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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 144

Santa Monica Daily Press



A NEW GOLD RUSH?
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE ONE BAD PITCH ISSUE

Rideshare participants drop out

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL A significant number of employees are no longer participating in a rideshare program that provides free transit passes to those who choose not to drive to work, according to figures released by City Hall.

The reason: an ongoing criminal investigation that has already identified three Big Blue Bus employees as having allegedly abused the program. Lower gas prices and more oversight of the rideshare program could also be factors, city officials said Tuesday.

The drop will result in an estimated savings of roughly $194,000 in 2009-10, according to figures provided by the Finance Department.

"When you are providing stricter controls and greater oversight, it does become a burden for some people and I recognize that," City Manager Lamont Ewell said. "But from our perspective I had to make sure we are protecting the public interest. … We have seen ebbs and flows before, but this is a remarkable drop off.

"I think, quite candidly, after finding some people who were abusing the program, it causes people to pause and make sure they are doing it the right way so they are not getting in trouble," Ewell added.

During the current fiscal year as many as 370 employees would sign up each month for the Transit Club and receive EZ transit passes valued at $70 each. In March, when the Santa Monica Police Department was conducting its investigation into allegations of theft, that number dropped to 73 employees, said Chuck McBride, City Hall's assistant finance director.

City Hall was looking to spend $317, 815 on the Transit Club this fiscal year, but with employees dropping out, that figure is expected to decrease by $50,000. McBride estimates City Hall will spend $73,000 in 2009-10.

"We have new forms now that require people to provide more information, making it easier for us to track," McBride said. "It was more of an honor system. From now on we will do periodic audits."

To remain in compliance with the Transit Club, employees now have to ride the bus at

SEE RIDESHARE PAGE 11

Water conservation efforts create cushion

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITYWIDE A plan to reduce the amount of water delivered to Santa Monica and other cities across the region by 10 percent this summer should have no significant impact on residents and businesses here thanks to aggressive conservation efforts that have reduced demand, city officials said.

By cutting back on the amount of water used locally, Santa Monica is already using 10 percent less water than what is allocated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said Gil Borboa, City Hall's water resources manager.

Santa Monica spends $4.5 million a year on water from MWD, and uses about 14,000 acre feet per year, with one acre foot of water enough to meet the needs of two single-family residences, Borboa said.

The MWD board recently voted to cut water deliveries and charge penalty rates for any local utility that uses more than their allocation. The board also voted to increase rates by roughly 20 percent, all of which is in response to the state's drought and environmentally driven cutbacks in water shipments from Northern California, creating a supply and demand imbalance.

It is the first time MWD has reduced sup-

SEE WATER PAGE 12



TOUGH LADIES

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

The Lingerie Football League's Los Angeles Temptation practice at Virginia Avenue Park on Tuesday. The season is set to begin in June.



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Beats for eats

Santa Monica Music Center
1901 Santa Monica Blvd., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Santa Monica Music Center is hosting a food drive party to benefit the Ocean Park Community Center. Free food, snacks and drinks will be available and attendees will be able to get drumming tips from professionals while playing "Rock Band" on a real drum kit. Donations of canned and non-perishable foods will be accepted. Call (310) 453-1928 for more information.

Women Painters West group art show

Santa Monica Art Studios
3026 Airport Ave., 12 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
The theme for this show is "How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Headed." The Women Painters West group is a non-profit Southern California art association that brings together women artists in the spirit of friendship, artistic expression, education and philanthropy. Admission is free. Call (310) 397-7449 for more information.

Hair care for the environment

The Doves Studio
2000 Main St., 10 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Helping out the environment never looked so good. Visit The Doves Studio on Earth Day and 10 percent of service profits will be donated to Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based non-profit that deals with local ocean issues. Call (310) 399-7654 to book your appointment.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Truck stop at the beach

Main on Main
2941 Main St., 9 p.m. — 2 a.m.
If white trash is your idea of a good party, look no further than Main on Main's Thursday night offering Truck Stop at the Beach. Strip-teasing dancers and a beer/shot/chicken wing combo that costs only $8. DJs will provide music. Admission is $5. Call (310) 396-6678 for more information.

Music contest

Best Western Gateway Hotel
1920 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
This is the premiere opening night of the Independent Social Music Club by Kelda Muzik Singers will have the opportunity to showcase their music and win $500 for best performance. Admission is $10. Contact Char Lovelady at (563) 508-5076 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.

CORRECTION

In the article "Animal rights protesters targeting SM residents charged," which ran in the April 21 edition of the Daily Press, it should have stated that the City Council approved an ordinance creating a 50-foot buffer zone around the homes of those targeted in protests.

Eliminating greenhouse gas one tree at a time

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

OCEAN PARK BLVD A newly planted pine tree will be the center of a ceremony today celebrating Earth Day and National Arbor Day. City officials and students and faculty from the Art Institutes of California at Los Angeles and Hollywood are attending this public event.

"This celebration is a way for us to officially launch the [Greenhouse Gas} Tree Planting Project in Santa Monica, while also recognizing Earth Day and Arbor Day. Our partnership with the students and faculty of the Art Institute of California should serve as an example to young people that volunteerism in the community and a commitment to improving our air quality takes us one step closer to a cleaner and healthier environment," said Community Forester Walt Warriner.

The Greenhouse Gas Tree Planting Project involves planting 1,000 new trees throughout Santa Monica. Both art institutes have partnered up with the United States Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research and Santa Monica to kick off the project. The growth of the trees will be monitored by the city and the data gathered will be provided to the Center for Urban Forest Research. The project is an effort to generate information on Santa Monica's efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"We encourage students, faculty and staff to participate in this initiative and take part in a community service project that is in line with our own goal to become a 'green' business and more sustainable as we work together to protect our environment," President of the Art Institute of California — Los Angeles Laura Soloff said.

The planting ceremony today is the second tree-planting event this week. On Tuesday, over 100 students and faculty from both art institutes planted over 15 new cedar trees near Lincoln Middle School between the 1400 and 1500 blocks on Washington Avenue.

"Participating in the National Week of Service complements our campus environment of serving our students and serving the community where we live and work," said Greg Marick, president of the Art Institute of California — Hollywood. "Giving back to the community is always the right thing to do and we are proud of the work and support our faculty, staff and students have put into this important effort."

Today's event starts at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.

news@smdp.com



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

BIG SWING: **St. Monica Catholic High School's Apollo Nestoras tries to catch up to a pitch against Mary Star of the Sea on Tuesday at Marine Park. The Mariners won the game, 6-2. With the win, St. Monica improves to 10-7 overall and 6-2 in Camino Real League play.**

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

Seawolves forming new rivalries

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

Pacifica Christian's upstart baseball team will get back in action Thursday against Mulholland League rival Pacific Lutheran at Veteran's Park in Carson.

The game gives Pacific Lutheran a chance for a bit of revenge. The teams met March 16, with Pacifica Christian winning 11-9.

Pacific Lutheran is coming off an incredible 30-3 league win against Summit View. Pacifica Christian's latest game was a 15-1 victory over Summit View West, also a league opponent.

Pacific Lutheran is 6-2 this season and 3-2 in league play. The Pacifica Christian Seawolves are currently 5-2 on the season and 5-1 in league play.

NEW ROADS BASEBALL RETURNS TO ACTION

A long gap between games is coming to an end for New Roads' baseball team.

After taking 10 days off due to spring break, the Jaguars (4-8 overall, 1-0 in Harbor League play) head to San Pedro to take on Rolling Hills Prep on Friday. The game begins at 3:30 p.m.

The Jaguars will again play on the road on April 28 at Lennox Academy. The game will be played at L.A. Southwest College at 3:15 p.m.

daniela@smdp.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Praising the library

Editor:

I have many reasons to applaud the Santa Monica Main Library and its service to our community.

Most recently they organized the "Living Library" event, which was a fabulous event. There were multiple individuals from varied backgrounds whom some might view as marginalized or stigmatized (unfortunately your paper's article only mentioned two) that we as community members had the opportunity to sit down with and discuss their views openly and honestly. A few individuals featured were a high school senior facing graduation and her life ahead, a Mormon, a detective, a homeless person, a Santa Monica policeman, a lesbian-Jewish-single mother, a former gang member, a community activist for charter schools, a fat activist and a little person, and several others.

I joined a conversation with the high school senior along with two tourists from the Netherlands who happened by the event and joined in. My eyes were opened up by this young woman's experiences, hope and dreams, as was I proud to have foreign visitors participate in the event.

My conversation with the homeless woman was fascinating as I entered her world without judgment. She was bright and honest about her experiences of homelessness. Thank you, Santa Monica Library, for hosting this event.

As has been reported in your paper and I have experienced, usage of the library has increased by 35 percent in recent months due to the economic times. As a regular user of the library, I appreciate the work of the library staff. They are helpful, efficient and sensitive to community need. Let's all be grateful for this valuable community resource and the people who run it.

Carol Hastings
Santa Monica

Who's who?

Editor:

RE: Vidiots signage

There were Vidiots and idiots in your story.

[City Hall] can decide which one they are.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

Walking the walk

Editor

On page 12 of the April 16th edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press, the article on the BBB employees states, "City Hall also promotes clean air events like Bike to Work, Rideshare Week, Clean Air Month, Try Transit Week and Walk to Work Week." How about "Enforce No Leaf Blower Law Week?"

If the city of Santa Monica is so hot about reducing carbon emissions, why can't they be bothered to enforce this law that the people of Santa Monica voted into existence a long time ago. And kudos and thanks to several people who have written letters lately complaining that this law is not ever enforced.

That it is not enforced is truly hypocritical on the part of the city government, the police and the owners/managers of buildings who allow this noxious process to continue in spite of it being against the law.

When I approached the leaf blowing worker at the next door building to give him a heads up about the law, he shrugged and said "everyone does it" and continued filling all the apartments with noxious fumes and forcing chemical laden debris down the storm drain and into the ocean. Oh, so people rob banks all the time, so I guess I can do it too. Is that the mind set?

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, although I would much rather the fine be levied against the owners and/or managers who allow the law to be broken, instead of the workers.

Shame on you Santa Monica, and you cannot call yourself a green city when you allow so many to break this environmental law, get away with it and add so much to the pollution of the air and the ocean.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



Going Postal

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

Part III: A man by any other name

"Just like all Yankee women, all you are good at is ordering in restaurants and spending a man's money!" — Kung fu master Pai Mei to Uma Thurman in "Kill Bill Pt. II"

EVERY WOMAN TO WHOM I'VE EVER spoken has nothing but praise, awe and jealousy for Uma Thurman's portrayal of her wrathful martial arts angel of death depicted in Quentin Tarantino's ultra-violent "Kill Bill" movies.

Ms. Thurman spends the better part of her screen time eviscerating a regiment of errant man flesh in her coruscating incarnation of feminist "empowerment." Let's forget the inconvenient truth, however, that all of her martial training was first imparted to her by, hellooo, a MAN. Let's also forget that the predominantly male stunt cast are all handsomely paid to "die" under Ms Thurman's martial ministrations so she looks good for the camera.

It's rumored that Brad Pitt will be starring in a reverse gender rendering called "Kill Jill" where he beats the living crap out of the entire corps of CodePink with a pair of radioactive Birkenstocks and then has monkey sex with all of their hot pretty girlfriends ... all two of them. Hollywood mangina George Clooney is signed to play the role of "Jill."

Radical progressive feminism celebrates and encourages denigration and violence upon men while abrogating its pusillanimous fiction of personal responsibility vis-a-vis domestic violence upon the self-aggrandizing notions of special interest "equality." A 1991 episode of the femi-fascist "Oprah Winfrey Show" featured a segment called the "PMS Men's Support Group" where four men described in horrid detail how their wives struck one in the spine with a pole or smacked them in the head or neck with a cast iron skillet all to the delightful howls of laughter elicited from all the menopausal flapbags that were seated in the studio audience.

A disturbing 1997 survey of 1,000 female students at CSU Long Beach revealed that the number one reason these feminists cited as justification for assaulting their boy toys was "my partner wasn't sensitive to my needs." Feminists obviously don't want a "partner" inasmuch as a clairvoyant punching bag who pays the bills.

In a 2000 Centers for Disease Control [CDC] report on domestic violence, there were approximately 1.5 million women physically assaulted by a male intimate partner. To quote comedian and Obama supporter, Chris Rock, " I don't agree with it ... but I understand it." Yup, Chris, some women just never seem to know when to shut up. According to that same 2000 CDC report, however, more than 835,000 men were assaulted by their "better half."

The CDC report also reflected that female-on-male assaults were under-reported as a man was less likely to report an assault for the obvious ridicule that would ensue from admitting that he, as the victim, had taken a beating from a girl.

I was assaulted on three separate occasions by two different intimate partners over a period of four years. Both wags were allegedly enlightened, self-professed Democrat feminists. I've since stopped dating Democrats. Like the warning label on a pack of cigarettes, they just kill you slowly over time.

I WAS ASSAULTED ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS BY TWO DIFFERENT INTIMATE PARTNERS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS.

These women obviously had some unresolved anger/daddy/bad hair/ issues. Rhetorically speaking, though, what asinine idiocy possesses a 125 pound feminist to attempt to clobber a 220 pound man? This activity is akin to tying a warm pork chop around ones neck and playing with a hungry polar bear.

Last Saturday, there was some street walker from Amnesty International on Main Street asking "Would you like to take a minute to discuss women's rights?" I asked this gelded Euro-male if he had ever been divorced in the state of California. He replied in the negative. I retorted that he didn't know jack squat about "women's rights" under the current divorce laws and how they apply to men in this state. I've "been there, done that" and still have the space alien anal probe to prove it even though I did get a coupon for 20 percent off of a Brazilian hot wax!

If a feminist needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle, is it an inconvenient truth to point out that since fish don't have pockets for their money then therefore feminists shouldn't require an entitlement called spousal support? I thought you wenches out there were all grown up like big people, right?

If I had to choose between a California divorce court and being tortured at a Bush-era CIA black site in Romania then please book me and my water board on the next flight to Bucharest. At least I can get regular sex in prison. Sex with a feminist is like looking for Sasquatch. There's a lot of talk about it but there's not a lot of evidence to back it up.

And then the CDC wonders why men are 80 percent of the suicides in this country. Well, I guess a man's got to be good at something according to feminism.

STEVE BREEN is happily married to the prettiest gal in the whole wide world. He is still the "best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Laughing at Libertarians

LIBERTARIANS MAKE ME LAUGH — mainly because I can't take anyone who uses the terms "nanny-state" and "big government" seriously. It's not that there is anything particularly funny about individual freedom, open markets, and limited regulation, it's that these people don't seem to understand how much the world has changed since they became a political party back in the 1970s.

These days cigarettes can harm nonsmokers, the markets have gone global, and the only growth industry in our shrinking economy is white collar crime. Yet Libertarians still argue against smoking bans, against regulation, and against government spending.

They remain committed to the idea that government is, by definition, a problem and can never be the answer — despite the fact that the government is the only single entity willing and able to spend the money needed to get the economy moving again. Libertarians generally miss the fact that governments create markets, markets don't create governments. And when business crosses borders, toothpaste made in China can make people sick in Chicago and risky bets made in London can bankrupt the largest insurance company in America.

Which brings us to last Thursday's Daily Press and Judge James Gray's "Libertarian Perspective" column on changing employment law to make it easier to fire employees. The issue of the list of legal reasons for firing someone being very, very long, and the list of illegal reasons for firing someone being very, very short is personal for me. I was once one of the most vulnerable, least legally protected workers in this town: assistant to a minor celebrity.

On the promise that I would get to write his biography, I worked seven days a week (sometimes 20 hours a day) to "make it easier" for him to live his life. He fired me because I refused to consent to having my pay illegally docked like a factory worker who owes money at the company store.

Gray says our democracy is on the verge of "collapse" because of our government and its tendency to "destroy private initiative" and offers the self-starter's mantra, "if it's to be, it's up to me" as advice on how we can all work to "fix" the government.

He says, "employers don't hire people just so they can discriminate against and harass them for racial, gender, or sexual-preference reasons and then fire them" and that those employers "have already 'passed the test' by hiring those employees." Of course, that's only if the "test" is whether or not that employer illegally discriminates in hiring.

His next joke is that we should eliminate all legal protection against wrongful termination for all workers for up to two years. He even uses the legal term "protected class" so there is no question about exactly whose rights he wants to take away.

He drives it home saying, "more of these ... people would have jobs" if it weren't for the whole equal protection under the law thing that would prohibit an employer from firing a 63-year-old gay Asian woman for no other reason than she was old, or gay, or Asian, or a woman.

His topper is the idea that after being sued (presumably by one of "these people"), the employer would simply refuse to hire anyone in any protected class (over half of the population) ever again, so current workplace protection "actually works against equality in employment." Then he mysteriously quotes Anne Frank.

I've read some unintentional comedy in this paper, but Judge Gray went above and beyond. Before retiring from the Supremes, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would always want to know how any change in the law would impact the most vulnerable among us.

Focusing on this kind of every-day application of the law is what makes a great jurist — and not thinking things all the way through is probably why Jim Gray's career peaked on the Orange County bench.

I have a problem with a judge who refers to the existence of "never-ending laws" like it's a bad thing, but I also understand where he's coming from: the 70s, when his party was almost relevant.

Like all Libertarians, this retired civil servant (who probably still collects a pension from Orange County) wants "government" out of his life. That is, until his house in Newport Beach is flooded or on fire. Then he'll be dailing "9-1-1" and waiting for the "nanny state" and its "big government" to send help — just like the rest of us — and as he considers how to get rid of the water or put out the fire, one thing I know he won't be thinking is, "if it's to be, it's up to me."

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider living in Santa Monica whose columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Being kind to Mother Earth

With Earth Day taking place this week, this is a great time to look at the world around you and consider making changes to help the environment.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What is the most important step individuals can take to save the planet?

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


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Yahoo to slash hundreds of jobs

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Yahoo Inc. will lay off more than 600 workers after getting off to another bumpy start under a tough-talking new boss who has promised to engineer a long-awaited turnaround at one of the Internet's best-known franchises.

Neither the lackluster first-quarter results nor the job cuts announced Tuesday came as a surprise. Analysts had already predicted Yahoo's three-year slump would worsen during the first three months of the year, and hints about the payroll purge were leaked to the media last week.

This marks Yahoo's third round of mass layoffs in a little over a year, but the first batch since the Sunnyvale-based company hired technology veteran Carol Bartz as its chief executive in January.

Yahoo dumped about 1,000 jobs in February 2008 and another 1,500 or so late last year while co-founder Jerry Yang was still running the company. Yang stepped down, largely because he wasn't able to snap the company out of its financial funk during his 18-month tenure as CEO.

The misery worsened in the first quarter as skittish advertisers spent less on their Internet marketing campaigns.

Yahoo earned $118 million, or 8 cents per share, during the first three months of the year. That represents a 78 percent drop from net income of $537 million, or 37 cents per share, in the year-ago period.

Last year's results included a non-cash gain of $401 million. But Yahoo's profit this year still would have been lower even after subtracting last year's one-time boost.

The latest earnings matched the modest expectations among analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

Revenue fell 13 percent to $1.58 billion. If not for the stronger dollar, Yahoo said its revenue would have been down by 8 percent.

After subtracting commissions paid to its ad partners, Yahoo's revenue stood at $1.16 billion — about $50 million below analyst estimates. Yahoo shares gained 15 cents in Tuesday's extended trading after rising 72 cents, or more than 5 percent, to finish the regular session at $14.38.

Investors have been hoping Yahoo will be able to make more money by forging an online advertising partnership with Microsoft Corp. Executives from both Yahoo and Microsoft reportedly have been stepping up their negotiations as the two companies try to counter Internet search leader Google Inc.'s domination of online advertising.

WALL STREET

Banks pull stock market higher after late sell-off

TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner convinced Wall Street to give banks another chance Tuesday.

Geithner's assertion that "the vast majority" of banks have enough capital pulled stocks from a slump that began with a sell-off Monday and spilled over into Tuesday morning. Geithner also told a congressional oversight committee that some banks would be allowed to repay financial bailout funds with the blessing of bank regulators.

The comments signaled that banks might not get poor marks in government "stress tests" designed to determine whether banks have enough capital to survive if the economy turns even worse. The results are due May 4.

"There is the hope that everything will be well after the stress test," said John Nichol, senior portfolio manager at Federated Investors.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 128 points after tumbling 290 points Monday on worries about bad debt at banks and the implications of the stress tests. The drop punctuated a six-week rally that lifted stocks more than 20 percent from their lowest levels in more than a decade.

Stocks fluctuated in the early going Tuesday after a string of lackluster earnings reports and forecasts stoked worries about how quickly the economy can recover.

Bank stocks, which led the market lower Monday, bounced back after the Geithner comments. JPMorgan Chase & Co. rose 9.6 percent, Citigroup Inc. jumped 10.2 percent, while Goldman Sachs Group Inc. rose 4.7 percent.

The fortunes of bank shares have largely dictated the stock market's direction since the fall of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. in mid-September, and investors took Geithner's comments as a reason to go back into the market. Some analysts attributed the buying to short covering, where investors have to buy stock after having earlier sold borrowed shares in a bet that the market would fall.

The Dow rose 127.83, or 1.6 percent, to 7,969.56.

Broader stock indicators showed the biggest gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 17.69, or 2.1 percent, to 850.08, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 35.64, or 2.2 percent, to 1,643.85.

Huntington Bancshares Inc. logged one of the more notable turnarounds. The regional bank fell as much as 26 percent in early trading before ending up 34 cents, or 10.9 percent, at $3.45.

The jump in most banks overshadowed mixed results from big-name companies. Coca-Cola Co. and drugmaker Merck & Co. posted results or issued forecasts that fell short of what the market expected. Wall Street was uneasy about some of the reports because analysts had set low expectations after a bruising January in which fourth-quarter results short-circuited a stock rally.

Coca-Cola fell $1.24, or 2.8 percent, to $43.09, after its first-quarter earnings fell 10 percent because of restructuring charges and write-downs. The beverage maker's earnings were in line with Wall Street's expectations but sales fell short.

Merck reported a 57 percent drop in first-quarter earnings because of a slide in both sales of its drugs and income from its partnership on cholesterol medicines. Merck fell $1.68, or 6.7 percent, to $23.54.

ECONOMY

Banks still in distress, Geithner tells overseers

TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON America's banks are still broken despite all their bailout billions, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told impatient rescue overseers Tuesday as they pressed him on when things will get better and how much it will cost. A bleak new report estimated U.S. banks and other financial institutions could lose a stunning $2.7 trillion in all.

How well is the mostly-spent $700 billion federal bailout working? "To date, frankly, the evidence is mixed," Geithner told a congressionally appointed oversight panel.

Confidence in the program is wearing thin on Capitol Hill. With lawmakers back from their spring break, even bailout supporters are skeptical that Congress — weary of bankers' bonuses and still-scarce credit — would approve additional bank rescue money if requested.

Geithner's testimony signaled that the administration was not preparing to ask.

Wall Street was cheered by Geithner's assessment that "the vast majority" of banks could be considered well-capitalized. Bank stocks had slid on Monday but bounced back on Tuesday.

Still, the government's effort to stabilize the financial sector and unclog credit markets has come under heavy scrutiny. Officials must do a better job in carrying out and explaining its efforts to shore up the financial system, the head of the oversight panel told Geithner.

"The sense of fear and uncertainty has not gone away, but it's been joined by a new sense of anger and frustration," said Elizabeth Warren, who is also a Harvard University law professor. "People are angry that, even if they have consistently paid their bills on time and never missed a payment, their TARP-assisted banks are unilaterally raising their interest rates or slashing their credit lines."

Of the $700 billion authorized by Congress for the Troubled Asset Relief Program last October, Geithner said about $110 billion is left. With about $25 billion expected to be repaid this year, the total available is about $135 billion.

Some banks are maneuvering to pay back some of the bailout money, unhappy with the strings attached. But Geithner said that doesn't mean the government would necessarily accept the repayments.

These questions have to be first answered, he said: "Do the institutions themselves have enough capital to be able to lend and does the system as a whole, is it working for the American people for recovery?" A series of "stress tests" are being administered to banks by the administration to help judge their financial health.



TRENDS

Prospectors bank on new gold rush

TRACIE CONE
Associated Press Writer

COLOMA When construction work dried up in Tennessee, concrete finisher Steve Biorck headed west to the place where fortunes tumble down mountain streams.

There's still gold in California's Sierra Nevada foothills and a new rush to find it. Not since the Great Depression have so many hard-luck people been lured by the prospect of prospecting.

"I guess there's always hope," Biorck said, standing knee-deep in an icy creek coaxing gold flakes from a swirling pan of gravel. "At home, I don't have any right now."

The recession and high gold prices are helping to fuel the latest gold craze, especially among workers who have lost jobs.

Miners who locate an unclaimed area can pay a $170 fee to the Bureau of Land Management. Most claims are along the 120 miles of steep granite outcrops and rushing riverbeds that are part of California's Mother Lode, a narrow band of gold-rich mountainous land.

When Don Wetter was in the Army, he guarded Fort Knox in Kentucky, home of the Treasury's Department's gold depository. Now that he's been discharged, Wetter hopes to find some gold of his own using a loan for a "grubstake," an old mining term for money to sustain the search.

Wetter, a 22-year-old tree trimmer from Troy, Mich., said he turned to gold because most of his customers lost their jobs or moved away.

Many would-be gold panners are drawn to the South Fork of the American River, where the 1849 discovery of nuggets at Sutter's Mill launched the largest human migration in the Western Hemisphere. The Depression brought another wave of miners in the 1930s.

"It's hard to keep my equipment in stock," said Albert Fausel, the third-generation owner of the nearby Old Placerville Hardware store, which was founded to sell sluices, picks and pans to the original '49ers.

Back then, the price of gold was $16 an ounce. Today it hovers around $1,000.

The store's wood floors used to creak under the weight of recreational rafters and fisherman. Now prospectors are some of the biggest shoppers.

"A lot of people are out of jobs and know where the gold holes are," Fausel said.

Between October 2007 and September 2008, the Bureau of Land Management in California issued gold miners 3,413 permits, or claims, to search for gold on public land. That figure compared with 1,986 claims in 2006. So far this fiscal year, the agency has issued 1,444 claims.

Many miners believe that only 10 percent of the gold in the Sierra Nevada was discovered in the original gold rush. They are also excited by the prospect of stumbling onto buried treasure.

"A lady was walking over there, kicked a stone with her toe and picked up a nugget just like that," said Russ Kurz, who at 77 with a bushy white beard looks like a grizzled miner. He points to a sandbar on the American River near Coloma.

"I was walking my dog once and went to pick up a rock and pulled a long nugget straight out of the sand," he said. "It was worth about $6,500 — and that was 13 years ago."

Brent Shock of Jamestown now teaches the newbies he calls "the bonanza people." He says sandbars, cracks in bedrock and low-pressure eddies behind boulders are prime places to set up sluices, which are metal or plastic channels designed to catch gold.

Spring is the best time to hunt for gold as snow melt churns streams and rivers, potentially uncovering new riches.

"There's got to be a lot of it sitting around somewhere," said Eric Tring of Roseville as he panned with his 13-year-old daughter.

The gold fields are becoming so popular that Todd Osborne has had to guard a claim that has been in his family since the 1960s near a remote mountain creek.

A handmade sign with the image of a rifle and the words "private claim" dissuades most intruders, but novices often are unaware that miners can make a stake on public land.

"A couple of years ago there'd be nobody out here," said Osborne, 41, who began prospecting full-time last year when his work as an arborist slowed.

Osborne, who says both of his grandfathers turned to prospecting during the Depression, knows the people who sold supplies to miners are the ones who stayed rich. One of the most notable examples is denim maker Levi Strauss.

Osborne owns the patent on the Bazooka Gold Trap sluice that he builds with his prospecting partner, Adam Schiffner. The two can process up to 350 gallons of streambed gravel a day with it, yielding $100 to $1,000 in gold flakes, with an average of $150.

They are betting that the instability of the dollar will drive gold prices even higher and entice more people to his sluice.

"Whether they get rich or not," Osborne said, "we've got part of their grubstake."


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Latino ministers call for census boycott

SAMANTHA HENRY
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. A nationwide group of Latino ministers has a message for illegal immigrants: Stand up, but refuse to be counted in the 2010 U.S. census.

The National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders is urging undocumented immigrants to boycott the census — which is used to calculate everything from federal funding to congressional representation — unless Congress first passes immigration reform.

"The same data that helps the Latino community to seek political empowerment, the same numbers that are used to show how strong we are and prove our growing numbers, that's the same data the anti-immigrant forces use against us," the Rev. Miguel Rivera, the head of the coalition, said Tuesday.

Census numbers have been used to target and repress the undocumented in the past, Rivera said, and the nation's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants need a path to legalization before they agree to have their numbers count.

"When we weigh, in the balance, how many benefits the undocumented get by letting themselves be counted, it's more on the side of funding more police officers to arrest them, and more immigration agents to deport them and disrupt families," Rivera said. "We can't ask them to do something that is going to bring more sadness to this community."

Census officials stress that information is strictly confidential, and that they don't inquire about immigration status or ask for a Social Security number. It's required by the Constitution that every person residing in America be included.

"Our job is to count every single person," said Raul Cisneros, a spokesman for the census. "We are disappointed that any organization would urge anyone to not participate in the 2010 Census."

The idea grew out of the feeling that census figures from 2000 were used by law enforcement and anti-immigrant forces to better target undocumented populations, Rivera said, affecting many congregants of his group's more than 16,000 member churches in 34 states.

The proposed boycott comes amid what census organizers say is an unprecedented mobilization at the national, state and local levels to ensure that every person residing in the United States — regardless of immigration status — is counted in 2010.

Several national Latino organizations, including The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials — or NALEO — are criticizing the proposed boycott at a time when they are mobilizing to make sure the Hispanic community is not undercounted. The 2000 census missed about 3 percent of the Hispanic population.

Scaring undocumented immigrants away from participating in the census doesn't make sense, said Arturo Vargas, executive director of NALEO and a member of the Decennial Census advisory committee.

"To do this boycott to pressure comprehensive immigration reform is like cutting off your nose to spite your face," Vargas said. "There is no connection between the census and immigration reform; it's undermining the community by encouraging an undercount; and it's misguided and irresponsible."

It also places the undocumented at further risk to refuse answering the census, Vargas said.

"The census is confidential and is a constitutional requirement," Vargas said. "In essence, they're encouraging people to break the law."

Refusing or neglecting to answer a census inquiry is not in itself a deportable offense, but is punishable with a fine of as much as $100, according to U.S. law. The fine can reach as much as $500 for providing false information.

Rivera said that he supports efforts to count legal immigrants, but that the participation of illegal immigrants in the census does nothing to advance their quest to legalize.

"This is where the power comes in: If there's a 12 million person deficiency in the census, if 12 million undocumented people are not counted," he said. "Even though they don't vote, they are being used as guinea pigs to get money for cities."

Such attitudes reflect a misunderstanding of how the census is used, Vargas said, and threaten to undermine unity as the immigration reform fight resurfaces on the Washington agenda.

"To the undocumented, and to everybody in the Latino community, we are on a historic path," Vargas said. "I think these pastors understand that; that's why they want to see comprehensive immigration reform. We all want it, but there's probably a more impactful way to get us there than if we have an undercount."



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Med student held without bail in Craigslist death

MELISSA TRUJILLO
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON Prosecutors said Tuesday they found a semiautomatic weapon at the home of a Boston medical student who has been ordered held without bail on charges he shot to death a masseuse he had lured to a hotel through Craigslist.

Philip Markoff said nothing during the brief hearing in Boston Municipal Court.

Authorities said they followed a computer trail to Markoff, linking an account used to set up appointments on Craigslist with two women who were attacked to his address in Quincy.

They say a search of his home found the gun, ammunition and materials exactly matching those used in an attack on another masseuse in a Boston hotel.

Markoff is charged with murder in the death of Julissa Brisman of New York City and kidnapping and armed robbery in the other assault.

The second-year Boston University medical student lives with his fiance, who claims police have the wrong man.

"He could not hurt a fly," Megan McAllister said in an e-mail to ABC's "Good Morning America. "All I have to say is Philip is a beautiful person, inside and out," she said in the e-mail read on Tuesday's program.

Markoff's attorney, John Salsberg, did not immediately comment.

Authorities have said there could be more victims.

"Our top priority is holding Philip Markoff accountable. He's a predator," Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley said Monday night in announcing Markoff's arrest earlier in the day during a traffic stop south of Boston.

An e-mail message sent to McAllister via her Facebook page was not immediately returned Tuesday. The McAllister family did not respond to knocks of the door of their Little Silver, N.J. home Tuesday. Shortly after, a police officer emerged from the home and said the family did not wish to speak with reporters, and asked the media to respect their privacy.

Michael Bernard, who lives in Markoff's building in Quincy, was shocked to recognize his neighbor on television reports of the killing.

"He was smart, he carried himself well, he was clean, a good looking guy," said Bernard, a retired electric company worker. "He seemed like the type that would have it all. It doesn't make sense."

Authorities believe Markoff also may be connected to the attempted robbery Thursday in Warwick, R.I., of a stripper who had posted an ad on Craigslist. She was held at gunpoint before her husband entered the room and her attacker fled.

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City Hall hires internal auditor

FROM **RIDESHARE** PAGE 1

least 15 times per month, McBride said. Employees will have to keep a log of what bus route they took on what day, something they were required to do before the audit, but was never enforced.

Three BBB employees were arrested last week for allegedly abusing the Transit Club. Following a random internal audit of the program, the Finance Department discovered irregularities in applications for the free transit passes, as well as a lack of effective internal controls.

The audit was the result of a system-wide review of how City Hall collects revenues.

When irregularities were found in the Transit Club, Ewell ordered a criminal investigation. Crystal Buckner, a motor coach operator supervisor; Michael Brown, a motor coach operator; and Kalin Green, a transit operations assistant, were charged. Buckner and Green were both booked for grand theft, Brown for petty theft. They are expected to be arraigned May 15.

Ewell said he ordered the review because of his experiences in San Diego, where he served as city manager. Ewell was hired in San Diego at a time when the city faced record deficits and criminal investigations surrounding its pension fund.

"I just came out of San Diego and spent two years dealing with investigations and reviews and there were plenty of lessons learned, that sometimes we take for granted controls in place and assume they are working … ," Ewell said, explaining the review.

"We focused on the financial side first because in the city we have over 50 different cash collection points and some are pretty large dollar amounts," Ewell added. "I wanted to make sure we had the best controls and oversight in place. It's about protecting the public's money."

The review found that some people had paid parking tickets twice. City Hall spent a year contacting those that overpaid and refunded their money.

Since the Transit Club and other rideshare programs are benefits for employees, the Human Resources Department will oversee it along with finance. When new employees are hired, they will received information on rideshare programs and it will become "a centerpiece" of the benefits discussion, Ewell said.

"The key here is not to just say we provide a rideshare program, but to talk about the benefit and the reduction of carbon footprints," Ewell said. "Not only is it benefiting them by finding alternative travel, it's also benefiting the environment."

To ensure accountability and prevent against waste, Ewell has also hired an internal auditor, Martin Kolkin, who served as the auditor for the city of Sacramento.

"We want to make sure the proper controls and oversight are in place now, clean it up and move forward," Ewell said.

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Water usage in SM down 10 percent

FROM **WATER** PAGE 1

plies delivered to customers since 1991. The reduction will go into effect July 1. The rate increase will impact cities Sept. 1.

"Up to 19 million Southern Californians this summer will feel the impacts of a new water reality that has been in the making for years, if not decades," said MWD board Chairman Timothy F. Brick. "If we want to protect the region's water reserves, we will all need to reduce our water use and use it more efficiently."

Just like the reduction in water delivered locally, the change in water rates should not have an impact on Santa Monica customers, Borboa said, because city officials already factored it in along with other variables when the City Council approved a rate increase last year. Residents and businesses can expect water rates to increase by 10.5 percent July 1, well below the 20 percent approved by the MWD board.

The reasons the rate increase is lower are conservation efforts on the part of rate payers, as well as an increase in groundwater supplies from existing wells owned by City Hall that were previously closed due to contamination, Borboa said. City Hall has been working aggressively to clean the wells, which were contaminated by a fuel additive known as MTBE, which seeped into the city's groundwater because of corroded fuel storage tanks at area gas stations.

Currently, MWD supplies Santa Monica with 88 percent of its water, with 12 percent coming from local wells. A local water treatment plant that is expected to open in 2010 should reverse those figures, which could lead to a decrease in rates charged. City Hall received $131 million in 2006 to build the treatment plant as part of a settlement with Shell, Chevron and ExxonMobile.

"Every drop of water we can produce locally is one less drop of water we have to buy from Metropolitan," Borboa said. "All that plays into the position we are in, the rate increases we are seeing from Met and the minimal effect they will have [on consumers locally]."

Some of the programs in place to help people conserve include the city's "20 Gallon Challenge," which encourages residents and business to reduce water consumption by 20 gallons each day by fixing leaks, taking shorter showers and purchasing more efficient appliances, as well as offering free water assessments. There are also clothes washer and toilet rebates for those who purchase high efficiency products, sustainable landscape grants, and cistern rebates for those who funnel their rain gutter downspouts into storage tanks, keeping from running into the Santa Monica Bay.

The rebates and programs are administered by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

To ensure that Santa Monica is sustainable when it comes to its consumption of water, Borboa and his staff will be presenting the City Council in May with a water shortage response plan that will give elected officials the power to ration. Customers that go over their allocation would be assessed a penalty. The plan will include various advisory levels.

"In the city we have not done this kind of water budget," Borboa said. "But with the multiple dry years we are experiencing as a region we need a mechanism in place to deal with any severe shortage."

Here are some simple steps people can take to save water on a daily basis:

• Turning off the water when brushing your teeth can save three gallons per day.

• Shortening showers by one or two minutes can result in a savings of 5 gallons per day.

• Fixing leaky faucets — 20 gallons per day.

• Washing only full loads of laundry — 15 to 20 gallons per load.

• Water lawns before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind — 25 gallons.

• Installing a smart sprinkler controller — 40 gallons per day.

• Using a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks — 150 gallons each time.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BAD TIMING: **A gardner uses a hose to water plants on Tuesday afternoon.**

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State leaders consider low-carbon fuel standards

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California air regulators are taking another step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, considering first-in-the nation standards to require the use of so-called low-carbon fuels.

The California Air Resources Board, which will debate the standards Thursday, considers the regulation a framework for a potential national policy advocated by President Barack Obama on the campaign trail last year. Democrats have included a goal for low-carbon fuels in the latest climate bill they have introduced in Congress.

"We see this as a model for the rest of the country and the world to follow," said Air Resources Board member Dan Sperling, a transportation expert and professor at the University of California, Davis.

The proposed regulation calls for reducing the carbon content in California's transportation fuels 10 percent by 2020, but representatives of the petroleum and ethanol industries are objecting to how the state proposes to achieve that.

California oil producers and refiners are skeptical that cleaner fuels and vehicles powered by hydrogen and natural gas will be available in time to meet the new standards. They are asking the Air Resources Board to delay a decision until next year.

"This is the most transforming fuel regulation we've ever done," said Kathy Rehis-Boyd, executive vice president of the Western States Petroleum Association. "We think there's still more homework to do on this. There's a lot of uncertainty."

The low-carbon fuel standard is part of California's drive to reduce its emissions of heat-trapping gasses by roughly a third by 2020. Transportation accounts for 40 percent of the state's emissions.

Two years ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger directed air regulators to develop a rule that would help boost the amount of renewable fuels available to California motorists, truck drivers, recreational boaters and in-state train operators.

Ocean-going ships, interstate locomotives, aircraft and military tactical vehicles are exempt from the rule.

The goal is to allow petroleum refiners, fuel blenders and distributors to decide how to gradually reduce the carbon emissions of their fuels beginning in 2011, rather than having the state tell them which fuel to use.

"We have a long history of what I call 'fuel du jour' approaches," Sperling said. "What we need is a broad policy framework that doesn't pick winners."

The Air Resources Board is not just targeting the emissions of the fuel once it is burned in a vehicle. It also wants to account for all carbon emissions related to the production of the fuel.

For example, refineries could choose to stop buying a heavy crude oil extracted from Canadian oil sands, which takes more energy to convert into gasoline. But accounting for emissions during the entire production cycle of a fuel also would discourage certain fuels from being used in California.

Corn-based ethanol, for example, burns cleanly in a car engine. But making it can take a heavy toll on the environment: Massive tracts of land must be cleared, which requires fuel-powered tractors, then coal- or natural gas-fired plants convert the corn into fuel and petroleum is used to transport the end product to distant markets.

The air board also wants to hold ethanol producers accountable for actions taken in other countries.

Board scientists say that U.S. policies subsidizing corn-based ethanol have caused deforestation in the Amazon. According to the environmental group RainForest Action Network, Brazil has expanded its soybean production to make up for a drop in soybeans from American farmers, who have been planting corn for biofuels instead.

The deforestation to create soybean fields results in a massive release of greenhouse gases, typically when the trees are burned and soil is tilled for crops. The California air board wants to consider those effects — anywhere in the world — if they are related to the production of biofuels in the U.S., even indirectly.

When all that is factored into the air board's economic models, ethanol produced from Midwest corn in a coal-fired plant actually rates as a dirtier fuel than gasoline.

Under that scenario, California's proposed low-carbon fuel standard threatens to shut off one of the ethanol industry's largest markets.

"It's a total shell game. There's no way you can prove that growing corn in Iowa has anything to do with destroying the Amazon forest in Brazil," said Tom Koehler, a policy adviser at Pacific Ethanol. "You cannot connect the dots with a straight face."

The board's attempt to estimate emissions from such indirect land use has sparked debate in California and elsewhere.

More than 100 scientists — including those from the National Academy of Engineering, Sandia National Laboratories and a host of universities — petitioned the California Air Resources Board to rethink its position.

They said regulators are acting prematurely because scientists remain divided over how best to calculate carbon emissions tied to biofuels. They also criticized the board for penalizing biofuels by not applying the same standard to oil and natural gas production, although the air board does factor in the emissions tied to drilling, transporting and refining oil and gas.

"That creates a bias in the system that should not be there in something as impactful and important," said Blake Simmons, a chemical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories who signed the letter.

Cellulosic ethanol, which is produced from wood, grasses and plants, and next-generation biofuels, including those made from municipal waste, would fare better under the California standard. Their carbon emissions are projected to be much lower than corn-based ethanol.

Biofuel firms and oil and gas producers differ over whether such alternatives will be ready for a mass market in time to meet California's low-carbon fuel standard. A California startup, Fulcrum BioEnergy Inc., is scheduled to begin construction next year on a plant in Reno, Nev., that makes ethanol from garbage.

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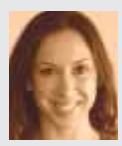
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PGA

Another green jacket awaits Cabrera — at Oakmont

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

If great golf courses are defined by its major champions, then it's easy to understand why the membership at Oakmont Country Club was so thrilled to see Angel Cabrera in a green jacket.

No other championship course in America can boast such a long and distinguished list of major champions.

Gene Sarazen. Sam Snead. Ben Hogan. Jack Nicklaus. Johnny Miller. Ernie Els.

Not many people knew much about Cabrera when he won the U.S. Open at Oakmont two years ago by one shot over Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk. He was big, burly and his hardscrabble life was as much Pittsburgh as it was Argentina.

Oakmont has hosted 11 men's professional majors, and only two of its champions — local pro Sam Parks Jr. at the 1935 U.S. Open and John Mahaffey at the 1978 PGA Championship — never won another Grand Slam event.

Thanks to Cabrera's victory at the Masters, the one-hit wonders will stay at two.

"I think it's very important," said Bob Ford, the longtime head pro at Oakmont. "It validates this as a course that produces great champions. Great names win here. We were hoping for Woods to win, and when Angel won, it was like, 'Who is this guy?'

"Now, he's a Masters champion."

Oakmont has some competition as the greatest roll call of major champions.

Augusta National doesn't count for obvious reasons — it's the only course that holds a major every year.

Ditto for St. Andrews, the home of golf, where the British Open has been played 27 times. That might be the greatest place to win any major, for even Nicklaus, a six-time Masters champion, once said, "I was always told that to be a good golfer is one thing, but to be a great golfer is to win at St. Andrews." The British Open has used only 14 links courses for its 137 championships.

As for American courses used for the U.S. Open and PGA Championship?

Pebble Beach can surely state its case with Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Woods winning the U.S. Open, and Lanny Wadkins winning the PGA Championship. All of them are, or will be, in the Hall of Fame.

Oakland Hills has hosted nine majors, and while its list includes two players with the career Grand Slam (Hogan, Gary Player) and four other multiple major champions (Padraig Harrington, Ralph Guldahl, David Graham and Andy North), it also features Steve Jones and Cyril Walker. The nine winners at "The Monster" have combined to capture 30 majors.

Baltusrol can claim two U.S. Open titles by Nicklaus and a PGA Championship victory by Phil Mickelson. But its list also includes one-time major winners Ed Furgol, Jerome Travers and Tony Manero.

And while the media complains too much about the heat, Southern Hills in Tulsa, Okla., ranks among the best. Its seven major champions include the dominant players of the last two decades — Woods and Nick Price — along with Hall of Famers Raymond Floyd, Hubert Green and Tommy Bolt. The others were multiple major winners Retief Goosen and Dave Stockton.

Goosen, like Cabrera, was somewhat of an unknown until he won another U.S. Open three years later at Shinnecock Hills.

"Validation, like Bob said, is exactly correct," Southern Hills head pro Dave Bryan said Tuesday. "Goosen validated his championship here, especially winning at Shinnecock."

Winged Foot serves up Bobby Jones, Billy Casper, Hale Irwin and Fuzzy Zoeller among multiple major champions, along with one-time winners (for now) Davis Love III and Geoff Ogilvy.

Oak Hill has hosted only five majors and had a Hall of Fame list going — Cary Middlecoff, Nicklaus, Lee Trevino and Curtis Strange — until it crowned Shaun Micheel at the 2003 PGA Championship. It remains the only victory in Micheel's career.

Does it matter who wins a major?

"I'd hate to say that," Bryan said, pausing for a moment. "But I think it does. It's important."

That would be bad news for The Olympic Club in San Francisco, known as a graveyard for champions. It's U.S. Open champions were Jack Fleck, Casper, Scott Simpson and Janzen. The runner-ups those years were Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Watson and Payne Stewart.

Oakmont, however, has an incomparable record of major champions. Its 11 winners have combined to win 56 majors, and seven of them are in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

But it didn't need Cabrera to win the Masters to embrace him.

Ford tells the story of two Oakmont members headed to Argentina in March. He e-mailed Manuel Tagle, the agent for Cabrera, looking for suggestions. Tagle set them up at Olivos Golf Club, then contacted Buenos Aires Golf Club. But when Buenos Aires planned to charge triple the rate, Cabrera took over.

"He said, 'Why don't you call them and tell them to come to Cordoba instead, and I will play them,'" Tagle said. "So they did. We had a great time with them."

A month later, Cabrera paid them back in his own way. He gave Oakmont another multiple major champion.

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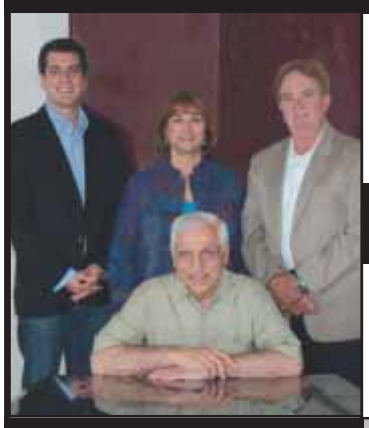
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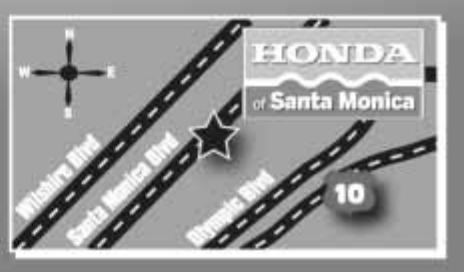
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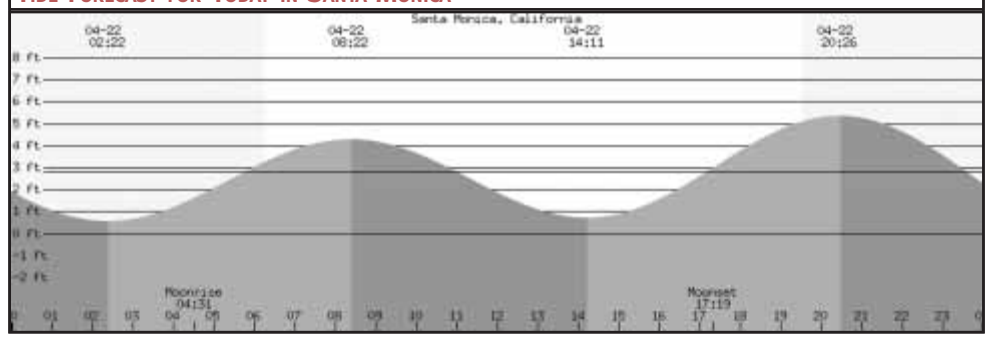
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

We should start seeing forerunners come ashore from Thursday's swell. These would have 20-second periods from around 190 degrees.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 23rd southern hemi swell will increase in SoCal. This should first hit SD and OC by early morning, LA by early to mid morning, and shortly thereafter for spots farther north.

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 four weeks up to the ending date of: **April 14, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / ns

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

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

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

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

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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Dragonball: Evolution (PG) 1hr 25min
1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Sleep Dealer (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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

Duplicity (PG-13)
CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:00, 10:20

Earth (G) 1hr 30min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Crank High Voltage (R) 1hr 25min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
1:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

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

Adventureland (R) 1hr 46min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

Enlighten Up! (NR) 1hr 22min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

Sugar (R) 1hr 54min
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

Knowing (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:10

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00

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

Head home, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Once you get into the swing of things, you decide this might be a close-to-perfect day. Add a touch of diplomacy. You might be a little brusque, as you are so energized. A conversation impacting your image and career is inevitable. Tonight: Visualize a different approach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Stay in tune with your inner needs and thoughts. Be careful with your feelings. If you suppress some of the more difficult ones, you could be unleashing anger in the next few months. Detach and discover what irks you. Tonight: Vanish if you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Stepping back from a hot situation might be appropriate, but continue to focus on a positive outcome. Groups and meetings prove to be lucky. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Make it OK to toss yourself into your work. You have a lot going on. Start taking action and remain on top of your work. How you hear something a partner or associate shares could be off because of your reaction. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Juggle different sides of an issue, and look at where the solution lies. Think in terms of both sides as right, then proceed. Take the initiative, whether it is calling someone or finding an expert. Update your approach to a work-related matter. Tonight: Go to a movie and relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Togetherness is the theme right now. An associate, partner or friend seems to be laying out terms. You don't have to agree or disagree. You simply need to evaluate. Tonight: Relate on an individual level.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Sometimes you could be taken aback by what others think is appropriate. You might want to rethink a decision with greater care. With what you are seeing, an adjustment just might be necessary. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your high energy could dissolve into a quarrel if you don't keep your goal in mind. Frustration might often set in. Though at first your communication could tumble on deaf ears, quickly that situation changes. Tonight: Put in an extra hour or two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Suddenly you feel much more energized and ready to take on nearly anything. Your creativity can be plugged into work, a problem or a fun plan. Someone finds you very appealing and desirable. Weigh a risk. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might be pushing a lot harder than you realize. Ask yourself what you are doing. Others' reactions might be a result of this behavior. Try another style of communicating, and give up a need for control. Tonight: Mosey on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be surprised by everything that heads your way. Be receptive to communication. If you have a knee-jerk reaction, stop. Try another response. You could be surprised by the end results. Don't take comments personally. Tonight: Visit by phone, IM or in person!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be an onlooker rather than a participant. Ask yourself about spending, an investment and perhaps a friend's suggestion. If you detach, you could come up with a good plan. Be smart; use good sense. Tonight: Gather your bills.

Happy birthday

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

Listen to your inner voice this year. Often, when you detach, you could be confused by the outcome. Update your perspective; understand your preconceived views. Once you are aware, you will be able to pick up clearer signals as well as express yourself in an authentic, effective manner. If you are single, you could easily hook up with someone who is emotionally unavailable. Give yourself a year to get to know this person. If you are attached, the two of you will gain through a workshop in communicating, a massage class or another mutual experience. ARIES can make a great healer for you.

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



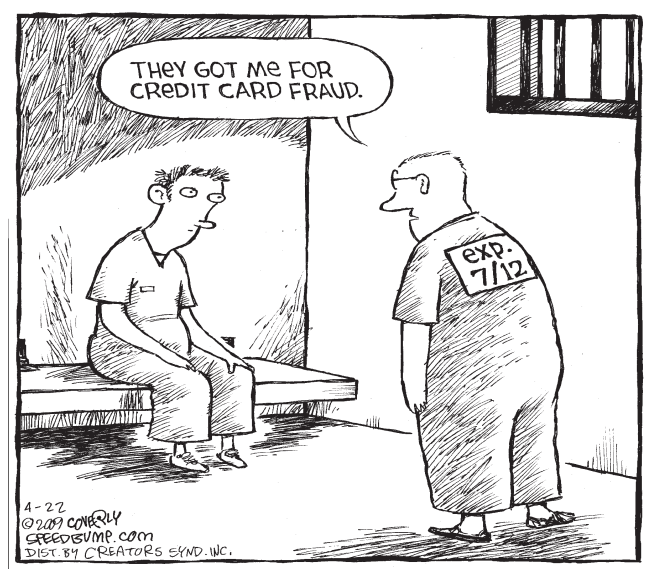
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Collars
5 Set eyes on
9 Took pleasure in
11 Steal
12 Put — (sail)
13 Women's quarters
14 Leaf carrier
15 Dada pioneer
17 Endangered cat
19 Eastern "way"
20 Wise teacher
21 — Moines
22 Coffee-bar order
24 Motor part
26 Peruses
29 Receipt line
30 Bread spreads
32 First
34 — "King" Cole
35 Squirrel's find
36 Rival
38 Dance record
39 From the country
40 To boot
41 Muscle quality

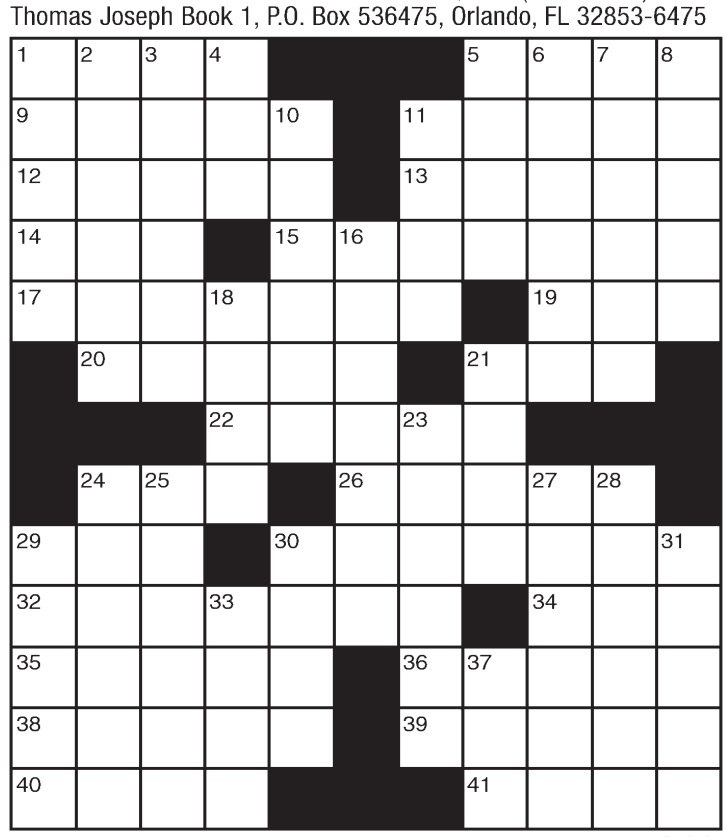
DOWN

1 Birth-related
2 Makes amends
3 Confer
4 Take to court
5 Symbol of grace
6 Buccaneer
7 Verdi works
8 Musical pace
10 Broadway's "The — Game"
11 Roe source
16 Sudan neighbor
18 Tropics tree
21 Bargain
23 Bank worker
24 Annul
25 Truisms
27 Moolah
28 Mariner
29 Pageant topper
30 Source of bad luck
31 Panache
33 Singing group
37 Squirrel's find

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

Yesterday's answer

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4-22

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Meganumber: 19
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Fantasy 5: 10 13 23 25 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 9 9
EVENING: 7 6 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1.47.53

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Researchers at Germany's Max Planck Institute recently published findings of a cross-cultural study of people's spit. "(W)e can get more insights into human populations (from saliva) than we would get from just studying human DNA," the team's leader told Reuters in February. The study's main conclusion was that spit content does not vary much around the world, even given regional differences in diet.

■ Spanish researchers at Autonomous University of Madrid reported in February that wolves (and almost surely dogs), when relieving themselves, deliberately seek out the most conspicuous places they can find (both as to sight and smell), to assure maximum territorial signaling. Male wolves prefer tall trees (and dogs, prominently located fire hydrants) and try to leave urine as high up as they can to increase its wind-carry, according to a Discovery Channel summary.

■ Biologist Michelle Solensky, of Ohio's College of Wooster, reported late last year in the journal Animal Behavior that male monarch butterflies are such calculating inseminators that they even decide the optimal level of sperm necessary for reproductive advantage. While injecting fluid, the male can "selectively" determine how much of it will be fertility cells, depending on how much residual sperm the female holds from previous suitors (and thus to always inject more than the other guys did). Solensky told New Scientist magazine that the penis acts as a kind of "dip stick" to check the quantity already present.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1960 Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro.

1972 Apollo 16 astronauts John Young and Charles Duke explored the surface of the moon.

1975 South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after 10 years in office.

WORD UP!

peccadillo \peck-uh-DIL-oh\, *noun*:
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Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property located on 4455 Katherine Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Belongs to Natalja Marcenko. It is NOT Abandoned or Unclaimed. A letter questioning assets has been mailed to the trustee via certified mail No. 7008 1140 0001 3463 0598. Trustee Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. has yet to respond.

Notices

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090312219 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ATC-WEST HEALTHCARE SERVICES; MD STAFFING SOLUTIONS, 5601 W. SLAUSON AVE, SUITE 234, CULVER CITY, CA 90230, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GNO HEALTHCARE INC., 5601 W. SLAUSON AVE, SUITE 234, CULVER CITY, CA 90230 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: GNO HEALTHCARE INC., PRESIDENT, DORIKA BECKETT
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/5/2009. 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 4/1/2009, 4/8/2009, 4/15/2009, 4/22/2009

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North of Montana	$3,257,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$814,000
South of Wilshire	$1,050,000	$644,950
Sunset Park	$1,198,500	$673,500
Ocean Park	$1,199,000	$879,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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