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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 114

Santa Monica Daily Press

LOOKING FOR A NEW SWEET
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE BIG FUNDS ISSUE

Broadway Deli could be headed for closure

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The Broadway Deli, a fixture on the Third Street Promenade for 20 years, has been unable to negotiate a new lease agreement with its landlord, Promenade Gateway LLP, and could be headed for closure.

Marc Zeidler, the restaurant's general manager, said in talks late last year Gateway insisted on a drastic rent increase — from about $55,000 per month to $100,000 per month — and wouldn't budge.

While there's no closure date and Zeidler said he's hopeful an agreement can still be reached, it appears Gateway has different plans.

The property owner is taking steps to divide the deli's space into two storefronts — one for a restaurant and one for a retail tenant, and has hired land use consultant Howard Robinson to help with its plans.

The final decision about the deli's fate, though, will likely be made at City Hall.

Because Gateway's proposed changes require a conditional use permit (CUP), the Planning Commission will have to sign off on the company's plans before the renovation could start.

Gateway is presenting its proposal to renovate the space at a Bayside District Corp. board meeting on Thursday and plans to appear before the Planning Commission in April. Bayside is the public/private organization that manages Downtown for City Hall.

Meanwhile, the Broadway Deli's lease expires at the end of May. Zeidler said the restaurant has been given a 90-day extension and will pay rent on a month-to-month basis after that, putting the business and its 65 employees in limbo.

"The Broadway Deli is an institution," said Kathleen Rawson, Bayside's CEO. "So it's sad to hear they've chosen not to renew their lease."

A call to Gateway was not immediately

SEE DELI PAGE 8



EXTENDING A BRANCH Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

High above Second Street, an olive tree is hoisted up by the Valley Crest landscape company onto the Santa Monica Place dinning deck on Tuesday afternoon. Transplanted from Porterville, Calif., the olive tree will now be supplying shade to hungry visitors when the mall reopens.

Emeritus receives unprecedented gift

BY MIRIAM FINDER
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Santa Monica College's Emeritus College received a $1.038 million gift from the estate of the late Zelda Herman, officials with the school announced Monday. The gift is the largest the Emeritus College has ever received and the fourth largest in the history of SMC.

"We are so grateful to receive this incredible gift and humbled by the generosity of the Herman family's bequest," said Ron Furuyama, Emeritus College associate dean. "This gift provides us with the opportunity to carry on in the fine tradition of Emeritus and provide our students with excellent programs and services."

Herman, a long-time Santa Monica resident, died at the age of 99 in May 2009. She began taking Emeritus classes in 1982 and spent more than 20 years as an Emeritus College student, ending her last class in 2004.

While enrolled at Emeritus College, Herman's husband died. She joined classes taught by professor Bonnie Kramer, who is now retired and living in Oregon, on topics such as bereavement support and implications of aging to address her anxiety and concern about aging and new-found independence after her husband's death.

"She enrolled in every one of Bonnie's classes she could," said Herman's granddaughter, Leesl Herman. "This gift is a tribute to Bonnie Kramer as much as it is to Emeritus College."

Herman had previously stated that the Emeritus College, and specifically Kramer's classes, provided a network of comfort and support. Family members also said that the college was known to be an integral part of Herman's life.

SMC Public Information Officer Bruce Smith said no decisions have been made yet on how the gift will be spent. The head of Emeritus College plans to talk with Herman's family members and decide together what programs the money will best aid.

Emeritus College was founded 35 years ago to serve older adults. It currently educates about 3,500 students through 150 classes and programs.

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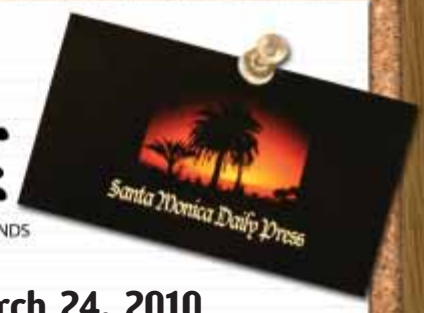
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, March 24, 2010

'Around the World in a Magic Hour' with Rebecca Mar
Santa Monica Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
This event celebrates world folktales and fables week. Storyteller and performer Rebecca Martin will lead this interactive story event with a focus on developing imagination and communication abilities. Admission is free.

Haitian wine and food tasting benefit
Core Performance Center
2020 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
This wine and food tasting benefit, sponsored by Whole Foods Market Santa Monica and Core Performance, will raise money for victims in Haiti. There will be 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. Please RSVP to kelly.layne@wholefoods.com.
Admission is $35.

Jamaica Farewell
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
This one-woman show follows Debra Ehrhardt on her quest out of Jamaica. There are large obstacles in her way: an alcoholic father, a bible-spouting mother, the price of an airline ticket, and U.S. government suspicions. However, she uses her wits, beauty and courage to convince a CIA agent to help her reach Miami. Call (310) 394-9779 for more information.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Randy Shaw: Activism in the age of Obama
Santa Monica College
HSS 165, 11:15 a.m.
Social activist, founder and executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic in San Francisco, and author of three books, Randy Shaw will trace the roots of President Obama's 2008 election outreach model back to the campaigns of the United Farm Workers (UFW) in the 1960s and '70s. A booksigning follows, and books will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

The healthy digestive tract
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Alternative medical experts Dr. David Allen and Dr. Allen Green will present a lecture on the gastrointestinal tract and its key importance to overall health and wellness. They will also discuss some simple, natural steps people can take to regain or maintain integrity of this vital system of the body. Ample question and answer time will be included. Admission is free.

Singin' in the frame
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
For four nights, the cinema will present films featuring Gene Kelly to celebrate the life and work of the actor, dancer, director and choreographer. "Brigadoon" and "The Pirate" will be shown Thursday.
Call (323) 466-FILM for more information.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Restaurants raise water awareness

A total of five Santa Monica restaurants are participating in UNICEF's Tap Project in honor of World Water Week. During the week of March 21 through March 27, Ye Olde King's Head, Ocean & Vine, Real Food Daily, South and Swingers will encourage diners to donate $1 or more for the tap water they normally receive for free.

"We've collected $651 so far," said South employee Pamela Cobbs. "Everybody's just been really supportive."

The money goes to providing clean water for children in countries such as Haiti, Togo, Guatemala, Central African Republic and Vietnam. The Tap Project also aims to raise awareness about the lack of clean and available water and how it impacts people, especially children, around the world.

"We've actually been getting quite a response," said Amanda Graham, general manager at Swingers.

These Santa Monica restaurants join 24 other Los Angeles establishments and thousands of restaurants across the country in participating in the UNICEF Tap Project. The restaurants also inform patrons that further donations can be made online at tapproject.org.

Other World Water Week events in Los Angeles include a March 24 Tap Project concert, I (tap) LA, at the Roxy Theatre in West Hollywood. The concert will be hosted by comedian Eric Schwartz and feature music by Alysse Fischer, The Makepeace Brothers and Gaby Moreno.

DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Boys & Girls Club cooks up fun

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica is celebrating national Boys & Girls Club Week by throwing a family festival featuring a chili cook-off on Saturday. This is the first ever chili cook-off hosted by the Boys & Girls Club.

Although participants will have to wait until 4 p.m. for the cook-off to commence, the entire day is packed with family-friendly activities and a free BBQ lunch, lasting from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The annual Biddy Classic basketball tournament, a longtime club tradition, kicks off the family festival. Throughout the day, games and art activities are planned, as well as some educational opportunities. An afternoon college fair will provide teens a chance to speak with representatives from local community colleges, California State schools and more.

Once the evening chili cook-off begins, contestants will wait as their culinary creations are judged in categories such as texture, flavor, aroma and color. After the winners have been awarded and the chili consumed, the day will end with a movie screening on the club's playfield.

The goal of the festival is to inform the community about the services and programs provided by the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica while, of course, finding out who makes the best chili.

DP



GOT 'EM

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Crossroads' Josh Flyer tags out Campbell Hall's Brett Lake on Tuesday at Clover Park. Crossroads lost, 3-0.

SMC considers creating student housing

BY LISA ANDERSON
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Student housing may eventually be available at Santa Monica College.

Last month, school officials circulated a survey trying to gauge interest in student housing, targeting those currently enrolled.

Although the final report is not available yet, Vice President of Enrollment Development Teresita Rodriguez said that the school actually received a "very good" response, with about 10 percent of those targeted filling out the survey.

"We found that the respondents were representative of every demographic," she said.

The way the survey worked was that when students logged into their online school accounts to register for classes or check the status of their transcripts, they were prompted to answer whether or not they would be interested in student housing. They were asked about their interests in, specifically, traditional student housing, about their current

SEE SMC PAGE 9

State leaders move to ban smoking at state parks

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

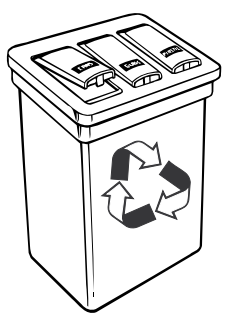
SACRAMENTO California lawmakers on Monday moved a step closer to banning smoking at state beaches and parks, following the lead of hundreds of communities nationwide.

The state Assembly voted 42-27 in favor of the ban. Anti-smoking groups say the bill would make California the first state to ban smoking throughout its entire park system if it is signed into law.

The Senate passed it previously but must agree to amendments made in the Assembly before it is sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has not taken a position on it.

The Assembly vote, taken without comment, came days after the bill failed to garner enough support, in part because about a dozen Democrats failed to vote last week.

SEE ... PAGE 9

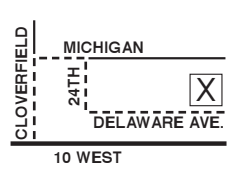


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Promise to tell the whole truth, nothing but

Editor:

Re: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District parcel tax

Information published in your paper as well as the Los Angeles Times states "senior citizens will be exempt from said tax." You and the school board have failed to mention that renters are not exempt from paying this parcel tax [if the Rent Control Board votes to pass it on] and in a small unit such as mine (six apartments) it is not an insignificant amount of money. Voters are entitled to the truth. What's being published is sugar-coated and is a disservice to Santa Monica residents.

Paul Bonner
Santa Monica

Last, but not least

Editor:

One anecdote: At 7:42 in the evening, 12 hours after the sunny start of the Los Angeles Marathon, competitors continued showing up at the foggy finish in Santa Monica. No longer were fans and supporters and booths and juice-givers and cops standing on the Ocean Avenue home stretch between San Vicente and Santa Monica boulevards. As city crews loaded the last rolled up banners and metal barricades into the back of a truck, two stragglers trudged in the gathering dark along the edge of Palisades Park. Running since early morning, they looked miserable. I imagined their smiles 26 miles and 385 yards ago.

"Hey!" moaned the last competitor, about 20 yards behind the second-to-last. "Wait for me."

(I just thought that was a funny thing to hear at a marathon.)

Still stuck in traffic (kidding),

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

Boycott those who cater to gun toters

Editor:

I would like to strongly endorse the letter from Kristen Rand ("Open carry laws make us less safe," March 13) deploring the carrying of guns in Santa Monica by civilians (albeit legally). She made the point that legal gun carriers have killed innocent people. Since May 2007, they have killed nine policemen and done mass shootings of three or more people. Since we don't have a militia I consider the Second Amendment a hopelessly outdated relic of the horse-and-buggy age. The authors of the Constitution wrote it over two centuries ago in a very peaceful (except for redcoats, etc.) and sane society. If the authors had any idea of the type of society we have today they would not, in my opinion, recommend the Second Amendment for such a society. Society has become very fast-paced. Many people are under high-stress even under normal conditions and then we have the second great recession and people losing their jobs and people getting road rage, etc. Then they may get a gun and slaughter innocent men, women and children – even infants! In my personal opinion there are hundreds of people in this country (and others) who will kill if they have a gun and are put under sufficient stress (not to mention criminals).

When I see anyone with a gun I don't want to be anywhere near them. Unfortunate things happen. I wonder why on Earth they have a gun. What are they afraid of? Who do they think they might need to shoot and possibly kill? This is Santa Monica, not Detroit.

I would like to recommend to people who agree with me that if, in Starbucks or any other place, they see a civilian openly with a gun, they contact the manager and express their objection, including saying they won't be back until the policy is changed and then leave the premises, preferably without buying anything. This will bring a change of policy very quickly unless these gun carriers are awfully big spenders. A store's profits are more important to the owner than any Second Amendment.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica



Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Changing the way we're taxed

FRANCE?

So, why should you care what other countries pay in taxes? For the same reason we take standardized tests, to see how we're doing compared to the people around us. So what about our elected officials who claim they are spending our money honestly and fairly? Well, I argue that they're crooks or incompetent at best.

Imagine a country where we allowed the Republicans to reduce the tax rate by 10 percent and the Democrats to give you every service you can imagine. That country is called France. With 10 percent lower taxes, they get free health care; high-speed rapid transit; green, cheap, clean and safe electrical power that does not come from oil, gas or coal; and free schooling all the way through college. The French get five weeks of vacation per year, a 35-hour work week, a pension when they retire, and get one year at full pay to find the next job if they get fired.

According to KPMG, the average corporate tax rate in Europe is 32.5 percent versus 40 percent average federal and state tax rate in the United States. When you look at income tax, the same problems show up. The average income tax rate in France is about 36 percent.

California has a 9 percent corporate tax rate and the federal corporate tax rate of 35 percent for a combined total of 44 percent corporate tax rate. Personal state income tax is about 10 percent and federal income tax is about 35 percent for a combined total of 45 percent. That means the French pay about 10 percent less corporate and personal income tax than the people of Santa Monica. We should get 10 percent more services than the French, right?

We pay 10 percent more and get less services than the French? This is not a Republican or Democrat debate but an irrefutable point of fact. If my point is not clear yet, let me spell it out. This is because you believe public services should not have a goal of making a profit. Roads will never pull a profit, but how unprofitable should matter to you. Higher taxes are not the solution when you spend your money wastefully. It is a demonstrable fact that the "Socialist" French spend 10 percent less in taxes and get all the services we only dream about. Before I hear how we must lower taxes or raise taxes, I want my elected officials in California to explain why the French get more services for 10 percent less money or we will toss the whole lot of them out of office.

So where is our money going? Lets look at our prison system. We pay more than twice as much as any other major state to keep a person in jail. Other states have offered to take care of our prisoners for 35 percent less than we spend because they would make a profit on us. Instead, the state is having to release prisoners? So in short, the reason why the prisoners are being released is not because we don't spend enough money on inmates, but because we spend more than twice as much per inmate than any other state. Why do we spend twice as much? Because you elected someone to represent you, gave them blank checks from your bank account, a set of credit cards and never paid attention to what they were doing. Who's fault is it and what are you going to do about it?

The system is not too big to repair. First, we must change the budget process to reflect collections instead of what they hope they will collect. Second, we must make adding an expenditure to the budget more difficult by having it create the tax and have it receive revenue for a few years before that money is used for the new budget item. If we're not able to keep inmates in our jails at a reasonable price, then we need to exercise a third option and send them to another state and take the 35 percent savings. Keep in mind that someone is living off of the money our elected officials are wasting, and they will fight like hell to keep it.

The reason our tax code is so complex is because they don't want you to understand how much you pay in taxes. If we're to get a handle on spending we must simplify the tax code. A percentage of our income should just be deducted for income tax and a flat sales tax should be in effect. People with more money purchase more and will pay more in taxes when they purchase something. Instead of giving poor people deductions, don't take it from them in the first place. We should just have a flat simple tax that is pay-as-you-go for the items you purchase instead of getting taxed everywhere. You should have an option to pay more taxes if you wish toward certain budgets such as the parks or green energy.

Come on people, the French are not smarter than we are!

DAVID ALSABERY is a high-performance driving instructor and all around nice guy.



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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The urgency of new energy

"THIS IS NO TIME TO ENGAGE IN THE luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

These two sentences from the middle of Dr. King's incredible "I Have A Dream" speech could easily get lost in the soaring rhetoric of its conclusion. But for the activist freedom fighter who truly understands what our country looked like in the summer of 1963 and the mortal danger Dr. King placed himself in by leaving his house every day, the "fierce urgency of now" referred to in that address is a call to action. Among the many lessons Dr. King's life and legacy teaches is that none of us are promised tomorrow and once we're gone, our lives will be judged by the impact we made on the world around us.

Those of us who live in Santa Monica rightly count ourselves among the most intelligent people in America because we are smart enough to live in Santa Monica, which is the best place on Earth. Don't get me wrong, we pay through the nose when it comes to the cost of living. But the quality of life for everyone — whether you're a 20-something college student, a 30-something working professional, a family with children, a showbiz professional, or an unemployed skate bum — is better here in Santa Monica than it is anywhere else.

But that quality of life and reasonable access to it for all of Santa Monica's current residents is at an important crossroads. The Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) that will serve as the blueprint for Santa Monica's future growth and development is in the final stages of completion by our city government and that work is being done with precious little input from our fellow Santa Monicans. In fact, there is only one road from where our city is now to where we all want it to be in the next decade or two — and that road runs through Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights straight to our City Council.

In this space last week I asked you to join me in bringing a new energy to SMRR in time for this November's City Council elections. I was surprised at how many of you were ready to get on board with this idea before the New Energy Caucus even stood for anything and I want to thank you all. I recently found out that time is of the essence. Every two years, SMRR meets to update its platform — and that meeting is taking place on April 25. In order to vote on the platform, a prospective member's application must be received by April 4. So anyone who wants to have a say in the direction of the organization that controls five of the seven seats on the City Council needs to get his or her act together by next Friday and no later.

Because I know that some of the people who valet park their Bentleys and Ferraris at the new Santa Monica Place will "discover" Santa Monica for the first time and may or may not respect those of us who call it home, I'll be there. Because I know that the commercial interests who are salivating at the thought of exploiting our quiet beach community will be there, I'll be there. Even if the New Energy Caucus is reduced to just me and my energy, I'll be there.

Growing up in Boston, I was an avid reader of The Boston Globe and its most popular columnist, Mike Barnicle. Mike is no saint, but he gets credit for doing the legwork and he's a pretty good example of how to hold a conversation with readers. As I spent months studying the development agreement between City Hall and Saint John's, I kept telling myself that this is what Mike would do if he was in my shoes.

When I finally got a chance to ask the powers that be in Santa Monica about the nuisance that hospital has become, I got responses that I'll never forget. I asked Planning Director Eileen Fogarty if the City Council had been reviewing the development agreement at least every 12 months as required by law. Her response (and that of her senior staff) was exactly the same as the response I got from City Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Gleam Davis when I asked them who, exactly, they dealt with when negotiating with Saint John's: a silent, blank stare.

I don't know about you, dear reader, but I pay way too much money in rent and taxes to not be able to hold someone accountable when the quality of my life is compromised by developers who don't live here and don't care about the noise, pollution, and traffic problems they generate. So I'm joining SMRR as a member of the New Energy Caucus. The deadline for you to be able to have a say in how your city is governed is next Friday, April 2.

Are you in?

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who wants you to join him in the New Energy Caucus by sending an e-mail to newenergycaucus@gmail.com. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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?

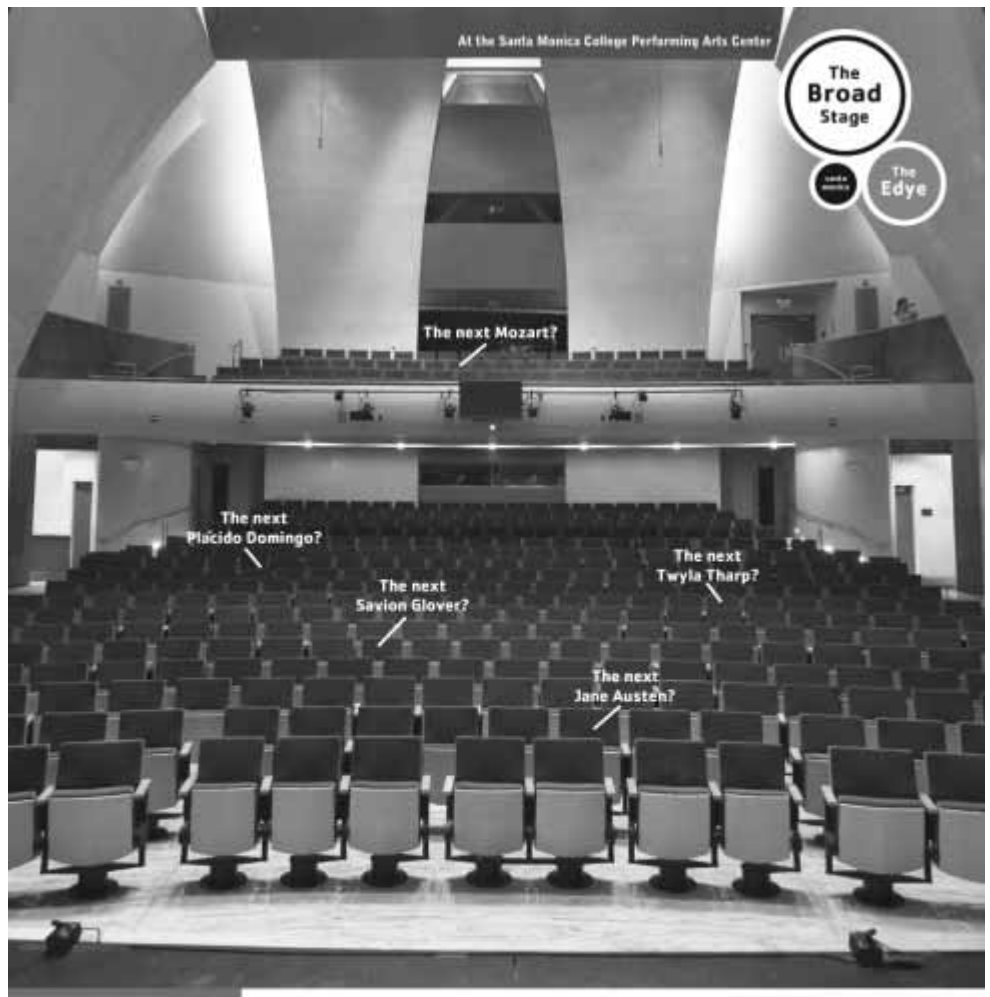
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FOOD

PepsiCo looks for new, no-cal, natural sweeteners

EMILY FREDRIX
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK A race to develop natural, zero-calorie sweeteners is bubbling up in the nation's $100 billion beverage industry.

PepsiCo, looking to revive itself in the declining soda industry, is boosting its development spending for this search and to mix up new drinks.

PepsiCo Inc. said Tuesday at an investor meeting that it is putting "unprecedented resources" toward reformulating its beverages with natural, no-calorie sweeteners such as stevia, an herb grown in South America and Asia, and to find new ones.

Soft drink sales are falling as people look to cut calories and worry over other sweeteners such as high fructose corn syurp. Shopper thriftiness in the recession is also hurting sales. So coming out with new, no-calorie drinks is a way to keep people buying.

The race gets even more pressing now that there's talk of a tax on sugary beverages.

PepsiCo has used a version of stevia in some of its Tropicana and SoBe Lifewater drinks, said Massimo d'Amore, CEO of PepsiCo's Americas Beverages unit, which overseas drinks in North and South America. Having employed the technology in non-carbonated beverages, now PepsiCo wants to do the same for soda.

"The next barrier we have to break is to do the same with carbonated products," d'Amore said at the second day of an investor meeting Tuesday. "The reason they're not out there yet is because there are some taste issues we are working on."

PepsiCo said it has a pipeline of zero calorie, natural sweeteners in the works, but it declined to say when they might be released, how much of its portfolio would have them or how much it's spending on research.

Rival Coca-Cola Co. is likewise looking for these sweetener alternatives, said UBS analyst Kaumil Gajrawala.

"I think the scramble is on to get the taste profile, and it seems like both companies are close to it," he said.

Coca-Cola has used a version of stevia in its Odwalla juices, Vitaminwater, and some carbonated beverages such as Sprite Green, among other products. The company said in a statement Tuesday it is looking into using stevia-based sweeteners in several of its beverage categories.

The possibility of a tax on sugary beverages, which some health leaders and lawmakers are calling for to fight obesity, makes the search all the more important, d'Amore said. He added PepsiCo has been working on the developments since before talk of the sugar tax surfaced.

"Discussions of a sugar tax are only adding more sense of urgency to this," he said.

He said the taste and the cost of these new sweeteners must work just right for the company to use them. Typically, no-calorie drinks like Diet Pepsi have artificial sweeteners like aspartame.

PepsiCo laid out many changes to its beverage system this week before its investors, who are want hear about its plans now that it has completed its $7.8 billion buyout of its two largest bottlers in North America.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lions Gate rejects latest Icahn bid

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Lions Gate Entertainment Inc. rejected on Tuesday the latest bid by activist investor Carl Icahn for control of the film studio, calling the offer too low. Lions Gate also said the unsolicited offer wouldn't hamper its acquisition strategy.

The company said its board voted unanimously against Icahn's offer to buy all of its outstanding shares for $6 each, which would value the deal at about $575 million.

Lions Gate had already rebuffed an offer of $6 per share by Icahn last month that would have raised his stake in the company to 30 percent from 19 percent. The company also rewrote its bylaws to make such a takeover attempt more difficult in the future, a move Icahn has said he will challenge in court.

Lions Gate said Icahn's offer is little changed except that he wants the whole company now.

Vice Chairman Michael Burns said in an interview that Icahn is "trying to get complete control of Lions Gate without paying a premium."

The initial bid was 15 percent above the stock's latest closing price at the time, but fell short of analysts' average share price target of $8.67.

Icahn and Lions Gate management have been wrestling over control of the company for more than a year. The latest flash point is Lions Gate's interest in buying the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. studio or The Walt Disney Co.'s Miramax Films division.

Icahn is against an acquisition and says shareholders should have a say in the decision. Among other reasons, he argues falling DVD sales make film catalogs like those held by MGM and Disney less valuable than they used to be.

Lions Gate is believed to have made a bid to acquire MGM by Monday's deadline, but Burns would not confirm it, citing the confidential nature of the process.

He added, however, that Icahn's play for control would not keep the company from making strategic acquisitions.

"We have a very consistent growth strategy including acquisitions that we've built shareholder value on over the last 10 years," Burns said. "We're not going to stop building shareholder value because of this financially inadequate offer."

Messages left with Icahn Group seeking comment on Tuesday were not immediately returned.

Shares of Lions Gate rose 17 cents, or 2.9 percent, to close at $5.99 — still below the offered price.

Lions Gate, which is based in Vancouver but operates out of Santa Monica, Calif., is the studio behind the Oscar-winning movie "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By Sapphire." It also owns the TV Guide network and produced the "Saw" horror movies and TV shows including "Weeds" and "Nurse Jackie."

Its upcoming movie "Kick-Ass," about a high school student who decides to become a superhero even though he has no powers or training, hits theaters next month.

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St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 26	JV	Mary Star	Mary Star	3:15pm
Mar 26	Var	Mary Star	Marine Park	3pm
Mar 29	JV	Serra	Serra	3:15pm
Mar 29	Var	Serra	Marine Park	3pm
BOYS GOLF				
Mar 24	Var	Practice	Penmar	4pm
Mar 25	Var	Practice	Rancho	4pm
Mar 26	Var	Practice	Rancho	4pm
Mar 29	Var	Practice	Rancho	4pm
Mar 30	Var	Practice	Rancho	4pm
COED TENNIS				
Mar 24	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 25	Var	Bishop Amat	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 26	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 29	Var	Cathedral	Cathedral	3:30pm
Mar 30	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 24	Var	Brentwood	SMCHS	5pm
LADY SOFTBALL				
Mar 25	JV/Var	Mary Star	Memorial Park	3/3:30pm
Mar 29	Var	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	3:15pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 24	Var	Knight (William J. 'Pete') HS	Knight (William J. 'Pete') HS	3:15pm
Mar 27	Var	Redondo Tournament	Palisades	11am
Mar 27	Fr/Soph	West Torrance		3:15pm
BOYS GOLF				
Mar 25	Var	Torrance	Torrance	2:30pm
GIRLS SOFTBALL				
Mar 24	Var	Redondo Union		3:15pm
Mar 26	Var	South Torrance	South Torrance	2:45pm
Mar 26	Var	South Torrance (DH)		4:30pm
BOYS TENNIS				
Mar 25	JV	Mira Costa		3pm
BOYS TRACK				
Mar 25	All	Beverly Hills		2:45pm
GIRLS TRACK				
Mar 25	All	Beverly Hills		2:45pm
GIRLS SWIMMING				
Mar 24	All	John Murrow Invitational	Beverly Hills	12pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 25	Var	Varsity Iolani Tournament		8am
Mar 26	Var	Varsity Iolani Tournament		8am
Mar 27	Var	Varsity Iolani Tournament		TBA

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REAL ESTATE

Home sales up across the West

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES Home sales edged 3 percent higher in the Western region of the country last month, as many buyers moved to lock in deals in time to qualify for government tax credits.

Foreclosed homes and other sharply discounted properties continued to drive sales in many markets in the 13-state region, particularly in California, Arizona and Nevada. The median price fell by nearly 10 percent to $207,900.

And the region appeared dodge the dampening effects of winter weather seen elsewhere in the country.

"We had our best February ever in Anchorage," said Ed Heidel, president of Century 21 North Homes Realty in Seattle, which also has offices in Alaska and Oregon.

Nationally, sales rose nearly 8 percent from February last year, without adjusting for seasonal factors, the National Association of Realtors said Tuesday. The median price declined nearly 2 percent to $165,100.

While the supply of homes on the market rose nationally, in many Western markets there is a shortage. The supply of homes on the market in the West in February stood at 6.5 months, down from 8 months a year earlier, according to the NAR.

In addition, the inventory of homes under priced under $500,000 in major markets in California has plummeted, constraining sales, Lawrence Yun, the trade group's chief economist, said Tuesday.

In markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Honolulu, the roster of available homes fell 30 percent or more in February from where it was a year ago, according to The Associated Press-Re/Max Monthly Housing Report, also released Tuesday.

"We're generating more sales, but our listing inventory is dropping pretty significantly," said Colleen Gunderson, broker-owner of Century 21 All Star Realtors in Phoenix.

That could help propel prices higher, she added.

Sales improved in February across many major Western metros, according to the AP-Re/Max report, which tallies all home sales in the metropolitan statistical areas. The report counts sales filed by all real estate agents, regardless of company affiliation.

Seven cities registered annual sales increases last month: Boise, Idaho, Honolulu, Seattle, Albuquerque, N.M., Phoenix, Portland, Ore., and Las Vegas.

Five metros posted annual sales declines: Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Anchorage.

Some highlights from the region:

• Sharpest price gain: San Francisco, where the median price posted an annual increase of about 28 percent to $425,000.

• Biggest sales gain: Sales in Boise jumped nearly 42 percent from a year ago. The metro's median home price dropped nearly 14 percent from a year ago to $138,000.

• Largest sales decline: Denver saw sales drop nearly 9 percent from a year ago, while the median sale price surged 17 percent to $202,500.

• Steepest price drop: The median home sales price in Las Vegas tumbled nearly 16 percent from a year ago to $121,000. Sales rose 11 percent from a year earlier.

REAL ESTATE

KB Home will be profitable in 2010

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES KB Home trimmed its losses in its fiscal first quarter and the homebuilder said it would be profitable later this year.

After a weak December, KB Home said new orders turned around in January and February, totaling 1,913, up 5 percent annually. They were strongest in the company's Southwest markets, rising 41 percent compared to the prior-year period.

In another positive sign, the number of buyers canceling contracts fell to 22 percent from 28 percent a year ago.

"A number of housing markets may be stabilizing or starting to rebound, though we do not yet see, in many respects, a sustained nationwide recovery," said Jeffrey Mezger, president and CEO of KB Home, which builds homes in 10 states.

The company's results reflected national sales trends. The Commerce Department will release data for sales of newly built homes on Wednesday. After three months of weakness, analysts are expecting an almost 4 percent increase over January levels.

At the end of February, KB Home had a backlog of 2,713 homes under construction, representing roughly $524 million in projected revenues — the first annual increase in more than four years.

For the quarter, the builder reported a loss of $54.7 million, or 71 cents a share. That compares with a loss of $58.1 million, or 75 cents a share, in the year-ago period.

Revenue totaled $264 million, down 14 percent from $307.4 million a year ago.

The latest results, however, were weaker than analysts had forecast. KB Home shares fell 42 cents to $16.78 in afternoon trading.

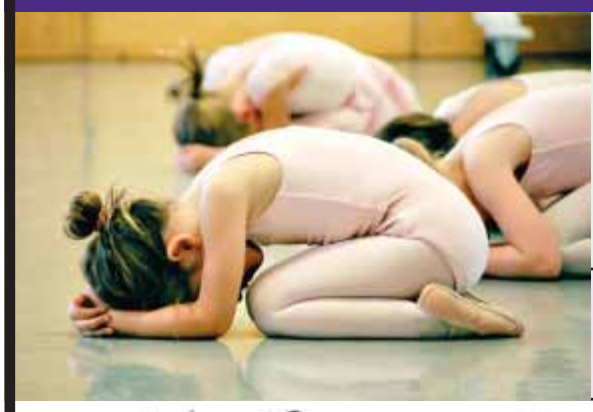
The sales decline this year has been partly due to record snowstorms that struck many parts of the country. But many would-be buyers also appear to have lost some of their urgency after lawmakers extended a homebuyer tax credit that had been set to expire at the end of November.

KB Home reported Tuesday it sold 1,326 homes between December and February, down 8 percent from the year-ago period. The average price slipped 6 percent to $197,700.

Now homebuilders are hoping buyers will turn out for the traditional spring shopping season to seize on the tax credits — $8,000 for new buyers and $6,500 for those who have previously owned a home. Both incentives sunset at the end of next month, although buyers have another two months to complete their deals.

Builders have a lot riding on getting a boost in sales this spring, because most experts anticipate sales will weaken after the government incentives expire. And sales later this year also could take a hit if mortgage rates start to rise once the Federal Reserve stops buying mortgage-backed securities at the end of this month.


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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

OUT OF BUSINESS? **A fixture on the Third Street Promenade for 20 years, the Broadway Deli may be closing its doors if it cannot come to an agreement with its landlord, who wants to raise the rent from $55,000 to roughly $100,000 a month, according to the restaurant's manager.**

Owner wants to carve up deli's space

FROM **DELI** PAGE 1

returned Tuesday. But in an interview, Robinson confirmed his client has no plans to continue leasing its space at Third Street and Broadway to the Broadway Deli, which he said occupies more than 8,000 square feet.

"Broadway Deli is not renewing their lease, so the landlord is looking to bring in a new restaurant tenant and a new retail tenant," he said.

Robinson said the CUP is required because his client wants to divide the space so that the part of the property facing Broadway Avenue would be for retail and the part facing Third Street would be for a restaurant. Robinson said City Hall has a rule intended to promote a "pedestrian oriented feel" Downtown that designates the part of the property along Broadway for restaurant use only.

He said his client's request that an exception be made "is consistent with the intent of the code" because locating the restaurant on the Third Street side of the property would allow for more outdoor seating and would generally enliven the outdoor area more than placing a restaurant along Broadway, where scarce sidewalk space and heavy bus traffic make outdoor dining difficult.

While Zeidler said there's still a possibility the Broadway Deli could occupy the scaled-down restaurant space, Robinson said he believes the deli will be closing "within the next several months."

BROADWAY DELI IS NOT RENEWING THEIR LEASE, SO THE LANDLORD IS LOOKING TO BRING IN A NEW RESTAURANT TENANT AND A NEW RETAIL TENANT."

Howard Robinson,
Land use consultant

Robinson said the Planning Commission hearing on the CUP is tentatively scheduled for April 21. The commission's chairman, Hank Koning, on Tuesday said he was unaware of the proposal.

Zeidler said he believes the fate of his business rests with decision makers at City Hall.

"I think he'd like to dice the space up," he said of his landlord. "It all depends whether or not he gets his approvals."

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SMC students weigh-in on idea of providing housing

FROM SMC PAGE 3

living situation, and how important certain factors were such as the cost and the size of the room.

"The college is starting to think about offering some sort of housing project in the future," said SMC Public Information Officer Bruce Smith, who emphasized that the effort is still in the embryonic stage. If approved, construction would not commence for several years.

The project or the possibility of one is in such an early stage that it is difficult to weigh out the benefits and costs just yet, as well as where the housing would be located, school officials said.

"Most recently [the idea] came up at a board of trustees meeting," Smith said. This is the first time the proposal rolled out officially. The survey was taken to get a sense of whether the students are in favor of the idea.

"This was not a survey to try to get at everything we need to know if we were to choose to implement some form of student housing," Rodriguez said.

Both Rodriguez and Smith continuously emphasized that at this point all that is being done is an assessment of the students' interests, "to make sure that we're actually meeting student needs," Rodriguez said.

"I think it's a conversation many urban colleges are having," Rodriguez said. "Housing is difficult to come by, and very costly."

SMC has been tossing around the idea for a couple of years, and now it is just being taken into consideration more seriously, Rodriguez said.

One of the major users, Rodriguez thinks, will be students traveling long distances, whether it is from another country or another state, or even just a distant city in California. Both the students and the parents want a sense of safety and affiliation with the institute, said Rodriguez.

"SMC has a pretty large international student population," said Smith. "They contribute a lot financially and culturally to the campus. We are always looking at ways to make their stay at SMC as comfortable and easy as possible."

> **"HOUSING IS DIFFICULT TO COME BY, AND VERY COSTLY."**
>
> **Teresita Rodriguez**
> Vice President of Enrollment Development

Rebecka Wiklund, an international student at SMC, said that she had not been surveyed about the possible project, but she thinks student housing is a good idea. She explained that, even though she is currently already situated, she has many friends who have not been as lucky.

"It's such pressure on them. That would be such a good thing to do," she said. She described the experiences of her friends in their first couple of weeks at SMC as confusing and panicked.

As for the monetary concerns, she explained that she notices many foreign students driving up to the school in Porsche's everyday, and said simply that, "their parents would pay for it."

Monserret Fargus, also a student at SMC, didn't seem as confident.

"I guess we all have to consider if they can pay for it," she said. "In theory, it's a good idea. I know a lot of people who desperately look for somewhere to live."

SMC student Mario Rovira seemed more hesitant to show support for the idea as he was concerned about the cost and whether or not it would take away from other programs.

"That's tough — I would really be on the fence when it comes to that," he said.

news@smdp.com

Smoking would result in $100 fine

FROM BAN PAGE 3

The bill's author, state Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, said she wants to keep cigarette butts out of the ocean, reduce the threat of wildfires at parks and eliminate second-hand smoke.

"Unfortunately, too many beach visitors are irresponsible with their smoking habit," Oropeza said in a statement following the Assembly vote. "Our majestic beaches and parks have been marred by cigarette butts for far too long."

Maine is the only other state to ban smoking at its state beaches. Nationwide, nearly 100 cities prohibit smoking at beaches, while more than 400 local governments ban smoking at municipal parks.

No state bans smoking throughout its state parks, according to Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, a Berkeley-based nonprofit that tracks such bans.

Even if the bill becomes law, not all areas of a California state park and beach would be smoke-free. Smokers could still light up in parking lots and campsites.

In Orange County, cities have banned smoking on their beaches but provided few ashtrays or receptacles for smokers to throw away their cigarettes, said Stephanie Barger, executive director at the nonprofit Earth Resource Foundation based in Costa Mesa.

"They find a lot less cigarette butts, so we do know (the ban's) working," she said. "However, there are still thousands of cigarettes littered every day."

Cigarettes are the No. 1 item collected by volunteers at beach clean-up days throughout the U.S., according to the Ocean Conservancy.

Under the California bill, smoking in prohibited areas would be an infraction punishable with a $100 fine.

Any state park that does not have the money to buy no-smoking signs alerting visitors to the rules would be exempt, although some parks already ban smoking during fire season. It's not clear how many of California's 279 state parks would be unable to erect such signs.

About 3 percent of wildfires are caused by cigarettes each year in California, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

At least one tobacco company, Commonwealth Brands, opposes the ban.

Republicans complained the bill would punish all smokers and said it should have been targeted at those who litter.



Health overhaul becomes official

JENNIFER LOVEN
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON Claiming a historic triumph that could define his presidency, a jubilant Barack Obama signed a massive, nearly $1 trillion health care overhaul on Tuesday that will for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen and begin to reshape the way virtually all Americans receive and pay for treatment.

After more than a year of hyperpartisan struggle — and numerous near-death moments for the measure — Obama declared "a new season in America" as he sealed a victory denied to a line of presidents stretching back more than half a century. Democratic lawmakers cheered him on, giving the White House signing ceremony a rally-like atmosphere as they shouted and snapped photos with pocket cameras or cell phones.

Not everyone was cheering. The Democrats pushed the bill through Congress without GOP support, and the Republicans said Tuesday that those Democratic lawmakers would pay dearly in this November's elections. Opinion polls show the public remains skeptical, too, and Obama will fly to Iowa on Thursday for the first of a number of appearances that will be more like a continuing sales job than a victory lap.

Aside from the huge, real-life changes in store for many Americans, the White House hopes the victory — even as a companion Senate "fix-it" bill moves through the Senate — will revitalize an Obama presidency that has been all but preoccupied with health care for his first year and three months in office.

The reshaping of one-sixth of the U.S. economy, to be phased in over several years, ranks among the biggest changes ever devised by Washington. Indeed, that was a main complaint from Republicans who characterize the measure as a costly, wrong-headed government power grab. Obama and the Democrats portray it as literally a life-saver for countless Americans.

The core of the massive law is the extension of health care coverage to 32 million who now lack it, a goal to be achieved through a complex cocktail of new mandates for individuals and employers, subsidies for people who can't afford to buy coverage on their own, consumer-friendly rules clamped on insurers, tax breaks, and marketplaces to shop for health plans.

The law's most far-reaching changes don't kick until 2014, including a requirement that most Americans carry health insurance — whether through an employer, a government program or their own purchase — or pay a fine. To make that a reality, tax credits to help cover the cost of premiums will start flowing to middle-class families and Medicaid will be expanded to cover more low-income people.

Among the new rules on insurance companies are banning lifetime dollar limits on policies, coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, and policy cancellations when someone gets sick. Insurers also will have to allow parents to keep children on their plans up to age 26.

The changes are to be paid for with cuts in projected government payment increases to hospitals, insurance companies and others under Medicare and other health programs, an increase in the Medicare payroll tax for some, fees on insurance companies, drug makers and medical device manufacturers, a new excise tax on high-value insurance plans and a tax on indoor tanning services.

For seniors, the plan the plan will gradually close the "doughnut hole" prescription coverage gap and improve preventive care. But it also will cut funding for popular private insurance plans offered through Medicare Advantage. About one-quarter of seniors have signed up for such plans, which generally offer lower out-of-pocket costs.

Democrats, led by Obama, celebrated a "new wind at our backs" from an achievement accomplished after more than a year of high tension and deep division — stretching back to shouted protests that interrupted lawmakers' town hall meetings on the subject last summer. Obama signed the measure less than two days after the cliffhanger final House vote in a rare Sunday night session.

"Our presence here today is remarkable and improbable," Obama said, his grin wider than any in recent memory. "With all the punditry, all of the lobbying, all the game-playing that passes for governing in Washington, it's been easy at times to doubt our ability to do such a big thing, such a complicated thing."

At a second celebration later, he said, "After a century of striving, after a year of debate, after a historic vote, health care reform is no longer an unmet promise. It is the law of the land."

The president now faces the task of selling to the public a bill that satisfies neither side of the political spectrum.

Liberals bemoan that a government-run plan to compete with private ones was shed from the legislation during bitter negotiations. Conservatives fear an expansion of government and costs they say will bankrupt the country, despite an estimate from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that the law will cut federal budget deficits by an estimated $143 billion over a decade.

Obama's explanatory hurdle is not an easy one, given the law's multilayered provisions and timetables. A bumper-sticker slogan it is not. But he must help protect the Democrats — particularly those from conservative-leaning districts — who stand to suffer in the fall elections from their votes.

Republicans face a challenge as well. Aware of traditional American suspicions of government intrusion, they cast themselves throughout the process as against major changes. They now must explain to voters impatient for action in Washington why nothing was their best choice.

In a hint of the coming Republican line of argument, Sens. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., said the new law would push the United States to a "European-style" government.

More than a dozen Republican senators introduced legislation to repeal the law that Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said would "force taxpayer funding of abortions, raise health costs, hike taxes, cut Medicare, raid Social Security and put bureaucrats between patients and their doctors."

"Repeal and replace," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters.

And attorneys general from 13 states acted on their opposition immediately, filing suit to stop the overhaul just minutes after the bill signing. Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum took the lead in the lawsuit that contends the legislation is unconstitutional, joined by colleagues from South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan, Utah, Pennsylvania, Alabama, South Dakota, Louisiana, Idaho, Washington and Colorado. Other GOP attorneys general may join the lawsuit later or sue separately.

Obama made clear that the Republican offensive will not go unanswered. His larger, second event, held in a vast Interior Department auditorium, had a more combative feel. He accused Republicans of telling "lies."

"Those fighting change are still out there, still making a lot of noise about what this reform means," he said. "Look it up for yourself."

Starting with a Thursday trip to Iowa City, where as a presidential candidate he announced his health care plan in May 2007, Obama intends to emphasize the law's most immediate impacts, including the ability of young adults to remain on their parents' health plans and a ban on insurers denying coverage to sick children.

Even as the celebration proceeded in Washington, Congress labored to complete the overhaul with a companion measure containing changes demanded as a condition of House Democrats' approval. The Senate was poised to consider that bill, with Democratic leaders hoping for its completion by week's end.

"We are going to make a good law signed by the president even better," Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., declared on the Senate floor.

This was our message in the 1970's...
Some things just don't change

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Pay cuts coming for executives at bailed-out companies

DANIEL WAGNER & MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON The top earners at five big companies still living on federal bailout money will take a 15 percent pay cut this year, the Obama administration's pay czar says — yet many will still make millions.

Kenneth Feinberg also said cash salaries would be capped at $500,000 this year for the vast majority of the top executives at the five companies. Any further compensation has to be in stock.

Still, he said, 69 of the 119 executives covered by the restrictions will take home pay packages worth more than $1 million.

The announcements Tuesday were the administration's latest effort to deal with outrage over lucrative pay provided to executives of bailed-out companies while the public struggles with stagnant wages and high unemployment.

Taxpayers can still expect to lose tens of billions on the rescues of the five companies: American International Group, GMAC Financial Services, Chrysler Financial, Chrysler and General Motors.

Feinberg said his review refuted companies' complaints that pay restrictions would drive away top talent. Inside the five companies, 84 percent of the top executives covered by last year's pay limits have stayed put, he said.

"These statistics undercut the argument that if you don't pay more, people will leave," Feinberg said. "They are not leaving."

Feinberg set pay rules in October for the seven companies that received the most money from the government's $700 billion bailout fund. Since then, Citigroup and Bank of America have paid back the money and are no longer covered by the pay guidelines.

It's far from clear that the five remaining companies will repay their taxpayer billions.

AIG, the world's largest insurer before it nearly collapsed in the financial crisis, has been selling assets to repay some of its $182 billion bailout package.

Older women need longer workouts to fight flab

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO Rev up the treadmill: Sobering new research spells out just how much exercise women need to keep the flab off as they age — and it's a lot.

At least an hour of moderate activity a day is needed for older women at a healthy weight who aren't dieting. For those who are already overweight — and that's most American women — even more exercise is called for to avoid gaining weight without eating less, the study results suggest.

"We all have to work at it. If it were easy to be skinny, we would all be skinny," said John Foreyt, a behavioral medicine expert who reviewed the study but wasn't involved in the research.

Brisk walking, leisurely bicycling and golfing are all examples of moderate exercise. But don't throw in the towel if you can't do those things for at least an hour a day. Even a little exercise is good for your health even if it won't make you thin, the researchers said.

Their findings are based on 34,079 middle-aged women followed for about 13 years. Most were not on calorie-cutting diets. The women gained an average of almost 6 pounds during the study.

Those who started out at a healthy weight, with a body mass index less than 25, and who gained little or no weight during the study consistently got the equivalent of about an hour of moderate activity daily. Few women — only 13 percent — were in this category.

Few already overweight women got that amount of exercise, and the results suggest it wasn't enough to stop them from gaining weight.

The results echo what gymfuls of middle-aged American women see every time they step off the treadmill and onto the scale.

"Talk to any group of women and they all say the same thing," said Janet Katzin, 61, a "slightly overweight" marketing director from Long Island who exercises for an hour twice a week.

Thin as a younger adult, Katzin said the pounds started creeping up after she had her two children in the 1980s, despite exercising and watching what she eats. "It's just extremely frustrating and discouraging."

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. Only women were studied, so the researchers from Harvard's Brigham and Women Hospital said it's uncertain whether the results would apply to men.

The research "reinforces in a nice, clear way the idea of how difficult it is to maintain a healthy weight in our society," said Foreyt, of the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas.

The results bolster a 2002 Institute of Medicine report that emphasized the importance of balancing diet and exercise and recommended at least 60 minutes daily of moderate activity for adults and children.

Depleted budgets force schools to consider closure

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. In a neighborhood dotted with boarded up homes, trash and gang graffiti, McCoy Elementary has been an oasis.

Now that the 94-year-old school is closing, residents are fearful that the neighborhood could become even worse, attracting drug dealers and vandals when the children are gone. McCoy is among the roughly half of Kansas City district schools expected to shut down before class resumes next fall, part of a wave of school closures across the country.

"When it does close, it's going to get bad around here," said Virginia Stanley, standing outside her home with her husband, her 22-year-old granddaughter and her two young great-grandchildren, who live with them.

Superintendents of struggling districts are winning praise for confronting budget woes by shuttering half-empty and underperforming schools, a move often blocked by local politics in the past. In many cases, the schools have been declining for years, but were never closed because residents and local advocacy groups fought to keep them. Now school leaders have an argument that trumps any parent outrage: The struggling economy makes these schools a luxury that districts can no longer afford.

About 6 percent of districts closed or consolidated schools this year, compared to about 3 percent in 2008-09, according to a survey conducted by the American Association of School Administrators. About 11 percent are expected to consider similar moves in 2010-11.

"It's going to continue because we don't see any short-term turnaround in the economy that would improve the situation for schools," said Dan Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators.

Kansas City's move earlier this month created waves because of how many of its schools will close. Detroit followed suit last week by moving to close nearly a quarter of its schools in a desperate bid to erase a $219 million budget deficit.

Before the Kansas City vote, civic leaders placed a full-page ad in the Kansas City Star to show support for the plan. Meanwhile, budget-balancing efforts in Detroit have won praise from Mayor Dave Bing and various parents' rights groups.

But residents in both cities say the cost-cutting has a price, robbing residents of a community resource, a meeting space for civic groups and a point of pride in otherwise blighted neighborhoods.

Kansas City residents complain that schools closed in years past have sat vacant, attracting vagrants. This time around, officials have vowed to do better finding suitable uses for closed buildings, but residents are wary.

Already, McCoy Elementary attracts drug users in the summer when classes aren't in session, Stanley's husband, James, says.

"Your property, I don't think it's going to be worth anything when you close the school," he said.

Closing schools is an unpopular business. Most have prominent local alumni to battle closures, along with sympathetic teachers, parents and kids to offer heartfelt pleas for survival. Often, many districts put it off even though operating underused buildings soaks up money that could be spent on teachers and other vital resources.

After years of declining enrollment and contentious debate, Seattle closed schools in 2006 and 2009 — fewer than a dozen each time. The debates and parent protests were so raucous that security officers escorted parents from school board meetings after the booing or shouting got too loud. District leaders said the plans would strengthen academics at remaining buildings and give students in some neighborhoods better access to special programs.

Recent trends are overwhelming such politics, forcing the hands of reluctant school boards or empowering reform-minded superintendents. The recession has sapped district budgets of any excess money. Charter schools are attracting children away from traditional school buildings. And new national reform efforts encourage districts to close or restructure low-performing schools to qualify for federal grants.

"One consequence of some of those reforms is that more conventional, traditional public schools will have to close," said Michael Van Beek, education policy director at the libertarian-leaning Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Federal Reserve cracks down on gift card abuses

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve issued new rules on Tuesday to protect Americans from getting stung by unexpected fees or restrictions on gift cards.

Gift cards have grown in popularity — with more than 95 percent of Americans having received or purchased them, the Fed said.

And as usage has gone up, so too have complaints from people taken by surprise by fees that eat into the value of the cards as well restrictions on how long they'll be good for.

Under the rules, consumers must have at least five years to use the gift cards before they expire. The Fed also says service or inactivity fees can be imposed only under certain conditions.

Such fees can be charged if the consumer hasn't used the card for at least a year, if the consumer is given clear disclosures about them and no more than one fee is charged a month.

The rules take effect Aug. 22.

Congress ordered the Fed to issue the new protections under a law enacted last year.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who championed the gift card crackdown in Congress, wants faster implementation of the rules.

"Now that the new rules are finalized, we will work with the Fed to speed up the effective date rather than keep consumers at risk of being ripped off until next summer," Schumer said. "These new rules will curb the abusive fees and early expiration dates that can drain gift cards of their value before they are ever even used."

The Fed received more than 230 letters weighing in on its proposal first unveiled in November.

Many individual consumers urged the Fed to ban all fees and to eliminate expiration dates so that people didn't lose any value on the cards.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

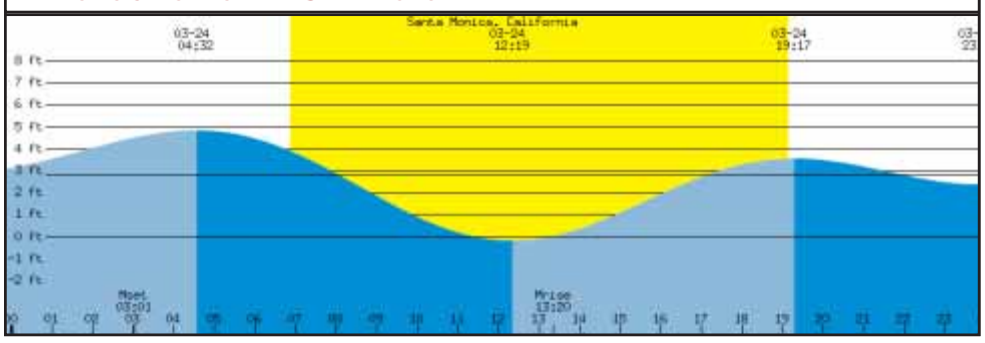
Swell Forecast

The SW should continue to bring at least chest high sets to south facing breaks. It looks like the NW will back off to waist high max.

Long Range Synopsis

SW backs off to waist to chest. It looks like NW could start to build, perhaps waist to chest for west facing breaks as well, although early AM sessions are likely to be smaller for west facing breaks.

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+
Encinal 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+
Morie 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
Corbon 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 of 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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

MLB

Jamie McCourt says ex has $18 million for support

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Ex-Dodgers CEO Jamie McCourt says her estranged husband has at least $18 million available that could help pay for her spousal support in the couple's bitter divorce case, according to court documents filed Monday.

Jamie McCourt said Frank McCourt continues to live a lavish lifestyle while she has mounting bills and doesn't draw any income.

She estimated she has about $4 million in savings and roughly $450,000 in cash that will quickly run out due to monthly mortgage payments of about $415,000 on the couple's homes and vacation properties, according to the documents.

Her filing came after Frank McCourt said earlier this month that he will only earn about $5 million this year. His attorneys argue that Jamie McCourt should be denied $1 million in spousal support because she has assets worth more than $75 million.

Frank McCourt's attorney Marc Seltzer said Monday's filings by Jamie McCourt "are just a continuation of her campaign to obtain very large sums of money and assets to which she is not entitled."

"The plain fact remains that she signed a marital property agreement, not just once, but three times, because she wanted to make sure that her valuable real estate holdings and other assets were protected as her separate property. We are looking forward to a prompt resolution of this litigation," Seltzer said.

The couple is embroiled in a costly divorce dispute with the Dodgers possibly hanging in the balance. Jamie McCourt said she is the team's co-owner, while her husband maintains a marital agreement between the two gives him sole possession of the Dodgers.

Jamie McCourt disputes the claim, saying "There was never any discussion that only Frank owned the Dodgers or that it was his separate property," according to her declaration.

Frank McCourt said in court papers filed earlier that the couple had a "long-standing practice" of dividing their assets. He added his wife supported that approach to ensure they could be protected from any creditor claims against himself or the Dodgers.

MLB

Giants looking for speed in the outfield

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. They are like fireflies buzzing around in a jar, waiting to be set free and provide a spark.

Whichever players survive the final cut to become the fourth and fifth outfielders for the San Francisco Giants will be assuming a significant role. And their speed could play more of a role than ever before, particularly on the basepaths in the late innings.

"We're in a bigger ballpark and we have to find ways to create runs," said Giants manager Bruce Bochy. "Baserunning is such an important part of it, bench speed.

"We feel that's a need, we're going to be a type of club that you're going to see those types of moves late in the ballgame, putting a speed guy in there. It could be a major part of the decision-making (for the final spots)."

Aaron Rowand (center field), Nate Schierholtz (right) and Mark DeRosa (left) are set as the starters. DeRosa also can play anywhere in the infield.

That leaves the final two spots up for grabs between John Bowker, Darren Ford, Fred Lewis, Andres Torres and Eugenio Velez.

If you are relying on pure speed, the 24-year-old Ford has the edge. The man who began his career in the Milwaukee organization blazed around the bases with a triple and scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly in a 5-4 victory over Texas on Monday. He was hitting .474 entering Tuesday's game.

Keeping him might be too hard to resist. He has stolen 251 bases since 2005. His only drawback is experience. He has never played at a level higher than Class A.

"I'm not going to worry about what happens. I'm just going to go out and give it my all," said Ford, a center fielder. "Speed is God-given. You can't teach it. I'm just going to do whatever the Giants want. I think I can hit and I can run."

Velez, 27, also has above-average speed. He has range in the outfield to track down balls hit into the gaps, and he can play the infield.

Torres, 32, has played in 164 big-league games, 75 with the Giants. He is hitting .294. Like Velez, he is a switch-hitter. Torres had 313 steals in the minor leagues and eight in the majors.

"My experience has helped me a lot. I think it is very important," Torres said.

Lewis, 29, bats left-handed and hit .258 with eight stolen bases in 122 games last season. He was hitting .257 with three home runs through Monday. He has 34 steals in 326 games with the Giants, going back to 2006, with a .277 career average.

"If you're playing in the outfield, you pretty much have good speed," Lewis said. "I have taken pride in that, my defense, that I can play all three outfield positions. As far as my hitting goes, I let my bat do the talking."

Bowker, 26, is a well-rounded athlete. He can play the corner outfield spots and first base. The left-handed hitter has hit .244 in 142 games with the Giants, and was hitting .267 with a pair of home runs and a team-leading 11 RBIs through Monday.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Worse Than War (NR) 1hr 45min
7:30pm

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

Back to the Future III (PG) 1hr 58min
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
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

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

A must appearance, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Observe and watch. You'll see much more than many, but you'll also realize that your power to effect change or even to maintain could be at a low. Move when you feel the timing is right. Trust your judgments. Tonight: Hang at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You know how important a decision might be. Listen to someone and what he or she shares. The more information you get, the stronger the action you might take. Don't take a reversal personally; rather, use the unexpected. Tonight: Maintain a high profile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You can only do so much. Take stock of your assets. Your actions point to a strong reaction after a decision. Still, someone's reaction could be surprising. Regroup and reorganize. Don't worry about a jolt. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ A surge of questions helps you focus. Use the process to come out on top of what is necessary. Others respond strongly to your efforts. Demonstrate your grasp of the facts and an ability to put them in the power perspective. Tonight: Take the lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Much goes on behind the scenes. You sense what is going on. The smart Lion refuses to take action, though an associate could throw a tantrum. Realize what is happening and use time as an asset. Discover that someone close could make all the difference. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could be disconcerted by someone's attitude. Drop the reaction and stay focused on what must happen. Others can react all they want; don't lose your focus or centering. Tonight: Where people are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take charge and step up to the plate. You can lead others as only few can. Your sense of humor comes through at the end of the day. You can avoid frustration with the gift of perspective. Someone close might be observing you. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out for experts, especially if you hit a logjam. Realize that you might have too much information on your plate. Sorting facts from opinions could be a full-time job. Tap into your intuitive knowledge. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to revamp your ideas after considering a partner's suggestion. Work with the unanticipated as it happens. You could be put off by someone's attitude, but you'll get around it just fine. Know the extent of the damages. Tonight: Easy works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others continue to be a touch defiant or demanding. You cannot change their gyrations. Understand what is happening within a select group of people. Realize you could be worn out by them. Tonight: Be with only those you can relax with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Stay level, as the unexpected does occur. Your way of handling a financial matter could be quite off-the-wall to some people, but easily could prove effective. Knowing your limits is very important as well. You could be a touch self-indulgent. Tonight: Put your feet up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination could misread a situation and make more of it than what is really going on. Laugh and relax with the company of others; even an associate makes a great companion over lunch. Your light attitude does have an impact. Tonight: Let your playfulness spin out.

Happy birthday

This year, expect the unexpected. This summer could surprise you. What could be a mistake is to hold on to what isn't working. The courage your sign is known for will need to emerge. Sometimes change is scary. Many of you will find it exciting. If you are single, you could meet someone who knocks your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you break into a brand-new world together. Let the excitement invigorate your bond. Someone born under the sign CANCER can be oh so emotional.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



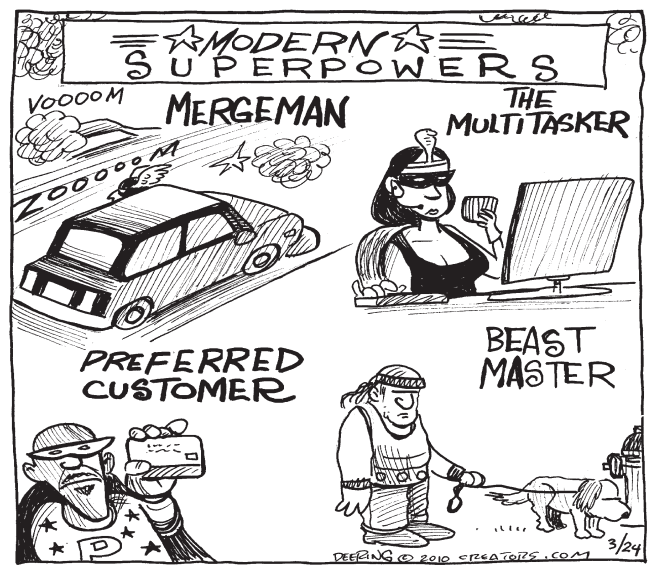
Garfield

By Jim Davis



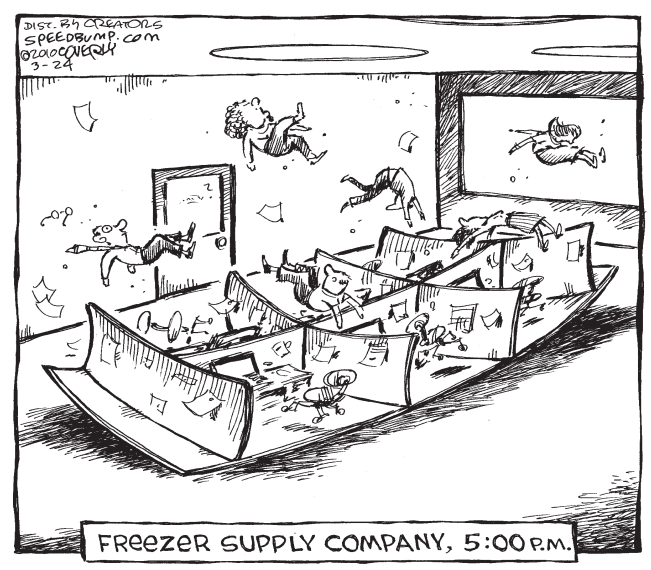
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

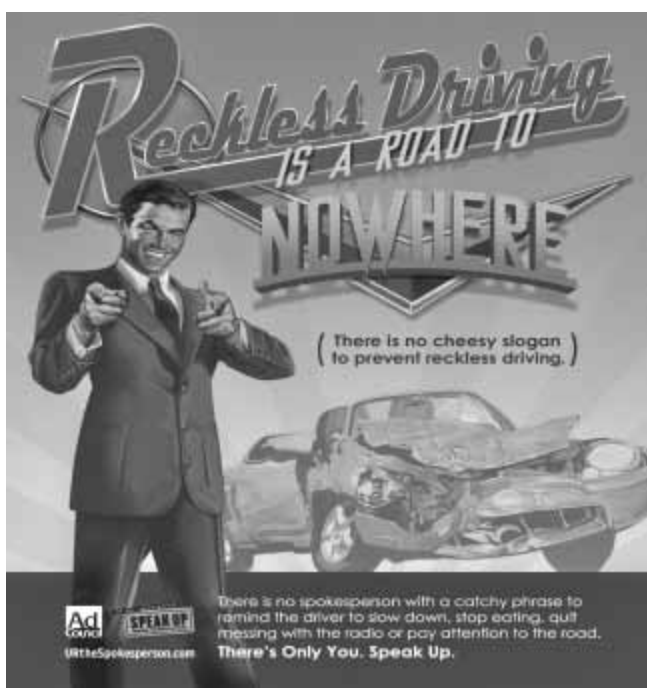
There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the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

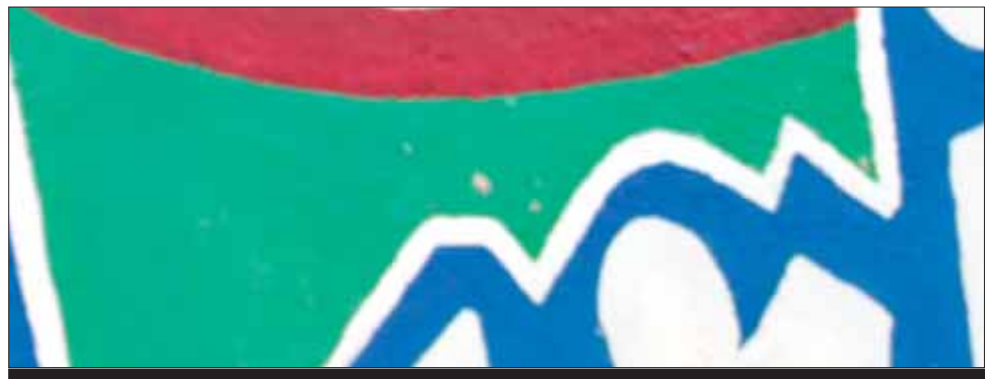
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Await
5 UK resident
9 Pal, to Pedro
11 Painter El —
12 Low nobleman
13 Burdened
14 Historic time
15 Fake chum
17 Newspaper part
19 Word of accord
20 Flag features
21 Hankering
22 Baseball's Pee Wee
24 Guitar blaster
26 Pool need
29 Novelist Kobo
30 Veal buys
32 Serio-comic show
34 Porpoise place
35 Massenet opera
36 Museum piece
38 Dunderhead
39 Move sinuously
40 Started a hole
41 Clutter

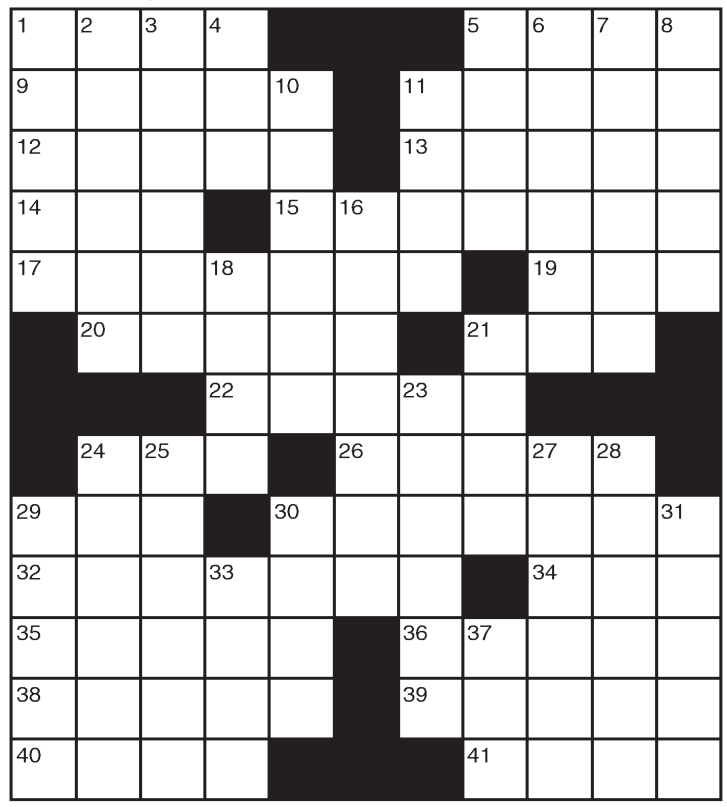
DOWN

1 Rum cakes
2 Pictures
3 Straight
4 Big head
5 Muffin makeup
6 Overnight flight
7 Assassins, in slang
8 Theater awards
10 Burning
11 Secluded spot
16 Kane's last word
18 Field cover
21 Holler
23 Nymph chasers
24 Wear down
25 Nasty fellow
27 Caron of "Gigi"
28 Tankards
29 Let in
30 Small coin
31 Bags
33 State of mind
37 Shade tree

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-24

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Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: 29$M

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

Fantasy 5: 18 28 29 36 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 2 0
EVENING: 2 2 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:44.82

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

■ (1) In November, Jim Bartek, 49, of Maple Heights, Ohio, announced he was ending his streak of 524 consecutive days in which he listened to the album "Nostradamus" by the heavy-metal group Judas Priest. (2) In February, Hilary Taylor, 63, of Great Yarmouth, England, revealed that she had been bequeathed her uncle Ken Strickland's collection of 3,000 watering cans. Strickland, who also kept meticulous records of the holdings, died in January.

■ Details about Britain's biggest marijuana-importing operation emerged in March following the conviction of its three managers in Southwark Crown Court. The enterprise earned the equivalent of as much as $300 million at such a rapid clip that the partners apparently were unable to use much of it, despite buying real estate, jewelry and expensive cars. An inspector said Scotland Yard found "moldy" cash "rotting away," hidden under floorboards. "(I)t was no good to anybody."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1972 The United Kingdom imposes "Direct Rule" over Northern Ireland.

1973 Kenyan track runner Kip Keino defeats Jim Ryun at the first-ever professional track meet in Los Angeles, California.

1976 Argentina's military forces depose president Isabel Perón and start the National Reorganization Process.

1976 A general strike takes place in the People's Republic of Congo

1980 Archbishop Óscar Romero is killed while celebrating Mass in San Salvador.

1986 The Loscoe gas explosion leads to new UK laws on landfill gas migration and gas protection on landfill sites.

1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill: In Prince William Sound in Alaska, the Exxon Valdez spills 240,000 barrels (42,000 m?) of petroleum after running aground.

1998 A tornado sweeps through Dantan in India killing 250 people and injuring 3000 others.

WORD UP!

exiguous
\ig-ZIG-yoo-us\ , adjective;
1. Extremely scanty; meager.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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
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1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1050**
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1766 Malcolm Ave
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
2+1, st, fr,cpt, pkg,ln **$1425**
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March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



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Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



757 Ocean Avenue #205
Studio, 1 Bath
$399,000
Great Views!
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



302 Ashland Ave #102
1 Bed, 1 Bath
$429,000
Ocean Park Condo
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

ENSURING THAT THE PAST HAS A FUTURE

Winter Lecture Series: People & History of The Beach House

Located at: Memorial Park (14th Street Between Colorado and Olympic)

March 27th from 2-5pm

The Lecture series will provide stories of the site's vivid personalities
- WR Hearst, Ms.Davies, and Julia Morgan -
as well as insights into the innovative adaptive reuse that has transformed the site for public use.

Tickets are $10 per person per Lecture Date.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.smconservancy.org.
Checks may be mailed to Santa Monica Conservancy P.O. Box 653, Santa Monica 90406
For more information call 310-496-3146.

Visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com

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

	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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