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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 96

Santa Monica Daily Press

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.
SO LONG SATURDAY DELIVERY
SEE PAGE 11
We have you covered
THE WELCOME BACK SACK ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HARD AT WORK: **Erica Bentley (left) of Novoria web development works along side other business owners at the CoLoft on Santa Monica Boulevard on Tuesday afternoon. CoLoft provides freelancers with an office outside of their homes to enhance networking opportunities.**

Freelancers find place to call their home (office)

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BLVD You know a business is on the cutting edge when it hangs a sign in the front window that reads, "What is this place?"

As the first "co-working" space geared toward creative professionals in Santa Monica, the owners of CoLoft, which opened its doors Feb. 15, felt they had some explaining to do.

Located at 920 Santa Monica Blvd., the company's concept is based on the "co-working" movement that has taken hold in the Bay Area but is relatively unknown in Los Angeles.

The idea is that creative professionals who do freelance work crave the social interaction and networking opportunities that can be difficult to find when working mainly from home. For the self-employed who do their jobs on laptops and are used to heading to Starbucks to put in a shift, co-working spaces are meant to be a welcome alternative.

Compared with a coffee shop, CoLoft aims to provide a more work-conducive atmosphere with more comfortable chairs, more space to spread out, more amenities and fewer distractions.

For co-founders Cameron Kashani and Avesta Rasouli, one of the main goals of the business is to foster a sense of community that benefits members' psyches while also giving them access to a greater number of potential clients and collaborators.

"Community is the number one priority. That's what we're trying to go for," Kashani said.

Rasouli and Kashani, who are engaged, got the idea to open a co-working space after becoming acquainted with the concept late last year while on business in the Bay Area. They were working on their other joint venture, a company that markets iPhone apps, and after using a co-working space realized they were getting a lot done while also meeting like-minded people.

"I was probably like a couple of hours into it and I had two new business contacts," Rasouli said. "I immediately realized the value of this whole thing."

SEE BUSINESS PAGE 8

New dining options at SM Place

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PLACE Macerich Co. this week announced it has leased space at Santa Monica Place to three new shops that will help round out a diverse mix of restaurants and food purveyors the company hopes will make its top-story "dining deck" a major attraction at the new mall.

With a view of the ocean and the Third Street Promenade, the company is aiming to create a signature food destination on top of the new mall, which is expected to begin its soft opening in August.

The three latest tenant announcements are: King's Road Cafe, a Los Angeles-based coffee house; The Curious Palate, a market and cafe that is expanding from a single location in Mar Vista; and San Francisco-based chocolatier Coco-luxe Confections.

The stores are all part of a section of the dining deck Macerich is calling the "The Market at Santa Monica Place."

"Think a slice of the Ferry Building in San Francisco or a wedge of Chelsea Market in New York. The Market will be a smaller version of this kind of experience," Michael Guerin, an assistant vice president of leasing for the property, said in a news release.

The Market is the third component of a dining area that will include "fast casual" options as well as more formal sit-down restaurants.

The three tenants announced this week are the first lessees announced for the market, which is expected to have about 20 shops, Guerin said. The market is expected to open in late 2010 or early 2011.

In leasing the rest of the spaces Guerin said Macerich is looking to sign stores that will provide a range of foods including meats, fish, cheeses, breads, fruits and vegetables, in addition to gourmet ingredients and prepared foods.

> **"IT WOULD ACCENT THE FARMERS' MARKET, IT WOULDN'T COMPETE WITH THE FARMERS' MARKET."**
>
> **Michael Guerin,**
> Assistant vice president of leasing with Macerich Co.

He said the market, though, won't replicate offerings at the popular Farmers' Market held in Downtown Santa Monica.

"It would accent the Farmers' Market, it wouldn't compete with the Farmers' Market," he said.

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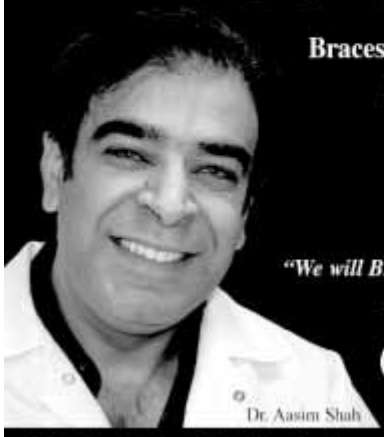
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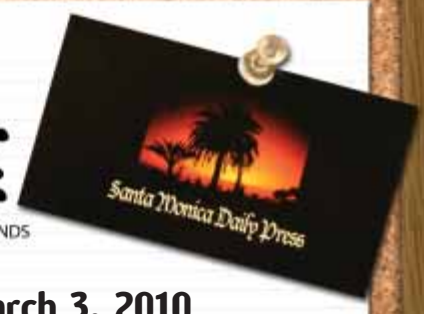
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Farm fresh
Downtown Farmers' Market
Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Enjoy one of Santa Monica's Farmers' Markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Admission is free. For more information call (310) 458-8712.

On display
Emeritus College Art Gallery
1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Come check out photographs taken by students at the Emeritus College. Admission is free. For more information call (310) 434-4306.

Get abstract
PAINT:LAB
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. —9 p.m.
Learn abstract acrylics with Samantha. Samantha has been captivated and immersed in the arts from a very early age. Her diverse cultural background and love for the arts has contributed immensely to her unique style and visual language, as a fine artist and as a designer. Encompassing traditional with cutting edge, her approach to color and form reflect her skills and influences throughout her life, expanding and always contributing to her extensive resume of accomplishments. Beginners welcome, maximum eight students per workshop. Reservations required. For more information contact (310) 450-9200. Cost: $40.

Green living workshop
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Starting March 3 and running every Wednesday until April 7, there will be a series of Green Living Workshops. Each of the six weeks one of these topics will be discussed: water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation, and shopping and food. Sustainability tools will be given to participants to carry out the solutions discussed in the workshop. Free for Santa Monica residents. Register at sustainableworks.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Darfur special screening
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd., HSS 165, 6:45 p.m.
This screening and discussion of Uwe Boll's film on the genocide in Sudan is currently being shown at select college campuses across the nation. Boll's portrayal of violence and rape with actual refugees has been controversial. Boll is a famous German director who has directed such movies as "Bloodrayne," "Postal," and "House of the Dead." Seating is based on first-arrival basis. Admission is free.

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. Ongoing each Thursday, beginning this week. For more information call (310) 458-8681.

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.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Powell appointed to Special Olympics

Mary Ann Powell, CEO and general manager of Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, has been appointed to the Special Olympics Southern California board of directors. Powell is past-chairman of the board of the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau and is currently serving as secretary. She also serves on the board of directors of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Mary Ann's caliber and professional background joining us on the board," said Patrick McClenahan, chairman of the board of directors of Special Olympics Southern California. "Her business acumen coupled with her compassion for others will be a genuine asset to the organization."

Powell has over the last 12 years overseen the expansion of Pacific Park. She led the way for 14 new amusement rides and attractions, complete midway games refurbishment, creation of a new "Family-Share" rides area, and the renovation and branding of the oceanfront food plaza.

The pier and Pacific Park host nearly four million visitors annually, and Pacific Park is Santa Monica's largest youth employer. Powell created and oversees the Pacific Park mentoring program that has 15 managers mentoring more than 30 supervisors for career growth opportunities.

"The Special Olympics Southern California board is comprised of individuals striving to make a positive difference in people's lives," Powell said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve with them. I have been fortunate to be associated with the organization prior to the appointment and look forward to growing the many relationships."

DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Money for the taking

If you have not collected the refund from your 2006 tax return, the deadline is approaching. Approximately 160,000 taxpayers in California have not yet collected their refund money, and are each owed an estimated median of $554.

The last day a return for 2006 can be filed to collect this refund is Thursday, April 15, 2010. Nationwide, the estimated median for unclaimed refunds is $604, and a total of $1.3 billion is awaiting.

Some people may not have filed because they had too little income to require filing a tax return even though they had taxes withheld from their wages or made quarterly estimated payments. In these cases, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund.

There is no penalty for filing a late return qualifying for a refund, but back-year tax returns cannot be filed electronically. However, taxpayers can still speed up their refunds by choosing to have them deposited directly into a checking or savings account.

Also, if the taxpayer has not filed tax returns for 2007 or 2008, they will not be eligible to receive the money until those tax returns are also filed. Many low- and moderate-income workers may have not claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) either.

If the money is not collected, it will become property of the U.S. Treasury.

DP



Photo courtesy Algalita Marine Research Foundation

GROSS! **Pieces of plastic were found in this fish's stomach by Santa Monica environmentalists Marcus Eriksen and Anna Cummins on their voyage to the Saragosa Sea to study the impacts of plastic pollution on the food chain.**

Local couple returns after plastic voyage

BY MIRIAM FINDER
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN As part of their global study on ocean plastic pollution, the Santa Monica scientist couple of Dr. Marcus Eriksen and Anna Cummins recently returned from the Sargasso Sea with some startling news -- plastic pollutants may be working their way up the food chain to humans.

The voyage, which began in St. Thomas and set sail from Bermuda on Jan. 8, lasted six weeks and took the pair to a sargassum seaweed mass directly between Europe and North America that, regardless of its distance from either coast, is full of plastic.

Although discussion of the plastic problem was once reserved for the north Pacific Ocean, Eriksen and Cummins are studying pollution's widespread effects in all the world's oceans through their 5 Gyres Project in conjunction with the Algalita Marine Research Foundation (AMRF). Cummins, 5 Gyres Project researcher and director, said a gyre is created by a series of currents and winds, which naturally draw debris. The couple's research is funded mainly by Blue Turtle and AMRF, although the project has many other sponsors as well.

"The goal is to get data from all 5 gyres on plastic and with that to bring this issue to a global audience,"

SEE **PLASTIC** PAGE 9

Local group files suit against Anthem Blue Cross

BY MIRIAM FINDER
Special to the Daily Press

SUNSET PARK Santa Monica consumer advocacy group Consumer Watchdog, in conjunction with Blue Cross policyholders, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Anthem Blue Cross, the California branch of WellPoint Inc.

The class action lawsuit accuses the health insurer of forcing customers into coverage offering less benefits and higher deductibles through rate increases in violation of California law.

According to the law, when health insurers close a policy, they must give customers the option of either obtaining new, comparable coverage or cut down on premium increases on closed policies. According to the lawsuit, Blue Cross violated these rules regarding specific plans they are closing, and instead increased premiums and nudged consumers into lower-benefit

SEE **SUIT** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cyclists don't belong in a cemetery

Editor:

I can't believe reading that bike riders think they have entitlement to ride through the Los Angeles National Cemetery ("Cyclists fighting for access to cemetery," March 2). What gall. I am a veteran and my grandfather, brother, mother and stepfather are buried in the cemetery. I think this is an affront to all the men and women who were in the service and fought for our country. My stepfather fought in World War II and my grandfather fought in the Civil War and Spanish American War. I am sure they would turn over in their graves if they knew this was allowed. Too bad that they have to bike longer. I live in Culver City and I never see anyone riding their bikes through Holy Cross. My message to these bike riders is find another route other than the cemetery. Rep. Henry Waxman doesn't dare get involved. There are too many veterans who live in his district and he wouldn't want to take the chance of their ire.

Jacqueline Kestler
Culver City

Keep your hands off Ocean Park

Editor:

Over the last 60 years that I have lived and worked in Santa Monica, I have seen many changes.

In the last 20 years things have only gotten worse. I realize that the traffic is bad, but that has to do with the Planning Commission. When they took out the left turn lanes up and down Pico Boulevard and put in those silly spaceship-looking lights that don't do anything to help anyone, I was convinced then that the people working in the Planning Commission for Santa Monica were on drugs.

There is no rhyme or reason to what they do. They bring in all these businesses and then complain about the traffic. Duh! What did they think the traffic would be like? Now with the new plans for Ocean Park Boulevard, what are they thinking? They build all these buildings with businesses on the street level and apartments on top. How are the people supposed to get in or out of this city?

They started with Pico Boulevard so many years ago. There was nothing wrong with Pico when they started, but they made sure that there was when they finished. Would the Planning Commission please see what they're doing to this city. If you want people here to spend their money, then make it so people can get in and out easily. You're killing this city with your crazy ideas. Look at what has happened to Montana Avenue. Your ideas make no sense at all. Leave Ocean Park Boulevard alone!

Donna Rae Walden
Santa Monica





Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's time to take back control

I APPRECIATED THE POLITICAL SYMMETRY of last week's meetings. The two groups that control the federal government (the Democratic and Republican parties) met to try to work out a deal on health care reform and the two groups that control our city government (the Chamber of Commerce and Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights) met to try to work out a deal on democracy and development.

In both cases, the issues on the table weren't as important as the larger question at hand. Fundamentally, it's a question that sums up our current political divide and the way you, as a voter, answer it determines which candidates you support. The question is: Do you and your family want the protection of your government or do you and your family want protection from your government?

Since the health care summit in Washington, D.C. has been analyzed to death and since the Republican negotiating strategy (we'll support the bill only if you agree to scrap the bill) was a joke, let's focus on last Tuesday's City Council meeting. When we look back, that session will prove to be a turning point in Santa Monica history because it was on that day the dominant political force in our city, SMRR, made it known that they're no longer focused on the needs of the people and have decided this is a pro-development town. The way they showed us their vision for Santa Monica's future was to finally put to rest any illusions of representative democracy by appointing Terry O'Day, not Ted Winterer, to the vacant City Council seat. Then they put the pedal to the metal on the growth express by having a SMRR majority vote down Councilman Kevin McKeown's proposal to postpone hearings on large-scale developments until the city completes its long-term plan for managing growth. Machiavelli would have been proud.

The eight rounds of voting it took to get O'Day on the council were eight separate referenda on Ted Winterer, a man who finished fifth in an election to fill four seats in 2008, yet was passed over for a SMRR member (who didn't even run in that election) when an appointment was made to fill Herb Katz' seat. By any objective standard, he was the right choice to take Ken Genser's place, but SMRR needed that seat for its pro-growth agenda — and Winterer isn't a reliable pro-growth vote. Despite his support from voters, Ted was neither the first or second choice of SMRR's Gleam Davis, Richard Bloom or Pam O'Connor. So he was never a serious contender for the seat because SMRR doesn't want him on the council — a fact that became clear to Winterer supporter McKeown in the early rounds and to Winterer supporter Bobby Shriver in the last two. In the end, it came down to a choice between one of two SMRR-backed candidates to occupy the fifth SMRR-controlled seat on our seven-member City Council.

It was later in the meeting when the "development time-out" was being considered that SMRR's true motivation for appointing O'Day was revealed. Knowing that he worked to defeat Measure T (which would have capped development in Santa Monica), there was no question that he would join fellow SMRR-backed council members Bloom and O'Connor and pro-business Councilman Robert Holbrook in voting "no." With those four votes in place, Davis was free to vote however she wanted (a reward for nominating and sticking with Kennedy, perhaps?) and Shriver's vote became irrelevant.

The most ominous part of the meeting was when some council members became convinced that the planning department could handle completing the draft Land Use and Circulation Element and conducting hearings on development projects based on the word of Planning Director Eileen Fogarty. In a meeting last year, Ms. Fogarty assured Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera and myself that all current development agreements with the city of Santa Monica were up to date and in compliance. Yet the most problematic, Saint John's Health Center, was quickly shown to be violating many key provisions of its development agreement — a fact that was news to Ms. Fogarty, Planning Manager Amanda Schachter, and Principal Planner Brad Misner. Their incompetence in overseeing the disaster that is Saint John's doesn't inspire confidence in their ability to metaphorically walk and chew gum at the same time; yet the council voted to increase, not decrease, their workload. An overwhelmed oversight agency might be good for business, but it's not good for the people who have to live with the traffic, noise, and pollution that inevitably come with growth.

I like clean water, healthy food, and medication that won't kill me, so I typically want the protection of my government. When it comes to my SMRR-majority City Council, however, I'm either going to need protection from my government or I'm going to have to change my government. Luckily, five of the seven City Council seats are being contested this year — with four of those currently occupied by SMRR members.

In November, we should support candidates that don't see the people of Santa Monica as consumers in a marketplace whose profit potential should be maximized, but as residents of a community whose quality of life should be preserved and protected. And if a former tenants organization that has mysteriously morphed into a pro-growth business circle won't listen to us, we have the power to throw the bums out.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who hopes those Santa Monicans with '08 campaign stickers on their hybrids and Obama T-shirts on their kids get involved in local politics this November. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Going Postal

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

Too big too fail

Editor's note: This is part one in a two part series.

WE'VE ALL HEARD BY NOW THE STENTORIAN tenet of "too big to fail." For those of you who dwell in the darker recesses of your intellectual armoire, this idiotic idiom infers that the biggest and most interwoven businesses are so important to the vigor of our overall economy that they must be stimulated by government intervention to avoid apocalyptic bankruptcy, which would crash the casino-style economic policies that our government had bankrolled in the first place. And it doesn't matter if you're a car company, a bank, a financial institution or an Oprah Winfrey-sponsored fat farm, they are all supposedly considered "too big to fail," aren't they?

Is it an inconvenient truth that California's agriculture industry is failing miserably? But not for Ponzi-scheming other people's money or making bad home loans to illegal immigrants or building crappy cars that nobody wants to buy. It's from a lack of water, folks. It's not due, however, to a drought wrought within the happy-mushroom fallacies of global warming zombies, but through the legislative legerdemain of environmental special interest lobby groups. Thanks to the power players of the environmental movement, they canoodled a federal judge in 2007 into closing the aqueducts that feed water from the Sacramento River Delta to the croplands of the San Joaquin Valley.

Their reason? To allegedly protect, under the Endangered Species Act, a two-inch long bait fish called the delta smelt which inhabits the Sacramento River Delta. Evidently it wasn't smart enough to not drown itself in the sluice pipes of the aqueduct so the captains of enviro-atavism rescued the beleaguered hypomesus transpacifius under the guise of its dubious importance as an "indicator species" to the overall health of the delta. Haven't these enviro-tards ever heard of Darwin? It's why we don't have saber-tooth cats, mastodons or Curt Cobain cruising Santa Monica Boulevard anymore.

The weak and non-adapter species don't survive well at rush hour in the eco-fast lane. Maybe it's the delta smelts turn to play in traffic. Stupidity is designed to thin the herd in its democratic Darwinian motif. Too bad the superstitious true-believers of climate change don't acknowledge the science of natural selection as it is an inconvenient truth in light of their intellectual insolvency.

Of course, in its quest to save a minor species of bait fish, the environmental movement never considered the human cost. That cost has been, to the farming communities of the San Joaquin Valley, a whopping 40 percent unemployment rate in several districts, long lines at food banks and small farmers selling fallow parcels to real estate speculators. Let me get this straight, unemployed farm workers who grow food for a living are standing in line for food that is imported from China which is purchased with your tax dollars?

Too big to fail. Wow, Californication here I come!

California, before this travesty of water-destitution, once supplied 25 percent (now hovering at 14 percent) of the U.S. food supply even though California agriculture accounts for a mere 2 percent of California's GDP. California is the fifth largest supplier of food in the world so if you see some clipboard-ladened unwashed hippie from Save the Gay Nuclear Whales outside of a Starbucks on Main Street pimping on behalf of the mythology of "global warming," please deliver upon him a stylish beating with some organic Whole Foods arugula imported from Zimbabwe.

Of course, the enviro-dorks argue that it is evil corporate agricultural conglomerates who poison our land with genetically modified crops who are to be thwarted in order to maintain the eco-tirade of their anti-human/pro-fishy charade parade. Is it an inconvenient truth that, according to the USDA, 75 percent of farms in California are family-run farms of 99 acres or less? Or that only 2.8 percent of farms fall into the evil corporate agricultural conglomerates category of 2,000 acres or more?

Folks, have you noticed in the last two years since the well ran dry in the San Joaquin valley that Santa Monica's Farmers' Markets have not only gotten smaller but more expensive? If you haven't got produce to sell, why come to market since the enviro-nitwits, with the support of pliant liberal federal court, has condemned your small family farm to the politically correct version of "The Grapes of Wrath?"

And what's been Washington's response? Nothing, nada, zero, zilchadero. The new millennial era of hope and change is nothing more than an old-school Rooseveltian dust bowl peppered with grit flavored Obamanian indifference.

In the second installment of this piece, I will tell you who financially benefits to put Hispanic farm workers into food lines, the green industry that will replace agriculture and the depth of racism from the cargo cultists of the environmental movement.

STEVE BREEN is planning on going dynamite fishing next weekend and is still "the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

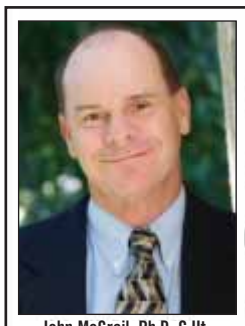
Leading the council

Now that Terry O'Day has been selected to fill the late Mayor Ken Genser's seat on the City Council, the next order of business for the governing body is to appoint a new mayor.

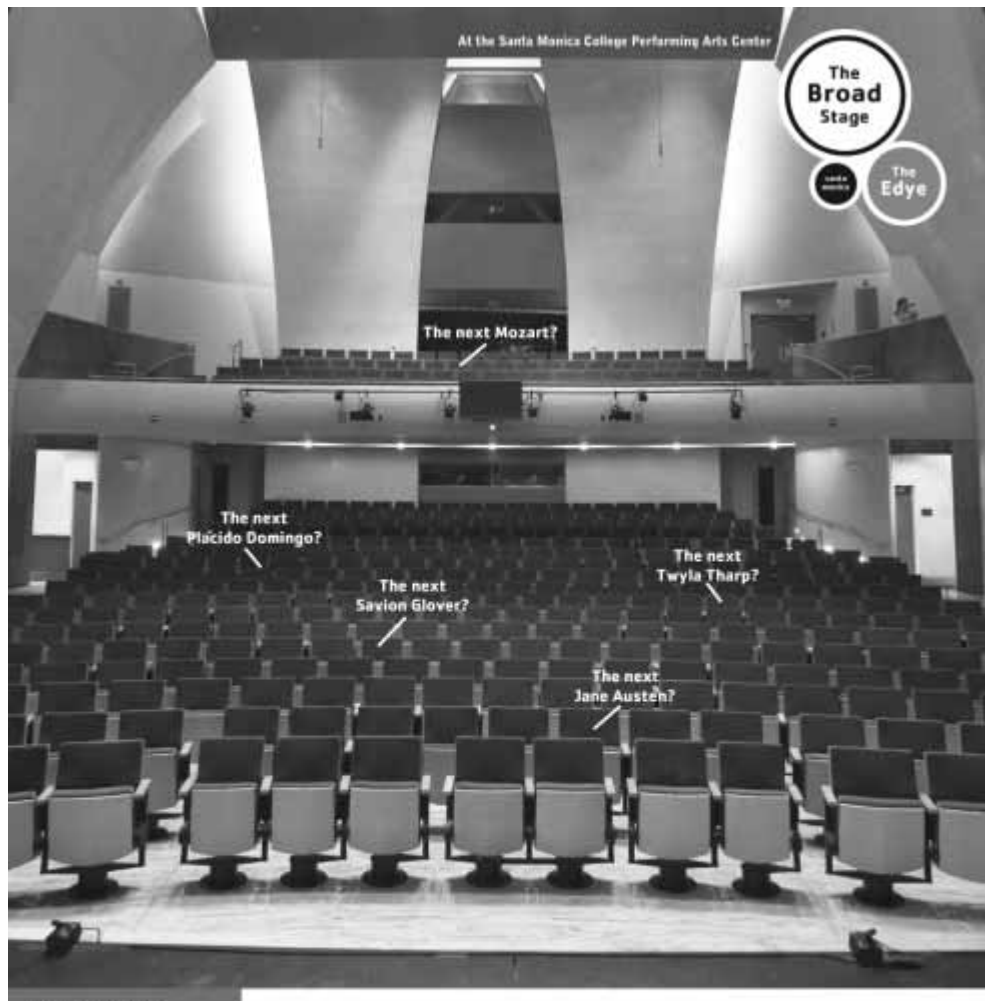
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Who should be the next mayor, and why?

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Talks on bank regs zero in on consumer protections

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON More than a year after Lehman Brothers' collapse set off a financial panic, Senate negotiators are laboring to seal a deal over a consumer protection dispute holding up broad legislation to establish new rules for Wall Street.

At issue is whether a government consumer watchdog should be free from bank regulators to write rules that govern everything from credit card and overdraft fees to payday loans and mortgages.

Key negotiators in the Senate Banking Committee are closing in on an agreement that would house a government consumer entity inside the Federal Reserve but give it autonomous power to write regulations, three people familiar with the talks told the Associated Press.

The sources spoke on the condition on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the evolving talks publicly.

The idea, proposed by Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, could break the logjam that has prevented a bipartisan bill from emerging in the Senate.

But the Banking Committee's chairman, Democrat Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, was meeting with skepticism as he tried to sell the idea to fellow Democrats on Tuesday. And the committee's top Republican, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, also voiced misgivings.

Shelby said putting an autonomous consumer finance regulator within the Fed would be like "moving the Department of Agriculture to the Pentagon and housing it over there and yet be autonomous.

"I don't see why that accomplishes much."

The idea would be a retreat from President Barack Obama's initial insistence on a stand alone agency, a demand that the White House has since dropped to give Dodd more room to find a compromise. But a compromise was proving elusive.

The job of providing consumer protections has rested within existing banking regulators, who are also charged with ensuring the safety and soundness of banks. Democrats complained that when it comes to consumers the Fed and other regulators have been lax.

"The question I would raise is, why the Fed?" said Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore. "Why put consumer protection back in the Fed after it's been so woefully neglected."

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said he, too, had concerns about placing a consumer protection division within the Fed. "We've seen in the past that it hasn't worked when consumer protection is not primary for any agency, for any group, that it get shuttled aside," Brown said.

Added Sen. Charles Schumer: "I am very leery of any consumer regulator being placed inside the Fed."

Business and banking groups also were cool to the idea of a consumer financial protection agency, no matter where it was located, that had independent rule writing power.

"Proposals that simply house the CFPA within another federal agency but continue to give it the same broad and overlapping regulatory authority will not fix the CFPA nor the harmful impact it will have on small businesses and consumers," said Ryan McKee, senior director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Capital Markets.

While the political world has focused on attempts to revive health care legislation, tougher Wall Street regulations could end up being this year's biggest legislative accomplishment. The House passed its version of the bill in December. And President Barack Obama has made new regulations a priority in his response to the recession.

Still, a Fed-housed consumer entity would fall short of Obama's initial demand for a stand-alone Consumer Financial Protection Agency that would replace the consumer oversight now assigned to bank regulators. The House-passed version would create a separate agency.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday the White House will reserve judgment on whether a Fed-housed agency would have the independence the president wants.

"If the president decides the proposal — any proposal — lacks the independence he desires, we will work to strengthen that on the floor," he told reporters.

Gibbs said the White House is less concerned about where the agency would be housed than it is with whether or not it would have the independence to set rules and regulations, and the independence to implement them.

If the latest Senate plan were to hold, it would represent a remarkable turnaround for the Fed, which has been criticized for failing to adequately protect consumers as part of its regulation of state-chartered banks and bank holding companies.

The consumer agency has been the final obstacle in Dodd's effort to get bipartisan support for the bill. The legislation also would create a council of regulators that would determine which financial institutions deserve special supervision because their size and breadth could pose a threat to the economy. The legislation also would provide a mechanism to dismantle large failing institutions, with the cost borne by their banking peers.

Toyota gives return buyers 2 years of free repairs

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Toyota says it is offering return customers two years of free maintenance as it aims to win back buyers after a tough February.

The Japanese automaker says it will offer the maintenance deal to Toyota buyers who already have a Toyota, Lexus or Scion in their household.

Toyota is also offering zero-percent financing and leasing offers covering about 80 percent of its lineup. The goal is to reverse falling sales, which slipped 9 percent in February.

Toyota has recalled more than 8.5 million vehicles worldwide and suspended sales of eight of its top-selling models starting in late January over safety concerns. Most of those recalled vehicles have gone back on sale, but Toyota's image has taken a hit.

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And stay out! Suburbanite vs. Spring

LAURA JOFRE
For The Associated Press

My husband and I were city folks with two young children, excited to be buying a house in the suburbs: rooms and floors! Our own driveway! Our front yard, tiny though it is! We even got two trees: one in the front and one in the back.

"There's no trash on our street," was the first thing my 5-year-old daughter said. Not only was there no trash, there were no shouters, loiterers or urine smells: nothing to be wary of. There were no downstairs neighbors complaining about the racket, and no upstairs neighbors blasting music while moving furniture. No more airshaft views through pigeon poo windows or laundry-room roach fears: Life would be a bucolic celebration of the seasons and open spaces. We bought garden tools.

Shortly after we moved in the spring, we heard a persistent knocking that recalled our old noise-averse downstairs neighbor. It turned out to be a black-and-white woodpecker with a jaunty red cap, who systematically drilled circular holes in our brown wooden shingles. We went from admiring the bird to banging on the window to squirting it with a water gun (rain! It shivered in delight), to fixing a fake owl to the roof.

It wasn't scared. It pecked straight through the shingle and flew back to the tree. It turns out that one of the woodpecker's natural adaptations, to protect itself from pecking-induced brain damage, is to have a very small brain.

A neighbor advised us to paint our house a less tree-like color.

Maybe there was something unpalatable about our trees. The one behind the house had ants all over it, which thrilled the kids. "Look, Mom, they're going right in!" That didn't seem right. I grabbed a stick — I was sort of excited that we even had sticks — and tentatively poked the bark. My stick encountered no resistance for several rotten inches. The arborist said it should come down.

So, suburban nature was not carefree. Still, there were daffodils, there was birdsong, there was grass. And we had our little house to clean and paint and decorate, because it was, for once, our own place. We relished our private pod of family life.

My father came to see the house one day that spring; as we approached the front door from outside, my father said calmly, "That's probably termites." I may have screamed. The invasion covered roughly a third of the door.

Termites! I had heard of them: They ate houses. Why wasn't my father alarmed?

"They'll be gone in an hour," he said. They left behind only a few wings as evidence of their cavorting. I kicked them off my doorstep.

The next spring, I was more prepared. We planted a new tree, enjoyed our crocuses. The woodpecker kept knocking and we kept trying to turn him away, like seasoned naturalists who know a pest from a prize. We also acquired a robin who bashed against our window in a daily brawl with its reflection. The window held.

But when spring, in its indiscriminate energy, actually entered my house, well, I lost it.

It was a warm day, and the kids and I were heading out to the paradise of our yard. We approached our front door, from the inside, and found it seemingly covered with a grayish brown blanket. As it came into focus, I saw the blanket was actually a moving, squirming mass of termites.

"Ew, Mommy, look at the door!" shrieked my daughter.

"Are those bugs?" asked my son, 3, fascinated.

Oh, it was horrifying. There were just so many. Some of them were flying. And they were on the wrong side of the door. Nature was fine, woodpeckers and rotten trees were fine: They were all outside.

I hustled the kids down to the playroom.

"You guys want to watch TV?" I asked. "And I'll see if those silly bugs want to go outside? Do you think they're lost?" The kids nodded slowly, skeptically, and I strolled out of the room, practically humming in my composure.

Then I sprinted, face averted, past the front door. I found the yellow pages and the biggest ad for pest control, and dialed with shaking fingers.

The nice lady I spoke to advised me to vacuum the termites, as if it were that easy. She waited as I wildly waved the vacuum hose at the door, trying to accomplish the job from the distance of the hose length, with my head turned away and my eyes closed. Nothing doing. I had to get up close, grit my teeth, and vacuum those suckers.

"What do I do with the vacuum bag?" I imagined the termites all crawling around in there, becoming angry, plotting.

"Well, I would throw it away," she said.

Eventually, we would replace a section of plywood wall hidden beneath our front steps where the termites had found their own homey bliss.

We installed a baiting system and so far have seen no more termites. Our new tree is thriving. We've planted more bulbs. And our house, now painted white, no longer attracts the woodpecker. Every year, I'm overjoyed by spring's arrival. But then my city training kicks in, and I can't help it: I glare outside with a fair amount of suspicion.

Here in the suburbs, I have to stay alert.b




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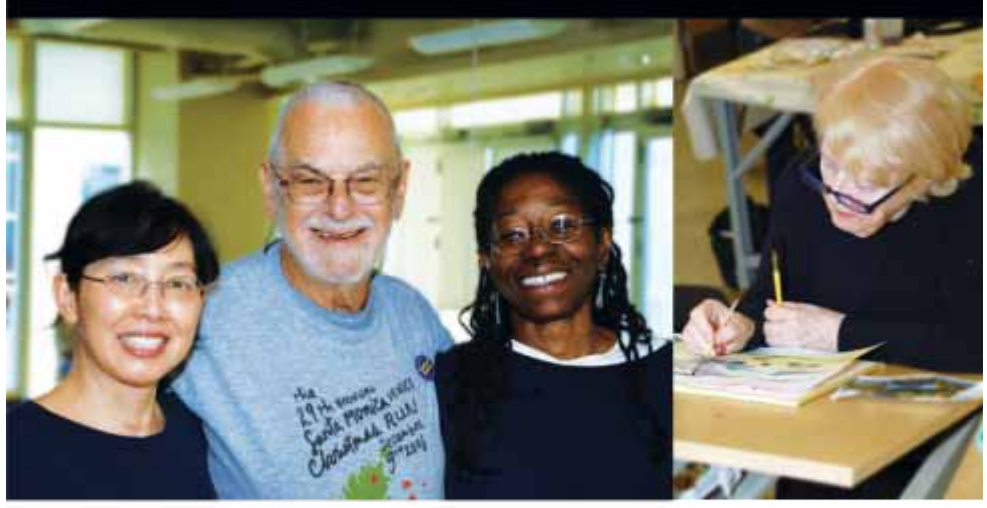
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New business offers networking opportunity

FROM **BUSINESS** PAGE 1

The couple lives in West Los Angeles, and both Kashani and Rasouli said they saw Santa Monica as a natural fit for the business.

"We've always really been into the Santa Monica area and the vibe here," Kashani said, adding that she sees the area as a hotbed for the Web developers and entrepreneurs CoLoft is targeting.

With modern art on the walls, sleek office furniture and an open, loft-like interior, the company's space is intended to appeal to the non-corporate, creative crowd, they said.

Kelly Sims, a graphic designer who lives in Manhattan Beach, is one member who was eager to join CoLoft after reading about the co-working movement for several years online but finding few opportunities to participate in the Los Angeles area.

"A couple of years ago just working out of the house started to get really, really boring," he said.

He said he tried a co-working space called Blank Spaces located on Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile section of Los Angeles but found the environment "too corporate" for his taste.

"Right off the bat I thought, 'This is what I was looking for,'" he said of CoLoft.

Erica Bentley, another early adopter who was at CoLoft on Tuesday, said she's learned about co-working after recently moving to Los Angeles from Austin, Texas.

She said she signed up for CoLoft's premium package, which allows her unlimited access to the space during business hours for $495 per month. There's no regular night-time hours yet, but the owners said that could change as membership grows. More limited memberships, like a five-hour pass for $30, are also available.

> **A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO JUST WORKING OUT OF THE HOUSE STARTED TO GET REALLY, REALLY BORING."**
>
> **Kelly Sims,**
> Graphic designer

"It's really designed for people like me who [are] actually social, but we're independent contractors," Bentley said. A Web designer, she said she's already collaborated with a fellow designer she met by coming to CoLoft.

At a time when few new businesses are opening up, the company's founders are hoping their timing was right regardless of business trends.

"In such a recession there's a lot of opportunity because a lot of people are out of jobs and a lot of people end up trying to work for themselves," Kashani said. "We have a lot more freelancers and a lot more web developers and a lot more entrepreneurs now than we probably did two years ago."

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Blue Cross accused of unlawful practices

FROM SUIT PAGE 3

plans, often with higher deductibles.

"My husband and I got a letter in the mail from Blue Cross telling us that they were closing our policy," said plaintiff Mary Feller of San Rafael. "We could either stay with our old coverage or switch to a new policy with much lower benefits. What Blue Cross did not tell us was that staying with our better policy would mean a 39 percent rate increase."

The practice the lawsuit is accusing Blue Cross of is known as a "death spiral" within the insurance industry. This process involves closing certain policies for new customers but later raising rates for old customers, often resulting in them being unable to afford the policy. Elderly consumers or those with preexisting conditions are often unable to find comparable coverage and must stick with their old policy as premiums increase, sometimes forcing them to drop their health insurance all together.

Blue Cross informed effected Californians that their policies would be closed and alternative plans would be offered several months ago. Those who remained with their current plans were then told they would face price increases.

"Not only did I get hit with a 33 percent premium increase, my only option was a policy with almost twice the deductible and far fewer benefits," said plaintiff Donna Freed. "If Blue Cross is allowed to price longtime policyholders out of coverage, what is the value of having insurance?"

> **"IF BLUE CROSS IS ALLOWED TO PRICE LONGTIME POLICYHOLDERS OUT OF COVERAGE, WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HAVING INSURANCE?"**
>
> **Donna Freed,** plaintiff

Consumer Watchdog passed along the complaint to President Barack Obama, five members of the House of Representatives and three senators. It encouraged lawmakers to hold a hearing on death spiral issues as a follow-up to last week's hearing on Anthem Blue Cross's 39 percent proposed premium increase in individual health insurance in California by the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Anthem Blue Cross was unable to comment at this time.

news@smpd.com

Researchers find fish in a bottle

FROM PLASTIC PAGE 3

Cummins said. "What we are seeing now is that this plastic is starting to enter the food chain."

The plastic found at gyres is often depicted as floating in patches. While recognizable items, such as bottle caps, flip flops and toothbrushes, are found at these sites, 5 Gyres Project co-director and researcher Eriksen disagrees with this description. While plastic is non-biodegradable, the UV rays at sea weaken the material, which is then broken down into small particles by waves. It is these pieces that foraging fish mistake for food, initiating the pollutants entrance into the food chain.

"I wouldn't call either of them a patch, it's more like a soup," Eriksen said. "The majority of the mass is fragmented stuff that peppers the water coast to coast."

Another issue the plastic centers raise is their ability to attract other pollutants. The plastic acts like a sponge, drawing in toxic chemicals used on land that have gotten into the water. Because of this attraction, one piece of plastic debris contains a million times more pollutants than the water particles around it, Eriksen said.

The pair are on the cusp of cutting edge science, and spent their time on the voyage researching the toxicity of marine life ingesting plastic, the potential harm this causes humans and the effect this will have on future generations.

"The ultimate story of this whole plastic issue is, are we leaving a toxic legacy?" said Eriksen.

While on their recent voyage, the couple agreed on the most fascinating object they found. A fish swam into a plastic jug as a baby and, while inside, grew too large to get out. The fish now swims around with most of its body stuck inside the jug, with only its tail free to propel it.

Eriksen said the only way to stop continued harm like this is through legislation. Bans on plastic bags or fees for their use are good steps, he said, but an effective recovery and reuse system is needed. The couple now plans to continue their work by visiting the remaining gyres, while continuing raising awareness here like they did last year during a bike tour along the Pacific coast, handing out ocean samples to local leaders.

"To put a sample of the ocean in [their] hands … they see it, they get it, they want to do something about it," Eriksen said.

During the cycling tour last spring, the couple did make some time for fun. They stopped to get married in Big Sur — fittingly wearing outfits designed out of plastic bags.

news@smpd.com





Jerry Brown seeks return to Calif. governor's seat

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Democrat Jerry Brown officially entered the California governor's race Tuesday, giving the party an iconic candidate in a contest expected to be the most costly in state history.

The state attorney general, who served two terms as governor in the era before term limits, officially declared his candidacy on his Web site. The announcement has been expected for months, while Brown was quietly raising millions of dollars.

Brown, who will turn 72 next month, is the only serious Democratic contender. His ability to raise money and gain endorsements frightened away other Democrats, including San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

After the June primary, Brown will face of one of two wealthy Silicon Valley Republicans in the general election: former eBay CEO Meg Whitman, a billionaire, or state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, who also became a multimillionaire as a high-tech entrepreneur.

Brown says only someone with a long political resume such as his has the experience to solve California's ongoing fiscal crisis and its many other problems, from the quality of its public schools to the neglect of its state park system.

"What we need is not a scripted plan cooked up by consultants or mere ambition to be governor," he said in his Web cast, taking an apparent shot at Whitman. "We need someone with insider's knowledge but an outsider's mind, a leader who can pull people together. ... And at this stage in my life, I'm prepared to focus on nothing else but fixing this state I love."

Brown has frustrated his fellow Democrats for months while playing a wait-and-see game in the governor's race. All the while, he was raising nearly $12 million for a campaign while lining up support from deep-pocketed unions, celebrities and business leaders.

Without a challenger in the June primary, Brown has not had to campaign against another Democrat, although polls have found his lead over either GOP candidate slipping.

Sea lions slowly return to San Francisco's Pier 39

JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO After an abrupt disappearance that left tourists disappointed and experts baffled, sea lions are slowly returning to San Francisco's Pier 39.

The animals come and go regularly, leaving in the fall to breed and birth their young in the Channel Islands.

Last fall, however, something unusual happened. After ballooning to a population of 1,700 animals layered two and three deep on the docks, the sea lions departed as if following orders, leaving behind only a few stragglers.

Marine experts believe the animals might have traveled 500 miles north, looking for fish and colder waters along the Oregon coast.

Now they are coming back to San Francisco for equally mysterious reasons — but not in their usual numbers. An estimated 80 or so animals were in the area last week — a drop from the typical 200 to 400 sea lions this time of year.

Only a couple dozen animals lounged Tuesday on the floating docks, barking and diving as if aware of their role as local celebrities.

Ryan and Wylie Geldert of Bunbury, Australia, stopped by the pier three times in a week looking for sea lions and were glad to finally catch a glimpse of the San Francisco icons.

"The sea lions are pretty famous," said Ryan Geldert. "We would have been disappointed not to see them."

Visitors have been wondering what happened to the animals.

"That's the million-dollar question," said Jim Oswald of the Marine Mammal Center, which has an information kiosk staffed by volunteers at Pier 39.

"Our guess is, there was no food. I have to emphasize it's a guess," he said.

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Mar 1,2,3,4,5	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 8	Var	Practice	Memorial Park	3pm
Mar 9	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 3	Var/JV	Chadwick	Chadwick	4/5pm
Mar 4	Var/JV	Windward	Windward	4/5pm
Mar 5,6	Var	Providence Tournament	Providence	TBA
Mar 5,6	JV	Burbank Tournament	Burbank HS	TBA
Mar 9	Var/JV	Mary Star	Mary Star	4/5pm
LADY SOFTBALL				
Mar 5,6	Var	SMCHS Tournament	Memorial Park	TBA
Mar 6,13	JV	Culver City Tour	Culver City	TBA

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time

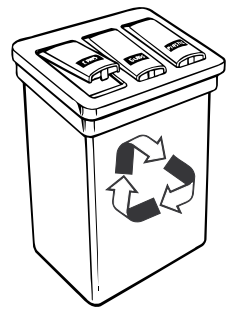
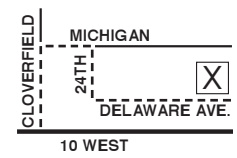
Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Basketball teams for maing the CIF Championship Games, we're rooting for you! Go Vikings!

BOYS TENNIS				
Mar 4	Var/JV	Redondo Union	Redondo Union	2:30pm
Mar 6	JV	JV Valencia Invitational		8am
Mar 6	Var	Varsity Redondo Pre-Season Invitational		8am
Mar 5	Var	Varsity Redondo Pre-Season Invitational		3pm
GIRLS SOFTBALL				
Mar 6	JV	Culver City Tournament		TBA
COED WRESTLING				
Mar 5	Var	California State Championship		TBA
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 5	Var/JV	Easton Tournament	Moorpark	3pm
Mar 6	Var/JV	Easton Tournament	Rio Mesa	11am
Mar 6	Fr/Soph	Easton Tournament	Chaminade	2pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Mar 6	Var	CIF Division 1-A Championship	Levzinger@Honda Center	2:15pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Mar 4	Var	CIF Division 1-A Championship	Summit@Mater Dei	8:30pm

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Postal Service's emerging model: Never on Saturday

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The post office is renewing its drive to drop Saturday delivery — and plans a rate increase — in an effort to fend off a projected $7 billion loss this year.

Without drastic action the agency could face a cumulative loss of $238 billion over 10 years, Postmaster General John Potter said in releasing a series of consultant reports on agency operations and its outlook.

"The projections going forward are not bright," Potter told reporters in a briefing. But, he added, "all is not lost ... we can right this ship."

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., chairman of the Senate subcommittee with oversight authority over the Postal Service, called on Congress to give the post office the flexibility to deal with its future needs.

"In light of the serious financial challenges facing the Postal Service, postal management must be allowed to make the business decisions they need to stay competitive and viable in the years to come. As we have seen, it is not productive for Congress to act like a 535-member board of directors and constantly second-guess these necessary changes," Carper said in a statement.

As Americans turn more and more from paper to electronic communications, the number of items handled by the post office fell from 213 billion in 2006 to 177 billion last year. Volume is expected to shrink to 150 billion by 2020.

At the same time, the type of material sent is shifting from first-class mail to the less lucrative standard mail, such as advertising.

And as people set up new homes and businesses, the number of places mail must be delivered is constantly increasing.

The agency has asked Congress for permission to reduce delivery days and has previously discussed the need for other changes such as closing some offices.

Cutting back Saturday home delivery, however, does not mean post offices would close that day.

There seemed to be concern on the part of Congress that officials had not looked at all possible options, Potter said, adding that was part of the reason for the three consultant studies.

Potter said he would like to see mail delivery cut to five days a week starting next year.

Later this month, he said, the Postal Service will ask the independent Postal Regulatory Commission to review its plans for the service reduction.

Under the law, the agency is not supposed to raise rates more than the amount of inflation, but there is a loophole allowing for higher increases in extraordinary situations such as the current recession and drop in mail volume.

Obama spells out efficiency rebates

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press Writer

SAVANNAH, Ga. Sounding a familiar clean-energy theme, President Barack Obama on Tuesday announced details of a proposed energy rebate program he hopes will spur demand for insulation and water heaters — and jobs for hurting Americans.

Obama said the administration's "HOMESTAR" program would reward people who buy energy-saving equipment with an on-the-spot rebate of $1,000 or more. He cast the idea as one that would save people money on utility bills, boost the economy and reduce American dependence on oil.

The plan would take the approval of Congress.

"When it comes to domestic policy, I have no more important job as president than seeing to it that every American that wants to work and is able to work can find a job," Obama said at Savannah Technical College, in a state where the unemployment rate tops the national average of 9.7 percent.

"That was my focus last year and that is my focus this year," he said, "to lay a foundation for economic growth that creates jobs." He appeared in Georgia three days before the government releases the February unemployment report.

Speaking to the many people looking for jobs, Obama said he knows "it's tough out there."

The administration is hoping the energy rebate plan could become as popular as last year's Cash for Clunkers money-back program for autos. Consumers would collect immediate rebates for buying insulation, water heaters or other equipment to make their homes burn energy more efficiently.


Moving is the best medicine. Keeping active and losing weight are just two of the ways that you can fight osteoarthritis pain. In fact, for every pound you lose, that's four pounds less pressure on each knee. For information on managing pain, go to fightarthritispain.org.
Ad Council
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

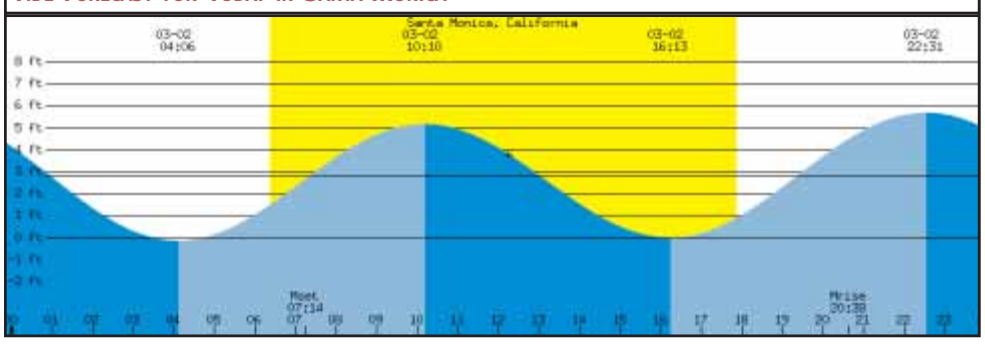
Swell Forecast

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

Long Range Synopsis

End of week looks very small as well.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **February 23, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 27

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 Troncas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	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+	A
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	B	A
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
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
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	C
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	C
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+	B
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+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	C
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	D	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	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's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Matsui provides flexibility

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. Angels manager Mike Scioscia acknowledged Tuesday that Hideki Matsui's presence on the roster puts his designated hitter situation at a different flexibility level than usual.

"For the most part, we haven't had that one guy, the prototypical DH," Scioscia said. "We've rotated."

With an outfield apparently set with Juan Rivera in left, Torii Hunter in center and Bobby Abreu in right, with Reggie Willits among others who can play all three positions, the plan is for Matsui, an offseason free-agent acquisition from the New York Yankees, to get most of the at-bats at DH.

Scioscia, however, added that he would like to see Matsui also play in left field to extend the Angels' versatility and has started him in limited outfield drills in the early days of camp.

"We're going to see what level he is and what he can do," Scioscia said. "It helps us with versatility and to create depth if he can play some outfield. If he can't we're going to be just as strong."

Matsui's presence gives the Angels the look of having a full-time DH more so than at any other time in the Scioscia era. Scioscia said that at different times, he'd had a full-time DH for brief periods.

"We've gone through different stages here," Scioscia said. "We were locked in with (Vladimir Guerrero) for a while. At times we had Timmy Salmon locked in at DH for a month. I think you have to adjust to what you have."

Because of two arthritic knees, one that required surgery prior to the 2009 season, Matsui did not play in the Yankees outfield in any of his 142 game appearances last season. He produced 28 homers and 90 RBIs last season.

Mayweather-Mosley already getting physical

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Shane Mosley nearly came to blows during the first stop of a whirlwind publicity tour at the Nokia Theater in Times Square.

The two began shoving each other before their promoters rushed in to separate them. Mayweather and Mosley have been circling each other for years and their animosity has simmered.

They'll meet for real on May 1 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions predicted Tuesday the fight will do 3 million pay-per-views, which would shatter the record set by Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya in 2007. He said about 14,000 tickets were snatched up in the first 15 minutes they were on sale.

The publicity tour continues today in Washington, then finishes Thursday in Los Angeles.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Silverado (NR) 2hr 13min
7:30

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Cop Out (R) 1hr 50min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

From Paris With Love (R) 1hr 35min
2:00, 7:20

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hr 2min
4:30, 9:40

Shutter Island (R) 2hr 18min
3:15, 6:30, 9:35

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:30, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25

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

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

Cop Out (R) 1hr 50min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

The Wolfman (R) 1hr 42min
2:20, 4:45, 7:25, 9:50

Shutter Island (R) 1hr 35min
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:15, 7:15, 8:30, 10:15

Dear John - Digital Presentation (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

The Crazies (R) 1hr 41min
1:15, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45

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

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

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

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

The Ghost Writer (PG-13) 2hr 23min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

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, 9:50

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

Valentine's Day (PG-13) 1hr 57min
12:10, 1:00, 3:10, 4:05, 6:10, 7:00, 9:10, 10:10

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

Put on a favorite flick, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Communication flourishes, and you see a big difference. Be open to understanding where others are coming from. A meeting is enlightening and gives you substantial feedback. A partner demands more time. Tonight: Try dinner for two.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Focus on one project at a time. Clearly, a boss doesn't see a situation as you do. Consider someone's seemingly great idea that looks to be unworkable. Why not ask this person to figure out the logistics? Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Let your imagination dominate. Also try to look past the obvious. You might want to find someone who's an expert at problem-solving. There are answers, and you will find them, sooner rather than later. Tonight: Run errands first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might want to understand what is motivating someone close. Even when you ask questions directly, this person appears very vague. Use your resourcefulness, and don't worry so much about the other party. Tonight: Relax with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep talks moving. Don't get stuck on a point, or you will lose your influence and your audience. Someone you relate to is extremely idealistic. Focus on your priorities, knowing that at some point you really will need to buckle down and handle another issue. Tonight: Head on home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of a new idea, diet or health routine. It might sound very healthy, but it could be a financial problem ultimately, causing you undue stress. Be realistic about your choices. Check in with someone in the know. Tonight: Meet friends for munchies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You might want to find someone you trust to give you feedback. Together you will gain yet another impression. In a brainstorming situation, you gain many more options. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Continue with the preparation phase of a project. You know what you want and where you are going. Touch base with a family member you trust. This person has a special perspective. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Open up to suggestions. A meeting could be more important than you realize. Reach out for more information. Someone might not give you a chance. This person has a lot to say. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ No one can question your intention. Nevertheless, a problem occurs if you are not given the facts. Back up and go over your information again. Make sure you are informed. You will greet success then. Tonight: Find your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your sixth sense tells you that there might be more going on than meets the eye. Follow through on an idea. Feedback comes from those you work with. Encourage others to say what they think. Tonight: Could be late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Deal with others on an individual level. You know what you want, but so does another party. Negotiate and don't let a rosy perspective fog your judgment, if you want to succeed. Look at what someone doesn't say. Tonight: Put on a favorite movie.

Happy birthday

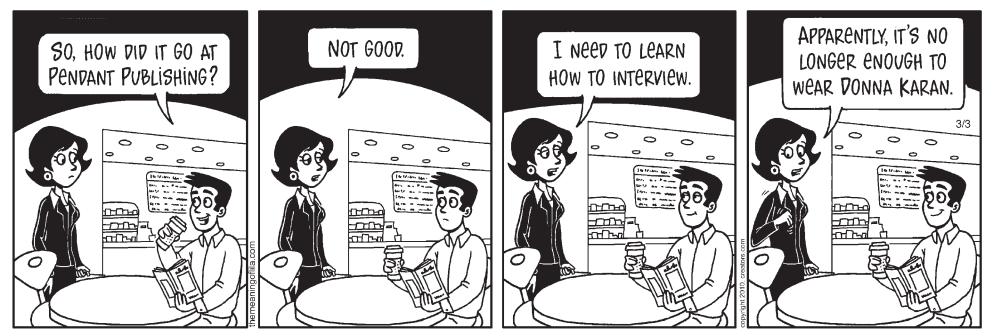
This year, you'll have many opportunities to blaze a new trail or head in a new direction. Many of you will opt to go to school or to travel. Some of you will take seminars or meet foreigners. Whatever area of your life you choose to open up, you will be stunned by the difference. A partner or dear friend could be instrumental in this process. If you are single, you could meet someone who is quite unique and different. Romance will flourish if you make the right choices. If you are attached, the two of you might plan that special, long-talked-about trip. SCORPIO helps your mind grow.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



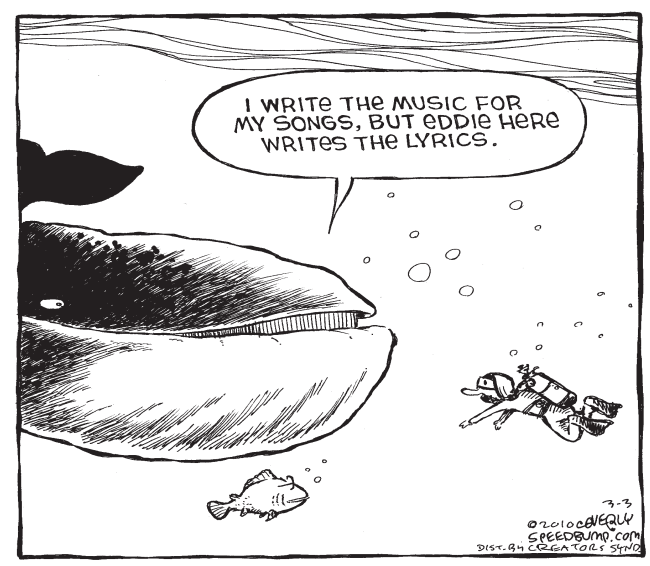
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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. Hint: It's on Wilshire Boulevard. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Furniture surface
7 Gooey cheese
11 Change over time
12 Long swimmers
13 Reacts to a threat
14 Inquires
15 All told
17 On this spot
20 Straight beater
23 Before, to Byron
24 Mention
26 Rainbow shape
27 Reverence
28 Paint buy
29 Farm alarm
31 Cassowary cousin
32 Armistice
33 Nile reptiles
34 List of players
37 Not to mention
39 Swore
43 Show sorrow
44 Like mares and fillies
45 Red-ink amount
46 Like "Hamlet"

DOWN

1 Dachshund doc
2 Cain raiser
3 French refusal
4 Cow of commercials
5 Smooth
6 Take it easy
7 John or Paul
8 Available assets
9 Kind
10 Curvy letter
16 Hold out
17 Center
18 Slip
19 Contingency plans
21 Mailer's need
22 Baseball's Wagner
24 Assesses
25 Ram's mate
30 Cone units
33 Kitchen come-on
35 Wilson's predecessor
36 Continually
37 Cobbler's tool
38 Zodiac cat
40 Funny fellow
41 Actor Wallach
42 Last mo.

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

3-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 14 29 54 56
Meganumber: 40
Jackpot: 112$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 9 14 39 47
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: 14$M

Fantasy 5: 15 21 30 33 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 2 7
EVENING: 0 3 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:43.90

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

■ When Dexter Blanch's dog nearly died from complications during spay surgery, he decided to use the event as inspiration and recently brought to market a chastity belt to give pet owners more control of their animals' animal instincts. The Pet Anti-Breeding System harness is especially valuable to professional breeders who may want to keep a female out of one or more "heat cycles" without resorting to sterilization. So far, said Blanch, the belts have been proven effective, but he admitted to a San Francisco Chronicle reporter in February that horndog males pose severe tests by gnawing relentlessly at the leather straps that are crimping their style.

■ The Importance of the Dictionary: (1) When Donald Williams was publicly sworn in as a judge in Ulster County, N.Y., on Jan. 2, offices were closed, and no one could find a Bible. Since holy books are not legally required, Williams took the oath with his hand on a dictionary. (2) Merriam Webster's 10th edition dictionary is so influential that the Menifee Union School District in Southern California removed all copies from its elementary schools' shelves in January in response to a parent's complaint that the book contains a reference to "oral sex."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1803 Colégio Militar is founded in Portugal by Colonel Teixeira Rebello.

1820 The U.S. Congress passes the Missouri Compromise.

1845 Florida is admitted as the 27th U.S. state.

1845 For the first time the U.S. Congress passes legislation overriding a presidential veto.

1849 The United States Department of the Interior is established.

1849 The U.S. Congress passes the Gold Coinage Act allowing the minting of gold coins.

1857 Second Opium War: France and the United Kingdom declare war on China.

1861 Alexander II of Russia signs the Emancipation Manifesto, freeing serfs.

WORD UP!

temporize \TEM-puh-ryz\ , intransitive verb; 1. To be indecisive or evasive in order to gain time or delay action.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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

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1531 – 17TH Street, Apt C
1+1, st, fr, ldry $1100
2842-B Exposition Blvd
2+1, st, c-fn, w/d hkp $1350
2331 20th St, #4
1+1, remodeled, pkng $1400

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

VENICE
348 7th Ave, Apt A
Sgl, st, fr, upr, cpt, $1200
348 7th Ave, Apt B
1+1, st, fr, upr, cpt, $1500

WEST L.A.
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+1.75 , st, fr, hdwd $1450
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr,cpt, pkg,ln $1450
11757 Kiowa, #4 & #7
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PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1295/mo $500 off move-in (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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WLA 1215 Barry Ave. #6 1+1 $1195 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, on-site laundry room, parking, no pets.$500 off move-in 310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Notices

THE CITY of Santa Monica is offering two (2) door knobs to the public from the Historic City Jail at no cost. Visit the City of Santa Monica website for details: www.smgov.net/architecture.

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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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from ALL Agents from ALL Companies Listed for Sale As of Early March 2010

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,395,000	$4,802,500
North of Montana	$3,195,000	$974,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,935,000	$684,000
South of Wilshire	$884,000	$657,000
Sunset Park	$1, 099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,546,500	$533,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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