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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 156

Santa Monica Daily Press



EXTRA INNINGS FOR SAMOHI
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE MAKING MOVES, BUSTING GROOVES ISSUE



MAN, WHERE'S THE MOON?

Alex Cantarero *news@smdp.com*

Sidney Miller, 28, from Hollywood, braves Tuesday's heat with an air-cooled space suit on Santa Monica Beach. Some might think that the reason he was wearing the suit is to ward off swine flu, but that's not it. He was filming a music video for his album 'Fake Moon Voyage.'

Leaf blower enforcement upsets some SM residents

BY WILL WEISS
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Using a leaf blower within the city limits has been off limits since 1991, but a daytime walk through most neighborhoods would seem to suggest otherwise, and some residents are steamed.

"You can walk around Santa Monica on any day of the week and see people using leaf blowers," said one resident who lives near the intersection of San Vicente and Ocean Avenues. "I clean and dust my residence one day, and a day later I can write my name in the dust on the windowsill … on a daily basis. Why isn't the law being enforced?"

The answer to that question is not a simple one, with law enforcement officers, gardeners and residents caught in a policy and priority vacuum.

"Usually we have a lot of calls for leaf blower violations, but in most cases the person is only using the blower for five minutes, and then they're gone. So 95 percent of the time we can't catch them," said Sunset Park Neighborhood Resource Officer Artis Williams, explaining that officers must catch an individual in the act of using a leaf blower in order for the individual to be cited.

Last year, police in Santa Monica cited 46 individuals for leaf blower ordinance violations, down from 50 in 2007. As of last Thursday, the SMPD cited five individuals in 2009.

"I haven't written a citation for a leaf blower violation in years," said Officer Adam Gwartz, whose beat covers Santa Monica north of Montana Avenue.

"But let me qualify that by saying that I have a whole little project I do with that," added Gwartz, explaining that he finds personal communication to be much more effective in deterring such infractions.

Gwartz, as well as Williams, said that sending letters and paying visits to property own-

SEE ENFORCEMENT PAGE 12

Date set for SM Place reopening

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Mark the calendars. The new and improved Santa Monica Place will open on Aug. 6, 2010.

Officials for mall operator Macerich on Tuesday announced the grand opening date of the 550,000 square-foot shopping center, placing it just about a year from when it was originally scheduled to be completed.

Both the main shopping center and Bloomingdale's, which is one of two anchor tenants, will open in early August while Nordstrom will wait to go live until the 27th of the month.

"I think that will be a really perfect scenario because we're going to have a grand event on Aug. 6 and have sort of like a one-two punch where we're able to come back a couple of weeks later and have a real exciting event on that day (for Nordstrom)," Bob Aptaker, the vice president of development for Macerich, said during a press conference on the rooftop dining deck.

The announcement came just several months after Macerich officials decided to push the mall's grand opening from this fall to next spring, better aligning the timing with the completion of the two department stores, which are both slated to open in 2010.

Unlike the press conference in February when the delay of the opening was publicly confirmed, officials did not have any new signed restaurants or retailers to share, hinting that more announcements could come later this year. About 11 businesses that had recently signed leases were named during that event, including Pizza Antica,

SEE OPENING PAGE 13


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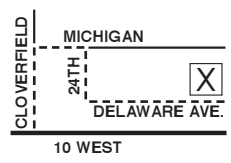
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Star gazing
Mathematical Sciences Building
UCLA, 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
UCLA professors, post-doctoral researchers and current graduate students unite to give a presentation on the current night sky, constellations, astronomical phenomena and more. The shows include a 30 — 45 minute sky show followed by a presentation on the topic of the night. Following the planetarium show, visitors are invited to look through one of the department's telescopes. Admission is free and open to the public, but late arrivals will not be seated. Call (310) 825-4434 for more information.

TAG, you're it!
TAG
2903 Santa Monica Blvd., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Come out for an evening of art and community. This even features three diverse local artists: Lynne McDaniel, Gary Polonsky and Joan Ransohoff. Their work covers a great body of styles from landscapes to three-dimensional canvases made of acrylic media over wire mesh and common household coat hangers. Admission is free.

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Sunset yoga on the beach
Grassy area at Ashland and Main St.
Ashland and Main St., 6:15 — 7:45 p.m.
Sunset yoga is a weekly yoga retreat to nourish your mind, body and soul. Bring your mats, dress warmly and flow to the rhythm of the ocean and the warm sun setting on the horizon. A donation of $12 is suggested. Call Grace at (310) 985-8395 for more information.

Laugh a little
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — Noon
Ready to laugh your socks off? Join Kim Selbert, certified laughter yoga leader, as she teaches you how to use laughter as a form of body-mind exercise. The class is for all ages and fitness levels. For more information, go to her Website www.kimselbert.com Cost is $10 per person. Call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

Friday, May 8, 2009

'Jumping the Median'
The Other Space at Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Steve Connell's five new plays run the gamut from sexy and outrageous to moving and provocative. Above all, they're unabashedly fun. The evening explores love, loss and life as we know it, accompanied by live music under the direction of Josh Foy and Sekou Andrews. "Jumping the Median" also runs on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20. Call (562) 547-6207 for more information.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEF

CITYWIDE

Free lunch

Concerned about people on fixed incomes and their ability to make ends meet during the economic downturn, WISE & Healthy Aging is offering free, nutritional lunches at five locations across the city for those who are 60 years of age or older and for those with disabilities. The lunches are served each weekday.

"Good nutrition is important at any age, but especially for seniors in order to stay healthy and help ward off illness," said Grace Cheng Braun, president and CEO of WISE & Healthy Aging. "With the current economic crisis, we're finding that some seniors are not able to afford nutritious food or sometimes even regular meals, so we're serving lunches every Monday through Friday, from noon to 1:30 p.m."

While the primary goal of the lunches is to provide seniors with healthy, nutritious meals, many participants are finding that it provides an opportunity for them to socialize with each other.

"Seniors are often isolated, so the Healthy Lunches program offers a time when they can make new friends, visit with each other, and enjoy sharing a meal together," Cheng Braun said.

The five sites are:

• The Senior Recreation Center, 1450 Ocean Ave., (310) 458-2219

• Reed Park, Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard, (310) 458-8315

• Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St., (310) 395-8478

• WISE Adult Day Service Center, 1510 Pico Blvd., (310) 452-7802

• Virginia Avenue Park (Spanish speaking), 2200 Virginia Ave. (Thursdays only), (310) 452-7802

Advance reservations are required, and may be made by calling the site a day ahead between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $2.50 for any reserved Healthy Lunch.

For seniors who are unable to get out of the house, Meals on Wheels West offers an in-home meal delivery service. For information on Meals on Wheels West, call (310) 394-5133.

The Healthy Lunch program is supported through funding from City Hall, Los Angeles County, and WISE & Healthy Aging. For more information, call (310) 452-7802 or visit any lunch location.

DAILY PRESS

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM
OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

TOUGH TIME: **Santa Monica High School's baseball team holds a meeting after losing to Beverly Hills, 1-2, on Tuesday.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Samohi loses to Beverly Hills in extra innings

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Tossing eight innings of two-hit ball is usually enough to notch a victory.

Santa Monica High School's Logan Whitchurch (3-2, 1.87 ERA) just so happened to be on the wrong side as the Vikings lost an extra inning Ocean League game to Beverly Hills, 2-1, on Tuesday. The senior righty was impressive in the complete game loss, allowing just two hits and striking out eight Normans.

With the loss, Samohi's record is now 14-12 and 5-2 in league. Beverly Hills improved to 9-14 overall and 5-2 in league. Samohi had been in a first place tie with Culver City entering the game. Results from the Culver City-Morningside game were unavailable at presstime.

"[Whitchurch] deserved a better result," Head Coach Rob Duron said. "I liked seeing the way he approached the game."

Whitchurch breezed through the first three innings, striking out five in the process. The fourth inning proved to be the first scoring opportunity for Beverly Hills and the Normans took advantage with Samohi leading 1-0.

Right fielder Jamie Gourley led off the inning bunting for a single. Whitchurch walked the next man, Ben Jones. With a pair of runners on, Whitchurch induced Erik Munzer to hit a soft grounder to short that Ricky Gomez attempted to turn into a double play, but he failed to throw out Munzer on the play allowing Gourley to advance to third.

With men on the corners and one out,

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The mailman delivers

Editor:

Your post office guy, Steve Breen, is brilliant. He is funny, opinionated, passionate and has a very broad background on subjects dear to most political junkies. I look forward to his rants every week. You all have your own Ann Coulter and probably don't even realize it. The difference is this is a blue collar guy who has a great head on his shoulders, who has a background that is similar to many, to include military, son is serving his country, and he writes like he's a Harvard graduate with a blue collar pedigree. [It's a] very unique perspective and I love it! I know he's ticking some of the left wing folks off, but the papers (those that are left) need a balanced editorial staff. Most papers' editorials are left, far left and totally left. And anybody that dares write attacking the opinions of the left is open for immediate assassination by the left. Please keep this guy around and don't smother him because the left is gonna [sic] be giving you all some heat. They need to learn that if they're gonna [sic] play in the big leagues they have to be able to take the punches. So many panzy papers do not allow the right to attack. That's why so many are going broke, because despite what many think, a larger percentage of the public is right of center than is given credit. We also can afford a paper. Thanks for letting the mailman deliver!

Joey Allen
Santa Monica

Making visitors aware

Editor:

I'm very proud of Santa Monica for having an aggressive and forward-thinking law about smoking tobacco in public areas. Basically, you can't.

The problem, of course, is that there's little or no enforcement, and most of the tourists and visitors who come to town have no idea they're breaking the law when they light up as they sit in cafes or walk on our sidewalks, pier, or beach.

So the City Council should amend the law and require places where tourists visit – primarily hotels, but perhaps also restaurants and shops – to post a sign informing their patrons that "Smoking Is Illegal In All Public Areas in Santa Monica! Fines Up To $270!"

Most of our visitors are law-abiding citizens who would be willing to comply with the law. They just don't know they're in violation. Once we post the information more prominently, we'll experience a lot less second-hand smoke around town.

Robert Moskowitz
Santa Monica

LOL: laughing out loud
BRB: be right back
MUSM: miss you so much
A/S/L: age, sex, location
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council
You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. Protect your kid's online life. To get a full list of acronyms or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



Going Postal

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

Starting off on the wrong foot

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF "hopey-changeyness" was front-loaded by an "enchanted" N.Y. Times/Obama-media shill from the White House press corp. During the Teleprompter-in-Chief's first 100 days, affirmative action press conference, he was questioned with all the rigors of a beauty pageant queen unless, of course, you're Miss California. Is it an inconvenient truth that the Fox Channel's T.V. fiction, "Lie to Me," got better ratings in the same time slot than Obama's 100 day reality show massage parlor press party.

How was your happy ending, Anderson Cooper?

Did you know that Obama uses his teleprompter on the White House basketball court? As he drives for the hole, the teleprompter scrolls " … dribble, dribble, dribble, shoot!" It's rumored that his new dog, Bo, can't seem to bark without a teleprompter either. Well, it's been said that pets sometimes behave much like their owners.

Speaking of owners, as leader of the free world, Obama bowed in obsequious fealty to the King of Saudi Arabia during his "Apologia of Hope" G-20 tour like a dutiful dhimmi vassal to his sovereign overlord. Well, at least Obama knows who his master is. Woof! Fetch the stick, boy! Fetch the stick!

Welcome to the United States of Saudi America, all you citizens of the world! No worries, though, on the infamous Chavez-Obama handshake. Obama merely agreed to wash and wax Chavez's car while it was in valet parking.

According to the Obama administration, I, as a veteran, am now classified as an enemy of the state. Of course, I'm flattered. I believe in fighting tyranny wherever I find it, even if it is lounging in the Lincoln bedroom. I am a "right wing extremist" who "[rejects] federal authority over state and local authority" [that pesky 10th Amendment thingy] even though Obama "has no specific information that domestic right-wing terrorists are currently planning acts of violence."

Thusly, Obama's current homeland security policy is: "Be afraid! Be very afraid! Please be advised, that Obama Paranoia Central has no exculpatory evidence, empirical data or remote clue whatsoever to support its wild guesses of what you, the American people, are supposed to be truly afraid about. But please feel free to go about your pathetic, uneventful lives and thank you for shopping at J. Crew. Watch out for pirates and swine flu!"

But let's "set aside childish things" for a moment and compare the way lefty bedwetters scourged Dubya for those infamous "seven minutes" of inactivity immediately following the horror show of 9/11. It took Obama five days to decide to shoot three skinny Somali teenagers in a rowboat to claim his first foreign policy "triumph."

On the domestic low-end, the first lady's recent outing to a food bank while she was sporting a kicky, new $540 pair of Lanvin tennis shoes begs the question: Wouldn't the $540 been better spent buying food for the food bank? Of course, Michelle "Gun Show" Obama gushed, "For the first time in my life, I am proud of my sneakers!"

NO WORRIES, THOUGH, ON THE INFAMOUS CHAVEZ-OBAMA HANDSHAKE. OBAMA MERELY AGREED TO WASH AND WAX CHAVEZ'S CAR WHILE IT WAS IN VALET PARKING.

Let's look back at the two events that bracket the first 100 days of Obama-holic "hopey-changeyness":

• When Obama was inaugurated, it was the most expensive inauguration in American history. His proclamation of a "new era of responsibility" was conspicuously consummated in a $170 million bacchanalia during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Nero fiddled while Rome burned.

No conservatives, however, went to the inaugural. We were all at work that day to pay for Obama's spending plan.

In the wake of the inaugural "Hurricane Latrina," 140 tons of trash were deposited on the Washington Mall. The National Park Service cited that a paltry 13 tons has been the annual average on their biggest fete on the Fourth of July. In this "new era of responsibility," not a half a day old, Obama-droids had obviously been smoking way too much "hopium."

How can hippies be the change they've been waiting for yet are too stoned to pick up their own trash?

• And the back bracket of le Majeste Obama's 100 days? A $348,000 taxpayer-funded gangsta-style 9/11 drive-by of Ground Zero by Scare Force One during a White House approved "top-secret" souvenir photo-op. Meanwhile, all of lower Manhattan was having 9/11 deja-vu all over again.

White House response? Talk to the Air Force. Air Force response? Talk to the White House. Obama's response? "These are the planes we've been waiting for." My response? "Awesome."

Then again, I have no sympathy for NYC's aerial whine and cheese moment. After all, they voted rank and file for Obozo the Clown and his 9/11 Flying Circus. What did they expect? Someone as smart as George W. Bush?

STEVE BREEN is a right-wing enemy of the state and is still the "best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Speak for yourself

AS YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD columnist, it occasionally falls to me to call people out when they've done wrong. I don't always like it, but I have to do it. I took no pleasure in reminding Tina Fey that identity politics is not feminism (when she tried to revive Hillary Clinton's campaign last year with her "bitch is the new black" endorsement) right before the Ohio and Texas primaries, but I did it because it had to be done. I don't have the same problem with the person I'm putting on blast this week because while I've got a lot of love for Tina, I can't say the same for J. Matt Barber, the lawyer and conservative Christian radio talk show host who wrote the "Perez Hilton: The foul face of gay activism" piece published in this paper last Thursday. That guy is as wrong as two left feet.

If you missed it, Barber didn't like the way pageant judge Perez Hilton responded to the answer Miss California, the "openly Christian" Carrie Prejean, gave to a question about same-sex marriage in the Miss USA pageant. Barber attempts to cast Carrie as the "Beauty" and Perez as the "Beast" in a battle to see which side of the same-sex marriage issue has more "class."

Putting aside the fact that Perez' whole existence is an off-shoot of the unfortunate Paris Hilton phenomenon (so the clock is ticking on his 15 minutes of fame), very few people would regard a celebrity gossip blogger as a spokesman for equal rights for gay couples.

And I think Perez would agree that you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who would think of him, a man who routinely draws poop on pictures of people, when they think of "class."

Barber wanted us all to believe he was writing because he felt compelled to defend Prejean, who he claimed was being attacked (and didn't win the title of Miss USA) because her answer reflected her religious beliefs. If anything, she didn't win because she expanded on her answer to include her religious beliefs and offended a lot of people in the process.

She could have just said, "I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other.

We live in a land that you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage," and left people thinking she's a little dim. But she went on to say, "and, you know what, in my country and my family I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman," and left people thinking she's a bigot.

What I don't understand is why Barber picked this particular horse to ride. He's a self-styled champion for family values who rushed to the defense of a young woman who is supposed to be a religious conservative, but struts her surgically-augmented stuff around on stage in a bikini and high heels so people like Perez and Donald Trump can "judge" her on her physical beauty. I don't get why she became his cause celebre when morally speaking, she's only a step above a Web cam girl.

The blogger vs. the beauty queen is a totally ridiculous fight for Matt Barber to pick, and the fact that he tried to set it up that way shows what a fraud he really is. He says that Carrie "has given liberals a clinic in class," while Perez "has provided the world a sneak peek into the soul of homosexual activism" because that's what this is all about for this associate dean at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University Law School: defeating the "liberal activism" which would grant the same rights enjoyed by opposite-sex couples to same-sex couples.

As director of cultural affairs with Liberty Counsel, his stated goal is to make religion (his religion, not necessarily yours or mine) a bigger part of public life and public policy — so that he and people like him can dictate morality to the rest of us. Sorry to have to be the one to tell you, Matt, but in America there is this document called the Constitution containing a little thing called the Establishment Clause which officially separates any church from the state.

In this country, you have the right to consider two men in a loving, committed, monogamous relationship to be "immoral" if your church says so — and those two men have the right to enter into a legally-binding marriage contract with each other, no matter what your church says.

Those men, like the rest of us, don't need you or your church to dictate what's right and what's wrong — though Carrie Prejean might ask for forgiveness now that the inevitable topless photos of your religious conservative beauty queen have surfaced.

Some say if you don't like abortion, don't have an abortion. To you, Matt Barber, I say if you don't like same-sex marriage, don't marry a man.

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

The Q Line

Eternal question

City Officials are considering a plan to lift the residency requirement at Woodlawn Cemetery. Cemetery officials say it would help raise funds to maintain the facility.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think Woodlawn should be reserved for residents or do you thinking opening it up to others is a sound decision given the current economic slump?

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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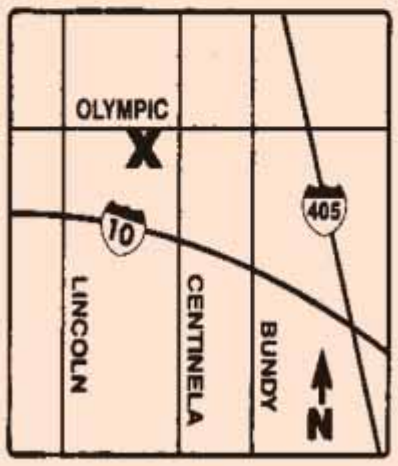
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WALL STREET

Stocks slip as traders take profits after surge

SARA LEPRO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks held steady Tuesday, a day after a rally and ahead of results of the government's stress tests of banks.

Wall Street fell moderately following a jump the day before that sent the Standard & Poor's 500 index into positive territory for the year.

"Today's action, just drifting around, is not that surprising given Monday's rally," said Darin Newsom, a senior analyst at DTN in Omaha, Neb.

Traders had little reaction to comments from Federal Reserve Chief Ben Bernanke, who told Congress the economy should start growing again later this year. Bernanke did warn that even after a recovery begins, the economy will still show signs of weakness, but that caveat didn't surprise investors.

"I thought in general, the comments were optimistic, but I'm not sure they told us anything new," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Wealth Management.

A growing amount of upbeat economic data have driven stocks to their best two-month performance in nearly 35 years. However a number of dark clouds still hang over Wall Street, including growing unemployment and mixed news from first-quarter corporate earnings reports.

This week, two major news events could easily upset the market's mood. Results are due Thursday for the government's "stress tests" on banks, and on Friday the government will report monthly employment data, one of the economic indicators most closely watched by investors.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow slipped 16.09, or 0.2 percent, to 8,410.65. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.44, or 0.4 percent, to 903.80, leaving it essentially flat for the year. The Nasdaq composite index lost 9.44, or 0.5 percent, to 1,754.12.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 4.27, or 0.8 percent, to 502.55.

About eight stocks fell for every seven that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.5 billion shares.

Among the economic data Tuesday, a private report on the service sector showed a seventh straight month of contraction. However, the pace of decline slowed more than expected — further evidence that the economy's slide is moderating.

Investors showed little reaction.

"We're really not pushing the market that much lower," Newsome said. "There is still this general sense that things have improved a bit."

Investors are mindful that the stock market typically turns around, on average, about four months ahead of the economy. The S&P 500 is up 33.6 percent since the rally began March 10. The Dow is up 28.5 percent.

Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist for brokerage Charles Schwab & Co., said at a press briefing in New York that the economy could have stopped sliding.

"There is some chance — it may not be more than a slim chance — but some chance that we may actually already be out of the recession," she said. Sonders cautioned that a recovery could always reverse and send the economy back into a slump.

Gary Stern, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, said in a speech that the economy's return to growth "should not be too far off."

But analysts warn that the market's advance will continue to be put to the test.

"Over the past several weeks we've come through a period where all data was interpreted through rose-colored glasses," said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager at Federated Investors. "Now, it's a question of whether investors continue to have that perspective."

Investors are focused this week on the results of the stress tests, which will provide details on the U.S. financial companies in need of more capital. Reports have surfaced indicating that Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co., as well as a handful of regional banks, will be among those needing help.

On Tuesday, The Wall Street Journal said about 10 of the 19 banks undergoing the tests will be required to boost their capital levels as a buffer against potential future losses. The report cited several unidentified people familiar with the matter.

Regulators have said no large institution will be allowed to fail, and have pledged government funds if necessary. Though some investors are worried the report could indicate more pain in the industry than previously thought, many analysts say results of the tests are largely priced into the market already.

Financial stocks were mixed Tuesday. Bank of America Corp. rose 46 cents, or 4.4 percent, to $10.84, while Wells Fargo & Co. fell 98 cents, or 4 percent, to $23.27.

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ECONOMY

Recession hurts theme parks

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday its second-quarter net income fell 46 percent, with sharply lower profits at its movie studio and theme parks. But its results narrowly beat Wall Street forecasts and shares rose.

The family entertainment giant's profit in the quarter through March 28 was $613 million, or 33 cents per share. That was down from $1.13 billion, or 58 cents per share, a year earlier.

Revenue fell 7 percent to $8.09 billion.

Excluding restructuring charges and other items, the earnings fell to 43 cents per share, just above analyst expectations for 40 cents per share, according to Thomson Reuters. Analysts expected slightly higher revenue, $8.15 billion.

"Our second quarter performance reflected the weak global economy, as well as disappointing results at our movie studio," Chief Executive Bob Iger told analysts on a conference call.

Disney shares closed at $23.15, up 1.3 percent, before the earnings report, and rose another 99 cents, or 4.3 percent, to $24.14 in after-hours trading.

Disney booked about $305 million in charges, including $102 million in restructuring costs, about half of which came from cutting some 1,900 positions at its parks division.

Studio operating profits fell 97 percent to $13 million as theatrical releases such as "Bedtime Stories" and "Race to Witch Mountain" did not fare as well as movies that came out in the same period a year ago, such as "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets," and "Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds."

Revenue at the studio fell 21 percent to $1.44 billion.

Disney said the recession led visitors to spend less money in its theme parks, though U.S. attendance was even with last year because of heavy discounting. Parks and resorts operating profits fell 50 percent to $171 million, while revenue dipped 12 percent to $2.41 billion.

Cable network profits from ESPN, ABC Family and the Disney Channel grew 5 percent to $1.14 billion as higher fees from cable and satellite affiliates rose despite a decline in ad revenue.

Broadcast profits at the ABC television network and its ABC stations fell 38 percent to $162 million amid the advertising downturn.

Taken together, cable and broadcast revenue rose 2 percent to $3.62 billion.

Consumer products revenue grew 9 percent to $496 million, but operating profit fell 24 percent to $97 million. The revenue boost, which came from taking back ownership of Disney Stores in North America, also led to lower merchandise licensing royalties.

Interactive Media revenue for the quarter fell 17 percent to $129 million. The operating loss was unchanged at $61 million.

HOUSING

Court halts home foreclosure sales

MEG KINNARD
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. South Carolina's highest court on Tuesday temporarily stopped thousands of pending foreclosure sales in the state to give homeowners more time to take advantage of a new federal program to help them refinance mortgages.

The injunction — which mortgage experts said appeared to be the nation's first court-ordered stop for an entire state — prevents judges in South Carolina from finalizing foreclosure sales on properties guaranteed by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae or any other mortgage company that has signed on to a federal assistance program.

RealtyTrac Inc., a foreclosure listing firm, says the ruling could affect 5,000 South Carolina homes facing foreclosure.

The ruling was in response to a request from a Columbia attorney representing Fannie Mae, who had argued that it was necessary to keep homeowners who might be eligible for federal assistance from being shut out of the process.

"Absent the injunction, mortgagors eligible for relief ... could be denied their right to participate because their property was sold at the foreclosure sale," lawyer Ronald Scott wrote in his three-page motion. "This qualifies as irreparable injury for which the court should provide redress in the form of a temporary injunction."

Fannie Mae said the ruling was necessary because of a South Carolina law meant to ensure that foreclosures sales are conducted in a timely fashion. Under the law, judges can cancel a foreclosure case and start over if the sale is delayed for too long.

The company argues that South Carolina's law gives lenders an incentive to speed up foreclosure cases because of the threat the process could be restarted, which would cost lenders more money.

"This ruling will allow us the flexibility to evaluate problematic mortgages in the state for possible eligibility for the (Obama) Administration's modification program and reduce the overall borrower and company costs associated with the foreclosure process," Fannie Mae said in a statement.

The Obama administration announced a plan in March to provide $75 billion in incentives for the mortgage industry to modify loans to help borrowers avoid foreclosure. Freddie and Fannie also rolled out a refinancing program for homeowners who owe up to 5 percent more than current total value of their home with an application deadline of June 2010.

Scott had asked the court to address about 1,000 South Carolina homes facing foreclosure and backed by Fannie Mae loans. But in her order, state Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal expanded the stoppage to foreclosures backed either by Fannie or Freddie — together, the government-controlled companies own or guarantee almost 31 million mortgages, more than half of all U.S. home loans — or any other lender who has agreed to participate under the Obama administration's plan.



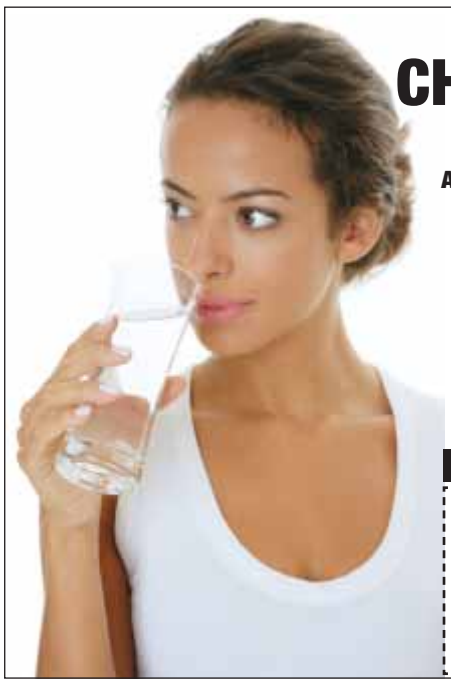

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HEALTH

Mexico tries to bounce back after flu shutdown

PETER ORSI
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY Mexico announced steps Tuesday to jump start an economy punished by the swine flu epidemic. Cinco de Mayo celebrations, however, will have to wait until next year.

Events surrounding the holiday remained canceled even though no deaths were reported in Mexico in the last five days and the country prepared to reopen for business. Still, the number of deaths continues to climb worldwide; the U.S. confirmed its second swine flu death Tuesday, the first involving a U.S. citizen.

Mexican Finance Secretary Augustin Carstens, who unveiled plans to stimulate key industries and fight bans on Mexican pork products, said persuading tourists to come back will be a top priority as Mexico tries to "immediately rebuild confidence in our country."

Traffic picked up in the capital, fewer people wore surgical masks and some cafes reopened ahead of time Tuesday, the final day of a nationwide shutdown meant to reduce the spread of virus. Flu experts said the tough measures have helped — but some worried of a potential rebound as crowds gather again.

"The scientists are saying that we really need to evaluate more," said Dr. Ethel Palacios, the deputy director of the swine flu monitoring effort in Mexico. "In terms of how the virus is going to behave, we are keeping every possibility in mind ... we can't make a prediction of what's going to happen."

Tuesday's canceled events included Mexico's largest re-enactment of the May 5, 1862, victory over invading French troops in the central state of Puebla. President Felipe Calderon compared the threats in a speech to the nation Tuesday.

"Almost a century and a half later, Mexico is facing a new threat, this time of a very different kind, an unusual threat, specifically the appearance and spread of an epidemic that has put at risk the lives and health of Mexico's families," Calderon said.

After 26 confirmed deaths, nobody has died from swine flu in Mexico since April 29, giving some confidence to restaurants and other non-essential private businesses that were ordered shut for five days.

Carstens said the outbreak has cost Mexico's economy at least $2.2 billion, and announced a $1.3 billion stimulus package, mostly for small businesses and tourism, the sectors hardest hit by the epidemic. The government will temporarily cut health insurance payments for small businesses and reduce taxes for airlines and cruise ships.

Universities and high schools were being scrubbed down before students return Thursday, and younger schoolchildren are to report back to school May 11 — creating potential pools of contagion that experts worry could make the virus come back.

The schools will reopen even as experts asked restaurants to keep their customers nearly two meters (yards) apart, and Mexico's soccer federation announced that attendance will not be allowed at this weekend's season-ending games.

Calderon called it a return to "normalcy." But flu experts warned that Mexico, like the rest of the world, needs to remain on guard, and said severe cases could surface in the U.S. as well with the virus spreading in a growing number of states.

"We are by no means out of the woods," said Dr. Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC.

The World Health Organization was shipping 2.4 million treatments of antiflu drugs to the 72 countries "most in need." The countries include Mexico, hardest hit by the outbreak. Others include those countries unable to afford stockpiles of the drugs.

As of Tuesday, Mexico had 840 confirmed cases, and U.S. cases grew to at least 380 in 36 states.

Few details have been released about the most recent swine flu death in the U.S., but officials said the victim was a woman with chronic health problems who lived on the U.S.-Mexico border. The country's first death occurred last week when a boy from Mexico died at a Houston hospital.

Globally, the virus has infected more than 1,490 in 21 countries, according to the World Health Organization and other health bodies. South Korea, Italy and Germany all reported new cases Tuesday. Experts said the known cases were almost certainly only a fraction of the real total.

World health officials have said a pandemic could be declared in the days to come — a reflection of the swine flu's geographic spread, not its severity. Health Secretary Jose Cordova said those infected appeared to pass the virus on to an average of 1.4 other people, near the normal flu rate of around 1.3.

WHO was studying whether to raise the pandemic alert to 6, its highest level, which would mean a global outbreak had begun. WHO uses the term pandemic to refer only to geographic spread and not to the severity of an illness. The two most recent pandemics — in 1957 and 1968 — were relatively mild.

Margaret Chan, WHO director general, said the level will be raised if swine flu is found in another region outside North America, showing very clear evidence of community-level transmission."

The Southern Hemisphere is particularly at risk. While Africa still hasn't reported any swine flu infections and New Zealand is the only country south of the equator with confirmed cases, winter is only weeks away. Experts worry that typical winter flus could combine with swine flu, creating a new strain that is more contagious or dangerous.

"You have this risk of an additional virus that could essentially cause two outbreaks at once," Dr. Jon Andrus said at the Pan American Health Organization's headquarters in Washington.

Still, the U.N. health agency urged governments to avoid unproven actions to contain the disease, including group quarantines of travelers from Mexico and bans on pork imports.

China, Argentina and Cuba are among the nations banning regular flights to and from Mexico, marooning passengers at both ends. Mexico and China both sent chartered flights to each other's countries to collect their citizens, with the chartered Mexican plane hopscotching China Tuesday to retrieve stranded residents. Argentina also chartered a flight to bring Argentines home.

Chinese authorities quarantined Mexicans and other passengers who came in close contact with them, even those who didn't show symptoms. China also changed its visa rules for U.S. citizens, lengthening the processing time to six business days.

Court's Souter bids farewell

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA Supreme Court Justice David Souter, momentarily choked with emotion, bid an affectionate farewell Tuesday to judges and lawyers he has worked with for nearly two decades.

Souter spoke at an annual conference of judges and lawyers from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He handles matters that come to the Supreme Court from those states. The 69-year-old justice announced last Friday that he will retire when the court finishes its work for the summer and return to his home in New Hampshire.

Momentarily dropping his New England reserve, the justice appeared to choke up as he recalled asking his predecessor, William Brennan, if he wanted to send a message to the same group when Souter was preparing to attend his first conference in Teaneck, N.J.

"Just give them my love, David. Just give them my love," Souter remembered. "That goes for me, too."

He received sustained standing ovations before and after his 15-minute talk, and was introduced by Chief Judge Anthony J. Scirica of the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals as a "beloved member of the 3rd Circuit family."

Souter said he had not intended for the news of his retirement to break before Tuesday's event. "I swear to you I was not the leak," he said.

Still, he said, "It's impossible not to be doing a mental reckoning of some sort."

He gave a lighthearted account of the first conference after he joined the court in 1990, noting that he apparently was viewed with some suspicion by the 3rd Circuit. Among the reading material he was given when he arrived at that first conference was a copy of the Constitution.

Souter thanked Scirica for not including the Constitution for this visit. "He may have assumed that it's too late now," Souter said.

Souter told the conference that members of the legal profession should take satisfaction in doing "something worth doing" and trying "to do it well."

He did not permit cameras or audio recordings at his speech Tuesday.

In Washington, the White House said President Barack Obama will not be announcing his choice to replace Souter this week. Presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs ruled out that timeframe when asked about published comments from Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who spoke to Obama Monday and said he expected an announcement this week.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he has discussed possible nominees with Obama but would not name potential candidates. The Vermont Democrat said he wouldn't schedule confirmation hearings until a nominee was chosen, but was certain that a new justice would be seated for the court's fall term.

Obama wants to have his eventual nominee confirmed and in place for the Supreme Court session that will begin in October.

In a conversation with the president after the Souter announcement, Leahy said he advised Obama, "Make sure you talk to key Republicans, not just Democrats."

Leahy said Obama should speak with Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., who is now the top Republican on the committee that would confirm a presidential pick — replacing Sen. Arlen Specter, who changed parties last week to join the Democrats. Obama also has called Specter.

Sessions, in a statement, said he would ensure "a rigorous and thorough examination of his or her qualifications."

He expressed tradition Republican themes on court nominations, saying the nominee must be "a neutral umpire of the law, calling the balls and strikes fairly while avoiding the temptation to make policy or legislate from the bench based on personal political views."

Leahy said he also suggested that the president talk to the top Senate leaders, Democrat Harry Reid of Nevada and Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Nation's first face transplant patient shows results

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

CLEVELAND Five years ago, a shotgun blast left a ghastly hole where the middle of her face had been. Five months ago, she received a new face from a dead woman.

Connie Culp stepped forward Tuesday to show off the results of the nation's first face transplant, and her new look was a far cry from the puckered, noseless sight that made children run away in horror.

Culp's expressions are still a bit wooden, but she can talk, smile, smell and taste her food again. Her speech is at times a little tough to understand. Her face is bloated and squarish, and her skin droops in big folds that doctors plan to pare away as her circulation improves and her nerves grow, animating her new muscles.

But Culp had nothing but praise for those who made her new face possible.

"I guess I'm the one you came to see today," the 46-year-old Ohio woman said at a news conference at the Cleveland Clinic, where the groundbreaking operation was performed. But "I think it's more important that you focus on the donor family that made it so I could have this person's face."

Up until Tuesday, Culp's identity and how she came to be disfigured were a secret.

Culp's husband, Thomas, shot her in 2004, then turned the gun on himself. He went to prison for seven years. His wife was left clinging to life. The blast shattered her nose, cheeks, the roof of her mouth and an eye. Hundreds of fragments of shotgun pellet and bone splinters were embedded in her face. She needed a tube into her windpipe to breathe. Only her upper eyelids, forehead, lower lip and chin were left.

A plastic surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Risal Djohan, got a look at her injuries two months later. "He told me he didn't think, he wasn't sure, if he could fix me, but he'd try," Culp recalled.

She endured 30 operations to try to fix her face. Doctors took parts of her ribs to make cheekbones and fashioned an upper jaw from one of her leg bones. She had countless skin grafts from her thighs. Still, she was left unable to eat solid food, breathe on her own, or smell.

Then, on Dec. 10, in a 22-hour operation, Dr. Maria Siemionow led a team of doctors who replaced 80 percent of Culp's face with bone, muscles, nerves, skin and blood vessels from another woman who had just died. It was the fourth face transplant in the world, though the others were not as extensive.

"Here I am, five years later. He did what he said — I got me my nose," Culp said of Djohan, laughing.

In January, she was able to eat pizza, chicken and hamburgers for the first time in years. She loves to have cookies with a cup of coffee, Siemionow said.

No information has been released about the donor or how she died, but her family members were moved when they saw before-and-after pictures of Culp, Siemionow said.

Culp said she wants to help foster acceptance of those who have suffered burns and other disfiguring injuries.

"When somebody has a disfigurement and don't look as pretty as you do, don't judge them, because you never know what happened to them," she said. "Don't judge people who don't look the same as you do. Because you never know. One day it might be all taken away."

It's a role she has already practiced, said clinic psychiatrist Dr. Kathy Coffman.

Once while shopping, "she heard a little kid say, 'You said there were no real monsters, mommy, and there's one right there,'" Coffman said. Culp stopped and said, "I'm not a monster. I'm a person who was shot," and pulled out her driver's license to show the child what she used to look like, the psychiatrist said.

Culp, who is from the small town of Unionport, near the Pennsylvania line, told her doctors she just wants to blend back into society. She has a son and a daughter who live near her, and two preschooler grandsons. Before she was shot, she and her husband ran a painting and contracting business, and she did everything from hanging drywall to a little plumbing, Coffman said.

Culp left the hospital Feb. 5 and has returned for periodic follow-up care. She has suffered only one mild rejection episode that was controlled with a single dose of steroid medicines, her doctors said. She must take immune-suppressing drugs for the rest of her life, but her dosage has been greatly reduced and she needs only a few pills a day.

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Vikings' Whitchurch strong in defeat

FROM **BASEBALL** PAGE 3

the Normans' Cody Vallez-Norton laid down a sacrifice bunt scoring Gourley and tying the score at 1-1.

The game remained knotted at 1-1 until the top of the eighth inning. Beverly Hills' Shane Shapiro led off with a single to right field. The Normans promptly sacrificed him to second during the next at-bat.

Ben Siteman-Sommers followed with a single, which moved Shapiro over to third. With a man 90 feet from scoring the go-ahead run, pinch hitter A.J. Fortier delivered by hitting a soft grounder to short that Gomez again tried to turn into a double play, but the throw to first that would have been the third out of the inning was late allowing Shapiro to score what turned out being the game winner.

Samohi did make a game of it in the bottom of the eighth. Whitchurch led off with an infield hit to short. With a man on and no outs, Drew Hammond was able to tap a grounder to short that he beat out. With the potential tying and winning runs on base, Michael Alonge was able to sacrifice both men over.

With the game on the line, Duron summoned Tyler Skaggs to pinch hit. The tall lefty was unable to pick up the runners, striking out on three pitches.

Josh Huerta was the last hope for Samohi to either send the game to the ninth inning or collect the victory. He slapped the first pitch he saw from Beverly Hills' Kyle Kay to left field for the game's final out.

"We left too many guys on base," Duron said.

Samohi takes on Beverly Hills in the second game of the series on the road on Thursday. Duron is still undecided on who will start the game. Alonzo Gonzalez, Andrew Montanari and Skaggs are all in the running to take the mound.

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Collaborative efforts produce results

FROM **ENFORCEMENT** PAGE 1

ers and managers is often the most efficient and effective way of stopping the problem.

"I'm trying to bite the apple from the other side by advising the users and asking for the cooperation of homeowners and management companies in getting them to stop," Gwartz said.

But a great number of obstacles prevent officers from keeping an eye on the situation at all times. In the scheme of calls that officers respond to daily, complaints about leaf blowers are of a lower priority.

"We've done sweeps in the past," Gwartz said. "Sometimes we'll have a couple of officers go out there and specifically watch for it, but on most occasions we just don't have time."

In consequence, officers are forced to rely on citizens to serve as neighborhood watchdogs, many of whom have taken it upon themselves to be especially proactive with this issue.

These voices can be heard from both local residents and from neighborhood organizations and their representatives.

"(Blowers) are definitely something that people complain about at our group," said Jeanne Dodson, chairwoman of the Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition. "It's definitely something people are annoyed by."

Dodson added that while she has heard some discussion of the issue, most of the residents she speaks to are concerned more about traffic congestion, parking and other issues that affect Downtown.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

IN THE ACT: **A gardener uses a leaf blower to clean the sidewalk along 26th Street last week.**

"My incentive is not to make people angry, I just want to bring light to the issue," said Sara Turbezille, a resident who lives near the Montana Avenue and 22nd Street intersection and who jokingly calls herself the assistant deputy of leaf blowing affairs.

"It started with a defense of my own comfort level and morphed into something that I wanted to bring attention to because of the health risks from this kind of pollution," she added. "These are savvy people who live in this neighborhood … people who should care about their health; I want people to have the facts."

But even Turbezille, vehemently opposed to blower use as she is, said she can empathize with peace officers and the challenges they face in enforcing such laws.

"I feel he's doing the best he can do. He's not a hall monitor," she said of Gwartz. "I know the hierarchy of crime and this is probably, out of necessity, the last thing on the list; I understand that. And I think with his time, he's doing all he can."

And with the combined efforts of Santa Monica police and community-conscious residents, things are beginning to improve, officers said.

"It's definitely getting better but we are still getting complaints," William said. "Probably the biggest difficulty is that there are different laws on leaf blowers from city to city and not all of the gardeners are aware of this. We take the time to educate them, but sometimes we have to come back repeatedly and it's at that point that we issue a citation."

Some residents have called on the City Council to amend the current law allowing officers to ticket homeowners and the companies that use leaf blowers, instead of just punishing individual workers.

Ongoing adjustments on the part of the SMPD, including the establishment of the neighborhood resource officers program, have been the greatest catalyst for progress, said Sgt. Dave Hunscke.

"The neighborhood resource officers have the extra time and some other tools at their disposal to help try to solve the problem in the long term," he said. "I think in the next year, you'll see some new solutions to problems that have been long-standing. A combination of the officers' work and citizen ideas will produce a solution."

Hunscke said he is hopeful for the success of the 14-month-old program, adding that adjustments will be made where necessary in order to produce results.

"It doesn't hurt to try something new," he said. "If it doesn't work we'll try something else and we'll keep trying until the problem is solved."

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Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

COMING SOON: **Macerich, one of the nation's largest owners, operators and developers of regional shopping centers, Tuesday marked a key milestone for Santa Monica Place and announced its plans to open the new retail and dining destination on Aug. 6, 2010, alongside the new Bloomingdale's. Nordstrom will add its appeal with its own opening slated for Aug. 27, 2010.**

Workshop to be held for Nordstrom on Thursday

FROM **OPENING** PAGE 1

La Sandia and Ed Hardy.

"We're looking for things that are special and obviously complement the two anchor stores we have as well as complement the Third Street Promenade and the retail that is around us," Anne Singleton, the vice president of leasing for Macerich, said.

More restaurants could be added to the mix, she said.

The Frank Gehry-designed mall opened in the 1980s and at its prime served as a thriving partner to the promenade. Vibrancy however went away in the past few years as tenants were put on shorter-term leases while Macerich, which purchased the mall in 1999, made plans to give the enclosed shopping center some new life, adopting the tag line, "a star is reborn."

One of the largest developers of shopping centers in the country, Macerich originally proposed building three, 21-story office towers that included retail spaces and residential units. Those plans were nixed after residents opposed the proposal, calling it out of character with the neighborhood.

After holding a series of community workshops, Macerich presented a redesigned mall that included tearing off the roof of the building's central spine.

The Redevelopment Agency recently approved architectural designs for Bloomingdale's, which will move into the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue, formerly occupied by Macy's. Several members of the agency, which is made up of the City Council, expressed some concerns about the design, suggesting more landscaping at the base of the building and asking that the wide expanses of white walls be reconsidered.

The proposed design for Bloomingdale's shows a three-story modern and sleek structure, covered in a transparent glass facade with display windows and a sequin-like layer on the exterior. The remodel of the building, which is owned by Macerich, will be paid for by Macy's Inc.

"I'm not exactly sure what they will do to respond to some of those issues but I know they did have some word from staff on the design," Aptaker said.

City Hall is also planning on hosting a community meeting this Thursday night at the Ken Edwards Center about the proposed designs for Nordstrom, which will be located at the corner of Broadway and Second Street, the one-time home of Robinsons-May. The project will go before the Architectural Review Board later this month but will not require approval by either the Planning Commission or City Council.

Aptaker said that the opening date for the mall is firm.

"It's now a matter of completing construction and working with Bloomingdale's and completing their construction and bringing everything together," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEF

SM PIER

Coming in first

Over 130 entries were received, more than 4,000 people voted, and now Rachel Malovany has been declared the winner of the 2009 Twilight Dance Series Poster Contest. Her winning poster entitled "100 Years of Memories" features a photo collage depicting various images of the Santa Monica Pier with a background of wooden planks and soon it will be seen all over town as it becomes the centerpiece of the concert series, used in display advertising, posters, flyers, banners and more.

Malovany is a native Angeleno who does graphic design for commercial real estate in an office overlooking the pier. The summer concert series at the pier is one of her favorite summer activities, so the opportunity to design the poster was very exciting.

It also gave her a chance to stretch her creativity outside of the corporate design world, which she normally does by doing invitation and event designs for friends and family. She will receive $750 and a VIP package for the 2009 season of the series.

The 25th Annual Twilight Dance Series begins July 2 and continues every Thursday through August 27 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the pier. Admission is free. A complete lineup is scheduled for release at the beginning of June. For more information, visit, www.santamonicapier.org.

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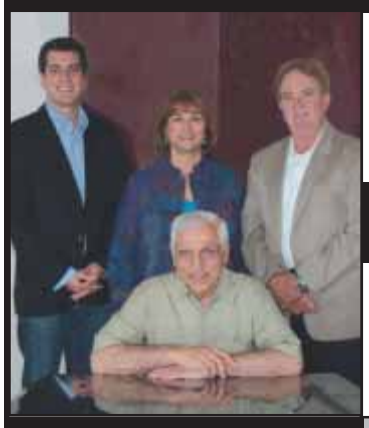
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NBA

Bryant lives for adversity

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Lakers were abject failures in their Western Conference semifinal opener against the Houston Rockets. It was hard to tell, though, by Kobe Bryant's downright cheerful attitude Tuesday.

"We played really bad," he said of the 100-92 loss in which the Lakers shot 44 percent from the floor, were 2-of-18 from 3-point range, and 12-of-19 from the line.

Sensing panic in the streets among Laker fans, Bryant offered up some calming words.

"It's not like it's the end of the world," he said. "We're not the first team ever to lose a Game 1 at home, it's just here in Los Angeles, people get pretty nervous."

Bryant isn't among them.

"Last year we kind of had a cakewalk to the NBA finals, it feels good to be tested a little bit," he said. "To be champions, you got to go through some stuff. You got to have the resolve to be able to fight through a little adversity and respond, so here it is."

The Lakers fell behind in the first quarter Monday night and never got into a rhythm. They had been off for six days after dispatching Utah in the first round.

Game 2 against the Rockets is Wednesday night at Staples Center.

"The next game is extremely critical," Bryant said. "Everybody is a little edgy, pretty energetic and excited about it."

Andrew Bynum returned to the starting lineup after coming off the bench in the last two games against Utah. But he picked up two quick fouls, and finished with 10 points and just three rebounds in 15 minutes.

"It is hurting the team," he said, adding that he's no more than 90 percent physically as he continues recovering from a torn MCL in his right knee.

Bynum's ability to pivot and jump explosively is missing, and he needs those skills to defend Houston's Yao Ming, who had 28 points and 10 rebounds in Game 1.

"He's got to be much more active as a defender, not letting Yao catch the ball where he wants to," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "Yao will catch it and throw it back out and reposition in a better position. Drew has a tendency to just stand behind and play defense because of his size. That doesn't work against Yao. Defense and rebounding are the focus we really want to have."

The Rockets appeared relaxed and energetic at their practice, knowing they've suddenly got the Lakers' full attention.

"Tomorrow is going to be probably the most difficult game," coach Rick Adelman said. "They're going to really come after us."

Yao showed no ill effects from his knee-to-knee collision with Bryant on Monday, when he limped off the court before returning. Yao went through a full practice Tuesday, then sat with an ice pack around his right knee.

"It's a little bit sore. It's fine. I could move around well," he said. "We are a physical team, particularly defensively. If the rest of the games stay like Game 1, we're happy."

The Rockets shot 48 percent from the floor, with speedy second-year guard Aaron Brooks scoring 19 points.

"You almost got to treat him like Tony Parker in terms of his speed and quickness in getting to the rim," Bryant said.

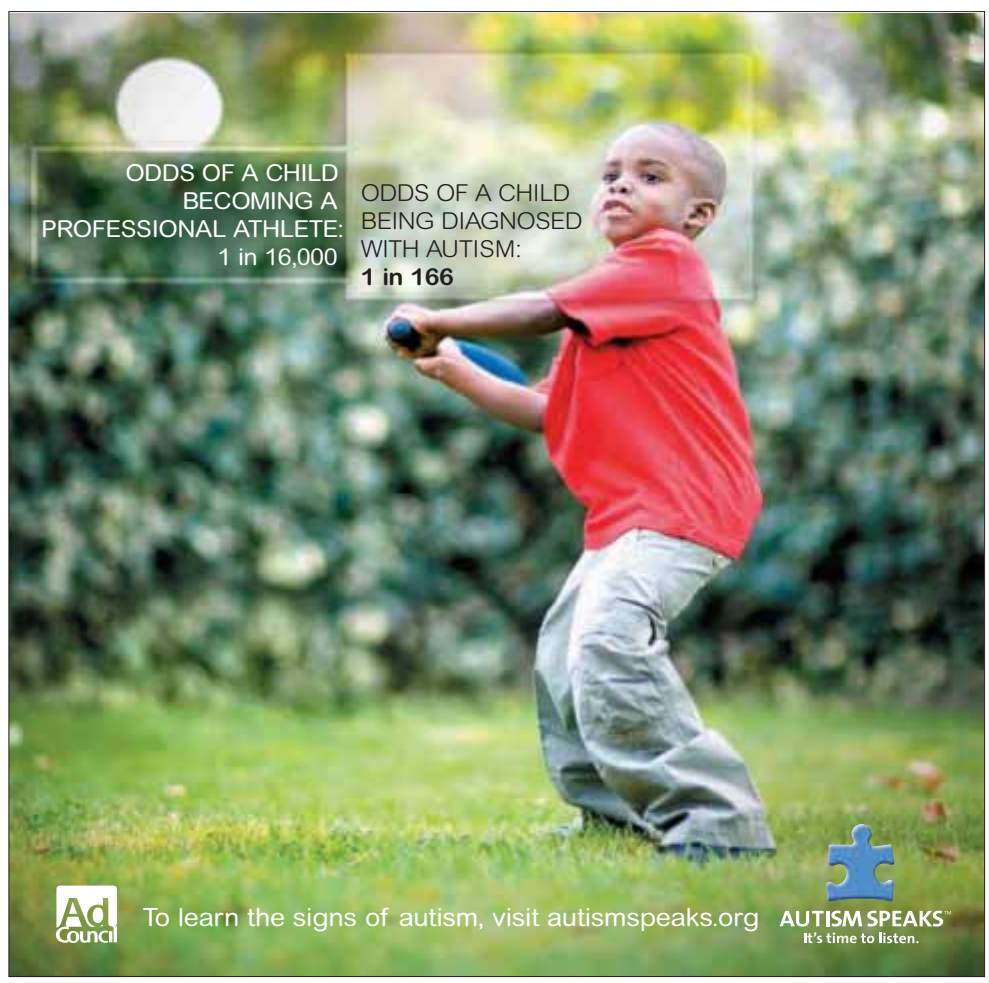
Houston's Shane Battier got into a minor shoving match with Bryant while chasing a loose ball. Battier later took an inadvertent elbow from Sasha Vujacic, drawing blood that streamed down the left side of Battier's face.

Even though Bryant had an off-night shooting (14-of-31 for 32 points), Battier expects the guy he describes as "the best player on the planet" to do more damage.

"We've just got to make him take a lot of shots, make him work and try to limit the offense of the other guys," Battier said. "He's so great, you've got to give him different looks."

Bryant's confidence and upbeat attitude stemmed from knowing the Lakers can't play any worse than they did.

"I feel fantastic," he said, grinning. "We know we can perform better. I'm anxious to see how we respond."



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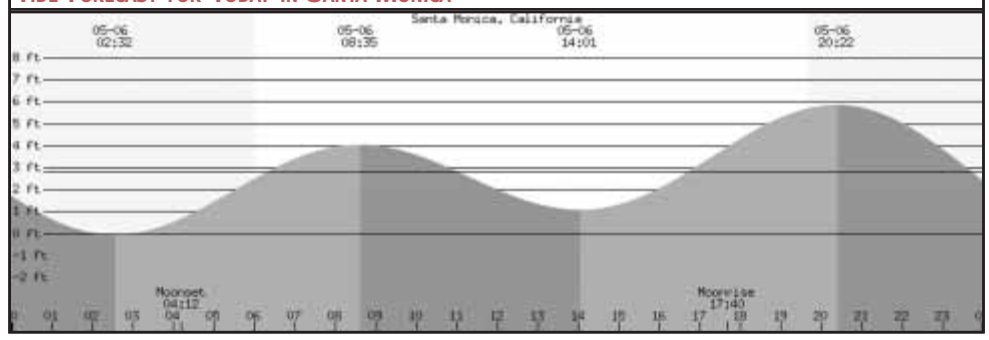
Swell Forecast (6-8 FT)

Wednesday the 6th should see WNW ground swell come into the mix as wind swell remains. Chest to head high is the call for west facing breaks, mostly north ofOC (filling in Thursday to all areas).

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 7th it looks like the WNW ground swell will peak along the SoCal coast, placing most west facing breaks in chest to head high waves. Wind swell will still be quite pronounced.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Santa Monica

Application for the Urban Forest Task Force

The City of Santa Monica is forming an Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force to advise on the development of a long-range urban forest master plan, review specific urban forest issues related to the master plan, and serve in an advisory capacity to City Council on urban forestry issues. The Task Force will initially work with the Community Forester, other City staff and the City's consulting Landscape Architect during the development of the plan by gathering community input and formulating recommendations based on that input for the long-range urban forest master plan. During the development of the plan the Task Force will be meeting monthly with at least 4 additional community workshops. Applicants should be willing to dedicate as much as 14 – 18 hours each month to serve on this Task Force.

The role of the Task Force will be to:

- Focus on the development of the long-range urban forest master plan
- Conduct community meetings to learn resident concerns regarding the long term management of the community forest
- Evaluate the public's input and apply it to the long-range urban forest master plan where practical and/or feasible
- Make revisions to the street tree designation list
- Assist staff throughout the plan's development to create standards for streetscape development projects
- Make recommendations for strategic goals, objectives, implementation measures, and timelines for achievement of those goals

Applications for the Task Force may be obtained from the City's web site at www.smgov.net

Applications must be returned no later than 3:00 PM, June 1, 2009 to:
Director of Community Maintenance, 2500 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404.
Attn: Rosona Starks

All questions may be directed to
rosona.starks@smgov.net

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 28, 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 -- 6 / 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit 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	C	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	C	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	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	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	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	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	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

Requiem for a Heavyweight (NR) (1962) 1hr 35min
7:30

Killer McCoy (NR) (1947) 1hr 44min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:05

Battle for Terra (PG) 1hr 25min
1:30, 3:35, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55

The Informers (R) 1hr 38min
4:45, 7:15

Is Anybody There? (PG-13) 1hr 32 min
2:20

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
9:40

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)
1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00

Earth (G) 1hr 30min
2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:45

Fighting (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:45, 4:15, 7:20, 9:50

Obsessed (PG-13) 1hr 40min
2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

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

Paris 36 (Faubourg 36) (PG-13) 2hr 00min
1:40, 7:00

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
4:30, 9:50

Naked Ambition: An R Rated Look at an X Rated Industry (R)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

Tyson (R) 1hr 45min
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

The Merry Gentleman (R) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45

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

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
10:50 a.m., 12:20, 1:30, 3:10, 4:20, 6:10, 7:10, 9:00, 10:00

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
Digital Projection
11:40 a.m., 2:20, 5:10, 8:00

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

Get frisky, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Much more goes down than you anticipated. You might shake your head tonight when you look back on everything that has gone on. Stay liquid; stay centered. Tonight: Join friends for a midweek break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Be very careful in the next few weeks when dealing with finances, loved ones and risks. A situation could evolve involving all three areas or one individual area. Play it even more conservative than usual. Note what occurs and learn from it. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might try to be mellow and open the door to creativity. You enter a few weeks where you might feel you can't win for losing. Confirm meetings. Don't stand on ceremony with loved ones. Tonight: Be frisky and playful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your imagination comes forward. In fact, observe a tendency to overthink, which evolves to overworrying. In the next few weeks, learn new techniques to quiet your mind. You could be stunned by how much better you feel. Tonight: Buy a plant or some flowers on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Communicate, with a fall-back plan. People seem to misunderstand. Be ready to say what you need not only once or twice, but even more. Use a different style. Tonight: Hang out and laugh with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Remain sensitive to others' financial needs as well as your own. You might not want to pull back, but still don't commit to anything more. A boss could be touchy; a parent could be demanding. Tonight: A treat doesn't need to make you feel bankrupt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your smile wins over many. A strong associate, friend or partner has been combative lately. Instead of reacting to that behavior, look at this person's gentler side. Respond to the positives, not the negatives. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Pull back and listen more. You discover that you could be having a long-running dialogue in your head. The problem lies in that you might miss some details of a conversation. Tonight: Can you distance yourself?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Keep your priorities high in your mind. Don't pull back or give quick answers. You might wonder what is behind someone's actions. Don't play a game; just ask. Keep interchanges as clear as possible now and for the next few weeks. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take charge of a situation knowing that much is out of control. Whether work or a daily issue seems to be on rocky ground suddenly, it is your place to walk in and handle it. Tonight: A must show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Expect some misunderstandings in the next few weeks, but do all you can to avoid that type of hassle. Confirm meetings. Don't stand on ceremony, especially with loved ones and friends. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to a trusted friend or partner. Right now, you might need some thinking time or time to review a personal matter. Finances involving others could be like a seesaw. You just might want to jump off! Tonight: Listening to suggestions doesn't mean you must say yes.

Happy birthday

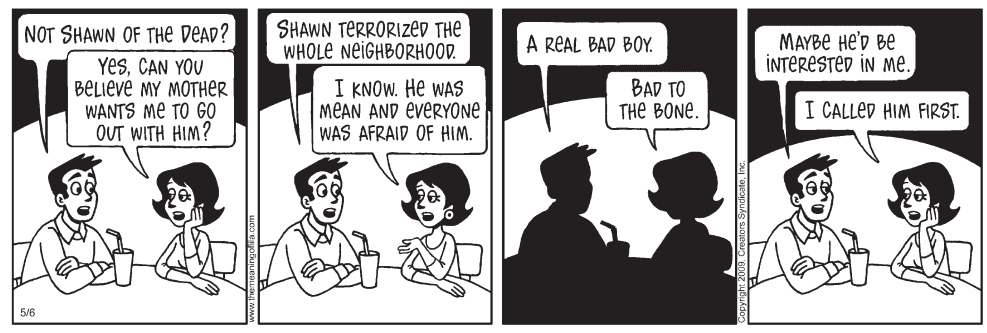
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, when you see a problem or hassle arise, step back and don't react. The wise action would be to ask yourself how you might have played a role in making this happen, and how you could have prevented it. Look within for answers. Your finances could be rocky, often thinking money is there before it really is. Don't take this type of situation for granted. If you are single, you easily could change your mind about situations and people once you detach. Someone very different could enter your life out of the blue. This person functions like a light bulb in a dark room in your life. If you are attached, the two of you will gain from frequent getaways together. LIBRA is easy to work with.

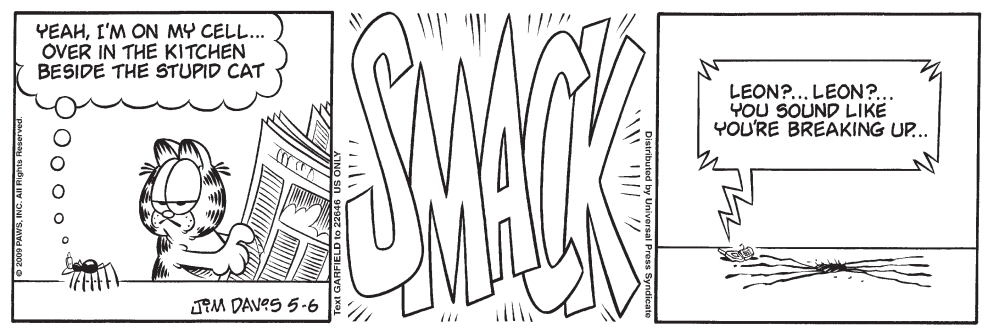
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



Garfield
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Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
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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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Wander off
6 Busy folks in Apr.
10 Sweet liqueur
11 BLT base
12 Humming homes
13 Candy-maker of literature
14 Composer Charles
15 File cabinet item
16 Knightly address
17 Bashful buddy?
18 Reverence
19 Learned inside out
22 Floral rings
23 Party snack
26 Talking horse of TV
29 Hotel amenity
32 Director Van Sant
33 Melody
34 Eyetooth
36 Judy's daughter
37 Wonderland visitor
38 Showed interest
39 Piper of rhyme
40 Love, in Lombardy
41 Historic times
42 Stable mothers

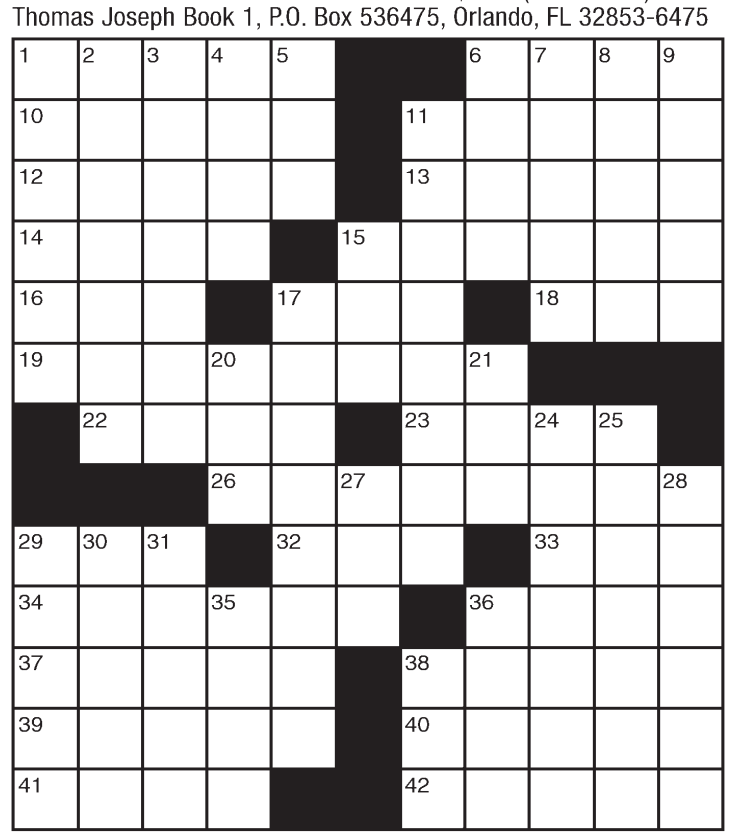
DOWN

1 Rift
2 Far from important
3 Gearshift setting
4 Iowa State setting
5 "You bet!"
6 Composed
7 Bamboo eater
8 Crooked
9 Fixed look
11 Piddling amount
15 In favor of
17 Dior, for one
20 Singer McGraw
21 Bill word
24 Treasonous fellow
25 Repo man's feat
27 Take to court
28 Curtains
29 Scenic painting
30 Less bright
31 Writer Loos
35 Secures
36 Tibetan monk
38 Frodo's friend

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

Yesterday's answer

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5-6

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Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 11 14 15 30 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 8 2
EVENING: 2 0 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.42.83

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Baltimore prosecutors were stuck in their case against cult leader "Queen Antoinette," 40, whom they had charged in the starvation death of a young boy who was being punished for failing to say "Amen" at meal time. They would need the cooperation of the boy's mother, cult member Ria Ramkissoon, 22, but she was refusing to flip on the Queen, whom she believed would eventually resurrect her son from the dead. Finally in March, the judge announced a breakthrough: Ramkissoon would cooperate, but prosecutors would promise in writing to drop all charges if the Queen eventually brings the boy back.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1942 during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese.

1954 medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in three minutes, 59.4 seconds.

1960 Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

1981 Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

1994 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

2002 right-wing Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison.)

WORD UP!

quaff \KWOFF; KWAFF\ , *verb*:
1. To drink a beverage, esp. an intoxicating one, copiously and with hearty enjoyment.

transitive verb:
1. To drink (a beverage) copiously and heartily

noun:
1. An act or instance of quaffing.
2. A beverage quaffed.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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North of Montana ~ Single Family Homes

First Four Months of 2008 compared to First Four Months of 2009

	Previous Period 1-1-08 thru 4-30-08	Current Period 1-1-09 thru 4-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	15	6	-60%
Average Days on the Market	43	64	49%
Lowest Price	$1,880,000	$1,700,000	-10%
Median Price	$2,415,00	$2,383,000	-1%
Highest Price	$3,930,000	$3,883,000	-1%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$972	$757	-22%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98%	95%	-3%

North of Wilshire ~ Condo's & Townhomes

First Four Months of 2008 compared to First Four Months of 2009

	Previous Period 1-1-08 thru 4-30-08	Current Period 1-1-09 thru 4-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	27	29	7%
Average Days on the Market	80	52	-35%
Lowest Price	$402,000	$340,000	-15%
Median Price	$660,000	$683,000	3%
Highest Price	$1,140,000	$1,799,000	58%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$610	$580	-5%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	96%	0%

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