by LAHSA to get a better picture of the homeless population in the county. Officials plan to follow up by holding 20-minute in depth interviews with homeless individuals to find out how they ended up on the streets, where they came from and whether they have a mental illness.

Part three will involve counting homeless individuals in the various institutions countywide before concluding with a general population survey to find the hidden homeless who live in garages, carports and other areas unfit for habitation.

In a time when it seems the homeless population would be on the rise, the results came as good news to local officials.

"People count, not simply in a literal way … but people count in a symbolic way in that you say people matter," Brian Buchner, the chair of the Social Services Commission, told volunteers. "Homelessness (or the risk) of becoming homeless is becoming a reality for far to many people."

melodyh@smdp.com



Bank was sponsor

FROM BANK PAGE 1

title sponsor of the PGA Tour's Northern Trust Open that was played last week at Riviera Country Club.

The bank also hosted dinners and concerts for clients and employees who attended the weeklong event. A report by entertainment Web site TMZ said Northern Trust flew in hundreds of employees and clients for the event, putting them up at fancy hotels throughout the area and hosting dinners and concerts throughout the week of the tournament.

The events are part of the bank's global marketing activities and are focused on showing appreciation for clients and attracting new business, said Douglas Holt, a spokesman for Northern Trust.

Northern Trust became the title sponsor for the event in 2007, about a year before it received federal funds as part of the bank investment program, Holt said. It has a five-year contract to sponsor the event.

"Northern Trust did not seek the government's investment, but agreed to the government's goal of gaining the participation of all major banks in the United States," Holt said.

In Washington, Democratic lawmakers on the House Financial Services Committee pressed Northern Trust President and CEO Frederick Waddell to immediately return the money spent on the outing to the government.

Eighteen Democrats on the financial services panel, led by Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., told Waddell in a letter, "We insist that you immediately return to the federal government the equivalent of what Northern Trust frittered away on these lavish events."

"At a time when millions of homeowners are facing foreclosure, businesses and consumers are in dire need of credit, and the government is trying to keep financial institutions — including yours — alive with billions in taxpayer funds, this behavior demonstrates extraordinary levels of irresponsibility and arrogance," they wrote.

Kerry, D-Mass., a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, called for government action to tighten the reins on recipient banks' spending. The senator introduced legislation to restrict spending by financial firms that received government bailout funds as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The legislation would require a company's chief executive to reimburse the government for the cost of any events hosted and pay a $100,000 fine.

Other banks have faced heavy scrutiny before events even took place in recent weeks, forcing their postponement or cancellation. Political outcry led to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. altering conferences, while Citigroup Inc. canceled a contract to take delivery of a corporate jet. All three of those banks also received federal bailout funds, but at much larger amounts than Northern Trust.

Northern Trust's Holt noted that no government funds are allocated to operating expenses, including marketing, advertising, corporate sponsorships or charitable activities. He said those costs come from cash flow from the bank's operations.

Northern Trust made its first quarterly payment of $19.7 million to the government earlier this month as it repays the $1.6 billion investment.

Throughout the ongoing credit crisis and recession, Northern Trust has remained profitable, unlike some large commercial banks that have received larger sums from the government. Northern Trust earned $794.8 million, or $3.47 per share, in 2008.

Despite remaining profitable, Northern Trust announced in December it would cut 4 percent of its staff, or about 450 jobs.

As sponsor of the golf tournament, Northern Trust hosted dinners Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for special guests, according to TMZ. Each dinner was followed by a concert, with performers including the bands Chicago and Earth, Wind and Fire as well as Sheryl Crow, according to the report.

"The band has had no knowledge of Northern Trust using bailout money to support their event last week," said Earth, Wind and Fire's publicist Mark Young in an e-mail to The Associated Press, in response to questions about the group's performance Thursday at a private hangar at the Santa Monica Airport.

E-mails to Chicago and Crow's publicists were not immediately returned.

PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem noted that Northern Trust is in the wealth management business, and that entertainment vehicles help their business. "I think it's unfair to them," he said. "To take a company and say, 'You should play by these rules because you have tax dollars' — the taxpayers should want the business to work. Most of these companies that are being beaten up so bad weren't mismanaged companies."

Michael Yamaki, a corporate office for the Riviera Country Club said unlike in past years, Northern Trust's executives did not head to the tournament early to play golf at the host course.

Yamaki said: "You could tell they were really tightening their belts and doing this for business. All the executives I saw were in coats and ties, not golf clothes. I know everyone was wondering at the start what position they would be in. Years ago, the top executives would come out and golf. Not this time."

Bill would make mortgage fraud a felony

FROM BILL PAGE 3

sions during the mortgage lending process could be punished by a prison term of two, three or four years. Those who engaged in a pattern of fraud could face up to five years of additional time.

The bill also will allow law enforcement to obtain crucial real estate records more quickly via a court order.

"Look at the flood of foreclosures and the state of our economy and ask yourself whether mortgage fraud should be a misdemeanor and punished on a par with stealing a pack of gum. It's time for California to start taking this crime seriously," said Mike Fitzsimmons, Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, who also chairs the California District Attorneys Association's real estate fraud committee.

If Pavley's bill becomes law, California will follow the lead of Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina, which have all adopted similar legislation in recent years. Georgia once led the nation in mortgage fraud. But since the passage of its law in 2005, the state's mortgage fraud rate has fallen to a point where California's problem now exceeds it. Georgia's statute provides for as much as 10 years in prison for a one-time offender and up to 20 years for multiple offenders.

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DC-3 monument set to open next month

FROM SMO PAGE 1

ment between the FAA and City Hall keeping the airport functioning as such.

The agreement is set to expire in 2015, though the year has also been a subject of dispute.

"A personal observation is that a number of general aviation airports are morphing into more of a commercial operation and a number of us have been wondering for some time whether or not we should take a close look at the laws and regulations to make sure they keep pace with the changing times," Gebman said.

Gebman said the disagreement concerning the ban on categories C and D jet aircraft at the airport, which is currently being battled in court, is a symptom of a deeper issue of laws that govern the use of commercial aircraft at a general aviation airport.

"Rather than continually fight with the symptoms of a more fundamental underlying issue, it is the hope of the commission that we will find some suggestions that we might make to the City Council moving forward, which may include asking for some federal relief from our local congressional representatives," he said.

> **"WE HAVE A LOT OF HOMES SURROUNDING THE AIRPORT AND MANY OF THE FENCING BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND THOSE HOMES ARE THE 1930S CHAIN LINKED FENCE, WHICH IS RUSTED AND DOESN'T PROVIDE ANY SOUND (PROTECTION)."**
>
> **Bob Trimborn**
> Airport Manager.

IMPROVEMENT

A series of new construction projects to improve the airport could be on the way.

Asked by the council to come up with $50,000 worth of capital expenditures, the commission identified three possible project areas, including added landscaping, installation of surveillance cameras and construction of sound walls to replace the chain-link fence separating the airport and the residences.

Airport staff will do a cost analysis for the three different projects and report back to the commission at its next meeting.

"We have a lot of homes surrounding the airport and many of the fencing between the airport and those homes are the 1930s chain-link fence, which is rusted and doesn't provide any sound (protection)," Trimborn said. "The installation of a wall will create a more aesthetic appearance and noise buffer between the airport and the homes."

The commission is also interested in adding more landscaping around the airport, which is one of the larger areas of open space in the city with 227 acres.

Many of the plants and trees along Bundy Drive and 23rd Street have suffered in the drought, Trimborn said.

"Since so many people see those areas going to and from wherever they're going, we would like to improve and maintain that with landscape materials," he said.

MONUMENT COMING ALONG

The homage to the DC-3 and Donald Douglas Aircraft, which was founded in Santa Monica, will be unveiled next month.

Located at 3100 Airport Ave., the monument includes a mounted DC-3 aircraft that was manufactured and delivered in 1942, called "The Spirit of Santa Monica."

The monument is being funded through the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California and other sponsors, which contributed an upward $580,000 toward the project, which will also include a statue of Donald Douglas and his dog, Bar.

The DC-3 plane was recently mounted.

"It's looking pretty good," Trimborn said. "It's a show stopper."

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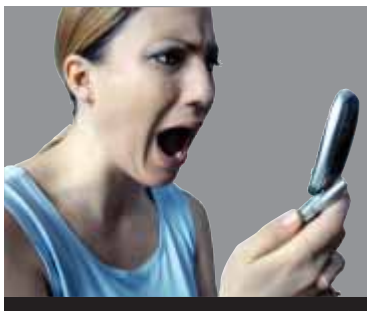

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BASEBALL

Lasorda still loves the game

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI Tommy Lasorda is sitting on a leather couch in his hotel suite, with the unique combination of a remote control in one hand and a Japanese medal of honor in the other.

Something on the television catches his eye.

"Ciudad de Mexico," he says, excitedly pointing to someone on the TV reporting from Mexico City, which he identifies in Spanish. "Ciudad de Mexico! We were just there."

Of course he's been there.

He's been everywhere, preaching the gospel of baseball.

The Los Angeles Dodgers legend made 22 appearances in November alone, then picked up a little thing called The Order of the Rising Sun — one of the most prestigious awards given by the Japanese, which came in recognition of his four decades of involvement with the game in that country — back in December.

He talked to youth swimmers in California, at a community college in Washington and alongside Bill Buckner in Denver in January. So far this month there's been a bus trip from Los Angeles to Arizona, a speech in Nevada, a quick jaunt to Miami ... it never ends.

Now 81 years old, Lasorda wouldn't have it any other way.

"The life that I have had, it's unbelievable," he said. "It's my 60th year with the Dodgers. I was a player, then I was a scout, then a minor league manager, then a major league coach, then a major league manager, then a general manager. I covered everything in the game. I've received, what, seven honorary doctorate degrees. I'm in 13 Hall of Fames. And I've had nine National League rookies of the year. Who else has done that?"

Oh, his memory is sharp as ever, too.

Retire? Not an option.

Lasorda has paid the game back for everything it gave him many times over, and here he still is, stopping by Miami for two days to hype the upcoming World Baseball Classic, which begins March 5. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig made him the global ambassador for the event, and it's not an honorary title.

Lasorda has already been to Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle, Denver and Mexico City to promote the tournament. On Tuesday, the day the final rosters for the WBC are announced, he'll be at an exhibition game between the Baltimore Orioles and Italy's national team — a natural lure for the proud son of an Italian immigrant.

From Miami, he'll head to San Juan on Wednesday, then get to Washington and Toronto in the coming weeks.

The man does have a home, by the way. He's just rarely there.

"If I didn't love to do this, I wouldn't be doing it," Lasorda said.

He likes to say he'll be the answer to a trivia question someday: Who was the guy who managed teams to both Olympic gold medals (which he did with the Americans in Sydney in 2000) and World Series titles (with the Dodgers in 1981 and 1988)?

Not bad for a guy who, as a pitcher in the majors, was 0-4 with an ERA of 6.48.

He was the ambassador for the inaugural WBC in 2006, and it's assumed that if he wants the job again after this year, it's his.

"Tommy has played a key role in the globalization of baseball throughout his career, promoting the game in 22 countries as well as playing or managing in 14 of the 16 participating countries," Selig said in December when Lasorda's involvement in this year's WBC was announced. "His presence will provide tremendous support for the tournament and I am delighted that he will once again be a part of it."



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

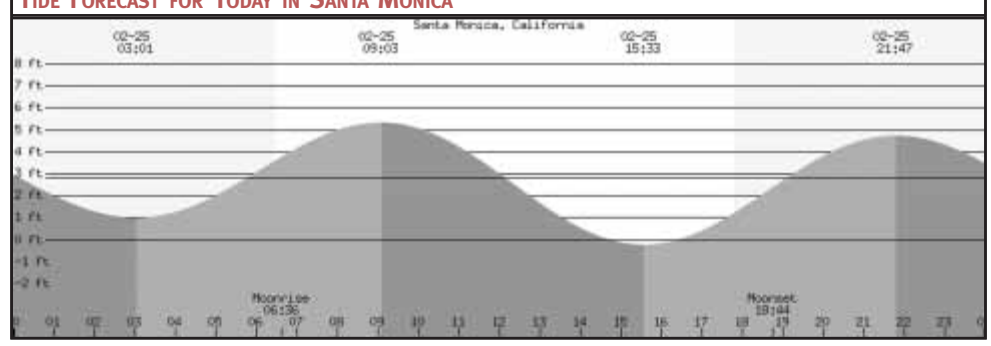
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

Wednesday the 25th Gulf-originating wind swell should increase west facing breaks into waist to chest high surf. South facing breaks are looking at knee to waist high conditions.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 26th looks similar for size: waist to (maybe) chest high surf for west facing breaks, knee to waist elsewhere. Winds may pick up early onshore and could reach 15+ mph by mid afternoon, mostly for areas north of LA.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 18, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 18
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 4
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 40

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	C
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	B	F
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+	F
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+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	D
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	D

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

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

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
9:55

Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
3:00, 6:30

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

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
1:35, 4:05, 7:05, 9:35

Fired Up (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

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

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55

Push (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

Friday the 13th (2009) (R) 1hr 35min
2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
2:10, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

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

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

Waltz With Bashir (R) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

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

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

The International (R) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:20

Gran Torino (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:50, 4:05, 7:00, 10:10

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

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

Happy Birthday April Motola!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ Take your time and rethink a change. You are positive and upbeat in general. Communication between you and a key associate lights up your thoughts. Don't allow negativity to grasp your mind. Tonight: Extra private time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ A new friend lights up your day. Be willing to share more and not personalize a loved one's attitude. This person is having a hard time and might need to pull back and rethink an issue. Open up your thoughts. The unexpected pops up. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Don't hesitate to take the lead. Push to the max and take a step forward. Your laughter and ease in social situations are assets. Juggling your personal needs with work could be overwhelming. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for others. Do take a risk and get past wanting to shut down. You might want to rethink a problem with new information or seek out an expert or two. Unexpected news eventually will lead to a new opening or opportunity. Remain upbeat. Tonight: Take in new ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Sometimes dealing with others and responding to their concerns could be overwhelming. Don't question your resourcefulness or abilities. Think positively. Investigate what seems surprising or off-kilter. Tonight: Be easygoing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Stay on top of your game. If you need some feedback, listen and be aware. You are about to get some. Be in touch with the fact that your tendency toward negativity often makes others want to bypass communication with you. Tonight: Midweek break.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Your easy give-and-take could make a huge difference. Think in terms that you want more creative play and an audience – be it regarding a loved one, a romance or a project. You are on top of your game. If you feel that someone is not understanding your thoughts, you could be right. Tonight: Indulge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your imagination takes you down many an odd path. If you want to think through a situation, you need to slow down, and quickly at that. A family member or roommate wants to put his or her two cents in. What goes on could change rapidly. Tonight: Act like how you feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Center on what is important and what is happening. You'll find life more interesting and dynamic than in the past. Just watch! Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You are able to mobilize your energy and accomplish a lion's share of work, if you want. Understand what you have to offer and what you are capable of. Push comes to shove. The unexpected pops up from out of left field. Tonight: Hang out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Be more aware and continue to take good care of yourself, remaining on top of your game. You will see a big difference in what goes on. Don't feel as if you don't have any choices. You do. You just might not see them. Tonight: Pay bills.

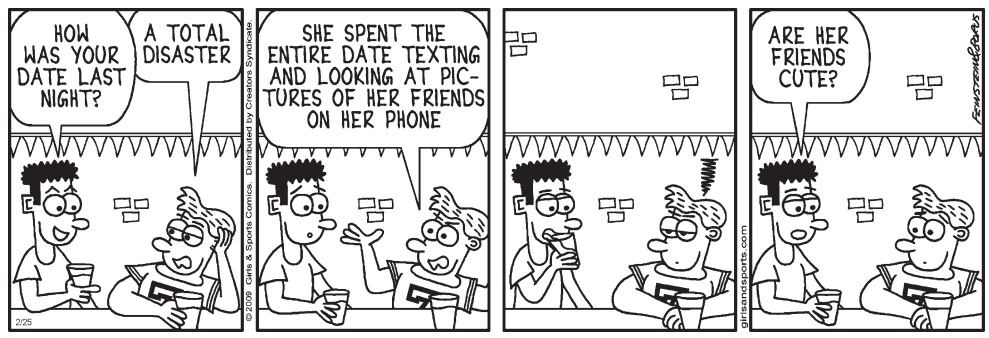
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are all smiles, despite problems or any negativity. It might be amazing to see how you could transform a situation through your attitude and reframing the problem. Open doors and greet options. Tonight: All smiles.

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 make a difference. Understand the possibilities and don't get stuck in negativity. With the power, energy and creativity available to your sign, you can face obstacles and go right around them. Your mind works overtime, and sometimes you make mountains out of molehills. If you are single, you will discover the many admirers who would like to be closer to you. Choose your next sweetie with care. If you are attached, the two of you build a stronger bond. Be more sensitive to your sweetie than in the past; he or she could easily become depressed. Learn from another PISCES. He or she reflects a side of you.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



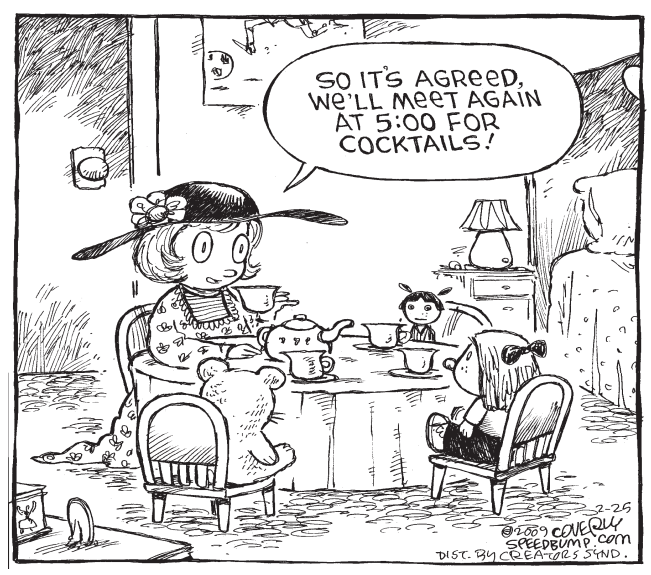
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Unwanted e-mail
5 Concord
9 Accolade
11 — incognita
12 Texas landmark
13 News summary
14 Baseball's Hodges
15 Run
17 Terrier type
19 Roulette bet
20 Long-plumed bird
21 Gift tag word
22 Seething
24 Bunny move
26 Fishing spots
29 Quick punch
30 Burgs
32 Pigged out
34 Unruly do
35 Rock unit
36 Avignon's river
38 Macramé makeup
39 Natural in Vegas
40 Reasonable
41 Comfy home

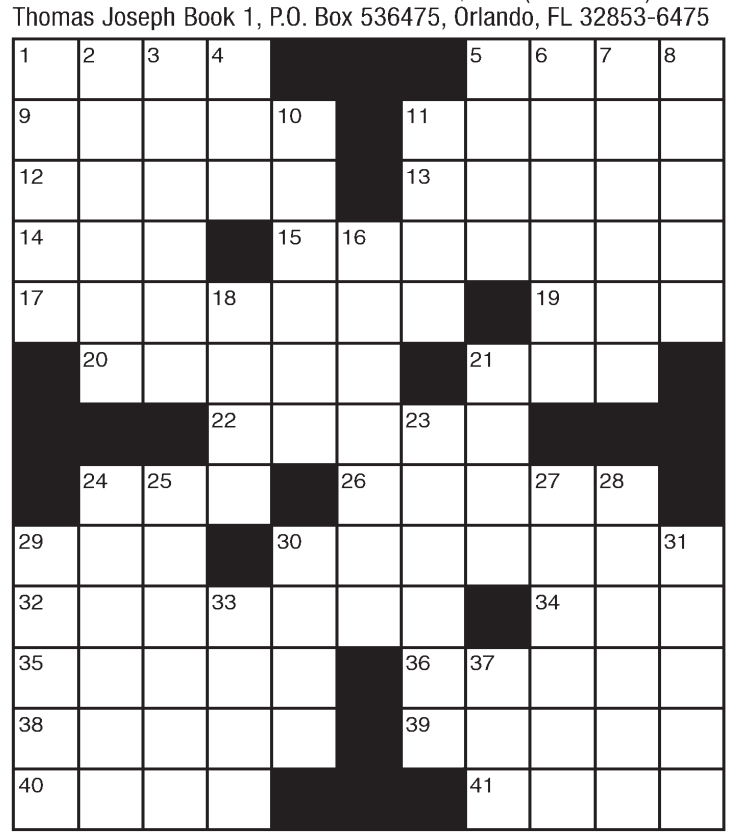
DOWN

1 Chases baseballs
2 Urban force
3 Like some watches
4 Tattoo word
5 Equal
6 Citation's jockey
7 Martian feature
8 Used a VCR
10 Fan
11 Genealogy chart
16 Heartbeat sound
18 Reason to pack
21 Sense
23 Kitchen gadgets
24 Cuban capital
25 Fairy king
27 Take out
28 Pebbles
29 Athletic types
30 Toppers
31 Depleted
33 Assess
37 Brood watcher

W	A	I	S	T	S	■	P	L	O	W
E	L	L	I	O	T	■	R	A	C	E
B	A	L	L	O	O	N	I	S	T	S
■	■	■	E	L	W	E	S	■	■	■
■	G	I	N	S	■	P	O	S	T	■
P	A	N	T	■	B	A	N	T	A	M
A	L	L	■	P	A	L	■	O	R	E
R	E	A	G	A	N	■	M	U	T	T
■	N	Y	E	T	■	S	O	T	S	■
■	■	■	T	I	P	I	N	■	■	■
B	A	S	S	O	O	N	I	S	T	S
E	X	I	T	■	R	E	C	O	U	P
A	E	R	O	■	T	W	A	N	G	Y

Yesterday's answer

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2-25

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MEGA MILLIONS: 21 28 41 45 55
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $145M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 25 27 30 32 38
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 4 13 18 30 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 7 8
EVENING: 2 2 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.41.14

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

■ Belgian workers take sick leave nearly four times as often as U.S. workers, mostly attributed to Belgian law, which grants full salary the first month and then government-guaranteed 80-percent pay indefinitely. A recent study, noted in a January Wall Street Journal report, found that only 5 percent of Belgian leave-takers were proven malingerers, but that the biggest medical problem now is easily-diagnosed "depression" (exacerbated by the worsening economy), leading to free-form medical leave-taking and creative treatments often unchallenged, such as for the man who frolicked on the soccer field, bought an Alfa Romeo, and reconnected with old friends (all of which, not surprisingly, said his doctor, lessened his depression).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1913 the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

1919 Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

1948 Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia.

1964 Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) became world heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Sonny Liston in Miami Beach, Fla.

1969 NASA launched the Mariner 6 probe on a mission to study Mars.

1986 President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

1991 during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

1994 American-born Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein opened fire with an automatic rifle inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank, killing 29 Muslims before he was beaten to death by worshippers.

WORD UP!

peculate \PEK-yuh-leyt\, *verb*: to steal money or goods entrusted to one; embezzle

Santa Monica Daily Press

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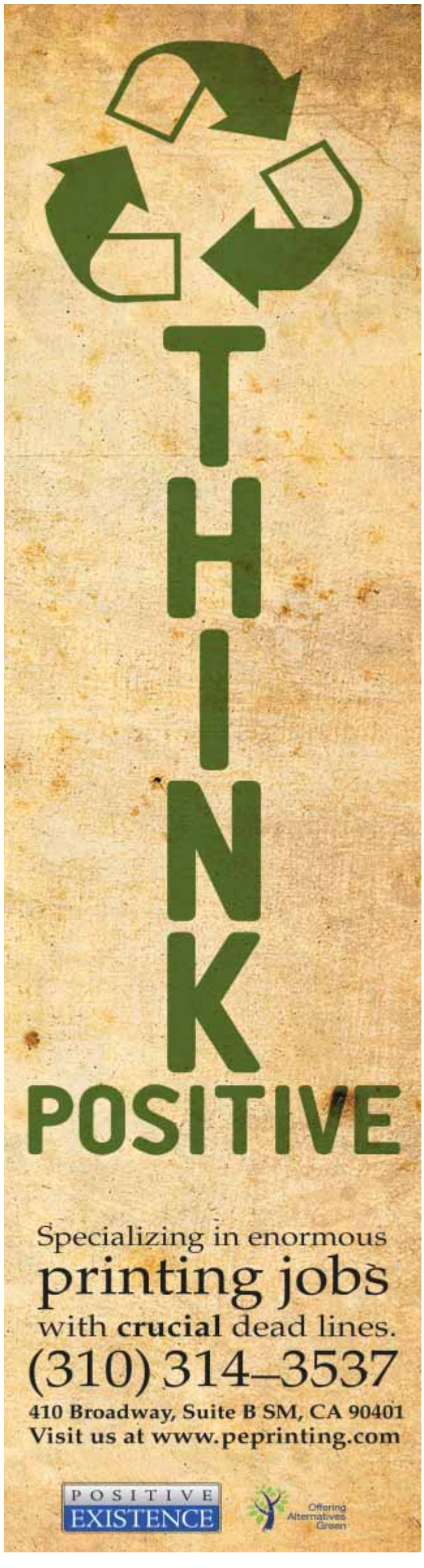
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North of Montana	$3,495,000	$1,272,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$799,250
South of Wilshire	$904,500	$759,000
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