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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 145



Santa Monica Daily Press

WHERE TO PARK?
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE VERY SAD ISSUE

12-year-old dies from self strangulation

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL The death of a 12-year-old student here last week is being blamed on the "choking game," which authorities said has become popular mainly among young boys and involves manual strangulation in order to get high without using drugs or alcohol.

Erik Robinson, a sixth grader at Lincoln Middle School, was discovered unconscious in his home April 20 about 5 p.m., apparently after he had passed out from strangling himself with a ligature, police said. He was transported to an area hospital where he was declared brain dead and taken off of life support the next day.

Det. Maury Sumlin, of the Santa Monica Police Department, said an autopsy and interviews with those who

SEE DEATH PAGE 7

Council delays vote on bus fare increase

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council on Tuesday put off a decision on increasing Big Blue Bus fares at least until its next meeting on May 11, a move a spokeswoman for the bus system said could make it more difficult for transportation officials to implement a potential fare increase by their Aug. 29 target date.

BBB officials said they need a substantial fare hike to help offset reduced transportation funding from the state government and from local sales taxes.

Facing a projected $6.1 million deficit, they're aiming to earn an additional $2.6 million from higher fares during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

In delaying their decision, several council members said they understood the bus system needs additional revenue but said they didn't have enough information to decide how much to increase fares.

The council directed BBB officials to submit an analysis of the impacts of potential service reductions before the next meeting. Members also asked for more information about possible new revenue streams and about the effect increasing the general fund's subsidy to the BBB would have on other City Hall programs.

Several members also said they were concerned the proposed increases would burden seniors, the disabled and students and would result in too great a decrease in ridership.

The most moderate proposal before the council on Tuesday was to hike the regular fare from 75 cents to $1.25, increase the student fare from 50 cents to $1.25, and increase the fare for seniors, the disabled and those on Medicare from 25 cents to 60 cents. Discounted transfers between BBB lines would also have been eliminated under the plan, a step officials said was meant to encourage riders to buy all-day and monthly passes, which offer discounted fares and make boarding more efficient.

Stephanie Nergriff, the BBB's director, said she expected ridership to decrease by 17 percent, or 3 million riders, as a result of the proposed increases. Ridership decreased 12 per-

SEE BBB PAGE 7



STRIKE! Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*
New Roads' Anthony Carrillo throws a pitch against Animo Leadership on Wednesday at North Venice Little League. New Roads won the Harbor League game, 14-3.

District official heading to Manhattan Beach schools

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMMUSD HDQTRS Assistant Superintendent Mike Matthews has been tapped to run the public school system in Manhattan Beach.

Officials with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District made the announcement late Tuesday, saying Matthews, who is currently in charge of human resources at the district, will become superintendent of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District effective July 1.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected as the new superintendent … ," Matthews said. "I look forward to getting to know the Manhattan Beach community and working with the Board of Education, the employees and the community to move this great district forward."

Matthews has worked for the SMMUSD for 17 years and served as interim superintendent in 2006 following the departure of John Deasy. Matthews made it known that he was interested in succeeding Deasy, but the school board chose Dianne Talarico, who resigned before fulfilling the terms of her contract. During that time, Matthews left the district to serve as vice president of Extreme Learning, which focused on helping California schools meet and exceed federal, state and local academic performance targets.

As head of human resources for the SMMUSD, Matthews served as the chief negotiator for the district, recruited and hired all teachers, supervised employee discipline and dismissals, handled all public and employee complaints and grievances, organized employee recognition, directed health and welfare benefits and managed compliance with all state and federal regulations regarding teachers and administrators.

"Manhattan Beach is gaining a strong leader who is dedicated to the success of all students," said SMMUSD Superintendent Tim Cuneo. "Mike has contributed a great deal to the success of SMMUSD and will be missed. I wish him all the best … ."

Prior to joining the district's administrative team, Matthews served as the first principal of the newly-formed Malibu High School, a position he held from 1993 to 2004. Under his leadership, Malibu High School was named a California Distinguished High School in 2004, advanced

SEE MATTHEWS PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, April 29, 2010

L.A.'s hottest bachelors on the block
South Bar and Grill
3001 Wilshire Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
To raise funds for Susan G. Komen's Passionately Pink organization, there will be a live male date auction where the winners have a chance to win a fabulous man and a special date for two where all proceeds will benefit breast cancer research. For more information call (310) 696-9597.

Open poetry and prose readings
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Open poetry and prose readings are hosted here every Thursday. Everyone is welcome, including all genres, with the only limitation being a 1,000 word maximum per reader. For more information, call (310) 396-8566.

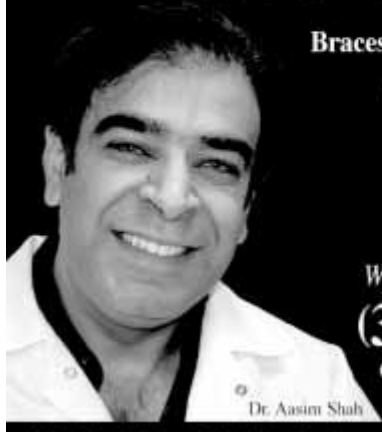
Friday, April 30, 2010

Bebop at the Second Space
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, The Edye Second Space
1310 11th St., 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Jon Mayer, the playful and superbly inventive bebop-based pianist, brings the delectable sounds of his quartet to the SMC stage.

Paint, wine and cheese singles night
Paint:Lab
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Singles are invited to enjoy a night of fine art, fine cheese and fine company. For information, call (310) 450-9200.

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.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Get registered

Santa Monica residents who are eligible to vote have until Monday, May 10 to register for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's special parcel tax election.

This election is being conducted as a Vote-by-Mail election. Mail-in ballots must be received by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by May 25.

Voters are being asked whether or not they would like to tax themselves to the tune of $198 per parcel to fund local public schools (seniors are exempt).

Supporters of the measure, which would generate $5.8 million annually for five years, will help close a projected $14 million budget deficit and protect vital programs while maintaining smaller class sizes.

Opponents argue the district is mismanaged and should make the necessary cuts to balance its budget. They also criticized the parcel tax because it taxes large parcels such as Santa Monica Place and the Water Garden the same amount as a single-family home.

Individuals who wish to register must at least be 18 years of age by election day, a U.S. Citizen and resident of Los Angeles County, and not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony.

If the voter has recently moved, made a legal name change, or wishes to change political party affiliation, the voter must re-register to vote. Individuals must reside within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to vote on May 25.

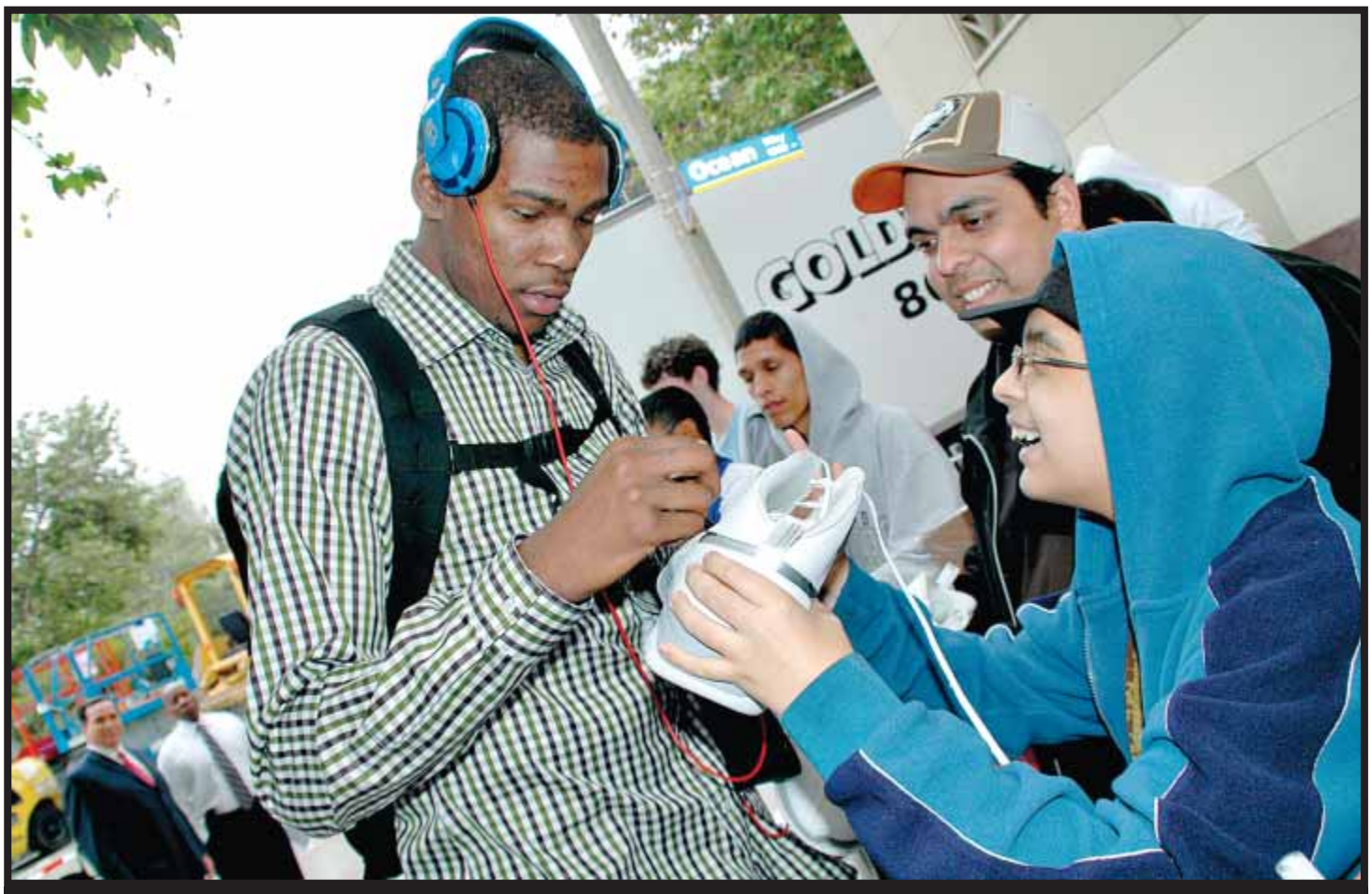
Visit www.lavote.net to access an online voter registration form. Voter registration forms are also available by calling the Voter Registration Request Line at (800) 481-VOTE (8883) or at over 1,240 locations across the county – including the Department of Motor Vehicles offices, libraries, fire stations, post offices, public assistance offices (DPSS, WIC), and City Clerks offices.

Residents who are not sure if they are registered to vote should visit www.lavote.net to verify voter registration status online, or call the county clerk at (562) 466-1310 or (562) 466-1323.

Further details about these services and other election information can be found on the county clerk's website at www.lavote.net.

DAILY PRESS

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



BIG FOOT

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Oklahoma Thunder's star forward Kevin Durant, 21, autographs a pair of size 18 basketball shoes for fans outside of the Casa Del Mar hotel prior to boarding a bus to play the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday. The Lakers crushed the Thunder, 111-87.

Lawmakers want analysis of building sell-off

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California lawmakers on Wednesday ordered the Schwarzenegger administration to perform a detailed cost-benefit analysis of the governor's plan to sell 24 state office buildings, expressing skepticism about whether taxpayers would save money in the decades ahead.

Their demand came during a legislative hearing called to examine whether selling some of the state's most iconic buildings would be a bad deal for taxpayers.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants the cash — estimated at $660 million — to help close California's budget deficit, projected at $20 billion over the next 14 months.

The state's independent legislative analyst issued a report Tuesday that found California would spend up to $1.5 billion more over the next 35 years to rent the buildings after they were sold.

"Our obligation isn't just to get the quick-year fix for this budget," said Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate. "Our job is to think of taxpayers over the long run. We are on the verge of losing control of 5.6 million square feet if this proposal were to be followed through."

Properties up for sale include the Reagan

SEE **SELL-OFF** PAGE 9

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi baseball stays in hunt for league championship

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

INGLEWOOD Santa Monica High School's baseball team remained in the hunt for an Ocean League title with a big 18-2 victory over Morningside on Tuesday afternoon.

The Samohi Vikings improved their record to 11-10 overall and more importantly 4-1 in league. The Vikings now find themselves tied with Beverly Hills for first place. Morningside's record falls to 4-15 overall and 1-4 in league.

The two teams will face each other again today at 3 p.m., this time at Samohi.

SEE **ROUNDUP** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This tea tastes good

Editor:

I attended a Tea Party rally on tax day and this is why: I was born and raised in Southern California. I have been in the workforce and paying taxes since graduating from Santa Monica High School 25 years ago. I am also a veteran of two foreign wars. On top of that, as a paramedic in the civilian world, I am at the tip of the spear when it comes to providing universal health care. I know President Obama said we need universal health care, as though we don't have it, but we do. Because of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, anyone can call 911, get an ambulance ride to the hospital and get basic care. Period. And, to top it all off, I do not have health care insurance.

In reference to Mr. Garver's article, "Ice cold Tea Party," I wanted to address some of his points. First, his attitude is flippant and condescending. Obviously, the U.S. did not disappear geographically. But, there is a growing feeling amongst many hard-working taxpayers that the Obama administration is not concerned with the U.S. Constitution and appears more like Ingsoc – George Orwell's Big Brother government in "1984." While running in the Democratic primary, he criticized Hillary Clinton for calling for mandated health care insurance. He even told the American public health care was a right. Then, once he became president, he was more than willing to sign it into law, and gave the impression the government would provide it for free. As a paramedic, I go on call after call after call for non-U.S. citizens who have free health care insurance through the government already, in the form of Medicare and Medi-Cal. The political doublespeak is that people like me are being forced to buy health care, and if not, we can be fined and imprisoned. An AP article in the L.A. Times last Friday read, "4 million uninsured may pay fines by 2016." Is this for real? How in the world can we let the government control people like this, under the guise of health care? Our government is going to tell me, a veteran twice over, that I will be fined and imprisoned for refusing to pay for my own insurance, when almost every day I transport people who have it for free? That's a slap in the face, to say the least.

Among the other double standards which exist, both in Obama's administration and Mr. Garver's article is that using racial stereotypes is wrong, but then Mr. Garver does just that in assuming that most Tea Party members are white, and thus had everything handed to them. Did Mr. Garver ever serve in the military? I know President Obama never did. Mr. Garver also engages in the tactic of implying that anyone who disagrees with Obama must be racist. That is narrow-minded to the core.

Ultimately, the problem is elitism. As a veteran, I know I've paid my dues, and yet, I'm over-taxed and underrepresented. And, I certainly don't feel that our current president cares about me. If I challenge the health care bill, I honestly think Obama would rather I rot in jail. And this is from someone who smokes, never worked in health care and led the elitist life of an Ivy League graduate, who went to law school and never paid his dues.

Will Selling
Oxnard



Your column here



Richard McKinnon — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Santa Monica needs more bike parking

LOCKING MY BIKE TO THE STEEL CHAIR on the Third Street Promenade just outside Old Navy (and intent on walking inside for the usual spending spree) I was halted by a city enforcer.

"Sir, the police will clip the lock off and charge you $300," this "Ambassador of good will" instructed me, continuing, "We've been told to make sure bikes are only attached to the provided bike racks."

Any man in a straw hat, snappy slogan stitched into his blue shirt breast, holding a clipboard, and using a clear wire device for back-to-base communication (at all times) is not to be trifled with.

So we looked around.

There are plenty of trees, seats or railings on the promenade, but only 25 inverted U-shaped bike racks or 50 parking spaces for bikes. They're dotted down the three-block-long promenade, (i.e. nine racks or 18 spots in the Old Navy block) which is lined by hundreds of shops and to service the shops, surrounded by six major parking structures, some six stories high with signs galore to advertise them. On-street parking is available, too.

Something's wrong with this picture, for bike rider and retailer alike, isn't it?

Think of all those energetic cyclists, many young, virile and cashed up, casually booted off the promenade and by implication, told to drive. Think of all the empty nesters on cruisers scanning the streets for room to lock up their bikes. Think of anyone with a bike, at home, dissuaded from Santa Monica's Downtown because there's nowhere to park, or park safely. If I was a retailer I'd be ranting at City Hall.

In response, you will be told, there's 1,600 spots coming in the new Santa Monica Place parking station. Good idea. Good for the mall. Great for the light rail when it comes.

And, yes, there are bike parking racks inside the current parking structures.

But the whole thing about the bike is that it's flexible, a way of getting around town that shrinks distance and makes mobility an easy option for everyone. Bikes lock up where they need to go, and then move on. And what's the point of just having bike parking at a distance and then walking? It's all about having a mix of options.

Learning that the promenade was astonishingly starved of bike racks you might begin to think, and wonder where else Downtown needs bike parking but doesn't have it? As it turns out, pretty much everywhere.

For example; the Lululemon shop that sells active gear — no racks. REI — no racks, although they sell lots of bikes. And bikes crowd their entry rails. Bike Performance — no racks.

Bay Cities Deli? You know, where they have a security guard directing parkers inside the lot, and a line of waiting traffic that disrupts Lincoln Boulevard, sometimes as far back as Interstate 10. Nothing. (The two trees outside are often surrounded by bikes to capacity.) Swingers? Anisette? Nothing.

In fact, you're struggling to find bike racks in the downtown area. There's complete imbalance between the demand, high and growing, and the supply, little or none.

Those Farmers' Market throngs? Organic, slow food, good living, green type people? Sorry about your cycles.

The library? Two full racks night and day. But here City Hall has plans to take out some of their lightly used car parking to put in a corral of bike racks. (A corral is where a car spot is removed and a rack for 10 to 11 bikes installed). This could be an elegant solution for all over the city.

City Hall has already trialed an on-street corral; it's outside the homeless shelter on Olympic Boulevard. Clearly the powers that be think the homeless use bikes. They do. It's just so do the rest of us.

Smart cities around the U.S. now routinely use corrals (Portland, Tucson, Columbia, Missouri … wait, Missouri? Couldn't we then?).

Another bike parking option is those 6,000 old style parking meters that clock up revenue relentlessly. Why not convert some to bike parking with an easy add of a little metal here and there?

When a recent parking study hit, the City Council agreed revenue from increased parking fees would be set aside (hypothetical) for alternate parking management.

Now while bikes aren't alternate at all, the idea that an expansive, quick move to hugely more and different bike spots would benefit social and street life, develop the retail base of the city in new ways and allow residents better and more consistent access to Downtown. Still, given the 10,000 existing parking spots for cars, let's pick a round number for our immediate new bike parking. Let's say 1,000 spots.

RICHARD is a Santa Monica resident.



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I have seen the future and it is a medicine

THE ONLY TIMES IN MY LIFE THAT I'VE had to share a bedroom were my freshman year in college and then the semester I studied abroad. I don't count my current room at home as one that I share since my husband and I both know that it's mine, although I am gracious enough to let him sleep and store his stuff there. I never understood how "The Brady Bunch" kids suffered three to a room but Alice got to enjoy her own wing.

My parents' house is now added to the list of places where I have to share a room, and it's with my daughter. It used to be that when we were at my parents' house and she cried at night it just meant she wanted to come in bed with me. I quickly discovered that was no longer the case when we were there visiting earlier this month. On our first night she was still up wailing at 10 o'clock as my husband and I got into bed. We tried holding and cuddling her, but to no avail. Two hours later I sent him downstairs to the couch and I took the hallway floor with a pillow and blanket. Within five minutes of our departure, she was fast asleep.

Since neither my husband nor I had any intention of additional couch and floor time, on the recommendation of my sister and pediatrician, I bought some Benadryl the following morning. I think I previously thought I would be one of those moms who would only administer drugs to my kids if it were a life-or-death situation. (I also thought I would only ever serve organic food and ban television until I realized there are few things in life better than Chips Ahoy cookies, and Barney is way cheaper than a babysitter).

But I also don't have a lot of experience with sleep problems since my daughter sleeps close to 12 hours at night and up to three-and-a-half hours during the day. In her room. At our house. Unbeknownst to me, apparently our house has an exclusive sleep contract with her. One night of next to no sleep was enough for me to abandon my principles and gag her with three-quarters of a teaspoon of the good stuff.

The Benadryl only lasted so long though. When 4 o'clock struck each morning, it became an exercise in bladder control as I would lay perfectly still debating whether wetting the bed was preferable to getting up and going to the bathroom but possibly waking the baby, who would then perhaps not go back to sleep until her midday nap. So I would drift in and out of sleep, dreaming about Depends, all the while convincing myself that being miserably half awake until a decent hour was preferable to an empty bladder and trying to entertain a cranky 20-month-old for eight consecutive hours.

One morning at around 5 she started making some chirping noises and I made the mistake of rolling over and opening my eyes. She wasn't lying down, as I had assumed, but rather standing up and staring at me as if she had been waiting patiently for me to look her way. She had a slightly deranged look, like Max Cady in "Cape Fear" or Ramona from "The Real Housewives of New York City," said nothing and raised an arm in the air with her pointer finger straight up, à la John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever" (only with ladybug pajamas instead of a white leisure suit). No words were necessary; she wanted up and knew she would get it imminently.

When we visited last summer we avoided any same-room sleeping issues at my parents' house by sticking the crib in the closet. Sure, making a baby sleep in a small, windowless room may sound cruel, but as far as closets go, it's actually quite spacious and stores nothing more sinister than my mom's offseason clothes, so the baby even had something to count — blouses and sweater sets, mostly — other than sheep when she was falling asleep. It was win-win, really.

The closet wasn't an option this visit, however, since I didn't feel like rehanging the clothes that my daughter would have inevitably pulled down every night now that she's much taller and more agile. So I had sort of hoped that for at least one night we might have parked the crib in my parents' room. But they laughed — loudly — at the suggestion.

Apparently we're in possession of different editions of the Grandparents Manual. While they are inarguably doting, playful, generous and loving grandparents, they are not the types who have ever, say, offered to sleep on the floor of the nursery after you give birth to administer night feedings to the baby. And with my sister's three kids already in beds and out of diapers, my parents are definitely at the been-there, done-that stage if they can avoid dealing with anything whiny or poopy.

I don't blame my parents. I just know that when I have grandkids instead of Hershey's Kisses, I'll greet them with open arms and Ambien. Then they'll be welcome to share my room anytime.

More on and from **MEREDITH** at meredithcarroll.com.

The Q Line

Breaking away

A group of Malibu parents and teachers are interested in operating Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School as a charter school if the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is forced to close it because of declining enrollment and budget issues.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think this is a sustainable idea or are those parents and teachers in over their heads?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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Salt makes disappearing act

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Sixteen food companies plan to cut the amount of salt in bacon, flavored rice and dozens of other products as part of a national effort to reduce American's sodium consumption by 20 percent.

Companies including H.J. Heinz Co., Kraft Foods Inc. and Starbucks will commit to the voluntary National Salt Reduction Initiative, a public-private partnership initiated by New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Monday.

"Sodium is a major cause of high blood pressure, which in turn can lead to heart attack and stroke," Bloomberg said.

Mark Broadhurst, director of corporate affairs for Mars Foods, said the company would cut the salt in its Uncle Ben's flavored rice products by 25 percent over five years.

"When it comes to reducing sodium, if you can make it here you can make it anywhere," Broadhurst said.

Lanette Kovachi, corporate dietitian for Subway, said the sandwich chain has already cut sodium by 30 percent in its European outlets and is working on reducing salt in its U.S. restaurants.

"We're actively working with our food suppliers to reduce sodium in all of our menu items," she said.

Heinz had announced that the company would reduce sodium by 15 percent in all the ketchup it sells in the U.S. starting May 1.

Heinz spokesman Michael Mullen said the move is part of the company's ongoing commitment to sodium reduction. Heinz has already cut sodium in Bagel Bites frozen pizza snacks by more than 20 percent, for example.

Most health organizations recommend a range of 1,500 to 2,400 milligrams of salt a day for healthy adults. Consuming too much salt can lead to health problems.

"If we reduced our sodium intake to recommended levels, we would prevent 44,000 to 92,000 deaths per year in the United States and save $10 billion to $24 billion in health care costs per year," New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley said.

7-Eleven debuts own brew

MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

BERKELEY Quick, what's the third-largest beer retailer in the U.S.? Chances are you didn't know it's 7-Eleven. Now, the convenience chain is getting a step closer to the suds it sells, rolling out a store-brand beer billed as a premium brew at a budget price.

The launch, happening this month at stores nationwide, aims to take advantage of the current economic downturn — a long, cold one for beer sales.

"We're really working back from the customers' needs," said Dan Skinner, 7-Eleven category manager for alcoholic beverages. "They're looking for exceptional quality at a value price."

Game Day beer follows the introduction of the Yosemite Road private-label wines in 7-Elevens last year. The idea of the home of Slim Jims and Slurpees turning sommelier had some scoffing. But Skinner said the launch has gone well, with the wines holding the No. 1 and No. 2 spots in the chain's wine sales.

Whether people are ready for 7-Eleven suds remains to be seen.

Al Everett, a web developer in the Washington, D.C., area who blogs about beer at hop-talk.com, is a craft beer enthusiast who wasn't sure what to make of Game Day.

"If I was tailgating before a game, I'd certainly consider it," he said. "It's probably not something that I would have regularly." Still, he was curious. "I'll certainly keep an eye out for it."

Game Day comes in two varieties. Game Day Light is 3.9 percent alcohol by volume and 110 calories per 12 ounces. Game Day Ice is 5.5 percent alcohol and 155 calories. The price is between $6.99 and $8.99 for a 12-pack, depending on local taxes and distribution costs, and 24-ounce singles are available for between $1.49 and $1.89.

The beer is being made by the 150-year-old City Brewery in La Crosse, Wis., one of the country's largest contract brewers.

The move comes as beer sales have softened — it turns out beer may be recession resistant, but it is not recession proof.

What happened is that customers have been buying more below-premium and budget beers. Premium beers still dominate, with volume at 1.5 billion cases in 2009, or about half of all beer sold domestically, according to data cited by 7-Eleven from The Nielsen Company and other sources, but sales were down compared to 2008.

Or, as TV's lager-loving Homer Simpson might put it, "D'oh!"

The plan at 7-Eleven is to capitalize on market conditions.

"We can give premium beers a run for their money," said Skinner, adding that Game Day performed well in taste tests, including among suppliers of premium beers.

This is 7-Eleven's second attempt at beer. In 2003, they introduced Santiago, meant to compete with imports like Corona, but ultimately unable to gain much of a foothold.

This time around, chain officials expect their focus on high value in a down economy will work.

Beverage analyst Benj Steinman was intrigued by 7-Eleven's plans, but not convinced they'll work.

"My attitude to it basically is — show me," he said. "Private label hasn't worked in beer so far." Steinman, editor of New York-based Beverage Business Insights, notes that Game Day "is a new wrinkle and 7-Eleven is very serious about its effort." But he says store-brand beers have to overcome brand loyalty as well as the fact there already are a number of different price points for beer.

"I'm not ruling it out. I just say, 'Show me'," he said.

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Emcee
Rachel Lincoln Sarnoff is a writer, editor, producer, and spokesperson who represents a new vision of eco-friendly living. In 2008, Rachel founded EcoStiletto.com, an online magazine dedicated to eco-friendly fashion, beauty, and celebrity, which recorded 1.5 million page views and 500,000 unique visitors in 2009. She founded Sugar Public Relations in 2002.



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Student was 'full of life'

FROM **DEATH** PAGE 1

knew him led to the conclusion the choking game was to blame.

The case was the first known death of a Santa Monica child because of the choking game but is one of hundreds of accidental deaths around the country attributed to the activity. Several organizations are devoted to preventing kids from playing the choking game, including Games Adolescents Shouldn't Play (G.A.S.P.), which on its website says kids play the "game" in various ways.

"Some strangle themselves with a belt, a rope or their bare hands; others push on their chest or hyperventilate. When they release the pressure, blood that was blocked up floods the brain all at once. This sets off a warm and fuzzy feeling, which is just the brain dying, thousands of cells at a time," according to the website.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District notified students and parents at the school about Robinson's death April 21, but referred to it only as stemming from a "tragic accident." Police described the cause of death for the first time on Wednesday.

Marolyn Freedman, the SMMUSD's director of student services, said members of the district's emergency response team set up two "comfort rooms" for students to talk with adults last Thursday.

"There were a number of kids who were very upset and needed counseling," she said.

On Wednesday, Lincoln Middle School Principal Suzanne Webb described Robinson as a kid with a "bright smile" who loved learning and was known for wearing his "trademark sunglasses" around campus.

"Erik was just full of life, very happy," she said.

He was a member of a Boy Scouts troop and had recently volunteered for a conflict resolution program at the school sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association

> **"ERIK WAS JUST FULL OF LIFE, VERY HAPPY."**
>
> **Suzanne Webb,**
> Lincoln Middle School principal

so that he could become a peer mediator next school year.

SMPD's Sumlin said Robinson's mother was not prepared to talk publicly about the death of her only child, but added, "She doesn't want her son's death to be in vain. Hopefully another kid will learn from this and end this type of activity."

Sumlin said Robinson had aspired to attend West Point and had wanted to become a Santa Monica police officer.

He said the police department would offer to work with the district on providing education about the dangers of the choking game.

SMMUSD Superintendent Tim Cuneo said there had been no indication that the choking game was a trend among district students.

He said the district will be looking into "how best to work with the families to help them and students as we go forward and learn more information."

"You want to give kids good information but you don't want to be alarmist and the other thing you don't want to do is entice them to experiment," he said.

A memorial service for Robinson is scheduled for today at 7 p.m. at Kehillat Israel, 16019 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades.

In lieu of flowers, Robinson's mother has requested that donations be sent to the nonprofit group Games Adolescents Shouldn't Play.

nickt@smdp.com

City Hall says fare increase is necessary

FROM **BBB** PAGE 1

cent after a fare increase in 2002, and while the number of riders has steadily increased since then, fewer people used the bus in 2009 than in 2002.

City Manager Rod Gould made it clear the council will have to approve a fare increase or else be prepared to accept reductions in service that could impact low income people who rely on the bus system to get to work.

Without an increase, City Hall projects the BBB's deficit would grow to $16 million by 2015.

Linda Gamberg, a spokeswoman for the BBB, on Wednesday said if the council approves a fare increase on May 11 the bus system believes it will be able to re-program bus fare collection boxes and make other preparations to implement the increase on Aug. 29, the date of the bus system's fall reorganization. If the council further delays a decision, she said, any potential increase would have to be postponed until winter and would exacerbate the projected deficit.

"For this coming fiscal year, if we don't

> **"THE GAP IS SO GREAT THIS YEAR AND CONTINUES TO BE IN OUT YEARS THAT WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ON THE FARE SIDE."**
>
> **Rod Gould,**
> City Manager

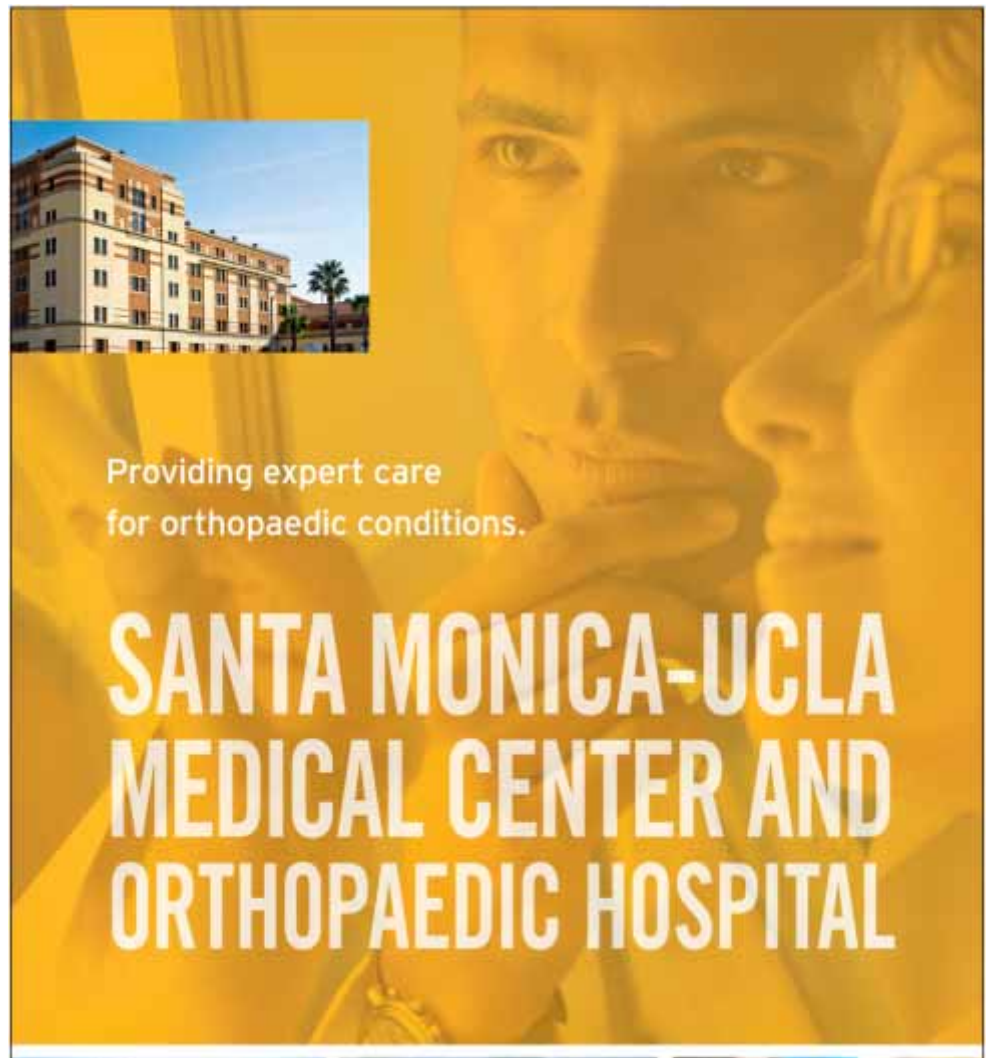
hit that Aug. 29th mark, then we're losing approximately $8,500 per day" compared with revenues a fare hike would bring in, she said.

"As much as we'd like everyone to always be able to ride for free, unfortunately that's not the climate we're living in right now," Gamberg said.

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Some buildings are already paid off, others not

FROM **SELL-OFF** PAGE 3

office building in downtown Los Angeles, the San Francisco Civic Center, which houses the state Supreme Court, and several buildings in downtown Sacramento, including those that house the attorney general's office and state Department of Education.

Some of the buildings already are paid off, while most others will be paid off within 10 years.

The Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee called the hearing after The Associated Press analyzed internal market documents and found the plan could cost the state far more than it would gain.

The committee voted 9-0 to instruct the Department of General Services to provide more details about the costs the state would incur during the next 50 years if it leases the buildings from new owners.

Last week, the department said it had received more than 300 offers for the buildings worth more $2 billion, but it has declined to release details.

An official with the agency that oversees the department also refused lawmakers' requests for more information, saying the administration was in active negotiations with buyers.

"If the sale does not make good fiscal sense, we will not go forward with the sale," said Laura Zuniga, deputy secretary of legislative affairs for the State and Consumer Services Agency. "We want to wait until we have the final numbers."

Sales would enable the state to pay down $1 billion in bond debt and about $400 million in interest payments that come out of the general fund, she added.

Schwarzenegger won authorization last year from lawmakers to sell state office buildings as part of budget negotiations, but there were no committee hearings or financial plans to vet the proposal at the time.

Lawmakers delegated authority to the administration to pick the buildings and solicit bids.

The administration is currently reviewing the offers it has received. Once it has selected bids and performed an economic analysis, the Legislature will have 30 days to review any proposed sale.

Earlier this year, the administration removed four longtime appointees from the building authorities that oversee state offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, after two members expressed concern about plans to sell buildings in their cities.

Matthews showed interest in top job

FROM **MATTHEWS** PAGE 1

placement scores rose and the school was ranked among the top 10 percent of similar schools in the state.

As principal, Matthews didn't lose touch with his students. Along with his many duties, Matthews found time to teach an advanced placement course in U.S. history. Matthews taught a range of social studies classes from 1985 to 1993.

School officials said Matthews is well respected, working closely with both certificated and classified staff. He is known for treating individuals with respect and addressing issues in a fair manner.

"Mike has shown great leadership during his tenure with our school district," said Board of Education President Barry Snell. "He was instrumental in guiding Malibu High School in its early days as a new high school, and his work as … assistant superintendent for HR has been invaluable for our employee groups. Mike will be greatly missed, and I thank him for his dedication to our students and families."

Manhattan Beach School District is an award-winning school district that has attained national recognition. There are five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. There are roughly 6,000 students. Per pupil spending is $8,501. Twelve percent of students are reported to have an individualized education program, or IEP. An IEP is a written plan for students eligible for special needs services.

news@smdp.com

Samohi reaches third in poll

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 3

SAMOHI SOFTBALL RANKED THIRD

Samohi's softball team is currently ranked No. 3 in the latest CIF-SS Division 4 poll.

Ahead of the Vikings are La Quinta at No. 2 and North Torrance at No. 1.

Samohi will look to improve its record today at Inglewood High School in Ocean League action. Samohi enters the game 15-5 overall and 4-0 in league. The Vikings sit atop the league standings with Hawthorne a close second at 3-0.

XRDS ROUTS KILPATRICK, 14-3

Crossroads' baseball team rolled over Delphic League rival Kilpatrick, 14-3, on Tuesday at Clover Park.

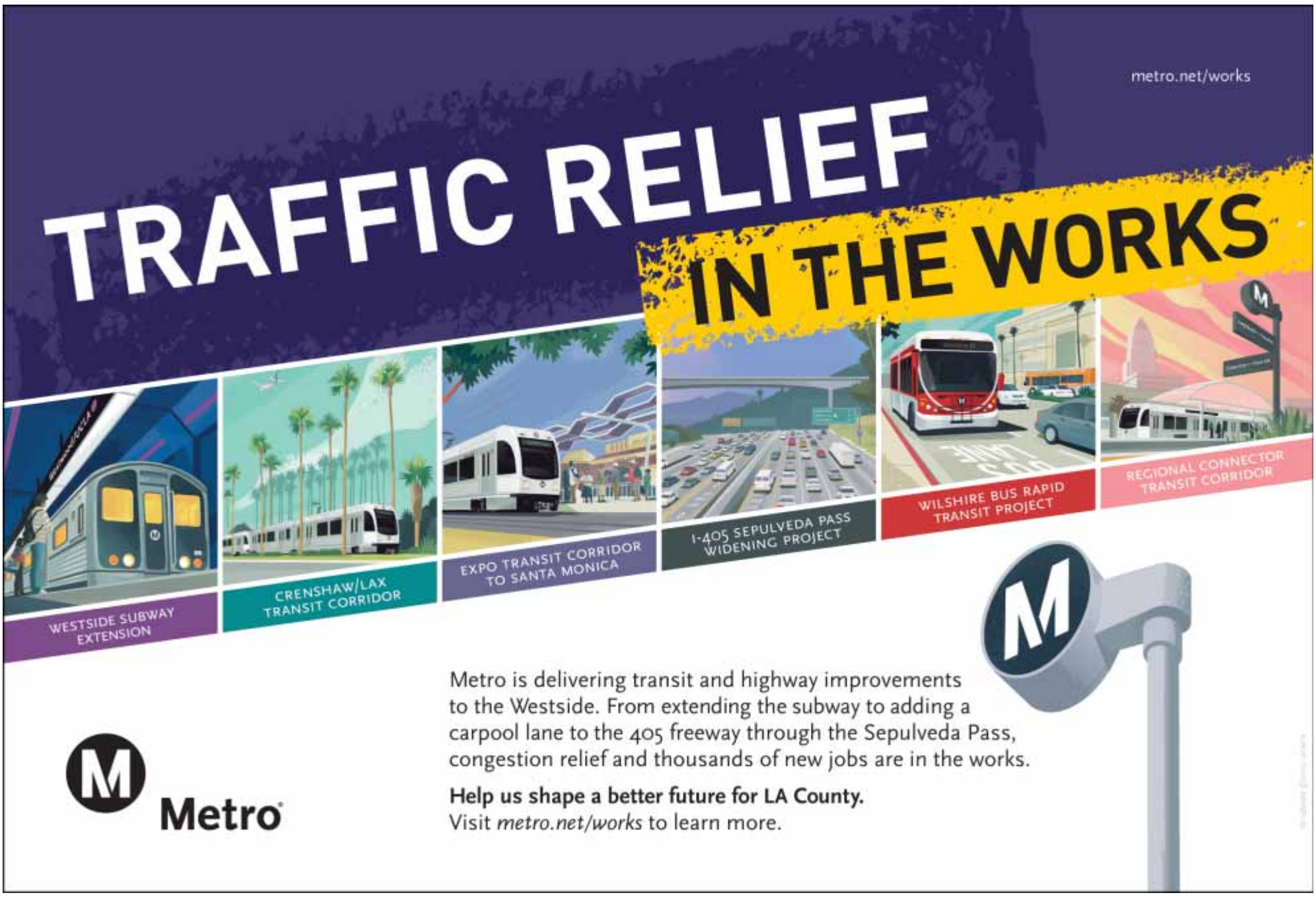
The win improves the Crossroads Roadrunners record to 10-7 overall and 2-0 in league.

Kilpatrick's record falls to 1-12 overall and 1-2 in league.

A rematch is scheduled for Friday at 3 p.m. again at Clover Park.

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Stocks climb on earnings

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Investors gave stocks a rebound after reassuring words from the Federal Reserve and another batch of upbeat earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrials rose 53 points Wednesday, making back a quarter of the 213 they lost the previous day.

Investors were able to shake off Standard & Poor's downgrade of Spain's debt, the third European country in two days to have its rating lowered. Instead, they focused on the domestic economy.

In an economic assessment statement that accompanied the Fed's decision to keep interest rates stable, the central bank said the labor market is "beginning to improve" and it noted that housing starts have edged up. The statement, which came at the end of a two-day policymaking meeting, did say that employers are still reluctant to hire, but that came as no surprise to investors.

The Fed said it expects to keep rates low for an "extended period" to help strengthen the economy.

"The Fed essentially kicked the can down the road," said Burt White, chief investment officer at LPL Financial in Boston. Eventually the Fed will have to raise rates, but that might not happen now until early in 2011, White said.

But the Fed's view of the economy is actually more conservative than data suggests, White said. That's because it is concerned about European debt problems, White added, noting that a slowdown in Europe's economy could slow U.S. exports and affect the domestic recovery.

Earnings provided a boost to stocks throughout the day. Cable company Comcast Corp., defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. and Dow Chemical Co. were the latest companies to top earnings expectations.

Tim Courtney, chief investment officer at Burns Advisory Group in Oklahoma City, said that improving sales at companies like Dow Chemical prove the economy is healing.

"It indicates consumers may be getting back on their feet," Courtney said.

The Dow rose 53.28, or 0.5 percent, to 11,045.27. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.65, or 0.7 percent, to 1,191.36, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 0.26, or 0.01 percent, to 2,471.73.

Wednesday's trading was far quieter than on Tuesday, when the market plunged on news that S&P slashed its credit ratings on Greece and Portugal. Greece's debt was cut to junk status, deepening the country's credit crisis.

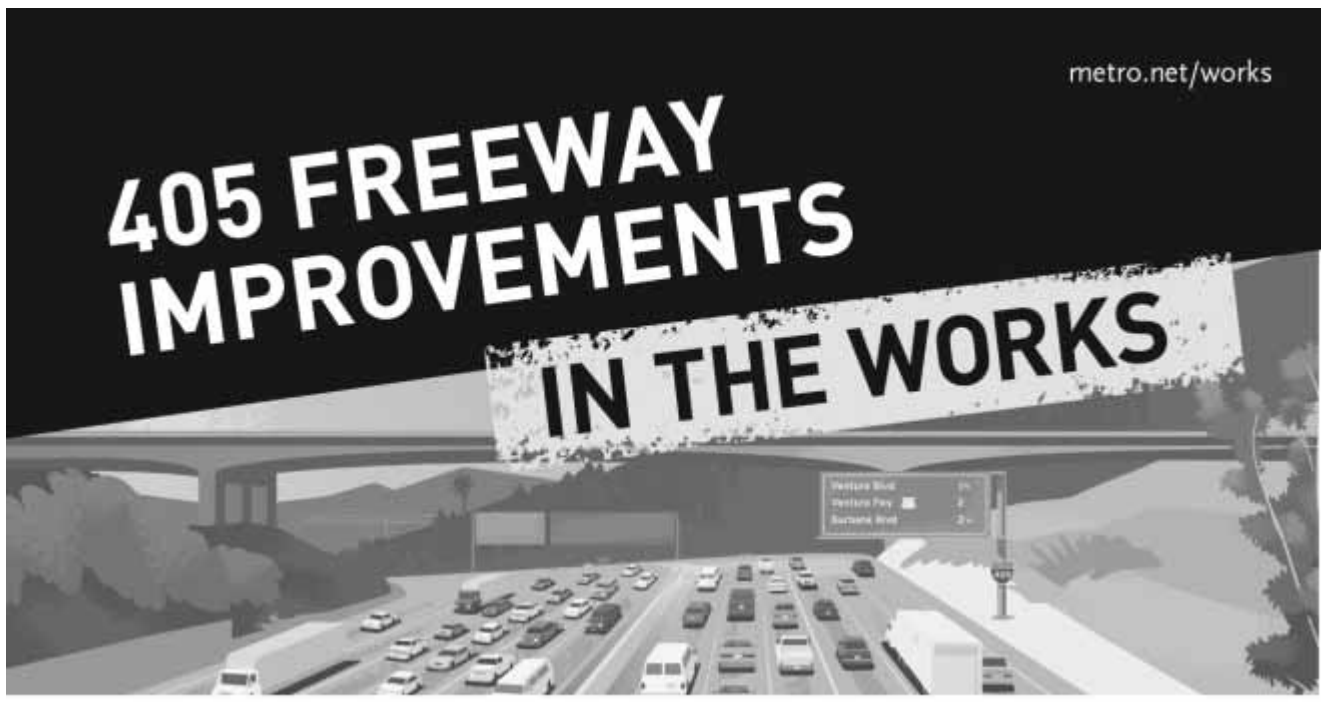
"When you get some of these negative headlines, you will get a short-term negative pullback," said Brett D'Arcy, chief investment officer at CBIZ Wealth Management Group in San Diego.

European leaders calmed investors' nerves early Wednesday. They said Greece would receive bailout money in time to cover $11.3 billion in debt payments due on May 19.

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> The freeway and parallel street closures will take place during the first nine nights of demolition.
> The I-405 freeway and Sepulveda Bl will not be closed simultaneously.
> The Sunset Bridge will accommodate two lanes of traffic in each direction, after demolition and during reconstruction.
> During the closure of the Sunset Bridge, access will be provided for emergency responders.
> This activity will be followed with demolition and reconstruction of the northern half of the Sunset Bridge. This work will be phased similarly to the southern half demolition and reconstruction and will last approximately ten months.

To learn more about closures, detours, dates for scheduled activities and rideshare programs, please visit *metro.net/405* or follow us on Twitter for the latest updates, *twitter.com/I_405*.

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MLB

Mets beat Dodgers, 7-3

HOWIE RUMBERG
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK John Maine stood on the mound with wrappers and napkins swirling around him in the chilly, 26 mph wind and decided to have some fun.

Why not? The Mets were on a roll and a win would give them their best homestand in more than 20 years.

Using mostly fastballs for the first time this season, Maine returned from an odd injury and pitched into the seventh inning, leading the New York Mets over the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-3 Wednesday for their seventh straight victory.

"The wind, the coldness, you can't do anything about it you just got to go out there and enjoy it," Maine said. "I've never seen my fastball move like that. I guess it was the wind."

Angel Pagan had a two-run triple, helping the Mets beat the Dodgers for the third time in less than 24 hours. The Mets finished a 9-1 homestand, their best since going 9-1 from Sept. 12-22, 1988.

Recovered from a 4-8 start, New York heads into a weekend series at the NL champion Philadelphia Phillies atop the NL East at 13-9.

"I'm kind of anxious to see when we're hot, the opposition is hot and kind of see where that falls and see how we manage to play in that type of setting," Mets manager Jerry Manuel said.

Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti criticized his team's execution before the game but Los Angeles lost its fourth in a row, dropping to 8-13.

"I was a lot more comfortable with the energy today," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "We battled it. I think the effort was there. We'll get it straightened out, eventually."

After sweeping Dodgers in a doubleheader that began 4:10 p.m. Tuesday, the Mets quickly shook off the bed head and quickly got to 23-year-old right-hander John Ely, brought up to make his big league debut.

David Wright, who started awakening from a prolonged slump with four RBIs Tuesday, began the second with a double. Jeff Francoeur drove in a run with a fielder's choice and, an out after Ely appeared shaken when he hit Rod Barajas on a hand with a pitch, Pagan tripled in two runs. Cora capped the inning with an RBI double.

That's all the runs Maine (1-1) needed in his best outing of the season in his fifth start. The right-hander left his previous start after 3 2-3 innings with pain in his non-throwing elbow. He went past the fifth inning for the first time this season.







Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

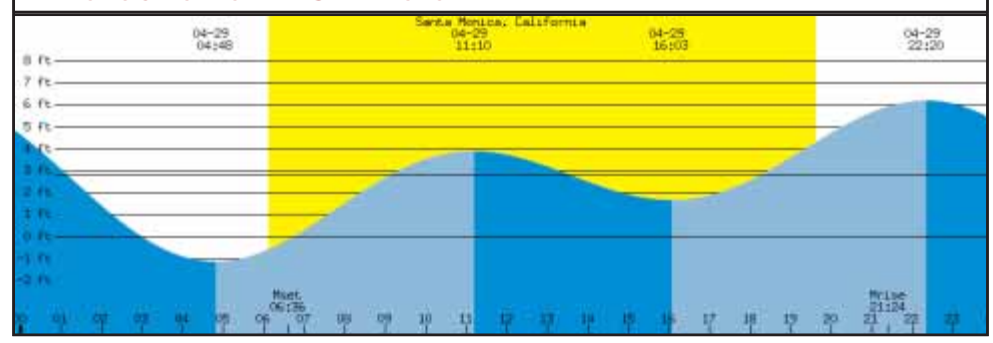
Swell Forecast

The wind swell should increase to at least head high at west facing breaks. Southern hemi ground swell is due in the chest+ range, but it'll likely be chewed up by the NW wind swell.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell should continue, at least head high, possibly a foot or two overhead at well-exposed west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 20, 2010**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 10
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 22

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 Lechusa and Las Aline 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.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	D
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	B
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	D	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F

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

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
ss -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Joneses (R) 1hr 33min
2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:05pm

Greenberg (R) 1hr 47min
4:30pm, 9:40pm

Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 1hr 50min
2:00pm, 7:00pm

Alice in Wonderland in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 49min
2:05pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Hot Tub Time Machine (R) 1hr 40min
2:40pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

The Back-up Plan (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 1hr 50min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Date Night (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:45pm, 3:05pm, 4:00pm, 5:20pm, 6:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:05pm

Kick-Ass (R) 1hr 57min
12:35pm, 9:15pm

Kick-Ass (Digital Presentation) (R) 1hr 57min
1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:10pm

Oceans (G) 1hr 24min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

When You're Strange (R) 1hr 42min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

The Ghost Writer (PG13) 2hr 23min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (NR) 2hr 49min
1:00pm, 4:30pm, 8:00pm

City Island (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

Death at a Funeral (R) 1hr 30min
11:20am, 12:20pm, 1:50pm, 2:50pm, 4:20pm, 5:20pm, 6:50pm, 7:50pm, 9:20pm, 10:20pm

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) 1hr 38min
12:10pm, 2:40pm, 5:10pm, 7:40pm, 10:10pm

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:10pm, 6:40pm, 9:10pm

The Losers (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Enjoy the moment, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Work directly with one individual rather than on your own. Yes, you are resourceful, but you also might want the support and more ideas. Seek out creative people and experts. Unexpected news comes forward. Tonight: Be open to an unusual idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others demand a lot. Sometimes you would like to close the door and not listen. A meeting proves to be supportive and full of positive vibes. Remember, others also have their negatives and positives. Tonight: Get together with a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Emphasize accomplishment. Your product or work draws a boss's attention. He or she likes what you do and how you do it. Don't feel disillusioned by someone who always makes your thinking look bogus. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your creativity doesn't have a stopper attached to it. You also don't have as much control as you might like over this gift. A discussion with an associate could be tumultuous and touchy. You are unusually serious with a family member. Tonight: Do what comes naturally. Make sure you relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ If you can work from home, all the better. You might accomplish more with the help of another person. Isn't that what telephones are for? Discussions, even in person, could be hard. Unexpected behavior also could be thought-provoking. Tonight: Now allow your imagination to kick in. Remember, it is time to have fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Stay on top of your calls and messages. Someone could pop in with an unanticipated request, forcing a change of plans. For the efficient Virgo, it is very hard to take this constant reorganization. Tonight: Visit with a pal or two on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Realize that more is hanging in limbo than money. Other issues are floating to the forefront. You might want or need to change your direction to avoid it. Accept new technology and ideas that come along. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ While others wander and question what is going on, you seem to be on target. An unexpected idea could pay off, especially if it taps into a child or creative project. A family member seems to be vested in creating confusion. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Understand that you are playing the waiting game and that the wait isn't very long. Do needed research and gather more facts. You could be surprised by how easily a roommate or family member can release a problem. Tonight: In your own element.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Knock out key talks and meetings and complete a very important project, if you can. Keep communication flowing, even if you are hearing a little too much for your taste. Expect the unanticipated. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Demonstrate your unusual leadership style, yet don't lose sight of your priorities. Build financial security through taking risks with care. You, among others, can be a little wild at times! Tonight: Double-check your change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ If you don't get into the issues and detach from them, you will be more likely to find an effective solution. Be willing to break patterns; talk to people you don't often talk to. Learn where you could be blocking yourself. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

Happy birthday

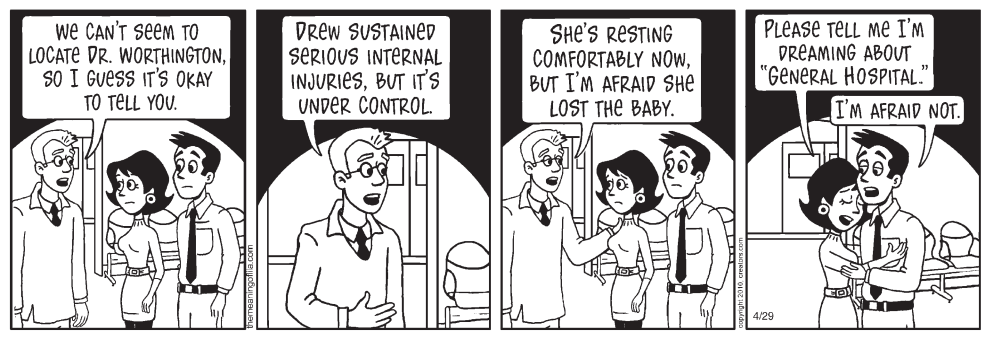
This year, you often are challenged by others. Know that your ideas and values are being tested. Don't get stuck. When you see that a concept, situation or relationship isn't working, graciously let go. Know when to release what is no longer functioning. Your popularity soars, especially if you know how to say "no" diplomatically. If you are single, you meet a lot of people this year. Go with someone very different. If you are attached, the two of you bone up on your listening skills. You might take a workshop of mutual interest together. SAGITTARIUS relates to you with depth.

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



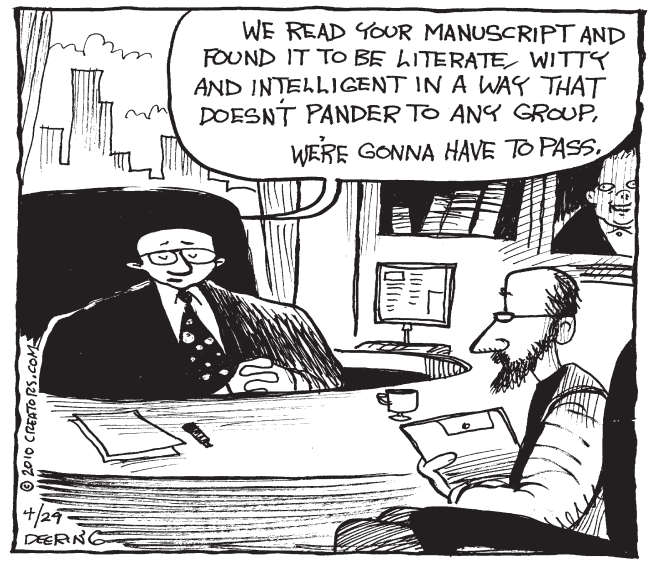
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly





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 ★★★

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

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

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Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *news@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 Gun pioneer
5 "— Enter"
10 Homer work
12 Fight site
13 Wild dog
14 In a while
15 Apple taster
16 Regatta activity
18 Station worker
20 Alphabet end
21 A long time
23 Superlative ending
24 Green stone
26 Takes the prize
28 Holds
29 Hoosegow
31 Guitar accessory
32 Ryan and Tatum
36 Carpentry work
39 Funny fellow
40 Temptress
41 Opera cheer
43 Shark's home
44 Rube
45 Ball wear
46 Used to be

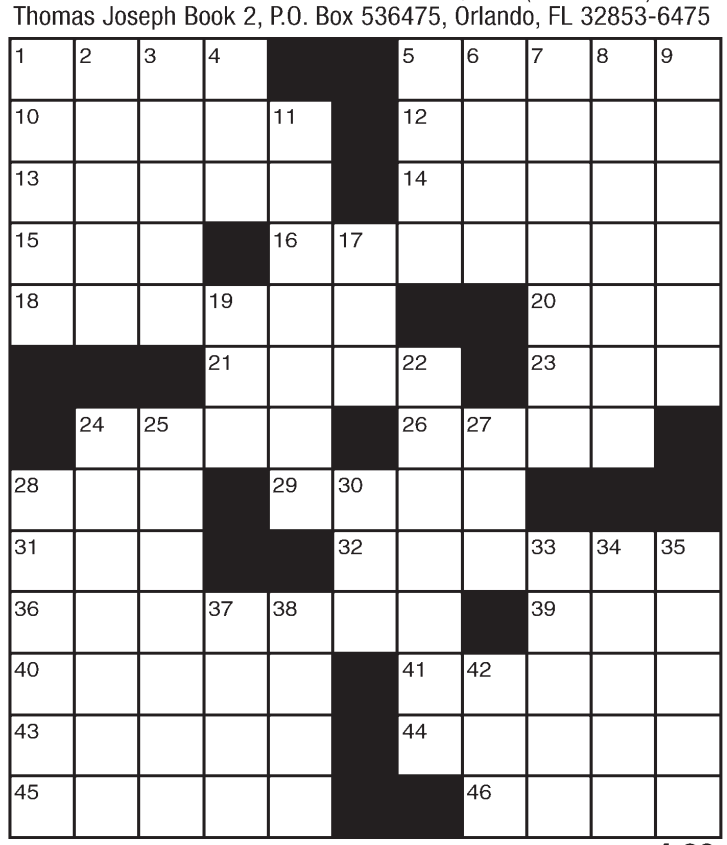
DOWN

1 Autumn quaff
2 Martini extra
3 Like some jackets
4 Price setting
5 Noted surrealist
6 Uttered
7 Web user
8 Unity
9 Goal
11 Rx amounts
17 Gorilla or gibbon
19 Scoundrel
22 Include on one's route
24 Reggae's birthplace
25 Hopes
27 Rage
28 Old cab
30 Great weight
33 Not out
34 Bile producer
35 Fur wrap
37 Pipe problem
38 Taverns
42 Quarrel

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



4-29

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 23 37 41 50 55
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: 224$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 15 25 27 39
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: 7$M

Fantasy 5: 1 6 7 16 20

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 5 4
EVENING: 6 1 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:48.64

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

■ In February, Jesse McCabe, 29, was spared jail time (probation and community service only) for his conviction in connection with a missing $18,000 in bank deposits he was to have made for his employer in New Port Richey, Fla. Police discovered 13 deposits, from a six-week period, in McCabe's home, but all the money was recovered, and McCabe persuaded the judge that he just hadn't been able to make it to the bank yet.

■ Karen Salmansohn, 49, prominent author of self-help books for women with relationship and career problems, including "Prince Harming Syndrome" and "How to Make Your Man Behave in 21 Days or Less Using the Secrets of Successful Dog Trainers," filed a lawsuit in March against cad Mitchell Leff. Salmansohn said Leff had strung her along for months with promises of marriage and a baby, but abruptly cut off support when she became pregnant. Said Salmansohn, "I'm a self-help author, not a psychic."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1980 Corazones Unidos Siempre Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority Inc. is founded.

1986 Roger Clemens then of the Boston Red Sox sets a major league baseball record with 20 strikeouts in nine innings against the Seattle Mariners.

1986 A fire at the Central library of the City of Los Angeles Public Library damages or destroys 400,000 books and other items.

1991 A cyclone strikes the Chittagong district of southeastern Bangladesh with winds of around 155 mph, killing at least 138,000 people and leaving as many as 10 million homeless.

1992 1992 Los Angeles riots: Riots in Los Angeles, California, following the acquittal of police officers charged with excessive force in the beating of Rodney King. Over the next three days 53 people are killed and hundreds of buildings are destroyed.

1997 The Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993 enters into force, outlawing the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons by its signatories.

WORD UP!

pellucid
\puh-LOO-sid\ , adjective;
1. Transparent; clear; not opaque.
2. Easily understandable.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Furniture

FOR SALE: Dining table with 1" thick glass measuring 6' long and 42" wide with beveled edge. No chips or cracks. To buy glass: $1400 wholesale. My move off price: $800.00.

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For Rent

12746 Pacific Ave. unit 6 1+1 stove, fridge, dishwasher, wall ac, carpet, blinds, laundry,intercom entry, parking, no pets. $1095.move-in special $700 off (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 13 single, $1025/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

617 MIDVALE, 2+1.5 Townhouse style. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, tile countertop, wood and carpet floor. W/D hookups, parking, no pets. $2600/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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For Rent

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PALMS/BVRLYWD ADJ. $1215.00 2 Bdrm, 1-1/2 Baths, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #5. Open daily 8am-7pm .Additional info in Apt

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WLA 1215 Barry Ave. #6 1+1 $1100 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, on-site laundry room, parking, no pets.$1000 off move-in 310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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North of Montana	$3,100,000	$1,395,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,192,000	$869,000
South of Wilshire	$772,500	$639,000
Sunset Park	$1,099,000	$601,000
Ocean Park	$1,299,000	$785,000

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