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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 113



Santa Monica Daily Press

PUTTING ADS ON SCHOOL BUSES
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE DARN ALLERGIES ISSUE

Carousel price hike to pay for pier concert series

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER The fundraising drive to save the summer concert series at the Santa Monica Pier is now focusing on a new demographic — the youngsters who drag their parents to the pier to ride the popular carousel.

The Pier Restoration Corp. wants to double the cost of a ride for those 15 years old and up — from $1 to $2 — and charge kids as young as 3 years old $1 for a ride (currently the carousel is free for those 5 and under, and 50 cents for kids 6 to 14).

The price hike, proposed to begin May 1, would bring in an extra $150,000 per year, according to a City Hall report, allowing for an additional $50,000 contribution to this year's Twilight Dance Series, which is facing a budget shortfall.

The $50,000 payment would put the PRC over the top in its effort to raise $92,000 for the concerts by Wednesday. The PRC started soliciting donations this month after announcing a sharp decline in corporate underwriting had put the series in jeopardy. By last week, the PRC said it had raised $65,000, including a $35,000 gift from the City Council's discretionary fund.

The City Council would have to agree to the new carousel price schedule for it to take effect. That vote is expected tonight.

In its report, City Hall argues the increases will bring the pier's carousel ticket prices in line with the rates charged at other similar rides. At the Central Park Carousel in New York City, for example, rides cost $2 with only infants 1 year of age or less getting a free pass. The Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round also charges each rider $2.

By Monday, though, two neighborhood groups had already declared their opposition to the idea.

In an e-mail to the council, the Friends of Sunset Park's board of directors said it doesn't make sense to double the carousel's tick-

SEE PRICE HIKE PAGE 8



file photo

DIZZY: **The City Council is considering raising the price of a ride on the historic carousel to help fund the annual Twilight Dance Series. The change would raise $150,000 annually.**

Councilman wants anti-paparazzi law at pre-schools

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Arguing that existing laws aren't enough to protect parents and their children from being swarmed by the paparazzi at one local nursery school where some celebrities take their kids, Councilman Richard Bloom is again pushing his colleagues to accept an ordinance aimed at curbing photographers' access to their famous subjects.

The council last considered the idea in October, when Assistant City Manager Jennifer Philips cautioned against adopting such a law, saying it would likely conflict with the Constitution's free speech protections.

The issue came to City Hall's attention last summer after officials received dozens of complaints from parents whose children attend First Presbyterian Nursery School on Second Street. The school has become a reg-

SEE LAW PAGE 8

Council to approve contracts for summer surf, soccer camps

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Surfing lessons and soccer camps aren't just about fun and games — for City Hall, they're also a way to raise cash.

The City Council tonight is expected to approve contracts worth $440,000 with two companies that operate the programs — Surf Academy and Socceropolis. But after charging participants fees, a City Hall report

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8


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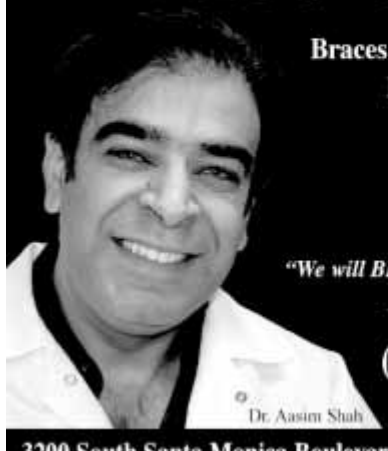
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Healthy eating for seniors
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 11 a.m. — 12 p.m.
This cooking class workshop series focuses on recipes for the healthy, hip Santa Monica senior. The class features Joya Parenteau, registered dietitian and chef. This event is free.

Solar solutions
Santa Monica College, HSS 165
11:15 a.m.
Dr. Laura Stachel, founder of We Care Solar, board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist who serves on the editorial board for the Berkeley Wellness Letter, and a lecturer at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health will discuss her work in bringing solar energy resources to women's hospitals in Nigeria. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC Office of Public Programs. This event is free. For more information call (310) 434-4303.

Movers and shakers
Monsoon Cafe
1212 Third Street Promenade, 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Make quality business connections and mingle with top professionals. Enjoy complimentary nibbles and drink specials until 7 p.m. Cash bar. The next day receive an e-mail with the list of confirmed attendees to help you follow up with your new contacts. Only those who sign up in advance online will receive the list of attendees. Admission: Networking for Professionals Members $10, non-members $15 at door, $20 for everyone, cash only. For more information contact Marissa at (212) 227-6556.

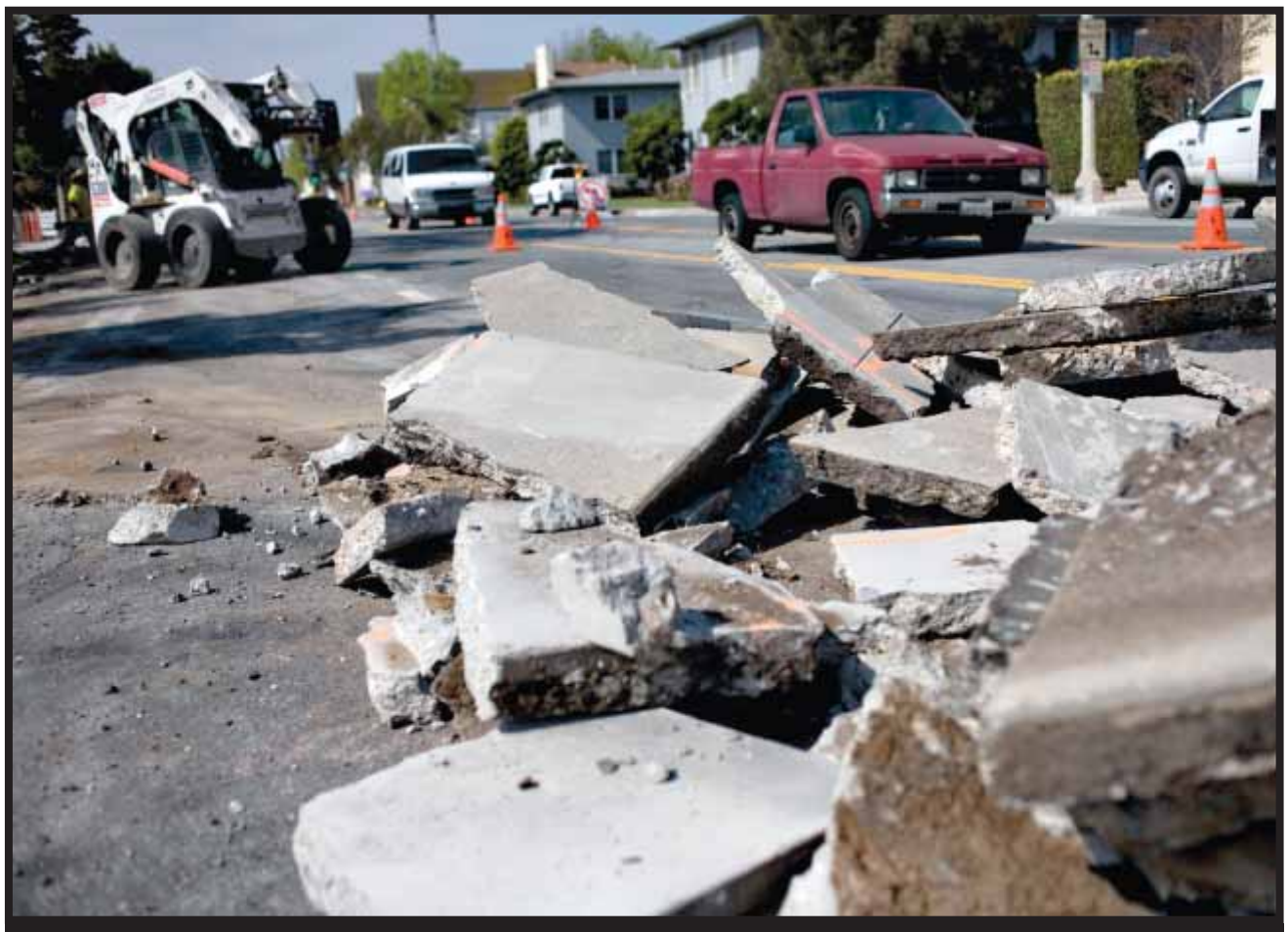
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Around the world
Santa Monica Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Celebrate World Folktales and Fables Week with interactive stories. Storyteller and performer Rebecca Martin reaches the hearts of children and awakens the child within everyone, while developing imagination and communication abilities. This event is free.

Helping Haiti
Core Performance Center
2020 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 401, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Come to this wine and food tasting benefit sponsored by Whole Foods Market Santa Monica and Core Performance. Enjoy live music with performance art by Norton Wisdom and paintings by Kristen Eppley. Physicians and staff from Santa Monica Orthopaedic Group and Saint John's Health Center who traveled to Haiti will be there to share their experiences. Proceeds go to Americares' to help victims in Haiti.
Please RSVP to kelly.layne@wholefoods.com. Admission is $35 per person and includes food, wine and entertainment.

Take a flight to Jamaica
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
"Jamaica, Farewell," is a stunning one-woman show. There are large obstacles in Debra Ehrhardt's way out of Jamaica: an alcoholic father, a bible-spouting mother, the price of an air ticket, U.S. government suspicions. But she uses her wits, beauty and courage to convince a CIA agent to help her reach Miami. Every part is impersonated by Ehrhardt, an actress capable of amazing mimicry. This one-woman caper's got generous dollops of humor, laughter and light. For ticket information call (310) 394-9779.

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.



PICK UP THE PIECES

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Workers from All American Asphalt break apart and remove damaged concrete along Ocean Park Boulevard on Monday. The damage was caused by tree roots.

L.A. band tries to cash in with free monthly album

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES In an instrument-filled garage almost every day for the past year, musician John Wood has tried to find a new way to make a living.

Wood and a bunch of other artists use the soundproofed space with an extra-high ceiling to create a new album every month. It's a staggering feat when you consider it means recording a new song every three days. And then they essentially give it away for free.

Wood is at the vanguard of how musicians are negotiating pay in a world overrun with free music online. He distributes his music to anyone who wants to download it, copy it or share it with other people. He then asks for donations or subscriptions to CDs that he sends in the mail.

Many artists have tinkered with mostly or completely free online album releases, such as Radiohead and Trent Reznor's Nine Inch Nails. They've instead aimed to make money on sales of souped-up deluxe CD sets or concert tickets.

But musicians like Wood, who don't have a huge fan base, are unlikely to make it by filling arenas and selling high-priced goods. And as regular CD sales continue to fall and major recording labels pare their artist rosters, up-and-coming musicians have to find ways to promote themselves in ways that were unheard of a few years ago.

Wood's album-a-month plan, along with a written blog explaining his inspirations, is designed to spur interest and build loyalty among fans. He hopes that one day some real money can be made from it as well.

"Obviously that would be a great side of it and that's something we're aiming towards," Wood says, sitting by a

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 9

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

THIRD STREET PROMENADE

AMC celebrates two decades in SM

To commemorate 20 years of movie magic, AMC Theatres this week is hosting charity screenings of hit movies from 1990, with all proceeds benefiting Variety – The Children's Charity of Southern California and the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL).

The movie theater giant celebrated last week 20 years on the Third Street Promenade. Guest who visit AMC Santa Monica 7 on March 25 will pay only $7 for all movies all day and will receive one free small popcorn with each ticket purchased.

"AMC Santa Monica 7 is excited to thank all those who have helped make the theater a success by turning back the clock and presenting some of our favorite films from 1990, the year of its opening, in addition to rolling back ticket prices to reflect that era," said Jeff Trudeau, general manager, AMC Santa Monica 7.

At each charity screening, guests will be able to bid on an AMC special pass – giving them free movies for a year – during a live auction just before each show time. In addition, they may also enter drawings to win prizes such as:

- "Iron Man 2" poster autographed by Robert Downey, Jr.;
- "Julie and Julia" poster autographed by Meryl Streep and cast;
- "Valentine's Day" poster autographed by cast including Jamie Foxx and Shirley MacLaine;
- "Art of Avatar" books, Universal Studios leather jacket, Disney gift basket of DVDs, shirts and more.

The charity screening schedule for the remainder of the week:

Tuesday, March 23: "Ghost."

Wednesday, March 24: "Back to the Future III"

Thursday, March 25: "Home Alone," and "Edward Scissorhands."

All films start at 7 p.m. except for "Edward Scissorhands, which starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets for all charity screenings are $7.

DAILY PRESS

LA-area eco-cruise shows tourists pollution's toll

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH A new cruise off the Southern California coast has sightseers trading whales and dolphins for smokestacks and oil.

The Urban Ocean Boat Cruise, run by the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and Harbor Breeze Cruises, aims to show the environmental effects on coasts and harbors of fishing, industry and other human activities.

Aquarium president Jerry Schubel said he came up with the idea after going on an architectural tour of Chicago, and asking himself what a local equivalent might be.

"What is it about Long Beach and Los Angeles that's distinctive?" Schubel told the Los Angeles Times for a story published Sunday. "And I realized that Southern California is

SEE **CRUISE** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Freedom of choice

Editor:

Mr. Sean McDaniel makes a fine argument in favor of passing the Measure A (SMMUSD) parcel tax ("Arguing in favor of the parcel tax," March 16). I agree with him that supporting education is important. Where we differ, however, is when he says it's OK to force others to support our cause whether they like it or not.

You see, one of the things I love about Santa Monica is that so many here have such strong convictions about so many different things. And while he and I might agree that the SMMUSD is worthy of our hard-earned money, our neighbors may want to give money in support of other causes, perhaps to a battered women's shelter, an environmental organization, maybe their church, or maybe to a neighbor who just lost their job.

Mr. McDaniel claims that our community shares a common belief that "Santa Monica schools are at the very core of our well-being as a community." I would bet, however, that every one of them would agree that protecting freedom of choice is much more important to the well-being of not only Santa Monica, but of America herself.

By passing Measure A we are not only forcing people to support something they might not agree with, but also possibly preventing them from supporting something they do.

By defeating Measure A, Mr. McDaniel and I can still write checks to the SMMUSD, and our neighbors can choose to join us, or perhaps give their money to a cause that they feel is greater. But what is important is that we don't take away that right.

That is what is at the core of our well-being in Santa Monica. Protecting people's freedom; freedom to support causes they find important and not be forced to support things they do not.

Damon Ramos
Santa Monica

Not happy with pilot program

Editor:

I recently learned that in December the FAA began a six-month test of a proposed change to departure procedures at Santa Monica Airport and decided to forgo the public process. What I have noticed is that the planes departing the airport are fanning over a huge area. Airplanes are now allowed to veer at the end of the Penmar golf course compared to before where they would have to fly to the ocean before being allowed to veer. This proposal affects a huge amount of residents and everybody should start looking up and noticing where these planes are flying. Obviously flying over a larger area of the city also causes safety concerns as planes are now flying over schools and business areas that were previously unaffected. Our voices can be heard by filing complaints via the Santa Monica Airport Web site at www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport or calling (310) 458-8692.

Al Bondi
Venice





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Nature's architect

THE ARCHITECT, AUTHOR, SOCIAL commentator and philosopher Frank Lloyd Wright had a lifelong passion for nature.

Wright was born in 1867 in Wisconsin. He was one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. During the coarse of his long and prolific life he designed over 1,100 buildings; those included houses, churches, schools, libraries, offices and museums. Over 400 of his plans were built and today some 20 of them are open to the public.

He was a voracious reader who enjoyed poetry, literature and philosophy. In addition to architecture he studied civil engineering. With a strong background in structure and technology he was readily able to incorporate new materials and cutting edge technology of the industrial revolution.

Wright believed that buildings should fit into their natural environment and be a product of their place, purpose and time by interpreting the principles of nature.

Throughout his life he never wavered in his belief that people should live close to the outdoors and be one with nature.

One of his early goals was to give interior space, particularly in homes, a new freedom. He did away with compartmentalizing houses, which he felt were detrimental to family life.

Between 1900 and 1920 he created homes known as Prairie Style-designs.

They were horizontal rather than vertical in outline and emulated the flat terrain of the Midwest; rarely more than two stories most often they were single-storied with wings as extensions. Most of his homes did not have basements. He preferred instead a solid, defined platform. Rooflines were low and over-sized extending far beyond the walls, and chimneys were squat and broad-shaped.

The heart of every Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style dwelling was a hearth inside the home; it was the heart of the family.

Wright's roofs were said to mimic the branches of a tree, the wings of a bird or an overhanging rock formation. His cantilevered construction was one of his signatures and they were absolutely magnificent.

Wright never painted wood.

The harmonious relationship between form and function extended throughout the house to create unity.

Throughout his long and illustrious architecture career Frank Lloyd Wright designed some spectacular homes. One of the templates for future Prairie Styled homes is the Robie House on the corner between 59th Street and Woodlawn, next to the University of Chicago campus, in Chicago.

The house was built between 1906 and 1909 for Fredrick Robie and his wife, Lora.

Red Roman bricks, exquisite cantilevered red roofs, wonderful art glass, custom Wright-designed furniture, an open interior plan, and a three bay garage with an engine pit and a carwash were outstanding examples of the talents and ingenuity of this young inspirational architect.

The Robie House is open to the public and is a must see when next visiting Chicago (www.wrightplus.org).

One of the most stunning Wright homes was built for Charles Ennis on a half-acre plot in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. Wright thought that homes should grow and merge into their environment.

The Ennis House was made from 16-inch square tile of cast concrete just a little under 4 inches thick. There were no visible mortar lines, and seems were filled with liquid concrete giving the effect of the adobe houses of the Pueblo peoples of Arizona and New Mexico. Some of the tiles have patterns mimicking the monumental Mayan buildings of Middle America.

The Ennis House has been used for 20 Hollywood films including: "House on the Hill" in 1959 and "Blade Runner" in 1982.

Sadly, the house has fallen into disrepair and currently is listed on the World Monument Fund list of 100 most endangered sites of the world.

Voted by members of the American Institute of Architects to be "the best all-time work of American architecture," Fallingwater is a Wright home that merges seamlessly into its natural surroundings, harmoniously enabling people to live with nature. Edgar Kaufman commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to create this breathtaking home. The house stands on Bear Run, a creek on the Appalachian Mountains of Fayette County, western Pennsylvania.

Wright positioned the house over the falls with almost as much outdoor space as indoor. Dramatic cantilevers blended with the natural rock ledge formations. And window walls brought the outside in and vice-versa. The music of the stream can be heard everywhere in the house and Wright said "you listen to the sound of water as you listen to the quiet of the country."

Fallingwater is open to the public (www.wrightplus.org).

Wright's dream was to design mass-produced homes for the American middle class that were functional, aesthetically pleasing, energy efficient and affordable.

And in the 1930s that's what he did. He called them Usonian (United States of North America): Prairie-Styled homes adapted to a smaller budget. He designed 300 of which about 130 were built including 11 Marshall Erdman Prefab Houses.

In 1937, Wright took his Usonian home one step further; he pioneered a passive solar, hemicycle, 1,500 square-foot home for journalist Herbert Jacobs of Madison, Wis. To keep costs down it had one story, a flat roof and no foundation. The concrete slab that formed the base contained heating coils, placed on a bed of sand so warmth of the earth would naturally warm the house. The front of the semi-circular house faced south to maximize winter sunshine. While the back of the house is half buried within a hill to protect it from cold winter north-west winds.

Frank Lloyd Wright adored trees and revered mother nature's blueprint.

DR. REESE HALTER is a conservation biologist at Cal Lutheran University, public speaker and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His upcoming children's book is entitled "The Mysteries of the Redwood Forest with Bruni the Bear." Follow him: twitter.com/DrReeseHalter.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A primer on primary care

WHEN I OWNED MY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC company I regularly met with primary care physicians (PCP) who consistently complained to me about the insanity of the insurance industry and its unfairness to them. A PCP sees a patient for two minutes or 20 minutes and gets paid the same reimbursement. Anthem/Blue Cross paid on average $60 per visit. If a doctor takes a call on a Sunday to calm that same patient — no reimbursement. I know many doctors who are on the verge, Obamacare or not, of quitting the practice due to the fact that they have spent 12 years, hundreds of thousands of dollars, and get paid at the discretion of an insurance industry that determines what is a "reasonable" rate of compensation for them.

The economics of the insurance industry must first be understood to get behind the motivations of all the players. The patient thinks they are buying complete coverage for the price of their premiums. That is false; they are buying a contract which has severe restrictions and many loopholes. The insurance company is a for-profit business. Their goal is to get the most premiums and pay the least out to the doctors and medical diagnostic companies for the services rendered.

The doctors are forced to accept the payments from the insurance companies if they are "contracted" with a carrier. Most doctors have to be contracted in order to build a practice, not because of the carriers, but because of the patients. Patients go to doctors who are in their network, and will switch doctors if they have to start paying out of pocket for the services.

Is there a problem here? Yes. A person who has spent 12 years of their life becoming a professional should not be told by a faceless functionary what they are going to be paid for the service they render.

As a divorce lawyer I charge based on the value I bring to the case. My hourly rate is determined by me. I am paid based on the amount of time and effort that I put into my cases. Some cases take up huge amounts of my time and have bills in the tens of thousands of dollars. Other cases I dispense with in a few minutes and the bill is proportional.

For doctors the compensation scheme is highly unpredictable. Each carrier pays based on their own rate schedules. This is why medical billing is so outrageous. When my company would bill $6,000 for a procedure to three different insurance carriers, we would be paid three different rates. Some would pay based on a Medicare rate of $780 a test, others would be 50 percent of the billed rate, and some would pay the full bill. Those insurance companies that paid less than my bill would make the balance the responsibility of the patient. We, like most medical professionals, would just write off the unpaid balance as a cost of doing business.

The gamble that one company would pay the full price, made the costs of writing off the unpaid balances worth it. This is the system that we have today, which results in huge medical bills that force people out of their homes because some medical providers wouldn't write off the unpaid balances.

We also had a cash price for those people without insurance. It was dramatically reduced and most doctors also maintain a separate rate sheet for those patients without insurance. This is in reality the fair and honest rate for the services rendered.

So the problem really is how to have access to health care. We either need to have a comprehensive insurance system that covers the most people in the most economical manner, so that a doctor knows what they are going to be paid and can build a practice on those fees, or we need to have no insurance and all doctors will then charge what they can in the market, and people will get the medical care they can afford. For the majority of people that is going to be minimal care at best.

Doctors, like lawyers (who technically have a doctorate), would be expensive because of the schooling and effort it takes to achieve the degree. Frankly, doctors should be way more expensive than lawyers. The services they render, the effort it took to get to where they are in life, are much greater.

I know how valuable I am to a man who wants to see his kids, or be free of a bad marriage. I know the peace of mind that I bring, and I value it appropriately.

Doctors save lives, they too bring peace of mind, but they don't get to value it appropriately.

If we are to have a health insurance industry, it needs to be regulated, not just for the patient's benefit, but for the doctors also. The choice is to do away with it entirely, and I don't hear anyone asking for that.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Preserving permits

Los Angeles school officials want to dramatically reduce the number of kids who leave their district to attend schools in places like Santa Monica. Local officials are concerned the plan will cost the district money and disrupt students' education.

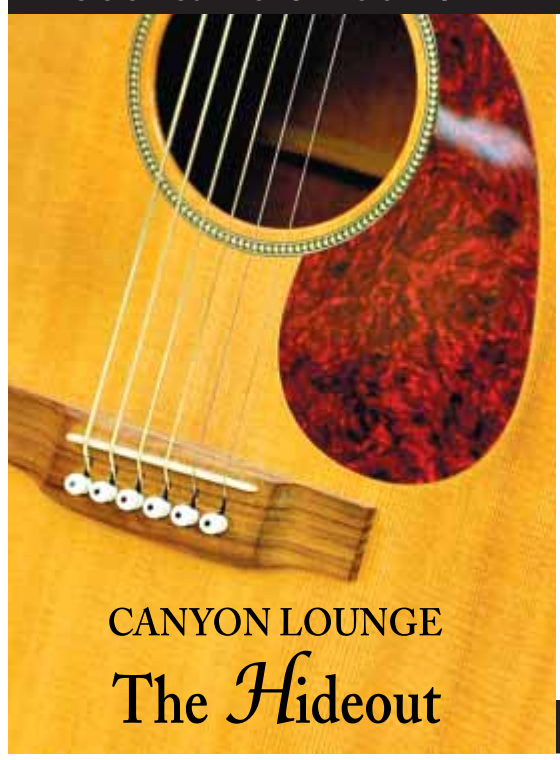
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Should Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials fight to keep those students or are they a drain on the budget to begin with?

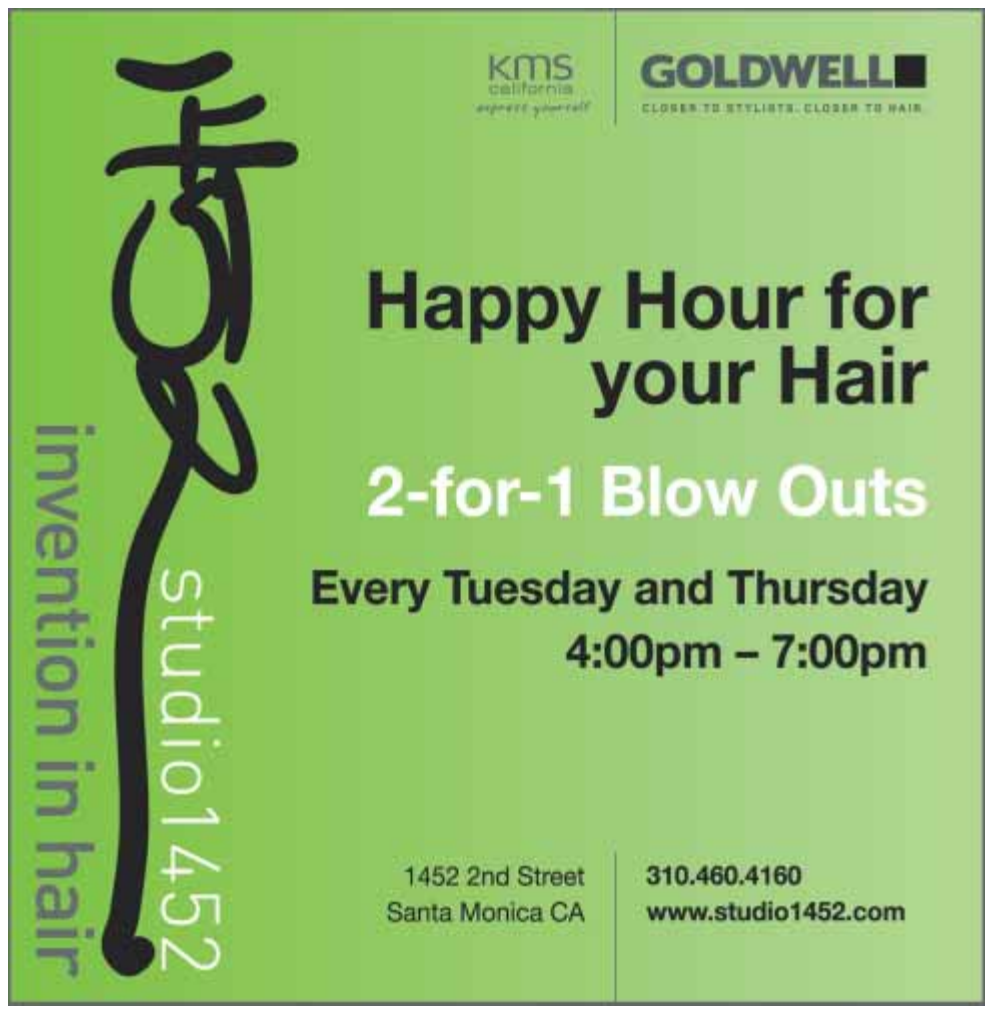
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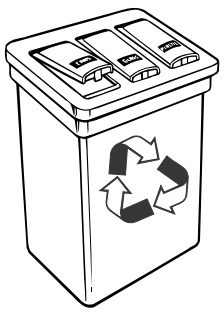
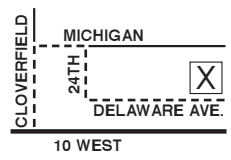

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What parents need to know about teen suicide

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the phenomenon has lately been in the news. Cornell University is coping with a suicide cluster among students, two teenage girls killed themselves last month in Norwood, Pa., and four teens died by suicide last year in Palo Alto, Calif.

Scott Fritz, whose 15-year-old daughter took her life in 2003, says there are many things parents can do to prevent suicide.

"Educate yourself on the warning signs, risk factors, and very importantly, on protective factors," said Fritz, president and co-founder of the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide.

Like many parents, Fritz said "we had no idea teen suicide was even a problem" — until his daughter's death. Teen suicide rates in the U.S. have decreased since the 1970s, but a 2007 CDC survey still found 14 percent of high school students had "seriously considered suicide" in the previous 12 months.

Fritz's organization offers an intense but extremely informative 17-minute video on its Web site called "Not My Kid" — http://www.sptsnj.org/ — that can help parents identify warning signs of suicidal behavior.

These include feelings of hopelessness, anger, excessive worry or anxiety or other signs of depression; self-destructive or risky behavior, including excessive drug or alcohol abuse; extreme changes in moods, attitudes or behavior, or a withdrawal from activities or socializing; and verbal or written threats, innuendos or statements like "Life isn't worth living." In some cases there may be a family history of suicide.

Fritz added that death by gunshot is the leading method of youth suicide. "So if you are worried about your kid, make extra sure there is no access to guns," he said.

Another factor often present in suicides is a "triggering event," such as a disappointment that leads to despondency. The event might not seem like a big deal to adults, but remember that teenagers don't always have the skills to cope with stress related to school pressures, social situations or family conflicts. Or they may be struggling with a serious problem such as the loss of a loved one.

These "triggering events can push someone off the edge," said Maureen Underwood, a social worker who has written suicide prevention school curricula and who works with the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide.

The phenomenon of multiple suicides in one community or school raises a terrifying question for parents: Is adolescent suicide contagious?

"There is a contagion factor with kids," Fritz said. "It isn't any different than how they wear their hair or their clothes. They tend to copy each other."

"There is something about peer identification in that age group," agreed Underwood.

That doesn't mean parents should avoid raising the subject. The "Not My Kid" video stresses that there's no evidence that discussing suicide with kids in a responsible way leads them to do it. In fact, says Fritz, talking to teenagers about suicide helps prevent it.

But what exactly do you say?

Fritz says if there's been a suicide in your community or it's in the news, you might start like this: "'I just read in the paper that so-and-so died by suicide. What do you think about that?' ... Have you ever thought about suicide or what it means?'"

Just be careful not to glamorize or romanticize suicide; don't dilute the message that suicide is wrong. If your child knows of someone who committed suicide, you might say, "Johnny made a terrible mistake, and he can't take it back," Fritz said.

Many schools discourage tributes or other physical memorials in cases of suicide, and Fritz's organization asks that schools and parents refrain from dedicating events or places named for the deceased. The society also says there is evidence that publicizing the details of how suicides are carried out can encourage copycat behavior.

Fritz believes his daughter's suicide was triggered by antidepressant medication, and he testified at federal hearings that led to warning labels about suicidal behavior as a risk of certain drugs. So he also urges parents whose kids are taking medication to educate themselves about "what the side effects are and what to look for," he said.

But he noted that every suicide is unique, and multiple factors are usually involved, even if they may not be obvious beforehand.

"There is no typical profile," added Underwood. "There's never just one reason; there's always a more complicated story."

For parents, though, the message is simple: Talking about suicide with a teenager is not all that different from talking about drugs or sexual activity. Listen to what your child has to say and communicate your values.

The takeaway, Fritz said, should always be: "We value life, and no matter what problems you may have, there's nothing so bad that we can't work it through together."

On the Net:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suicide statistics:
http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/Suicide-DataSheet-a.pdf

BETH J. HARPAZ is the author of several books including "13 Is the New 18."

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Could school bus ads save school budgets?

DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE School districts have imposed all sorts of drastic cuts to save money during the down economy, canceling field trips and making parents pay for everything from tissues to sports transportation.

And some have now resorted to placing advertisements on school buses.

School districts say it's practically free money, and advertisers love the captive audience that school buses provide.

That's the problem, say opponents: Children are being forced to travel to school on moving media kiosks, and the tactic isn't much different than dressing teachers in sponsor-emblazoned uniforms.

"Parents who are concerned about commercial messages will have no choice," said Josh Golin, associate director of Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. "Parents won't be given the option to send their kids on the ad-free bus."

Washington lawmakers considered the idea of school bus advertising this year, and the concept is also being tossed around in Ohio, New Jersey and Utah. About half a dozen states already allow bus advertising — including Colorado, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas.

The idea can be traced back about 15 years, but budget woes have led to a recent resurgence.

"This issue comes up on a regular basis when funding gets tight and people are looking for alternative ways to fund school transportation," said John Green, supervisor for school transportation at the California Department of Education.

Green has a long list of reasons California has not sold ads on its school buses, despite the regular onslaught of creative parents and lawmakers who suggest the idea to him and other state officials.

He says bus ads are rarely as lucrative as the school district expects, they may distract drivers and lead to accidents, and keeping unwanted ads off buses may not be as easy as people think.

A highway authority in Southern California recently lost a court case over its attempt to prevent the Minutemen militia group from "adopting a highway" and putting a sign on the freeway. The judge decided the case on First Amendment issues.

"I'm thinking that logic would hold for school transportation," Green said.

Jim O'Connell, president of Media-Aim of Scottsdale, Ariz., says school bus advertising can be lucrative and in five years of selling the ads for more than 30 districts in Colorado and Arizona, he's never once heard of accident tied to bus advertising.

Jefferson County Schools, the largest district in Colorado with more than 84,000 students in 150 schools covering more than 777 square miles, has a three-year contract with First Bank of Colorado that is worth about $500,000 over four years, said district spokeswoman Melissa Reeves.

That translates into about $7 a day per bus for the length of the contract, still a fraction of the district's total $959 million budget but important at a time when every dollar counts.

In addition to having its logo on 100 of the district's 350 school buses, First Bank also will be prominently displayed in every high school gym, on the district Web page, in district stadiums and company announcements will be made during most varsity sporting events.

"It's not as large a revenue generator as you might think," said Mike Griffith, a policy analyst for the Education Commission of the States. Paying a consultant to sell the ads usually cuts the profits enough to discourage districts, he said.

School bus advertising has been getting some traction in the past two years, as it did during the 2001 economic downturn, said Griffith. His organization does not keep track of which states allow school bus advertising, but he noted that few states have legislation or rules that specifically disallow it.

Washington state Sen. Paull Shin, a Democrat who represents a district north of Seattle, raised the idea during the Legislature this year because the state's $2.8 billion budget deficit was literally keeping him awake at night with concern about its affect on schools and students, he said.

The bill failed.

"We thought this would bring a few shekels to the school boards," he said.

In staff meetings when the idea of bus advertising comes up, Green says he quashes the idea by suggesting other school marketing opportunities.

"Why not just have the teachers wear a uniform similar to NASCAR drivers?" Green wants to know. "Even though that's kind of a joke, my point is, why do they single out the school bus? Why not paint a billboard alongside the school?"

Forget cutesy stuff, baby denim is tiny but trendy

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK Denim is easy, denim is durable — and that makes denim a potentially sensible and stylish choice for some of the toughest customers around: babies and toddlers.

"Denim makes so much sense for everyone," says Jennifer Giangualano, senior vice president of design for BabyGap. "You've got your jeans, jean jacket, overalls. It's what you build everything else around and then you layer it up."

Yet, young children — or at least their parents — don't do as much denim as everyone else seems to. There's a misconception that denim has to be hard or rough, but that's not the case, says Giangualano, who is helping to launch 1969 BabyGap Premium Denim this season.

Don't look for cutesy embroidered flowers or trucks, though. "These are on trend but tiny," Giangualano says. "We think it's the cutest thing in the world."

True Religion, Rock & Republic, Joe's Jeans and 7 for All Mankind are among the other premium denim brands with pint-size products.

Giangualano says the core of Gap's collection is a straight-leg, dark-wash jeans. Certain modifications have been made to the garment — such as toughter-than-usual knees for crawling and a stretchier fabric so it's easy to pull bottoms down to change a diaper — but the look is modeled after adult looks.

"We want you to pull them out again when the kid is 15 and you say, 'Oh, how cute.' We want people to keep them as a keepsake."

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2306, 2307, and 2308 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

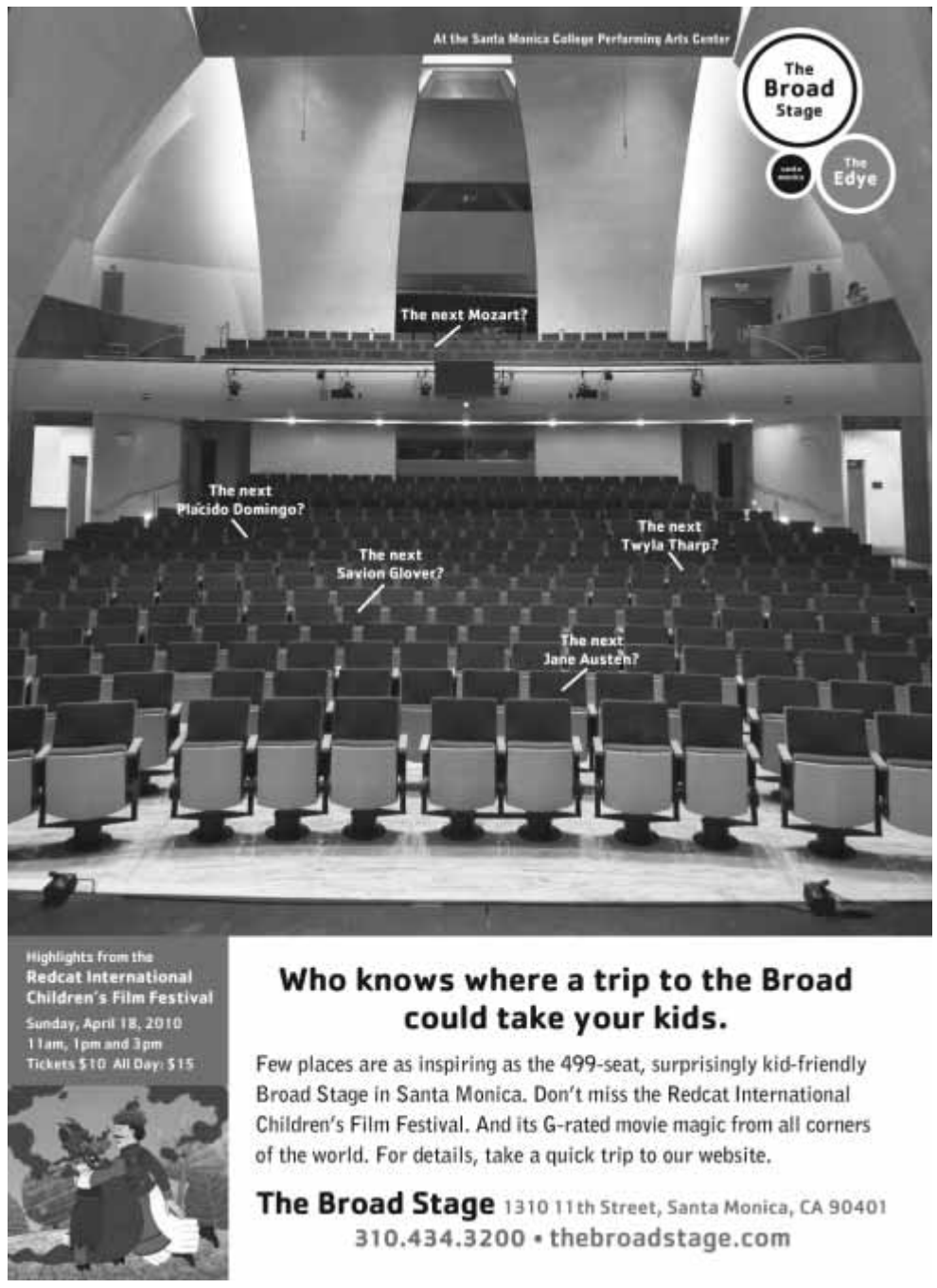
The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2306, 2307 and 2308, which were adopted by the City Council on March 9, 2010.

Ordinance Number 2306(CCS) clarifies the role of hearing officers who conduct administrative hearings for the City by specifying that, consistent with basic principles of administrative law, they may not determine the constitutionality of City laws and that their decisions do not create legal precedent.

Ordinance Number 2307 (CCS) amends the Municipal Code to permit the reestablishment of previously existing ground floor, general office use that has not been expanded or altered following occupancy by a charitable, youth or welfare organization, consistent with specific conditions.

Ordinance Number 2308 (CCS) amends the Municipal Code by deleting the current prohibition against using medians for any activity other than jogging or walking. The ordinance replaces that prohibition with a new prohibition against using the 4th Street median strip and parkways for commercial or business purposes and a new prohibition against placing any exercise, physical therapy or similar equipment on a median strip or parkway.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after adoption. Their full text is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone (310) 458-8211.

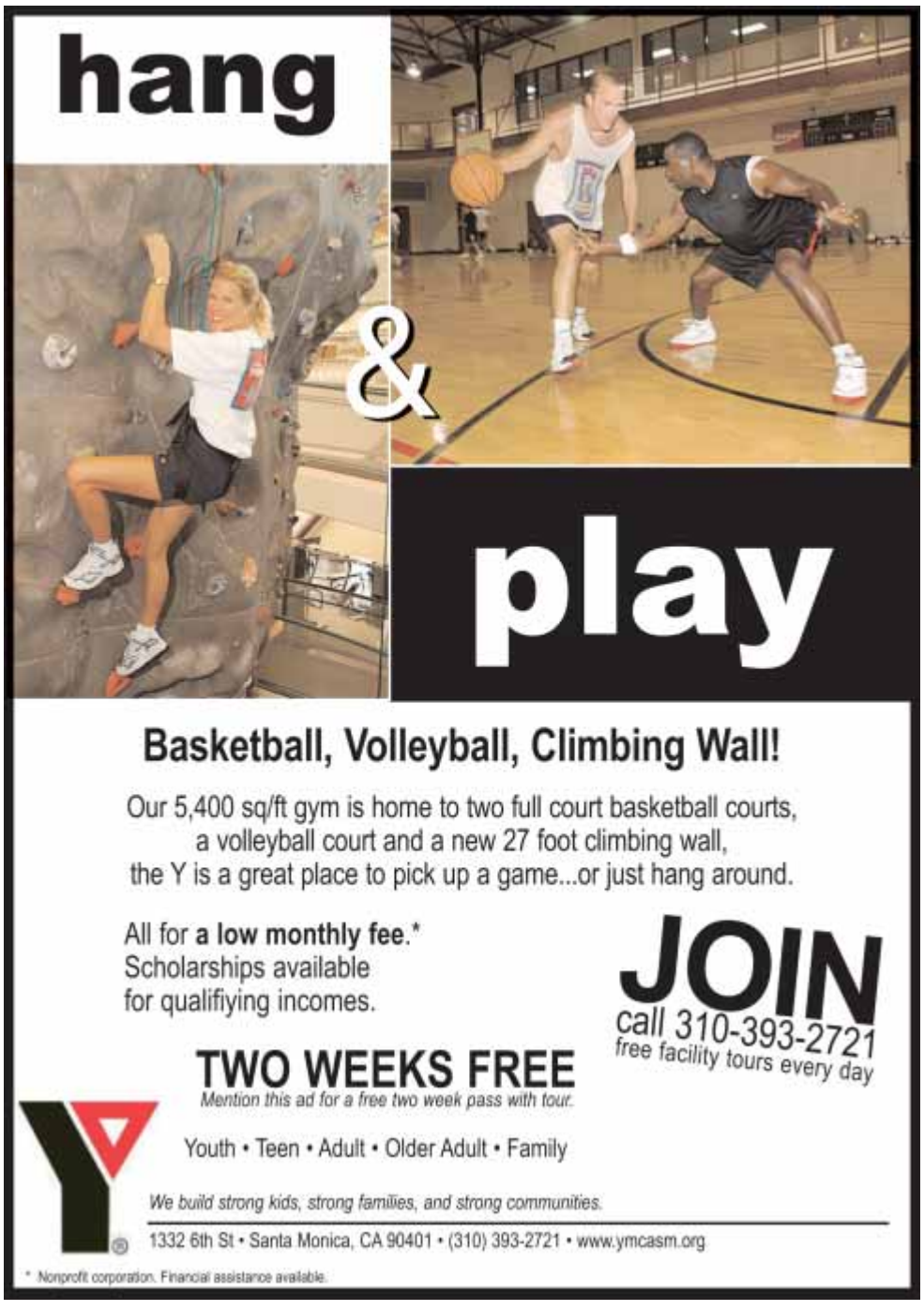




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Measure would only apply to pre-schools

FROM LAW PAGE 1

ular stop in the paparazzi rotation, with photographers and videographers lately gathering at the pre-school hoping to catch glimpses of actress Jennifer Garner picking up her daughter.

Parents have reported being trampled and in some cases injured by photographers jockeying for shots.

Now, despite a "good faith" effort to improve the situation by enforcing existing laws, Bloom says more needs to be done.

"It just hasn't panned out to be the solution folks were looking for," Bloom said of past efforts to curb the problem. "I think the best solution would be something that puts some distance between the paparazzi and the entrances [and] exits to the school."

The City Attorney's Office previously said that passing a law that regulates activity in public areas could conflict with the First Amendment, but Bloom, who is a lawyer, said he believes it's possible to come up with an ordinance that balances free speech rights with City Hall's public safety concern.

Bloom has placed the item on the City Council's agenda for tonight.

If approved, the City Attorney would draft an ordinance "restricting photographers and videographers from blocking or otherwise creating dangerous and/or intrusive conditions at pre-school entrance and exit areas."

> **"IT JUST HASN'T PANNED OUT TO BE THE SOLUTION FOLKS WERE LOOKING FOR."**
>
> **Richard Bloom**
> Councilman

At a later meeting the council would have to sign-off on the potential ordinance's language for the measure to take effect.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Jay Trisler of the Santa Monica Police Department said officers have been able to improve the situation for parents and their kids at First Presbyterian by working with the school on better ways to get celebrities in and out.

"Are paparazzi still there? Sure, but we're not having the same issues that we had as a result of this system being put into place," Trisler said.

A call to Mary Hartzell, the director of the pre-school, was not returned on Monday. But Trisler said he believes parents have noticed an improvement.

"We're not getting the complaints that we had previously from the school," he said.

nickt@smdp.com

Groups opposed to carousel fee hike

FROM PRICE HIKE PAGE 1

et prices so that adults can attend concerts for free.

"Why not charge the Twilight Dance Series attendees so that 3-year-olds can ride the carousel for free?" the group wrote. "City staff bends over backward to provide daycare for 3-year-olds, but now it wants toddlers to subsidize the Twilight Dance Series? It makes no sense."

The board also said the City Council should hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of partnering with CBS Radio to hold the summer concerts at a lower cost.

The council earlier this month acknowledged that the radio company had expressed interest in sponsoring the concerts, but members unanimously agreed City Hall should first try to raise funds to pay for the concerts before considering a partnership with a radio company, citing concern a deal with CBS would change the event's character.

For the concert series' 25-year life span, Katharine King has been in charge of producing the event.

In its e-mail, the Friends of Sunset Park said it's time for the PRC to consider a change.

"Why give King and Company $211,000 to provide only 7 concerts this summer

> **CITY STAFF BENDS OVER BACKWARD TO PROVIDE DAYCARE FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS, BUT NOW IT WANTS TODDLERS TO SUBSIDIZE THE TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES? IT MAKES NO SENSE."**
>
> Friends of Sunset Park Board of Directors

when CBS Radio has offered to provide 9 concerts for $116,500?" the e-mail said.

Gregg Heacock, who heads the group Mid-City Neighbors, also sent out an e-mail urging residents to contact council members to express opposition to the carousel price hike proposal.

The PRC's board is scheduled to discuss plans for the TDS at a meeting on Wednesday, its self-imposed deadline for raising enough money to put on the concerts.

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Council to spend $2.1M retrofitting parking structure

FROM CONSENT PAGE 1

says the programs will generate a $130,000 profit.

The City Council also is expected to approve $2.1 million to seismically retrofit Parking Structure No. 2.

The structure, located on the east side of Second Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, was constructed in 1967 and expanded in 1973. The 660-parking space structure was damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake and was targeted for retrofitting in a 1999 seismic evaluation.

The retrofit is part of City Hall's Downtown Parking Program, which the council approved in 2006. The program calls for retrofitting Parking Structures No. 2, 4 and 5; rebuilding Parking Structures No. 1, 3 and 6; and adding additional parking spaces in Downtown.

City Hall is contracting two companies to do the retrofitting work on Structure No. 2. The council is expected to approve $1.9 million for ICON West Inc. and $192,500 for Beezley Management.

nickt@smdp.com

Moving to a different beat

FROM MUSIC PAGE 3

mixing board surrounded by guitars and keyboards on a Friday afternoon. "To me, this whole project is really just about music and art and creativity."

Wood, 28, was trained as a jazz pianist and works with a rotating cadre of musicians to produce songs in wildly different genres. He has churned out Bach-inspired keyboard-only studies and snappy R&B tunes that would have no problem on commercial radio. One album, in December, was based entirely on the only three-way tie in the history of the quiz show "Jeopardy!" — which was made possible by the sportsmanship showed by the returning champion.

These monthly releases can be heard on a blog Wood writes called "Learning Music Monthly," which feels more like a magazine than a CD. Wood calls himself the editor-in-chief, and the site shows original art and sometimes sheet music. Listeners can also sometimes hear isolated recordings of each instrument or vocal in a particular song.

So far, Wood has gotten about 100 fans to donate anywhere from a penny to tens of dollars to the project. Some have paid $59 a year for a monthly CD in the mail. As a one-time bonus, he wrote a personal song to each subscriber on his or her birthday and sent that in the mail, too.

"That made it worth the subscription right there," says Jeremy Zitter, a friend and subscriber.

Starting May 1 Wood plans to increase the subscriber fee to $70 for a year or $40 for six months. And his group also asks for small cover charges, sometimes around $5, for live performances.

Drummer Corey Fogel, who sometimes plays with Wood, says these varied methods of selling songs challenge consumers to ask themselves what they think the music is worth and can form a tighter connection between musicians and their fans.

"It alters your perception of consumerism," Fogel says. "It's a bigger risk in some ways, but the payoff can be better."

Still, the revenue does not amount to much, especially for work that often finds Wood in his garage 10 hours to 12 hours a day. Wood, Fogel and other musicians in their group augment their income by playing in other bands, teaching music or through catering jobs. The album-of-the-month idea is very much a business model in progress.

Wood's independent record label, called Vosotros: Music for You-All, has made it a mission to develop ways for musicians to make money beyond the traditional sales format.

In the past, big record labels paid musicians large advances and then shouldered costs of recording and promoting albums. As song sales rolled in, the labels would recoup their investment.

With song sales slowing, largely due to piracy, the system of big advances is crumbling.

And because free songs are so widely available, Vosotros' president, John Gillilan, said musicians' main battle is now just to get noticed.

"If someone downloads one of these albums for free and puts it on their iPod and enjoys it, that's victory," says Gillilan, 24. "There's so much content out there, that for someone to care enough to seek it out and to listen to it, long term, that person is going to be a fan. They're going to come back, they're going to want more. That's really the strategy behind it."

Eric Garland, the chief executive of online music tracking firm BigChampagne Media Measurement, said innovative ways of making money from music are essential because for every song sold, eight are downloaded for free. Even though Apple's iTunes sells an estimated $1 billion in songs annually, an amount that grows every year, it hasn't been enough to cover the steady decline in CD sales.

"Unless the recorded music industry can find a different way to get us to open our wallets, the iTunes model alone will not carry the day," Garland says.

Wood's marathon songwriting efforts are paying off in another way. After 24 albums in two years, his collection has hundreds of songs. Some have attracted the attention of television producers interested in using his music in their shows.

In February, MTV put an instrumental version of a song called "Contagious" in an episode of "Real World: Washington D.C." The deal should bring Wood a few hundred dollars, depending on how many times the episode is rerun.

Another twist is that Wood releases his music under a "Creative Commons" license rather than relying on traditional copyrights. The rules can help artists mix free giveaways with real business plans. Eric Steuer, creative director for Creative Commons, applauded Wood's multifaceted approach to making money.

"It's not that there's THE new model," Steuer says. "There's a million different ways to do it now."

Jaunt isn't intended to be negative

FROM CRUISE PAGE 3

one of the most heavily used areas of coast in the nation."

The 2-hour jaunt through the Long Beach Harbor on a boat called the Christopher allows passengers to sip wine and eat cookies as they pass warehouses, power plants and the former Terminal Island prison, once home to Charles Manson and Al Capone.

The harbor's gray water is the dumping ground for millions of Southern California residents and businesses, and a haze exhaust from trucks and ships hangs over it.

But the trip isn't intended to be strictly a negative look at the Los Angeles-area ports. It is also a glimpse at its unmatched level of activity, and what tour guide Dominique Richardson calls "the multiple and conflicting uses of our urban ocean."

It includes examples of the amazing ways marine life can adapt to the presence of humans.

Passengers were able to see bottlenose dolphins in the boat's wake on a recent trial run.

"Despite all the commercial use we have here in the harbor, we still have a lot of wildlife," said Richar

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Soaring spending reorders Calif. governor's race

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Six-figure donations are rolling in, radio and online ads are running, and researchers are digging for dirt on Meg Whitman, the leading Republican candidate for California governor.

This isn't a look inside Democrat Jerry Brown's campaign. Brown is not in charge or technically even involved in the operations.

The effort is the work of independent Democratic-linked groups that are essentially acting as surrogate campaigns for Brown at a time when he faces a huge fundraising disadvantage against Whitman. The billionaire former CEO of eBay intends to spend more money on the race than any candidate for governor in U.S. history.

The political operations are prohibited by law from coordinating with candidates, but they are free to spend as much money as they want on a politician's behalf. In fact, the Democratic groups could end up raising and spending more money than the candidate himself, a first in a California governor's race.

The movement is reshaping the way elections are waged in trendsetting California while offering a glimpse into America's future after the U.S. Supreme Court in January gave corporations and unions new freedom to spend on many campaigns.

The trend is also an expansion of what has played out in recent elections on a smaller scale. The Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, for example, helped President George W. Bush win a second term in 2004 by challenging John Kerry's war record.

And in recent years, California has seen a surge in spending by Indian tribes, companies and labor groups trying to elect friendly candidates to the Legislature, sometimes in amounts that dwarf spending by candidate campaigns.

"Campaigns, particularly for governor and U.S. Senate, are not going to get waged between candidate A and candidate B," said Bill Carrick, a Los Angeles-based Democratic consultant with decades of experience in state and national politics.

"There will be all these satellite, independent campaigns that might have a more profound effect on the campaign than the candidates."

The group began targeting Whitman long before Brown had even officially announced his candidacy. Whitman's campaign is calling for an investigation of one of the groups because it believes they are breaking the law.

The new political order is being shaped largely by Whitman's presence. The former CEO at eBay has already poured at least $39 million of her fortune into the race and could spend an unprecedented $150 million by November.

Brown won't even come close to those numbers.

The California attorney general and former two-term governor has about $12 million in the bank. Democratic operatives say he could raise $45 million — but that's only if every person who has donated to a Democratic candidate for governor in recent elections gave him $25,900, the maximum allowable donation for the 2010 race.

Whitman's rival in the GOP primary, Steve Poizner, is another wealthy scion of Silicon Valley who could spend tens of millions of dollars on his candidacy.

For Democrats, the fortunes have rekindled haunting memories of 2006, when Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger used a commanding edge in fundraising to seize control of his re-election race.

If Whitman emerges victorious from the Republican primary, her fundraising edge could put Brown on the defensive in a race with no clear favorite. An independent Field Poll released this week shows the two in a statistical tie in a hypothetical matchup.

That's why other Democrats are stepping in.

Unlike candidate campaigns, the outside groups could bank six- or seven-figure donations from wealthy individuals, unions or sympathetic organizations. One is linked to supermarket billionaire Ron Burkle, a major Democratic donor and longtime friend of former President Bill Clinton.

The groups have set lofty goals they might never reach — raising together as much as $40 million for the Democratic cause.

The advertising and activities of the outside groups could allow Brown to warehouse money while staying above the day-to-day scrum of campaigning, at least for now. Since announcing his campaign this month, his most visible activity has been a string of media interviews.

Brown's political committees have been in virtual hibernation for months, except for fundraising. Meanwhile, independent groups have taken on many of the functions of a campaign, except for the name.

Level the Playing Field 2010, for example, has hired a professional researcher to plumb Whitman's business records. It is running ads on radio, while Brown has not. Its Web site features postings and videos with headlines such as "Meg Whitman's Fake Town Hall."

The backbone of the group includes Chris Lehane, a strategist whose parents were involved in Brown's 1992 presidential campaign; Ace Smith, a strategist who ran his attorney general campaign; pollster Paul Maslin, whose firm handled polling for Brown's attorney general race; and fundraiser Michelle Maravich.

Humboldt County worries about life after legal pot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUREKA, Calif. Marijuana growing has become a way of life in Humboldt County, especially in recent years as timber and fishing jobs have disappeared along California's North Coast.

Now some residents worry that their way of life is being threatened — not by law enforcement, but by efforts to legalize marijuana in the state.

Community members are gathering Tuesday night to consider the consequences. They worry about the ripple effect that a drop in marijuana prices could have on the county as a whole if legalization undermines the black market.

"We have to recognize that if we have something that is this big a piece of our economy that is subsidized by being illegal, that this is an unsustainable situation," Humboldt County Supervisor Mark Lovelace.

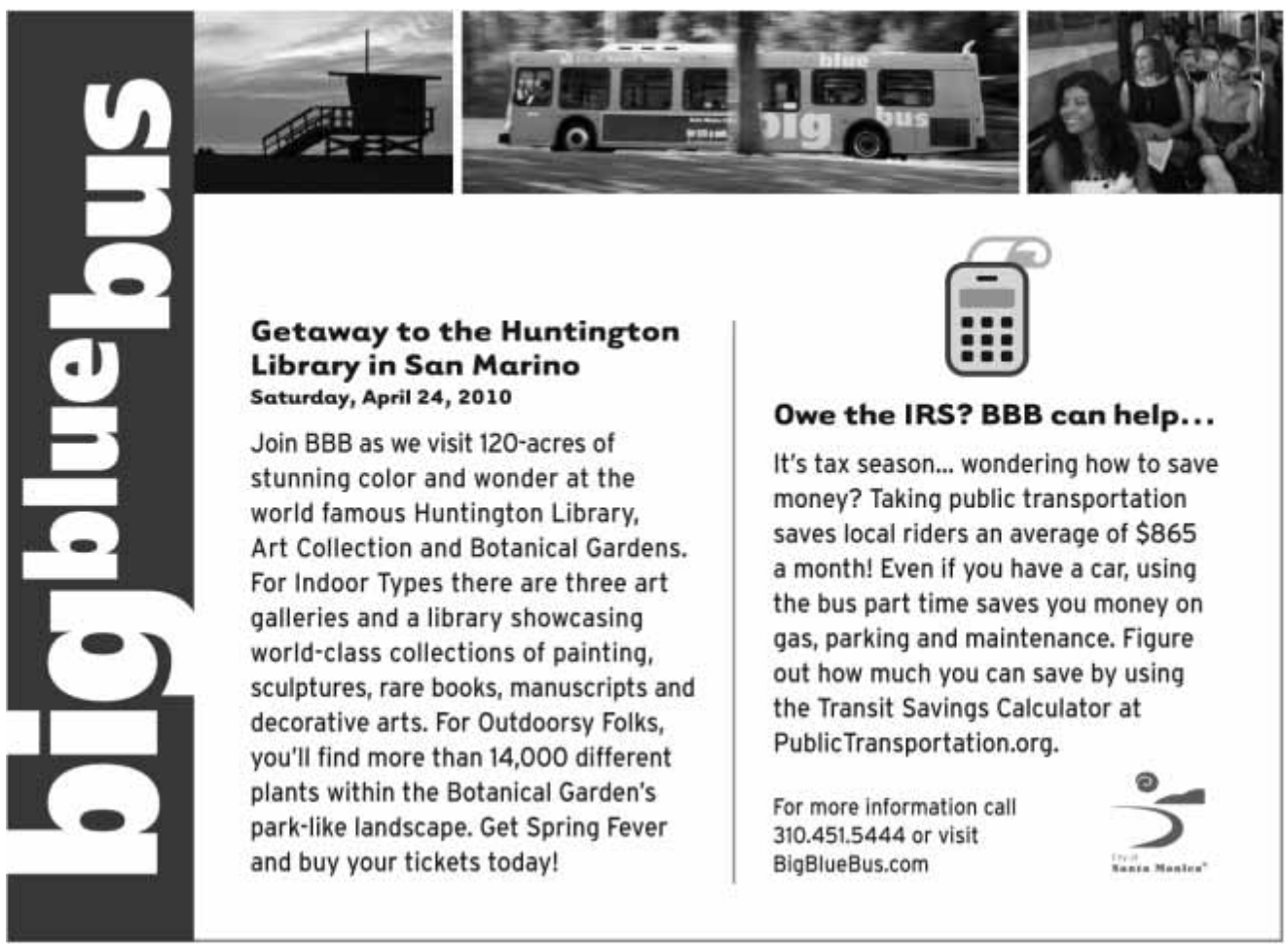
In recent years, anti-drug agents have seized hundreds of thousands of marijuana plants in the county, mostly from massive gardens in remote mountain forests that have earned the region the nickname Emerald Triangle. Law enforcement estimates put the street value of the crop in the billions of dollars.

The eradication efforts have not halted marijuana growing in Humboldt, but the number of plants seized does give a sense of the scale of the industry.

Meeting organizer Anna Hamilton of Shelter Cove said she believes legalization could be "devastating" to the region and that Humboldt County should plan ahead by capitalizing on its name recognition as a marijuana destination.

"We have to embrace marijuana tourism, marijuana products and services — and marijuana has to become a part of the Humboldt County brand," said Hamilton, who describes herself as "intimately involved" with the marijuana industry.

Supporters of a ballot measure to legalize marijuana in limited quantities are still waiting for official word that they've submitted enough signatures to qualify for the November statewide ballot.





More multigenerational families living together

HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Goodnight, John-Boy: Driven partly by job losses, more multigenerational families are choosing to live together as "boomerang kids" flock home and people help care for grandchildren or aging parents.

About 6.6 million U.S. households in 2009 had at least three generations of family members, an increase of 30 percent since 2000, according to census figures. When "multigenerational" is more broadly defined to include at least two adult generations, a record 49 million, or one in six people, live in such households, according to a study being released Thursday by the Pew Research Center.

The rise in multigenerational households is heavily influenced by economics, with many young adults known as "boomerang kids" moving back home with mom and dad because of limited job prospects and a housing crunch.

But extended life spans and increased options in home health and outpatient care over nursing homes have also played a role. So, too, has a recent wave of immigration of Hispanics and Asians, who are more likely to live with extended family.

"With the reality of 78 million baby boomers coming into an aging demographic, we need more housing choices for caregiving," said Elinor Ginzler, AARP's senior vice president for livable communities. "It can be a great opportunity for connectedness across generations, but also an opportunity for conflict if family members don't keep communications lines open."

An AARP analysis of census data shows that Hawaii had the highest share of multigenerational households, followed by California and Mississippi, due partly to a scarcity of affordable housing. North Dakota was least likely to have several generations living together.

Other findings from the Pew and AARP studies:

• The most common multigenerational family is an older parent who owns the house, living with an adult child and grandchild.

• Older women are more likely than older men to live in a multigenerational household.

• While multigenerational families are increasing, the number of adults 65 and older who live alone is edging lower, from a peak of 28.8 percent in 1990 to 27.4 percent in 2008.

Multigenerational households are not new. According to the Pew report, in 1900 about 57 percent of people ages 65 and older lived with extended family. Life in such a household was dramatized in the popular 1970s television series "The Waltons." Living in the Virginia mountains during the Depression, the Walton family had three generations under one roof, their togetherness symbolized by a round of goodnights that included teenage son and series narrator John-Boy.

After World War II, Social Security, Medicare and medical breakthroughs prompted healthier, more financially secure older adults to live on their own. By 1980 and 1990, just 17 percent of seniors lived in a multigenerational household.

The share of older adults in multigenerational homes is now increasing again, to about 20 percent.

"The government will continue to provide a social safety net for older adults, but given today's demographic and economic realities, it's not clear that this public safety net will be as robust in the future as it is now," said Paul Taylor, a co-author of the Pew report. "That could increase the trend toward family members providing care for elderly parents — a role that families have taken on throughout human history."

Today's multigenerational families include George Lee, 82, and his wife, Grace, 74, of Honolulu, who live in an apartment that is attached to a three-bedroom house occupied by their 50-year-old daughter, 61-year-old son-in-law and two college-age grandchildren.

While life isn't always perfect, the Lees say that everyone gets along well partly by carving out their own spaces, having a sense of fair play when it comes to household chores, and having separate front doors and kitchens.

Opponents take last stand against health care bill

DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer

In a defiant last stand against a newly passed health care overhaul, opponents are trying everything they can to stop it from becoming the law of the land.

Republicans in the Senate are planning parliamentary maneuvers to keep a companion bill from reaching the president's desk. And lawmakers in at least 30 states are working to prevent what they say is an unconstitutional mandate forcing Americans to have health insurance.

Experts say none of it is likely to work, but it will keep the issue, and the outrage, alive until Election Day.

"I am surprised by the mobilization of the states. It does strike me as a kind of civil disobedience, a declaration that we're not going to follow the law of the land," said Mark Hall, a professor of law and public health at Wake Forest University.

"It doesn't make sense. The federal Constitution couldn't be any clearer that federal law is supreme," Hall added.

The House passed the plan late Sunday, sparking a variety of protests and threats less than a day later.

By Monday, at least nine state attorneys general had promised to file suit against the federal government as soon as Obama signs the bill. The states were Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Michigan, Nebraska, Washington. Officials in North Dakota were weighing whether to join the case.

Virginia and Idaho have passed legislation aimed at blocking the bill's insurance requirement from taking effect in their states.

In Michigan, a petition drive was launched to put a measure on the ballot asking voters if they want to exempt the state from the overhaul.

In Arizona, lawmakers approved a constitutional amendment that will be put on the ballot in November. And in Colorado, a citizens' group was collecting signatures to put a comparable amendment on the ballot.

Regardless of whether such measures are enacted, they will give opponents of the federal bill a chance to keep the issue in front of voters until the fall.

For the states, it's a question of individual rights. Many say Congress does not have the authority to require citizens to buy goods or services they may not want.

"Just by virtue of being a resident of the United States, never before in history have we been required to purchase something," said Brian Gottstein, a spokesman for Republican Virginia Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli II.

In Washington, Obama's health care overhaul isn't completely finished. Although the main bill has passed both houses of Congress, a series of changes sought by House Democrats was headed to the Senate, where debate is expected to begin as early as Tuesday.

Senate Democrats hope to approve the revisions and send the complete bill directly to Obama, but Republicans are determined to drag out the process by offering scores of amendments.

Republican Sen. John McCain told KTVK in Phoenix that the Senate maneuvering is only the first line in the battle against a measure passed in an "unsavory, sausage-making, Chicago-style process."

"We will fight in the courts, and we will fight in the rallies and the tea parties and the town hall meetings. And we will fight in the ballot booth, and we will prevail. And we will defeat this because the United States of America and Arizona can't afford this," McCain said.

"People are mad, and they're more angry than I've ever seen them, and they should be."

Several of the state proposals to block the plan surfaced in Republican-controlled states, but some were put before Democratic-controlled legislatures.

In Alabama, four bills to block some provisions have been introduced in the Legislature. The Democratic House leader, Rep. Ken Guin, said he will start studying the proposals but was doubtful they could move forward with only 10 days left in the legislative session. He said he wants to study the bill Congress passed before he takes a position.

The state proposals would establish a state right for citizens to pay medical services out of their own pockets and would prohibit penalties against those who refuse to buy health insurance.

Many constitutional scholars say the so-called "health care freedom" laws and amendments do not have any chance of succeeding for one simple reason: The Constitution establishes that national laws take precedence over state laws.

"They can sue, but I can't imagine a scenario in which a judge would enjoin the implementation of the federal health care bill," said Lawrence Friedman, a law professor who teaches constitutional law at the New England School of Law in Boston.

"Federal law is supreme. There's really no room for doubt that federal law controls," he said.

But others say it is not that simple.

Dave Roland, a lawyer and policy analyst at the Show-Me Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in St. Louis, said the state constitutional amendments, which focus on creating new rights for individuals, could make a plausible court challenge to the federal health care mandates.

ACORN disbanding because of money woes, scandal

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO The once mighty community activist group ACORN announced Monday it is folding amid falling revenues — six months after video footage emerged showing some of its workers giving tax tips to conservative activists posing as a pimp and prostitute.

"It's really declining revenue in the face of a series of attacks from partisan operatives and right-wing activist that have taken away our ability to raise the resources we need," ACORN spokesman Kevin Whelan said.

Several of its largest affiliates, including ACORN New York and ACORN California, broke away this year and changed their names in a bid to ditch the tarnished image of their parent organization and restore revenue that ran dry in the wake of the video scandal.

ACORN's financial situation and reputation went into free fall within days of the videos' release in September. Congress reacted by yanking ACORN's federal funding, private donors held back cash and scores of ACORN offices closed.

Earlier this month, a U.S. judge reiterated an earlier ruling that the federal law blacklisting ACORN and groups allied with it was unconstitutional because it singled them out. But that didn't mean any money would be automatically be restored.

Bertha Lewis, the CEO of ACORN, which stands for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, alluded to financial hardships in a weekend statement as the group's board prepared to deliberate by phone.

"ACORN has faced a series of well-orchestrated, relentless, well-funded right wing attacks that are unprecedented since the McCarthy era," she said. "The videos were a manufactured, sensational story that led to rush to judgment and an unconstitutional act by Congress."

ACORN's board decided to close remaining state affiliates and field offices by April 1 because of falling revenues, with some national operations will continue operating for at least several weeks before shutting for good, Whelan said Monday.

For years, ACORN could draw on 400,000 members to lobby for liberal causes, such as raising the minimum wage or adopting universal health care. ACORN was arguably most successful at registering hundreds of thousands of low-income voters, though that mission was dogged by fraud allegations, including that some workers submitted forms signed by 'Mickey Mouse' or other cartoon characters.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

Swell Forecast

Our next southern hemi swell is due. This is looking like a chest to maybe shoulder high swell for most south facing breaks. NW wind swell may increase a bit to chest high as well.

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 **March 16, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills - 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather - 40 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 11

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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Escinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
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+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

MLS

Donovan: MLS agreement came together quickly

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON, Calif. Landon Donovan says negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement in Major League Soccer went quickly once the league's officials understood the rationale behind the players' positions.

"The overall tone was that if things were unfair, they made concessions immediately," the Los Angeles Galaxy star said Sunday. "When we explained things or explained situations, and when they could see that they didn't make sense or were unfair, they made concessions.

"When we saw that, we knew that there was going to be a deal done."

Donovan, a member of the union's executive board, attended the meetings in Washington, D.C. with the Galaxy's two other player representatives, Chris Klein and Todd Dunivant.

The league and the union agreed on a new five-year collective bargaining agreement Saturday, ending three days of intense talks.

"He didn't just come in at the end and save the day," Dunivant said of Donovan. "He was part of the whole process. Even when he was in England, he was on all the conference calls. When he came back, it was a no-brainer that he was going to be there."

Donovan had played on loan with Everton in England's Premier League for 10 weeks. He went to Washington two days after returning to California.

"Having him at the table definitely helped because he brings a sense of credibility and he's a guy to listen to," Dunivant said. "He gives an authoritative presence to the table."

Donovan downplayed his role.

"I think we had almost 30 guys there," Donovan said of the other players' representatives. "When the league sees at least one member from every team, I think (officials) realize how important everything was to us."

Donovan also gave credit to MLS commissioner Don Garber for the settlement.

"He was right in the heart of it," Donovan said. "It shows that he was dedicated. Without his presence there, it wouldn't have gotten done, either."

Being present at the negotiations taught Donovan more about soccer's inner workings, he said.

"It's important to see both sides," he said. "While we want everything to be advantageous to the players, there are realities. When you hear the other side and why they do things a certain way, you realize that this is a business. They're trying to make decisions in the best interest of everyone."

The Galaxy ended preseason competition with a 0-0 tie against CD Aguila, a finalist for El Salvador's championship last year. Los Angeles will begin the season at home against the New England Revolution on March 27.

NCAA

Griffin, Nebraska get ready for versatile UCLA squad

DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS Kelsey Griffin's absence was a big part of Nebraska's struggles last season. Her return for a successful senior year has helped push the Cornhuskers to new heights.

Griffin scored 22 points for top-seeded Nebraska in a first-round win over Northern Iowa in the NCAA women's tournament on Sunday. That gave her an even 2,000 points for her career, the third player in the women's program to reach that mark.

Griffin has hurdled a lot of obstacles throughout her time with the Cornhuskers, and up next on Tuesday is a second-round game against a dangerous UCLA team. The eighth-seeded Bruins beat North Carolina State in their first-round game on Sunday.

UCLA will try to trick Nebraska with a variety of defenses. The Bruins use more than a dozen different schemes.

MLB

Gagne granted his release by Dodgers

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Former Cy Young Award winner Eric Gagne has been granted his release by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Dodgers spokesman Joe Jareck said Gagne asked for his release Sunday, six days after he was reassigned to their minor league camp. Gagne had an out clause and could have become a free agent but initially accepted the assignment.

Gagne was attempting to make a comeback with the team he successfully converted 84 straight save chances and won the 2003 Cy Young.

The right-hander spent last year in the minors, pitching in the independent Can-Am League. He played for Milwaukee in 2008.

The 34-year-old Gagne had a 20.25 ERA in three outings during spring training, allowing six runs and eight hits in 2 2-3 innings.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call for times

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Our Family Wedding Digital Presentation (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 9:45pm

The Crazies (R) 1hr 41min
2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
2:40pm, 6:00pm, 9:15pm

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

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

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) 1hr 33min
1:50pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm

The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) 1hr 46min
12:45pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 4:45pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:30pm, 10:15pm

Alice in Wonderland (in Disney Digital 3D) (PG) 1hr 49min
1:00pm, 1:45pm, 3:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
2:15pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm

She's Out of My League (R) 1hr 44min
1:05pm, 3:40pm, 7:25pm, 10:10pm

Ghost (R) 2hr 7min
7:00 pm

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

The White Ribbon (R) 2hrs 40min
1:00pm, 6:45pm

Ajami (NR) 2hrs 15min
4:00pm

A Single Man (R) 1hr 55min
9:55pm

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 26min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

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

The Ghost Writer (PG13) 2hr 23min

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

Repo Men (R) 1hr 51min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 40min
1:00pm, 4:30pm, 8:15pm

Green Zone (R) 1hr 55min
11:40am, 12:30pm, 2:20pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:30pm, 10:20pm

Remember Me (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Brooklyn's Finest (R) 2hrs 13min
12:40pm, 6:40pm

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

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

Don't stress, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Tension builds. You might wish you could be at home. Some of you might be fortunate enough to be able to do just that, while others consider closing their door! Challenges blow in from left field, and you wonder what to do and which way to go. Tonight: Stay close to the hearth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others have a lot to say, whether you want to hear it or not. Remain upbeat and positive, despite pressure. Refuse to react to someone's words or voice. Detach and take the high road. You'll gain depth and understanding. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Slow down and take a hard look at your finances. Your style and manner of communicating draws many people, especially in a meeting. Don't commit unless you are sure of yourself. Know what you want. Stay upbeat. Tonight: Gather your bills. Take a hard look at your budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You wake up gung-ho and ready. Though you hit a hassle or two, you will come out on top. Your energy and magnetism mark your decisions. Visualize rather than cause yourself a problem. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Know when you cannot win and need to step back. How you handle a personal matter could change radically as pressure builds. What might be wise is to remain nonreactive. Think about personal issues rather than act on them. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You make the right decisions, even under stress. You know which way to go. Stay on top of your work, and be aware of a building conflict. Ingenuity and sensitivity could save the day. Nurture a key person. Tonight: Where people are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ If you're wondering what is the wisest approach to a conflicted situation, toss the issue out to those who might be impacted by it. You would be well advised to keep your own counsel about opinions. Your personal life continues to challenge you. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Take an overview, understanding you cannot change what someone feels. If you can, find some way that two different attitudes could merge or at least coexist. Avoid black-and-white and either-or situations. Tonight: Feed your mind some candy!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to rethink an association, especially if you keep encountering conflicts. Work with someone directly, understanding what is going on with him or her. Allow only so much personal talk if you want to accomplish a lot. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others simply have Lady Luck on their side. The wise Goat will back off and allow key people to have their way. You might feel resistant, but that attitude will only cause a problem. Stay light and easy with others. Tonight: Go along with someone else's choice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Emphasize what you can get done as opposed to what you would like to accomplish. Maintaining a realistic perspective might be more important than you realize. You could be making mountains out of molehills. Stop. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your ingenuity could prevent a conflict between two major interests. Many people are vested in your choices. Detach with care, knowing what you want and desire. A smile goes a long way in healing a rift. Tonight: Let go of work and stress.

Happy birthday

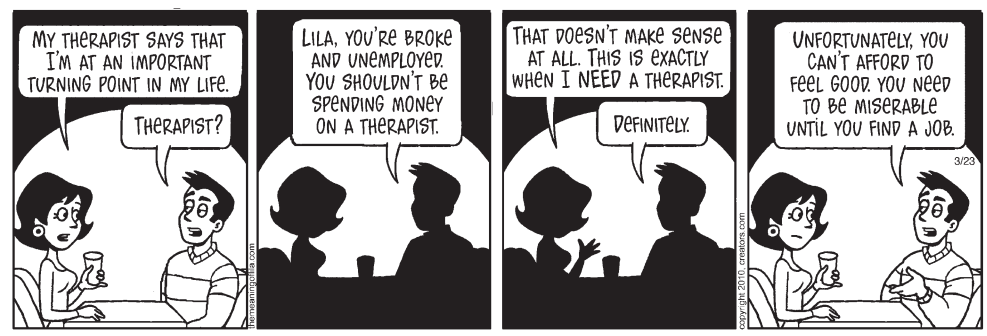
This year, misunderstandings come from out of nowhere. It is important to stay centered, aboveboard and not to take others' actions personally. You could find developing this attitude challenging, but most worthwhile. Remain positive and direct. You know what is needed to make your life work. Often you will opt to head out alone or take the lead. If you are single, relating could be challenging, as often you feel pressured by situations -- outside and within the relationship. If you are attached, learn to defuse tension and stress with your sweetie. Someone born under the sign CANCER can be difficult to deal with.

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



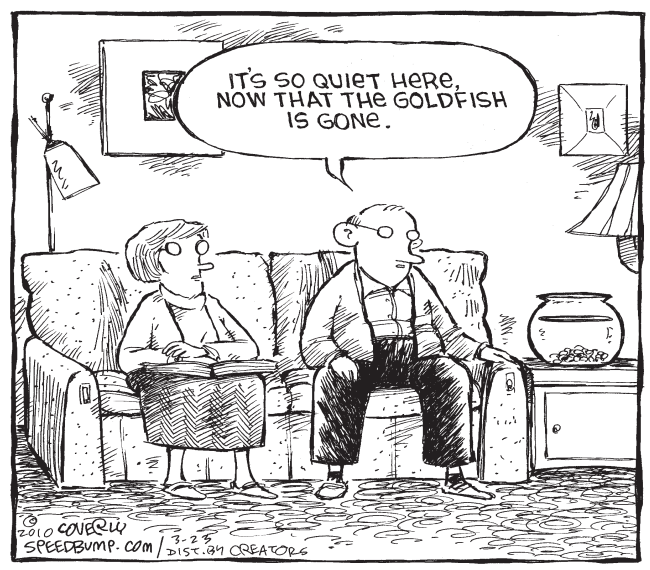
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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1510 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Florida team
7 Recite the rosary
11 Ark's landing site
12 Colossal
13 Areas over home plate
15 "Understand?"
16 Put down
18 Liner stop
21 Sentence subject, usually
22 Garage job
24 FBI worker: Abbr.
25 Tourist's aid
26 Homer's dad
27 Chef Ramsay
29 Surgery reminder
30 Russian refusal
31 Hardens
32 Impassive
34 Places to drive slowly
40 Verse expert
41 Swiss city
42 — Domini
43 Complete the bill

DOWN

1 Neon, for one
2 Louvre contents
3 Sticky stuff
4 Source
5 Did yard work
6 Proofing note
7 Light particle
8 Use the track
9 Grow older
10 Agreeable answer
14 Close, as a jacket
16 Type a password
17 Singing cowboy Gene
19 Respond to stimuli
20 Brass band members
21 Carp
22 Shoe shade
23 For each
25 Catchphrase
28 Mississippi explorer
29 Minute part
31 Measured
33 Gymnast Korbut
34 Masseur's place
35 Dupe
36 Chick's mom
37 Court divider
38 Mendes of movies
39 Jazz horn

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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					

3-23

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 10 31 45 50 54
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: 29$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 14 27 35 36 37
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: 29$M

Fantasy 5: 4 12 13 26 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 2 7
EVENING: 4 6 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:41.61

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

■ As many as 10 percent of Japanese youths may be living in "epic sulks" as hermits ("hikikomori"), according to a March 2005 Taipei Times dispatch from Tokyo, thus representing no improvement in the already alarming problem that was described in a News of the Weird report in 2000, which estimated that 1 million young professionals were then afflicted. Many of the hikikomori still live in their parents' homes and simply never leave their bedrooms except briefly to gather food. Among the speculation as to cause: school bullying, academic pressure, poor social skills, excessive video-gaming, inaccessible father figures, and an education system that suppresses youths' sense of adventure.

■ War Is Hell: The day before British army chef Liam Francis, 26, arrived at his forward operating base in Afghanistan, the Taliban shot down the helicopter ferrying in food rations, and Francis realized he had to make do with supplies on hand. In his pantry were only seasonings, plus hundreds of tins of Spam. For six weeks, until resupply, Francis prepared "sweet and sour Spam," "Spam fritters," "Spam carbonara," "Spam stroganoff" and "stir-fried Spam." He told the Daily Telegraph that he was proud of his work but admitted that "morale improved" when fresh food arrived.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1903 The Wright Brothers apply for a patent on their invention of one of the first successful airplanes.

1909 Theodore Roosevelt leaves New York for a post-presidency safari in Africa. The trip is sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and National Geographic Society.

1919 In Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini founds his Fascist political movement.

1933 The Reichstag passes the Enabling act of 1933, making Adolf Hitler dictator of Germany.

1942 World War II: In the Indian Ocean, Japanese forces capture the Andaman Islands.

WORD UP!

cacophony \kuh-KAH-fuh-nee\ , noun; 1. Harsh or discordant sound; dissonance. 2. The use of harsh or discordant sounds in literary composition.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

PRIME LOCATION Studio in SM. with hardwood floors, new condition, renovated kitchen, parking, (310)264-6699 smgiftstore@gmail.com

For Rent

617 MIDVALE, Townhouse style. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, tile countertop, wood and carpet floor. W/D hookups, parking, no pets. $2600/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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(310)869-7901

721 Pacific St. #1 2+1 1/2
$1895 New hardwood floors, Pet OK

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rentals@howardmanagement.com

MAR VISTA Large upstairs bedroom with balcony, share bath with one other person. $675; One small bedroom downstairs with private bath and private entrance. $625. Full kitchen, laundry and living room privileges, pet ok. 818-222-4789.

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

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1350/mo $900 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 2bdrm/1bath, 11461 Washington Place.Unit D, upper, stove, blinds, carpet, laundry, garage parking, no pets $1295 1/moth FREE with year lease (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage 12048 Culver Blvd. #207 Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in unit

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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**
401 Washington, #303
1+1, st, dw, cpt **$1400**
2342-A 20th Street
2+1, st,cpt, pkg **$1800**

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

WEST L.A.
1657 Federal Ave, #1
BACH, st, fr, ln, **$750**
1800 Kelton Ave, #1,5,7
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1025**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1050**
1920 Manning Ave, #6
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
2+1.75, st, fr, hdwd **$1425**
1766 Malcolm Ave
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
2+1, st, fr,cpt, pkg,ln **$1425**
11757 Kiowa, #4 & #7
2+1.75, st, dw, pkg, ln **$1800**
2814 Westwood
4+2, st, fr, d/w,cpt,w/d,2 car garage, fenced bkyd **$3000**

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NON-SMOKING UNITS

st *(stove),* ***fr*** *(fridge),* ***cpt*** *(carpet),* ***sgl*** *(single),* ***bach*** *(bachelor),* ***ln*** *(laundry),* ***gar*** *(garage),* ***hdwd*** *(hardwood floors),* ***lwr*** *(lower),* ***upr*** *(upper) ,* ***htpl*** *(hotplate),* ***pkg*** *(parking),* ***w/d*** *(washer/dryer),* ***hu*** *(hook-up),* ***d/w*** *(dishwasher),* ***c-fn*** *(ceiling fan),* ***fp*** *(fireplace)*

WLA 1457 Westgate A & E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1175/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, parking 12048 Culver Blvd. #207 Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in unit

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

SANTA MONICA . $1225.00 1 Bdrm,1 Bath, No pets, stove, refrg, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #3, Open daily 8am- 7pm. Additional info in Unit. Mgr in Apt #19

VENICE 14 Outrigger St. unit 2 1+1 $2000. Stove, fridge, blinds, tile , onsite laundry, dishwasher small pet OK w/deposit garage parking no pets (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1+1 2656 South Barrington Ave. unit 7, $1025. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1215 Barry Ave. #6 1+1 $1175 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, on-site laundry room, parking, no pets.$700 off move-in 310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100187651 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MADISON ROSE EVENTS, 1357 S. STANLEY AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : TANIA OCTOBER MARTINEZ, 1357 S. STANLEY AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: TANIA O. MARTINEZ
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/10/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/9/2010, 3/16/2010, 3/23/2010, 3/30/2010

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Contemporary, Spanish
Single Family Home



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847 5th Street # 206
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$688,000
N of Wilshire Condo!
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3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
Reduced to $689,000
Townhome N of Wilshire
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



1127 10th Street #301
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$899,000
Fab, Top Flr Condo
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



757 Ocean Avenue #205
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$399,000
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,350,000	$4,802,500
North of Montana	$3,225,000	$1,395,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$802,000
South of Wilshire	$989,000	$645,750
Sunset Park	$1,099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,547,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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