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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 161



Santa Monica Daily Press

MONKEY AROUND AT THE L.A. ZOO
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE USE PUBLIC TRANSIT ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GRAYSCALE: **Urban Studio is expected to receive an $85,000 contract extension to develop a hybrid concept plan for Ocean Park Boulevard that will make the heavily-traveled street between Lincoln Boulevard and Ocean Avenue greener and pedestrian friendly.**

Habitat for Humanity project canceled

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

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The site of a Habitat for Humanity project could fall in local government hands after organizers pulled the plug on a proposed affordable housing development.

The nonprofit organization, which utilizes volunteer help to build homes for low-income families to own, is expected to transfer the property at 2018 19th St. to City Hall in exchange for the cancellation of an approximately $575,000 loan that Habitat for Humanity received in 2002 to acquire the land.

The City Council on Tuesday is expected to authorize its staff to enter negotiations with Habitat for Humanity and cancel all contracts, loan agreements and financial obligations between the two entities. Acquiring the land is expected to cost City Hall roughly $19,000 in one-time escrow fees and property fencing costs.

The matter is part of the consent portion of the council meeting agenda, which includes approximately $1.8 million in spending. The council will temporarily convene as the Redevelopment Agency when it takes action on the conveyance agreement.

Habitat for Humanity approached city officials last year regarding problems it was experiencing in moving the project forward, including financial challenges caused by a drop in fundraising capacity and reallocation of resources to other projects in the area.

The current loan agreement states that Habitat will default if the project is unable to proceed in a timely manner, which would lead to a foreclosure process. Such a situation would not necessarily guarantee that City Hall would gain ownership of the property.

Officials decided to instead enter a conveyance agreement that would allow it to acquire the land, recognizing that Habitat for Humanity had acted in good faith to develop the property and noting that the land most likely increased in value since 2002. City Hall is considering including the property into a cluster of affordable housing developments, looking at other potential sites in the area.

THE TRANSITIONING OF FIRE DISPATCH

The Santa Monica Fire Department, which is in the process of reopening its communications center, is set to receive new equipment to improve dispatch services the second time around.

The council is expected to approve two contracts related to the activation of the fire dispatch center, including a $227,759 pur-

SEE CONSENT PAGE 10

A new tide is forming

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK Facing a flurry of opposition from business owners and residents, the Big Blue Bus has pulled a proposal to cancel the Tide Ride shuttle and plans to instead examine ways to revamp the lowest performing line in its system, gearing it more toward tourism.

The change in plans comes as welcomed news to the local neighborhood and merchants associations, which for months have been lobbying officials with the public transportation agency to keep the shuttle service, which was on the chopping block because of a loss of roughly $3.5 million in state transit assistance funds.

The BBB now plans to keep service intact until August when the shuttle will only run on weekends for eight hours each day. Around that time, BBB will establish a steering committee that will help develop a new shuttle service, which could entail a new route, stops and brand, according to Dan Dawson, the customer relations manager with the Big Blue Bus.

"The one thing everyone agrees on is the Tide — the way it is configured today — is just not serving anyone's needs, not the community or the hotels or the visitors," Dawson said.

The Tide was originally developed in 1993 as a way to serve the growing tourism sector and offset traffic impacts. In 1995, five local hotels — Casa del Mar, Shutters on the Beach, Sheraton Delfina, Loews Santa Monica and the Doubletree — agreed to pay approximately $231,000 a year toward the operation of the Tide Ride as part of a development agreement with City Hall.

That amount currently pays about 27 percent of the yearly operational costs for the shuttle with the Big Blue Bus picking up the remainder. The total operating budget for the Tide is about $849,000 annually.

The shuttle, which can hold about 26 passengers at one time, only serves about half of capacity every hour, making it the lowest performing service in the system.

SEE TIDE PAGE 11


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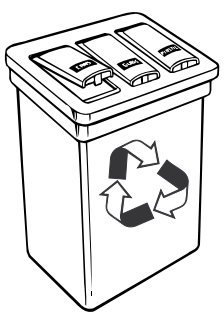
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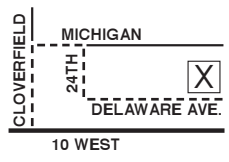


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Free seminar for tenants
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 9:30 a.m. — Noon
Santa Monica Rent Control staff members will be hosting a free seminar for tenants of local rental properties. A detailed explanation of Santa Monica's rent control laws will be provided as well as a basic run down of eviction law, maintenance services and communal area smoking laws in multi-family residential properties. Questions will be taken from attendees as well. For more information, contact Santa Monica Rent Control at (310) 458-8751 or rentcontrol@smgov.net.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Psych talk
YMCA DeWind Room
1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1 p.m.
Speaker Tina Feiger from the Santa Monica's Speakers Bureau will make a presentation on psychological issues at each stage of life. Come to learn about the complexities of the human mind and how it evolves as you age. Admission is free. Call (310) 393-2721 for more information.

Lunch and dinner tastings at Whole Foods
Whole Foods
2201 Wilshire Blvd., Noon — 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Every Wednesday, Whole Foods market gives out lunch and dinner "happy hour" tastings. Come sample new eats and treats from the gourmet, Earth-friendly store. This event is complimentary. Contact Kelly Layne at (310) 315-0662 for more information.

Planetarium Show
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.

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Lawns to Lunches
Main Library, MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The City of Santa Monica will host a panel to assist residents in switching from boring grass yards to productive gardens. Presenters include Jimmy and Logan Williams from Hayground Organics, Russel Ackerman from the city's Office of Sustainability, and Nancy Cipes from Organic Edible Gardens. Seating is limited and available on a first come first serve basis. Call (310) 458-8600 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.



Recognizing a significant contribution

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM BEACH Calling its role critical to the revitalization of the historic beachfront Marion Davies Estate, the Santa Monica Conservancy on May 9 presented their "President's Award" to the Annenberg Foundation, which provided City Hall with a $27.5 million grant to create the nation's first public beach club.

The award was presented to Leonard Aube, managing director of the Annenberg Foundation, during an invite-only event at the newly opened Anneberg Community Beach House. The event, hosted by the conservancy, was attended by some 300 residents.

"We are delighted to give this award to the Annenberg Foundation, whose visionary support, under the leadership of Wallis Annenberg, has revitalized this historic treasure and turned it into an asset for the entire community," said conservancy President Carol Lemlein.

The Beach House is open to the public and includes beach club amenities, modern event rooms overlooking the sand and a historic pool. Docent-led tours include the Julia Morgan-designed and restored guest house. The conservancy's docent-led tours of both the new and historic portions of the facility are free and offered throughout the week. To find out more about tours visit www.smconservancy.org.

The new public facility was originally known as the Marion Davies Estate, a palatial home that dominated Santa Monica's prestigious "Gold Coast" in the 1920s and 1930s. It was here that media baron William Randolph Hearst and his companion, actress Marion Davies, hosted some of the era's most famous people, from Hollywood celebrities to heads of state and beyond.

The original 110-room mansion was torn down in 1957, but the sizable guest house and tiled swimming pool remain. These historic assets have been restored and enhanced with additional new facilities for public recreation by the design team of Frederick Fisher & Partners.

To learn more about opening hours, facilities and activities at the Annenberg Community Beach House, visit http://beachhouse.smgov.net/.

news@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Benjamin Kay

TEAMWORK: **Students from Santa Monica High School build their solar-powered boat 'RETHINK,' which they will use to compete against 40 other schools in the Solar Cup, to be held later this week. Sponsored by City Hall, students were given $4,000 to purchase supplies.**

Going for the sun's cup

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SAMOHI Students from Santa Monica High School will be representing their school and their community in the Metropolitan Water District's 2009 Solar Cup, competing in sprint and endurance races in their 16-foot, solar-powered boat, "RETHINK."

Students from Samohi's Team Marine, Heal the Bay Surfrider Club (HtBSC), and the Marine Biology program have been building the boat for the past seven months and will face off against 40 other schools at Lake Skinner in the Temecula Valley. The team will camp for three days and three nights.

Sponsored by City Hall, the students were given $4,000 dollars to purchase boat equipment, including solar panels and an electric motor.

The Solar Cup, which has been called the nation's largest solar boat program, is a competition that gives high school students hands-on experiences with alternative energies, electrical and mechanical engineering, budgeting, and making creative multi-media public service announcements about California's water crisis. In particular, students experience the triumphs and hardships of constructing the boat and installing the steering, electrical, and drive train systems.

Students had to follow specific rules and guidelines when building their boat.

"This solar boat project has taught me more about science and eco-friendly living than any class I've taken," said Megan Kilroy, captain and skipper of the Solar Cup crew and Team Marine. "Learning all the technical aspects and putting in many long hours have taught me so much, but it's been an amazing experience."

At Lake Skinner, boats will be pitted against each other in the sprint race, a straight course of 200 meters, and the endurance race, a circular 90-minute course that puts the prowess of the solar panels to the test.

"The Solar Cup has given us the privilege of building a solar boat, but the youth's empowerment will go beyond the competition's end," said Valerie Wacker, a member of the Solar Cup crew. "We have stepped into the world of new and sustainable technologies, and just as we have built our own solar boat with the help of our peers, someday, I believe our generation will lead the future to a cleaner earth."

And it's not just the students who are learning.

"I can't say enough about the academic value of project-based learning and service learning project," said Benjamin Kay, marine biology teacher and coach of the Solar Cup crew, Team Marine, and the HtBSC. "I've learned so much this year, and the magical thing is that the students have been teaching me."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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All will be explained in due time

Editor:

Over the next several months, the Pico Improvement Organization (PIO) will engage its efforts in informing the public and city officials about its proposal of the Pico Communication Center – an all-green, self-sustainable, mixed-use space consisting of a library, a postal service area, retail services, community art center, office space, and affordable/senior housing. Currently, the City Council is exploring the possibility of building a new library in Virginia Avenue Park. In response, the PIO will lobby to effectively persuade the residents of Santa Monica, neighborhood groups, and the City Council to ensure that the Pico Communication Center will be rightfully constructed on Pico Boulevard, rather than sacrificing and depleting limited green space.

As chairman of the PIO, it is my duty to carry out the organization's commitment to improve the lives of the merchants and residents bordering Pico Boulevard. To that end, Pico Boulevard and the residents within the redevelopment zone are entitled to our share of the city's Earthquake Redevelopment Funds.

Following the 1994 Northridge earthquake, The Santa Monica Earthquake Recovery Redevelopment Project was established to provide financial assistance to residents, businesses and institutions affected by the disaster. The Redevelopment Project generates its funding from the increases in property assessment taxes since the earthquake, which has been approximated at $25 million annually. The Redevelopment Project encompasses approximately 3.6 square miles and is generally bounded by Pico Boulevard on the south, 26th Street on the east, Montana Avenue on the north, and Ocean Avenue on the west.

Our lobbying effort has three fronts. First, it is unacceptable and improper to sacrifice any green space in Virginia Avenue Park or anywhere in Santa Monica. We are an eight-square-mile city, with a resident population of 90,000, which increases during the work week to a population of approximately 300,000. Green space is a vital component to our community. Any depletion of green space is an environmental mistake that would result in severe consequences. The PIO is committed and has pledged to protect every green space within our privy, and opposes any destruction of this precious commodity.

Secondly, the Santa Monica Earthquake Redevelopment Fund designates Pico Boulevard as its southern border, which includes the Pico Neighborhood within its parameters. These funds were acquired and must be spent on the revitalization of Pico Boulevard. Since 1994, many properties within the Pico Neighborhood have contributed tax dollars to the Earthquake Fund. For this reason, Pico Boulevard and the Pico Neighborhood demand and are entitled to our share and the benefits the fund provides in improvement projects and other services.

Third, the PIO is committed to the revitalization of Pico Boulevard. Our organization has the resources, the commitment, and the mettle to see The Pico Communication Center to completion. We believe this forward-thinking, green project will set a new standard in the revitalization and the continued rebirth of Pico Boulevard, and the entire city of Santa Monica.

Robert Kronovet
Chairman, PIO

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That Rutherford Guy

John W. Whitehead — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Total security state

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, GOVERNMENT officials acknowledged that the nefarious intelligence gathering entity known as the National Security Agency (NSA) had exceeded its legal authority by eavesdropping on Americans' private e-mail messages and phone calls. However, these reports barely scratch the surface of what we are coming to recognize as a "security/industrial complex" — a marriage of government, military and corporate interests aimed at keeping Americans under constant surveillance.

The increasingly complex security needs of our massive federal government, especially in the areas of defense, surveillance and data management, have been met within the corporate sector, which has shown itself to be a powerful ally that both depends on and feeds the growth of governmental bureaucracy.

For example, USA Today reports that five years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the homeland security business was booming to such an extent that it eclipsed mature enterprises like movie-making and the music industry in annual revenue. This security spending by the government to private corporations is forecast to exceed $1 trillion in the near future.

Money, power, control. There is no shortage of motives fueling the convergence of mega-corporations and government. But who will pay the price? The American people, of course, and you can be sure that it will take a toll on more than our pocketbooks.

Americans have been conditioned to accept routine incursions on their privacy rights. However, at one time, the idea of a total surveillance state tracking one's every move would have been abhorrent to most Americans.

That all changed with the 9/11 attacks. We have, so to speak, gone from being a nation where privacy is king to one where nothing is safe from the prying eyes of government. In search of terrorists hiding amongst us — the proverbial "needle in a haystack," as one official termed it — the government has taken to monitoring all aspects of our lives, from cell phone calls and e-mails to Internet activity and credit card transactions.

Users are profiled and tracked in order to identify, target and even prosecute them. In such a climate, everyone is a suspect. And you're guilty until you can prove yourself innocent.

Here's what a lot of people fail to understand, however: it's not just what you say or do that is being monitored, but how you think that is being tracked and targeted. We've already seen this play out on the state and federal level with hate crime legislation that cracks down on hateful thoughts and expression in order to discourage so-called hateful behavior.

Total Internet surveillance is merely the next logical step in the government's attempts to predict and, more importantly, control the populace — and it's not as far-fetched as you might think.

For example, the NSA is now designing an artificial intelligence system that is designed to anticipate your every move. In a nutshell, the NSA will feed vast amounts of the information it collects to a computer system known as Aquaint (the acronym stands for Advanced QUestion Answering for INTelligence), which the computer can then use to detect patterns and predict behavior. No information is sacred or spared. Everything from cell phone recordings and logs, to e-mails, to text messages, to personal information posted on social networking sites, to credit card statements, to library circulation records, to credit card histories, etc., is collected by the NSA. One NSA researcher actually quit the program, "citing concerns over the dangers in placing such a powerful weapon in the hands of a top-secret agency with little accountability."

MONEY, POWER, CONTROL. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF MOTIVES FUELING THE CONVERGENCE OF MEGA-CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT.

Unfortunately, our somnambulant Congress is not heeding this warning. Legislation is presently making its way through Congress that is aimed at giving the president the authority to declare a cybersecurity emergency and limit or shut down the Internet altogether, as well as enable unprecedented federal oversight of private network administration.

The Cybersecurity Act of 2009 would authorize the creation of a Cybersecurity Czar to centralize power now held by the Pentagon, NSA, DHS and Department of Commerce. It would also require so-called "standards" to be established for private companies, as well as licensing and certification of cybersecurity professionals. Once the government is granted the authority to regulate the Internet and its users, which is what this legislation would ostensibly do, the ability to freely speak up and protest will be virtually wiped out.

So where does this leave us? If we've already been under surveillance for years, largely without our knowledge, what does it matter anyway?

And can anything really be done to avoid moving into a total surveillance state? Frankly, technology has developed to such a point that it has outstripped the ability of human beings to control it. It has become virtually autonomous.

And in the hands of government, technology is largely working against us now — except for the Internet, the freedom highway where democracy still lives. It remains, for now, our last holdout in this insidious slide towards totalitarianism.

Constitutional attorney and author JOHN W. WHITEHEAD is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Ashley Archibald, Rob Lawrence, Teddy Leshnick
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Raymond Solano, Rachel Dardashti
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

Visit us online at smdp.com

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Robbing Peter to pay Paul

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT THE REALITY of life is that we have yet another election coming up. Next week the state will vote on several ballot measures confronting the perpetual problem of our state's budget. There are six propositions, and I'm going to attempt to explain them.

Proposition 1A: This is the big one. It does two very important things, first is increases the size of our state's Rainy Day Fund from 5 percent to 12.5 percent of the General Fund. What this means in layman's terms is that we are trying to have a bigger safety net for the future. I like that. I think we need to have bigger savings. It also extends the length of the latest tax hikes. I don't like that, but I will tolerate it because as a state, we need to increase our revenues. One of the biggest problems with our budgeting process is the fact that so much of our actual budget is pre-determined. There is little "give" for the legislators to tighten or loosen. However, we can change that by having more money coming.

Taxes are never fun. No one wants taxes, but like colonoscopies, they are a fact of life. As a state we fund thousands of programs, and we all enjoy the benefits of some of them. So we all have to pay. This bill extends the duration of the latest increases in sales tax, vehicle licensing, and personal income tax. The 1 cent increase would continue for another year, and the vehicle and income tax increases would continue for two years. I think it is wise to continue these and rebuild our state's economy. I vote yes for 1A.

Proposition 1B: This is an education funding measure that is dependent on Prop 1A being passed. It pays back the funds that have been cut as a result of the current budget meltdown. I believe that we need to have our schools properly funded, and this is a solution that can work. Our schools are falling to the bottom of the list in academic excellence. We need to stop that. I vote yes for 1B.

Proposition 1C: This is the "Let's rob Peter to pay Paul" bill. The Legislature wants to "borrow" from "future lottery profits" to balance the current budget. Bad Idea. The thinking is that we can "modernize" the lottery, increase the payouts, borrow from tomorrow to pay for today, and with the increased profits, pay back the loan. This just doesn't make sense. If we want to modernize and make the lottery more profitable, great, more money for the schools. We shouldn't mortgage all of our assets at once. I vote no on 1C.

Proposition 1D: Another "Let's rob Peter to pay Paul" bill. Proposition 10 established an excise tax on tobacco products to fund programs for children under 5. It has resulted in a large pool of money that the Legislature wants to tap for other programs which serve children under 5 that are funded by the General Fund. Essentially this is an end run around the will of the people who voted for Prop. 10 and want that money used for its intended purpose. I don't like it, but I am going to vote yes on this one, because we need to find money to fund the state.

TAXES ARE NEVER FUN. NO ONE WANTS TAXES, BUT LIKE COLONOSCOPIES, THEY ARE A FACT OF LIFE.

Proposition 1E: And still another "Let's rob Peter to pay Paul" bill. Proposition 63 was passed by the voters to establish a 1 percent tax on incomes over a million dollars, to fund mental health programs. It has resulted in around a billion dollars in revenue annually. What this measure does is redirect for a two year period those funds to offset programs that are paid for by the General Fund. Again, I don't like this, but I think it makes sense. If the money is in one place and needs to be in another, why not use it? Vote yes on 1E.

Proposition 1F: Let's not give pay raises to legislators in a budget deficit year. As an entrepreneur, I know that when my company doesn't make a profit, I don't get a paycheck, let alone a pay raise. I don't see why legislators should be allowed to get increases when the budget is stretched. It's not a huge cost savings, and really is more of a "feel good" piece of legislation, but it's the only one that I do feel good about, so please vote yes on 1F.

We have hard choices to make this election, and I hope that I've helped you make yours.

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

The Q Line

Which kind of green?

A recent Daily Press article revealed that gaining a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificate could be a costly process, which is off-putting for some developers who want their projects to be "green."

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think that the money is well spent on LEED certification or do you believe that the benefit is not worth the cost?

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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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2008 ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (CDBG-R)

City of Santa Monica

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program Funding Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Substantial Amendment - CDBG-R). The plan outlines how the funds will be spent and confirms that the funded activities are consistent with the City's community development strategy as specified in the Five Year Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed Substantial Amendment – CDBG-R.

Copies of the Substantial Amendment – CDBG-R are now available to the public for a 7-day community review period ending May 19, 2009. For a copy, you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by May 12, 2009, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division.

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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Where you'll never be bored

I ADMIT THERE ARE SOME DAYS WHEN I am at a total loss as to how to entertain my kid. He has mounds of toys and yet sometimes there is nothing for us to play with. And though we live a block and a half from a terrific park, sometimes I just can't go push him on a swing yet again. On those days, the "bad" mother in me often puts on the T.V.

But sometimes on those days we are inspired by our city. Santa Monica and the surrounding area are blessed with fabulous free outdoor activities, like beaches and parks and mountains, but it is also a great place for fun kids' activities with just a little added cost.

So here, for your future enjoyment, is a list of some of our favorite kids places in the L.A. area.

For most, bring your wallet.

The Zimmer Children's Museum: This is a very sweet and small children's museum in the mid-Wilshire district. It is made up of several small little playrooms with different themes. The kids can serve you a meal in a restaurant, play newspaper editor, or command a plane or ambulance. The only thing I don't love about The Zimmer is that it isn't just down the street from my house. Because sometimes I think about going and then think about driving across town and then head to the park and push Ben on a swing for an hour instead.

Noah's Ark at The Skirball: This is a spectacular exhibit at The Skirball. Giant giraffes made out of recycled goods loom from above. You can make it rain and the ark itself is pretty impressive. The craftsmanship of this exhibit may be lost on young children, as it was on mine, but my husband and I were really impressed.

He and I each went for a climb up in the ark as our son lingered below knocking over the many stuffed animals that live in the ark two by two.

In fact, Ben probably had the most fun going up and down the outside stairs and running through the mist in the gardens, but for an older kid and an adult, this is a great afternoon. And they may even learn something.

The Los Angeles Zoo: Ah, the zoo. I will get my qualms with this zoo out of the way first. It is a little hilly and a bit of a workout to cover the whole thing. The animals are spread out so it requires a lot of walking, which with a 2 year old who refuses to get in a stroller, can always be a bit challenging. Some of the grounds are older and certain signs that tell you about the animals are fading.

But, there are real giraffes here and the baby giraffes alone are bigger than anything you can imagine. There are lions and tigers and bears (oh my). And a rhino and a hippo even. There is even Reggie the Alligator, our very own local celebrity.

The gorilla exhibit is by far my favorite. When we were first there, they were chasing each other and sliding down their hills, enjoying themselves in such a way that made me so jealous.

My son likes the zoo, simply because we usually get him ice cream.

Natural History Museum: This is a very accessible, kid-friendly museum. There are dinosaurs and bugs and a crazy looking shark. What's not to like?

THE LOS ANGELES ZOO: AH, THE ZOO. I WILL GET MY QUALMS WITH THIS ZOO OUT OF THE WAY FIRST. IT IS A LITTLE HILLY AND A BIT OF A WORKOUT TO COVER THE WHOLE THING.

The last time we went, we attended a cool dinosaur "puppet show," which was a guy in a costume that was so life-like that as he roared my son grabbed me and started screaming he wanted to go, "home, home, home!"

KidSpace: This museum is certainly worth a drive to Pasadena, if not several. I briefly considered moving to Pasadena to have easier access to this place because it is so much fun. But then I remembered it is really hot there.

The mall (yeah, the mall): On days when you just want to let the kids play (and sit on the side and watch), the fruit structure in the food court at The Westside Pavilion is terrific.

We have a standing play date once a week with some friends of ours and I am always taken with how much fun they continue to have here, by simply chasing each other or climbing the big banana or simply watching the elevator go up and down.

Travel Town: This is simple. Travel town is beyond awesome. It has old trains you can climb aboard. Travel Town is free. We will be having my son's birthday party there. If you have not been there, go. Now. And on Sundays check out the Steamer ride next door.

What is fabulous about L.A. is that this list barely scratches the surface of things to do here.

My son's most favorite thing to do though, besides being pushed in a swing, is hopping on the Big Blue Bus outside our door. "I'm on the bus," he exclaims with glee to anyone who will listen. Because sometimes all it takes is 75 cents and a fast ride with a cool ocean breeze.

Though nothing actually beats simply watching the garbage truck go by.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

Controlling a kid's sass

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press Writer

I walked into the dining room one night and asked a cheery and simple question of my seemingly well-rested 9-year-old as she sat at the table.

"Whatcha reading?"

"A book," she sneered, not bothering to look up.

Urgh. I rolled my eyes and walked away to avoid getting snippy myself, later wishing I had calmly drawn her out instead.

While people who know me might not be all that surprised by my child's capacity for a little lip, my husband's sweeter nature usually prevails. But neither of us had anticipated a teenager-y sass factor so early.

Were we the only ones with a wonderful but sometimes sassy kid? When did it begin? And most importantly, how do we make it stop while navigating that space between developmentally natural and vein-popping, consequence-inducing out of line?

As I set out in search of its origins, I quickly realized that sass wasn't just our problem. It's all around us, in toddlers to teens. And it seems to be wrapped up in the debate on helicopter parenting, aka overparenting, and what appears to be an overindulgence of an entire generation.

"When a child talks back or speaks inappropriately the goal of any parent isn't to make them feel terrible about it," said Tamar Chansky, a child psychologist in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., and author of "Freeing Your Child from Negative Thinking and Freeing Your Child from Anxiety."

"The goal is to help them learn what is appropriate and what is not. Less is more when it comes to parental responses. The best reply is to say, 'Excuse me?' or 'Try that again? I'm sure that's important but you're going to need to say it a different way.' Then when the child fixes it and restates, they get kudos rather than time-out."

Psychotherapist Susan Stiffelman in Los Angeles offers a shorthand that speaks volumes. She calls it "MOM TV." Here's how it works:

Little Julia is in the back seat, bored out of her mind, but she has to drive with Mom to take big brother to soccer. She doesn't want to. She has nothing fun to do. So she starts kicking the back side of Mom's seat.

"Honey, stop kicking Mommy's seat."

Kicking.

"Sweetheart, Mommy needs you to stop kicking."

Kicking.

"Julia! I said stop kicking! Do you want me to have an accident?"

Kicking.

Mom pulls the car over, turns around with nostrils flaring, face red, and shouts, "How many times have I told you ..."

Julia is no longer bored.

"That's MOM TV. It works in lots of scenarios," said Stiffelman, who wrote the upcoming "From Chaotic to Calm: Raising Kids Without Power Struggles, Negotiations or Meltdowns."

In the New York City home of single mom Wendi Friedman Tush, sass from her nearly 6-year-old daughter has MOM TV flipped on way too much. Tush said the talking back from Gabrielle usually falls into three categories:

— Dissociative Disrespect. "I say, you have to clean up your room. Until you do, there is no story time and no game time. She says, I actually don't have to do what you say. I say, actually you do. If you don't you lose those privileges. She says, then I don't care about those privileges."

> **"WHEN A CHILD TALKS BACK OR SPEAKS INAPPROPRIATELY THE GOAL OF ANY PARENT ISN'T TO MAKE THEM FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT IT."**
>
> **Tamar Chansky**
> Child psychologist

What would Tush have done differently?

"Not reasoned with her about whether she has to listen to me or not. I should somehow have made it an absolute. She had control because she decided not to care about the punishment."

— The Drama Queen. "My daughter uses my lines back at me in the most ridiculous ways. She learns these lines well and delivers them with conviction. I say, you have 10 minutes to finish breakfast and brush your teeth. If you don't make the bus, I won't take you to school. She says, don't you ever talk to me like that again!"

What does Tush do?

"Usually laugh. What do I wish I had done? No idea."

— The Litigator. "Me: Go to bed. Gabrielle: What happens if I don't? Me: One, you will be miserable in the morning and two you will be punished by me. ... Gabrielle: If we can't make a deal I will just stay up for a few minutes and see what happens."

And then?

"I usually give up, here," Tush said.

Stiffelman offers these strategies:

— Don't get reactive, sucked in or heavily engaged in the behavior. Notice it and distract yourself nonchalantly as a way to "break whatever spell the child is under."

— If you suspect the talking back is an attention-getting strategy, try giving them more attention, especially when they aren't asking or demanding it. "A child who feels nourished with attention is less likely to push buttons to get it, although they are fairly insatiable and addicted to our focus."

— Give The Look. "Parents underestimate the power of silence, accompanied by a stern, straight-faced gaze."

Some sass, Stiffelman said, is to be expected as a child ventures on down the road of "individuation," testing limits and asserting herself along the way. But Stiffelman also said "it compromises their core self-esteem and sense of self if they're allowed to be rude and disrespectful" all the time, in every situation.

Does this mean a baby's "No" needs to be stifled or she'll grow into a tantrum-throwing toddler, belligerent school child and surly teen?

Suzy Martyn, a parenting consultant in Cypress, Calif., and author of "Enjoying the Ride: Tools, Tips, and Inspiration for the Most Common Parenting Challenges," said setting limits earlier rather than later in a child's life makes it much easier to continue to set limits as she grows. That way, children learn to trust and parents can offer more freedom, little by little.

"This type of boundary setting is healthy for both child and parent," Martyn said.

Healthy is good. It's what parents live for. So the next time MOM TV is playing at our house, this mom's going to turn the channel.

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Sales are booming for clinical strength diet pill



■ **POPULAR PILL:** Allison Garwood (front) and Renee Pellegrini pick up a bottle of the breakthrough weight loss supplement called Apatrim® at the pharmacy. An amazing 100% of the participants in the U.S. clinical trial got results taking Apatrim and its popularity is soaring. Consumers can call 1-866-964-2349 to have Apatrim shipped directly to their homes.

By K. Tedeschi
Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) – Over 10 million doses have been shipped to dieters so far, and sales continue to climb every day for the diet supplement called Apatrim®.

"We knew we had a great product, but it's even exceeded our expectations," said Ken Geis, Manager of Call Center Operations for PatentHEALTH the company that developed the clinically tested weight loss supplement.

"People just keep placing orders, it's been pretty amazing," he said.

But a closer look at this weight loss sensation suggests that maybe the company shouldn't have been caught off guard by its success.

There are some very good reasons for Apatrim's surging popularity.

To begin with, the clinical test results were very impressive. Participants taking Apatrim's active ingredient lost an average of 400% more weight than those taking a placebo during the 4-week U.S. clinical study. These remarkable results were achieved without additional exercise or diets.[1]*

Apatrim comes from a natural edible plant source. It's safe, as well as easy to use. This weight loss supplement can actually begin working the very first day. And since researchers believe Apatrim works to suppress appetite, most people can eat what they want and still lose weight.*

"By suppressing their appetite, most people will consume fewer calories which can lead to weight loss," said Dr. Joseph Dietz, Director of Health Science, Research & Development for PatentHEALTH. "Consumers should always keep in mind that there is no substitute for proper diet and exercise when it comes to losing weight."*

Impressive clinical results

Apatrim's active ingredient has a known ability to help control hunger pangs. This allows people to eat the foods they want and always seem to be craving because they'll just want to eat less.*

The U.S. clinical study was conducted in Los Angeles. The study included healthy, overweight individuals between the ages of 31 and 73. The caloric intake and level of exercise was not disclosed.

The participants were instructed not to change the food they were eating and not to add any exercise. Specifically, no changes to their daily routine; just take the recommended dosage 30-minutes before lunch and dinner.

A remarkable 100% of the participants taking Apatrim as directed either lost weight or inches off of their waistline during the 4 week clinical study. Those losing weight lost an average of 5 times more than study participants who were taking the placebo pills.*

Some participants experienced fabulous results, losing as much as 8 lbs and up to 3 inches off their waistline. These amazing results were achieved without changes in lifestyle. All they did was take the pills as instructed.[2]*

Professional support

Industry trends along with professional's support in the weight loss and fitness industries indicate that Apatrim is the real thing. This amazing pill is being recommended to companies and clients across the country.

Mark Loy, a personal trainer has had some of his clients use Apatrim with great success.[3]

"When I'm working with my clients I can control what they're eating," said Loy. "But when they leave they're on their own and that's when the tendency to cheat comes into play," he continued.

"I heard about Apatrim so I checked out the facts then decided to try it as a part of my training program," Loy said.

"It's really helped some of my clients to control their eating. I've watched people get some amazing results while taking Apatrim," said Loy. "Sign me up, I'm a believer."[2]

Dr. Joseph Dietz was impressed with the quality of the clinical trials as well as the U.S. patent (#7,060,308). This patent protects the proprietary method of extracting the active ingredient. This process is what the developing scientists believe is the key to the active ingredient's effectiveness.

"When I read the clinical results, the U.S. patent and all of the other scientific support I immediately knew we needed to use this weight loss compound," said Dietz.

"The results are real; Apatrim is a great product that's been shown to help people lose weight."*

Where to get it

All of the national retail pharmacies including Walmart and CVS/pharmacy, have placed orders for Apatrim.

There have been some reports of out-of-stocks, so to make it easier for people to get it right away a Regional Health Hotline has been put in place

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Participants in clinical study lost an average of 5 times more weight without additional exercise or diets; 48-hour time limit now in place

(continued from previous page)

for the next 48 hours.

Starting at 8:00am today, all consumers have to do is call 1-866-964-2349 and ask for Dept. AP4402; orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

"For those people who call the hotline to have Apatrim shipped directly to their homes, we guarantee they'll get product and they can also qualify for a direct-to-home discount," said Ken Geis. "But this discount is only available through the hotline for the next 48 hours," he said.

So for those who choose not to call or miss the deadline you may have to pay more for Apatrim or possibly run the risk of not finding it at the drug store. ■

Here's how to guarantee you get it:

To make it easy for people to get Apatrim quickly, the company has set up a Regional Health Hotline. Follow the instructions listed below to have Apatrim shipped directly to your home or you can check your local drug store to see if they have it in stock. For consumers who call the hotline, advise the operator that you want Apatrim shipped directly to your home so they can see if you qualify for the direct-to-home shipping discount.

Regional Health Hotline; 48-hours only

Consumers can begin calling promptly at **8:00am today**. The hotline will be available for the next 48 hours. **Call 1-866-964-2349** and ask for **Dept. AP4402**. All orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Retail Pharmacies:

National chains across the country that have ordered Apatrim include **Walmart**, **CVS/pharmacy** and **The Vitamin Shoppe**. All of these chains have confirmed that they have received their initial shipments of Apatrim and are working to make certain they have stock available. Consumers not able to find Apatrim at their local pharmacies can call the hotline and have it delivered directly to their homes. You may also qualify for a special discount.

On the web: www.apatrim.com

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1. Primary study based on 26 participants over a 4-week period. Participants were directed not to add any exercise or change eating habits. Participants level of caloric intake and exercise were not measured or disclosed. 2. Individual results may vary. 3. Mark Loy is a personal trainer and fitness consultant to PatentHEALTH, he is remunerated for his services.

*THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

Drug stores load up with powerful joint pill

Sales skyrocketing; news of its amazing results spread across the U.S.

By G.W. Napier
Universal Media Syndicate

UMS - Consumers can't seem to get enough of it and drug stores are selling it as fast as they can get it.

"Unbelievable, that's all I can say," said Darla Miller, Operations Manager for PatentHEALTH the company that developed the breakthrough joint supplement.

Miller was referring to the fact that in just one day a drug store chain sold 2,000 bottles of the powerful joint health supplement called Trigosamine®.

"We've already shipped over 500,000 bottles of Trigosamine and sales just keep growing, it's been crazy," said Miller.

Scientists have developed this amazing oral tablet that doesn't require a prescription and is taken only once a day.

It's so impressive that one key ingredient has the ability to retain fluid up to 1000 times its own weight; this helps increase lubrication for the joints allowing them to move with ease.*

Trigosamine's key ingredient is Hyaluronate also called HA-13 which is the building block of "natural joint fluid," medically known as synovial fluid.

This joint fluid reduces friction in the joints allowing for effortless motion. It not only lubricates the joints, but it also acts as a comfortable shock absorber.

"As we age, the body's natural production of this fluid declines and this can force the bones in our joints to grind together which can result in nagging discomfort," said Dr. Joseph Dietz[1].

"Using Trigosamine is like taking a can of oil and applying it directly to your joints," said Dr. Dietz*.

Trigosamine combines HA-13 with the essential blend of glucosamine and chondroitin which have been clinically shown to help build healthy cartilage in the joints allowing for increased flexibility and range of motion.*

A clinical study conducted by the United States government found that glucosamine and chondroitin, similar to those found in Trigosamine, had a 79.2% effective rate for those with moderate to severe joint discomfort.[2]*

But it's the results that make this joint supplement so impressive.

"We get messages from consumers all the time telling us how great Trigosamine works for them," said Miller.

"Everybody wants it," added Miller.

"CVS/pharmacy was one of the first ones to order Trigosamine and they've loaded up their shelves. We've received reports that show they have some inventory left," said Miller.

"And to make it easier for people who can't find Trigosamine or don't want to go to the store we've set up a National Order Hotline so they can have it delivered directly to their home," said Miller.

"We'll be offering a direct delivery discount for the next 72 hours, and consumers should know they can't get this discount at drug stores," she added.

Otherwise those living in the local area that miss the deadline won't be able get the discount. They'll have to go to their local drug store to try and get Trigosamine and may be hard pressed to find it. ■

Or, visit us online at:
www.trigosamine.com



■ **HEALTHY JOINTS:** X-rays reveal joints that have the proper amounts of synovial fluid to lubricate the joints. HA-13, one of Trigosamine's key ingredients is a component of synovial fluid.



■ **ALMOST GONE:** Sales of the joint pill Trigosamine are soaring which could lead to out of stocks as shown in this photo illustration. Consumers unable to find it can call **1-800-924-2109** and have it shipped directly to their homes.

Local Readers Discount Deadline

You may be able to find Trigosamine at **CVS/pharmacy** since they have received shipments. If you want Trigosamine shipped directly to your home and would like the local readers discount, call the National Order Hotline listed below before the **72-hour deadline** expires. Otherwise you'll have to get Trigosamine at the drug store and may run the risk of not being able to find it.

Begin Calling at 8:00AM
TODAY
1-800-924-2109
Approval Code: TG8558
Discount Ends in 72 hours

1. Dr. Joseph Dietz, PhD currently conducts full time research for PatentHEALTH, LLC. as Director of Health Science, Research Development.
2. Statements herein are based upon published public information and do not imply affiliation, sponsorship or endorsement of Trigosamine by the United States Government.

*THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

City Hall wants to develop Downtown street car

FROM CONSENT PAGE 1

chase agreement with Motorola for new radio equipment and a $190,000 order from Westnet for a fire station alerting system.

Officials decided earlier this year to end a more than year-long partnership with the Los Angeles Fire Department Regional Dispatch Center after a study concluded that using an in-house communications center would best serve the needs of residents.

"The purchase of the radio infrastructure equipment is necessary in order to support communications within the fire department, and for interoperable communications with the police department as well as other local public safety agencies," a staff report said.

Approximately $63,750 in no-match federal funds is also slated to come to City Hall for local homeland security efforts.

The money will be used to buy hazardous material inter-operability equipment.

The council was expected to authorize the city manager last month to accept the grant but did not because there were less than five members present for the vote.

PARKING IN DOWNTOWN

City Hall is expected to hire Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates, a San Francisco-based firm that has worked on various local transportation and planning related projects in the past, to conduct a parking study of the Downtown and Civic Center areas.

The consultant will be responsible for not only studying parking and circulation in the area, but see how that would be impacted by the Exposition Light Rail, which will terminate at the corner of Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street.

The contract is estimated at $130,876.

CREATING A PLAN FOR THE TREES

About a month after the council decided to form a new task force that would advise on the formation of an urban forest master plan, an architecture firm will be hired to help develop the document.

Artecho Landscape Architecture is expected to receive a $203,791 contract to create the master plan, which will include an updated tree inventory, maintenance requirements, and an assessment of environmental benefits of having an urban forest. The plan will also account for the life expectancy of each tree.

The consultant will conduct four public workshops from which it will identify specific species that will replace trees once they are removed, depending on the location. The firm will also work with the task force to set priorities for the long-term health and "perpetuation" of the urban forest, a staff report stated.

GREENING OCEAN PARK

A firm that is in the process of developing a hybrid concept plan for Ocean Park Boulevard using two designs previously presented to council will need more money to complete its work.

Urban Studio is slated to receive an $85,000 contract extension, which will allow its engineering subcontractor to "determine the permeability and other physical properties of the underlying ground layers through a geotechnical engineering report," a staff report said.

The engineering sub-consultant will then use the study to make recommendations about the type of sustainability measure that can be instituted for the project.

The contract amendment also includes extra traffic analysis and revised concept drawings incorporating recent input from the council.

CLEANING UP THE BIG BLUE BUS FACILITY

The Big Blue Bus, which is in the process of expanding its facility, is hoping to keep its current custodial staff a while longer.

High Tech Building Maintenance Co. has been providing maintenance services under an existing contract since October 2007. The council is expected to increase that contract on a month-to-month basis through June 30, 2010, for a total of about $174,000. The Big Blue Bus is expected to open bidding for maintenance services just before construction of the facility is completed.

A contract with Smith-Emery Co. is also expected to be extended by about $55,000 to allow continued inspection and materials testing services for the facility expansion project.

MEDICAL CONSULTING FOR CITY HALL

The council is expected to modify a contract with the Santa Monica Bay Physicians Medical Group, which provides medical examinations for city employees, for $185,000, extending the terms and buying City Hall time while it opens bidding for a new provider.

The existing contract with the medical group was set to expire at the end of June.

MONEY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

A miscommunication between city staff will result in extra money being needed to pay for groundwater remediation at the city yards and investigation of environmental conditions at the former P&G/Gillette site.

The council approved a five-year $1.4 million contract with ICF International last year to work on both sites. But only $274,396 was authorized for the first year of the contract even though expenses that year were expected to be much higher.

"The project has exhausted its budget authority for FY08-09," the staff report said.

The council is expected to modify the contract with ICF International for a total amount not to exceed $1.73 million and spend an additional $113,015 to cover the additional environmental costs at the city yards. A contract with Worley Parsons Komex will also be extended by $6,649 to cover additional work requested by City Hall for the Olympic sub basin.

NEW STREET CAR

City Hall is planning on submitting a federal application requesting authorization to begin developing a street car project for Downtown Santa Monica.

The application, under the SAFETEA-LU program, which sets federal funding priorities for highway and transit projects, does not seek grants at this time.

melodyh@smdp.com





New shuttle to market to tourists

FROM **TIDE** PAGE 1

The agency, based on rough figures, estimates that about 5 percent of boardings are for the hotels.

Nicky Gore-Jones, director of sales and marketing for the Sheraton Delfina, said the hotel used to hand out free bus passes, which were infrequently requested by the guests.

The hotel operates its own complimentary shuttle, though it always gives the tourists options of taking the alternatives, including the Tide.

Mary Marlow, the president of the Ocean Park Association, said she is pleased BBB is looking at ways to save the shuttle, noting that it probably would have been more expensive to introduce a completely new line as opposed to pushing something that currently exists.

"You hate to see it go away altogether," she said.

Marlow added that part of the problem with the shuttle's ridership is the operating hours, which is from noon to 8 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and noon to 10:02 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

"If you're going to dinner and a movie, you can't come home on the shuttle," she said.

Gary Gordon, the executive director of the Main Street Merchants Association, suggested the agency begin working on improving the line right away and allow the scaled-back version of the shuttle to run on longer hours than proposed.

"There's a consensus that the hours were just not long enough," he said.

Business owners on Main Street said they were in favor of keeping the shuttle service, adding that it still brings in customers to the commercial district, which is especially needed during a recession.

Radka Opalka, a board member of the merchants association and owner of Clever, said that even if there are only about a dozen riders on the line every hour, that can translate to about 96 potential customers a day.

"If you made it visually more fun and exciting, it would improve ridership," Opalka said. "It wouldn't be so hard to wrap it in a surfboard theme, stick some surf boards on top."

Heidi Jackson, who works at Joe's Diner and takes the Tide to work every day, said the shuttle is convenient given that parking costs are high.

"They should advertise more and their hours should be better," she said. "They're unpredictable and hard to find."

Dawson said the shuttle will be geared more toward tourism and the hotels and have a secondary neighborhood benefit. He said that BBB plans to develop the Mini Blue system even more to better accommodate the neighbors.

The agency has also conducted a survey of stakeholders, including residents and businesses. The results of the survey are expected to be available soon.

"The Big Blue Bus realizes that there are two distinct service needs — one is a community need, which is the neighborhood, and one is a business and tourism need," he said. "We've been trying to make the Tide Ride serve all of those needs and it can't."

Ashley Archibald contributed to this report

melodyh@smdp.com

Miss Calif. USA still has crown, at least for now

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS Miss California USA Carrie Prejean got the word from angry beauty pageant officials Monday — they aren't happy with her ducking out of official appearances to proselytize against gay marriage, and if they could they would probably rip that tiara right off her head.

But they can't. Only Donald Trump, as grand poobah of their parent Miss Universe Organization, holds that kind of power.

So officials, worried about Prejean's shunning of pageant appearances in favor of speaking out against gay marriage at church gatherings and other events, announced they are doing the next closest thing to canning her. They are appointing Miss California USA first runner-up Tami Farrell as a "Beauty of California ambassador" who will fill in at any events Prejean doesn't attend.

Trump was expected to announce whether Prejean will remain Miss California USA at a news conference in New York on Tuesday. Prejean didn't attend Monday's news conference but officials said they expected she would be at Tuesday's.

Asked if Trump had been asked to fire her, state pageant co-executive director Keith Lewis said: "We've given alternate opinions and we've said, 'Listen, we can work under whatever plan you put forward.'"

Asked if one of those scenarios was to sack her, he answered more succinctly, "Well, yeah."

Meanwhile, summer, the season when a beauty queen's calendar is filled with ribbon cuttings, red-carpet walks and charity work, is fast approaching, and Lewis said that means it is time for his organization to put aside distractions and "get back to the business of beauty."

And pageant officials also did just that on Monday, using their news conference at a swanky Beverly Hills hotel to unveil an announcement recorded by Farrell, a former Miss Teen USA, and numerous other past pageant winners to promote the "Beauty of California" campaign.

Asked why Prejean wasn't in the video, pageant officials said she didn't respond to their invitation.

Prejean (pronounced pray-ZHAN) put the pageant in the center of a media firestorm when she answered a judge's question at last month's Miss USA competition by saying she believes marriage should only be between a man and a woman.

That might have blown over fairly quickly if she hadn't gone on to revisit the issue again and again in interviews and televised talks, including one at her San Diego megachurch and another on behalf of the National Organization for Marriage.

In the meantime, reports surfaced that the pageant had paid for Prejean to have breast implants and that she had posed in just a pair of pink panties for a modeling assignment when she was 17.

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Experts: GM bankruptcy will become a reality

TOM KRISHER
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT For General Motors Corp., the task at hand is so difficult that experts say a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing is all but inevitable.

To remake itself outside of court, GM must persuade bondholders to swap $27 billion in debt for 10 percent of its risky stock. On top of that, the automaker must work out deals with its union, announce factory closures, cut or sell brands and force hundreds of dealers out of business — all in three weeks.

"I just don't see how it's possible, given all of the pieces," said Stephen J. Lubben, a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law who specializes in bankruptcy.

GM, which is living on $15.4 billion in federal aid, faces a June 1 government deadline to complete its restructuring plan. If it can't finish in time, the company will follow Detroit competitor Chrysler LLC into bankruptcy protection.

Although company executives said last week they would still prefer to restructure out of court, experts say all GM is doing now is lining up majorities of stakeholders to make its court-supervised reorganization move more quickly.

"If we need to pursue bankruptcy, we will make sure that we do it in an expeditious fashion. The exact strategies I'm not getting into today, but we'll be ready to go if that's required," CEO Fritz Henderson said last week.

The threat of bankruptcy, however, may be just a negotiating ploy to pull reluctant bondholders into the equity swap deal. In Chrysler's case, some secured debtholders resisted taking roughly 30 cents on the dollar for what they were owed, but most gave in after they were identified in court documents.

Henderson, who took over in March when the government ousted Rick Wagoner, said last week there's still time to get everything done by the deadline, although he conceded it will be difficult to meet a government requirement that 90 percent of its thousands of bondholders agree to the stock swap.

The biggest obstacle to GM restructuring out of court appears to be its bondholders, who have been reluctant to sign on to the stock swap when the government and United Auto Workers union would get far more stock in exchange for debts owed by GM.

GM has proposed issuing 62 billion new shares, 100 times more than the 611 million now offered publicly.

Even though the U.S. government has agreed to back up GM and Chrysler new-car warranties, potential car buyers already view GM as if it's in bankruptcy, reflected by the company's steep revenue drop in the latest quarter, Lubben said. On Thursday, GM posted a $6 billion first-quarter loss and said its revenue dropped plunged by nearly half, largely because bankruptcy fears scared customers away from showrooms.

"I don't think anyone is buying cars from a company who is wringing their hands about a potential bankruptcy for the past year or so," he said.

Under Chapter 11, a company can stay in operation under court protection while sheds debts and unprofitable assets to emerge in a stronger financial position.

At this point, GM needs to resolve the uncertainty and get in and out of bankruptcy as quickly as possible, Lubben said.

The company is talking with the UAW and Canadian auto workers unions about concessions, including getting the UAW to take roughly 39 percent of its stock in exchange for half of the $20 billion GM must pay into a union-run trust that will take over retiree health care payments next year.

About 50 percent of the stock would go to the government for its loans. GM said last week it would need another $2.6 billion in May and $9 billion more for the rest of the year, bringing the total to $27 billion.

One percent would go to current shareholders, with bondholders getting the other 10 percent.

Bondholders are reluctant to take the deal because the government and UAW are getting far bigger stakes in the company, said Kevin Tynan, an industry analyst for Argus Research in New York.

"When you look across at what the union is getting and what the government is getting, to expect them to take 10 percent is just unrealistic," he said.

Cutting dealers also remains a huge hurdle, with GM hoping to shed 2,600 of its 6,246 dealerships by 2010.

But dealers are protected by state franchise laws, and trying to shed them outside of bankruptcy would result in either millions of dollars in payments or multiple lengthy lawsuits, Lubben said.

"That means you've got to negotiate with each one of those dealers individually."

Also, GM on Friday told its major parts suppliers that it would move up payments due on June 2 to May 28.

Company spokesman Dan Flores said it was being done to help the suppliers at a critical time, but he denied that the payments were pulled ahead of a potential June 1 bankruptcy filing.

GM has begun to temporarily close 13 assembly plants for up to 11 weeks through mid-July in an effort to control inventory. With Chrysler plants also shut down during its bankruptcy proceedings, parts suppliers will soon have no income and could go under.

It would help speed up GM's stay in bankruptcy court if it could pull together big blocks of stakeholders to agree on reducing debt or changing other stakes, said Robert Gordon, head of the corporate restructuring and bankruptcy group at the Clark Hill PLC law firm in Detroit.

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Judge denies motion to dismiss grazing challenge

TODD DVORAK
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho A judge has refused to dismiss and break apart a sweeping lawsuit accusing federal land managers of giving livestock grazing and energy development priority over protecting sage grouse habitat across millions of acres of public land in six western states.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge B. Linn Winmill marks an initial victory for the Idaho-based Western Watershed Project in a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land management. The conservation group is challenging 18 BLM land use plans covering more than 25 million acres in Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Montana and northern California.

In a lawsuit filed last year in Boise, the group accused the agency of violating environmental laws and its own policies in the management plans. Specifically, the lawsuit claims that at the direction of the Bush administration, federal managers failed to consider a no-grazing option and or the cumulative effects of grazing and climate change on sage grouse and its dwindling habitat.

Last month government lawyers, joined by members of the Wyoming livestock and petroleum industry, asked Winmill to dismiss the lawsuit or split it apart to be argued separately in federal courts in each state.

Government lawyers argued that the court in Boise lacks jurisdiction over challenges of policy developed in other states and that keeping case consolidated undermines the local public input used to craft each of the 20-year plans.

Winmill dismissed that notion he lacked jurisdiction to settle environmental claims in other states, citing a recent example of how a federal judge in Montana has handled lawsuits over delisting wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

"Resolution of environmental actions often affects areas far outside the judicial district of the resolving court," Winmill wrote.

The judge did dismiss challenges to two BLM plans, one for the Pocatello District in southeast Idaho and the other in the Kemmerer District in southwest Wyoming. Neither plan has been officially approved, so legal challenges to them are premature, Winmill ruled.

The case is one of several filed in recent years by Western Watershed on behalf of the sage grouse, a chicken-sized bird whose numbers across the West have dwindled significantly in recent decades.

"I think this shows the judge recognizing that the BLM needs to look at the sage grouse on a West-wide basis," said Laird Lucas, a lawyer for the group. "This is a big-picture lawsuit that tries to force the BLM to take a big-picture view."

Government scientists say as many as 16 million sage grouse lived in western states in the early 1800s, thriving in sagebrush stands stretching from Kansas to Nevada and northward into Canada.

Conservationists and biologists attribute the population drop to loss of habitat from urban and energy development, wildfires, the spread of invasive weeds, global warming and livestock grazing.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Family of slain L.A. teen sue county, sheriff

Relatives of a high school football player who was murdered, allegedly by an illegal immigrant, have sued Los Angeles County for wrongful death. The parents and brother of Jamiel Shaw filed the lawsuit Friday, seeking unspecified damages.

They say the county and sheriff's department were negligent and violated immigration laws and their civil rights by allowing the alleged killer, Pedro Espinoza, out of jail. He had been in custody on weapons charges and was released a day before the March 2, 2008, killing. The suspected gang member has pleaded not guilty to murder. Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore declined to comment on the lawsuit's specifics but says he's pleased the full story will be told. ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

Bill would make prisons consider sexual identity

The state Assembly has passed a bill requiring prison authorities to consider inmates' gender identity when making housing decisions.

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, a San Francisco Democrat, says his bill is needed because studies show gay and transgender inmates are vulnerable to physical and sexual assaults behind bars.

He urged lawmakers to support his bill as a way to reduce prison violence. The bill was adopted on a 60-8 vote on Monday, with no lawmakers speaking against it. It now heads to the state Senate.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation assigns housing based on inmates' physical gender, even if prisoners identify themselves as transgender. AP

SACRAMENTO

Judge in proceeds with Laos overthrow case

A federal judge has rejected a request by defense attorneys to dismiss charges against 11 Vietnam War veterans accused of trying to overthrow the government of Laos. U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. says he is troubled by evidence suggesting that an undercover federal agent told the alleged conspirators the CIA would support a coup attempt. But Damrell ruled Monday that he does not have enough evidence to dismiss the indictments on misconduct grounds.

Former Laotian General Vang Pao, former Army officer Harrison Jack and nine other members of California's Hmong community were arrested in June 2007. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Tice-Raskin told the judge during a hearing in Sacramento that investigators did nothing wrong. AP


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Bill would allow return to lower credit-card rates

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Consumers who are paying more in interest because they have fallen behind on their credit-card bills could regain their older, lower rates if they pay their bills on time for six months, under a compromise proposal reached by senators seeking changes in laws governing the credit card industry.

The Senate proposal was brokered between Republicans, who say lenders should be able to take into account a person's behavior, and Democrats, who contend that the practice of hiking rates on past balances prevent consumers from climbing out of debt.

The agreement was included as part of a broader package on credit card reform, announced Monday by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn. The bill was expected to pass this week with President Barack Obama's support.

Dodd had originally proposed an outright ban on retroactive rate increases. But without Republican support, his bill was considered unlikely to overcome procedural hurdles in the Senate.

The latest proposal would prohibit lenders from increasing interest rates on past buys unless the cardholder has fallen at least 60 days behind. At the same time, lenders would be required to review a cardholder's terms every six months.

"It makes a strong point to the industry that if they are going to change the terms of a card based on (risk) factors, it should be a two-way street," said Nick Bourke, manager of the Safe Credit Cards Project at the Pew Health Group.

Under the request by Republicans, the bill also would require the Federal Reserve to report to Congress every two years on the cost and availability of credit.

"Should this legislation become law, it is crucial that Congress carefully monitor its implementation and effect to ensure that this balance in design is also a balance in fact," said Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the top Republican on the Banking Committee.

Debate on the bill comes as the Center for Responsible Lending estimated that some 10 million cardholders have seen their interest rates increase in the last six months for no particular reason. Many cardholders have seen increases of 10 percentage points or more, the group says.

The Senate bill would require that promotional rates last at least six months. It also prohibits rate increases in the first year after an account is opened.

US red ink rising even higher, to $1.8T

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The government will have to borrow nearly 50 cents for every dollar it spends this year, exploding the record federal deficit past $1.8 trillion under new White House estimates.

Budget office figures released Monday would add $89 billion to the 2009 red ink — increasing it to more than four times last year's all-time high as the government hands out billions more than expected for people who have lost jobs and takes in less tax revenue from people and companies making less money.

The unprecedented deficit figures flow from the deep recession, the Wall Street bailout and the cost of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus bill — as well as a seemingly embedded structural imbalance between what the government spends and what it takes in.

As the economy performs worse than expected, the deficit for the 2010 budget year beginning in October will worsen by $87 billion to $1.3 trillion, the White House says. The deterioration reflects lower tax revenues and higher costs for bank failures, unemployment benefits and food stamps.

Just a few days ago, Obama touted an administration plan to cut $17 billion in wasteful or duplicative programs from the budget next year. The erosion in the deficit announced Monday is five times the size of those savings.

For the current year, the government would borrow 46 cents for every dollar it takes to run the government under the administration's plan. In 2010, it would borrow 35 cents for every dollar spent.

"The deficits ... are driven in large part by the economic crisis inherited by this administration," budget director Peter Orszag wrote in a blog entry on Monday.

The developments come as the White House completes the official release of its $3.6 trillion budget for 2010, adding detail to some of its tax proposals and ideas for producing health care savings. The White House budget is a recommendation to Congress that represents Obama's fiscal and policy vision for the next decade.

Annual deficits would never dip below $500 billion and would total $7.1 trillion over 2010-2019. Even those dismal figures rely on economic projections that are significantly more optimistic — just a 1.2 percent decline in gross domestic product this year and a 3.2 percent growth rate for 2010 — than those of private sector economists and the Congressional Budget Office.



Manny meets with Dodgers owner about suspension

JOE RESNICK
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Frank McCourt is counting on Manny being man enough to apologize to his teammates for the awkward position he put them in last week — and the sooner, the better.

The Los Angeles Dodgers owner sat at the head of a long table in the Vin Scully Press Box dining room where the advance scouts eat, telling reporters during Sunday's 13-inning loss to San Francisco about the two meaty conversations he had the previous day with suspended slugger Manny Ramirez — one by phone and the other in person.

"I felt it was important that the conversation be eyeball to eyeball and not on the phone," McCourt said. "I found him to be very sorrowful."

It was their first contact since Ramirez was banned for 50 games last Thursday for failing a drug test. The 12-time All-Star apologized to the man who signed off on the two-year, $45 million contract the club gave Ramirez during spring training after weeks of contentious negotiations that spilled over into the public forum.

"I'd be lying to say I wasn't a little angry at first," McCourt said. "But it's nothing a good night's sleep doesn't solve. Anger gets you nowhere. It doesn't solve any problems.

"We all make mistakes, and it's how we deal with those mistakes that really differentiates one from the other. And if Manny does with others what he did with me yesterday, I think we'll be on the road to full recovery."

The Dodgers are on the road now for six games — three in Philadelphia and the rest in Miami following an 8-3 homestand in which they lost three of the four games they played without Ramirez. He lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla., so there is a possibility he'll catch up with his teammates when they play the Marlins.

Who wouldn't want to be a fly on the wall for that reunion?

"I think he'll decide what the right words are," McCourt said. "There's no question that when you let somebody down, there's some sort of apology. But I can't speak for him. He needs to speak for himself, and he knows that."

What Ramirez will say to the other players is anyone's guess, but the window of forgiveness remains wide open.

"He's still beat up by this thing," manager Joe Torre said. "Again, it's not that he feels it's unfair, but he's embarrassed and he still has to clear his head before he basically feels good enough to come out. Hopefully it's in the near future, but we didn't nail him down for a (specific) day."

Ramirez also spoke with Torre and general manager Ned Colletti by phone. Colletti declined to say when — or if — the dreadlocked outfielder would show up in the clubhouse, acknowledging that his separation from the ballclub remains a sensitive issue.

"Yeah," Colletti said. "Why wouldn't it be? I really don't want to get into it."

McCourt feels it's still too early to foresee how much of a negative impact this scandal will affect the club in the long run.

"It's really up to Manny how he conducts himself before I can answer how it affects the organization," McCourt said. If he takes the steps that I'm hopeful he will, I think this will be something that won't damage this franchise at all. That being said, the Dodgers are much bigger than Manny Ramirez or any player. The Dodgers are much bigger than anybody — including me. Including owners."

Ramirez practically carried Los Angeles into last year's playoffs after joining the team at the trade deadline from the Boston Red Sox — who picked up the rest of his salary and were glad to be rid of their 2004 World Series MVP. The Dodgers didn't have to spend a dime on Ramirez, while raking in the profits generated by merchandise with his name and likeness on it.

"I think what was most disappointing was that we put a lot of confidence in Manny and built a relationship there," McCourt said. "And whenever a relationship is violated like that, there's a sense of disappointment. But we all make mistakes, so I think what we really need to focus in on is the pathway forward."

The way Ramirez's current contract is structured, he will lose $2,732,240 this season and $1,366,120 in each of the next three years — a saving of $6,830,600 for the Dodgers. The deal included a $20-million player option for next season.

Ramirez played in 27 of the Dodgers' first 29 games, batting .348 with six homers and 20 RBIs to help them get off to a 21-8 start — their best since 1983. The marketing gurus at Chavez Ravine even named a corner of the left field stands in fair territory "Mannywood," a capricious, knee-jerk idea that was quickly scrapped about a week after it began due to last week's public relations embarrassment.

Ramirez said he did not take steroids and was given medication by a doctor that contained a banned substance. A person familiar with the details of the suspension said Ramirez used the female fertility drug HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin). The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the banned substance wasn't announced.

"I think we've all agreed that this is the most stringent testing policy in all sports and that there are very, very significant penalties that go with a positive test and this is just an example of that," McCourt said. "A 50-game suspension without pay, that's a steep price to pay."

HCG is popular among steroid users because it can mitigate the side effects of ending a cycle of the drugs. Now the Dodgers are dealing with the side effects of Ramirez's latest off-field headlines.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

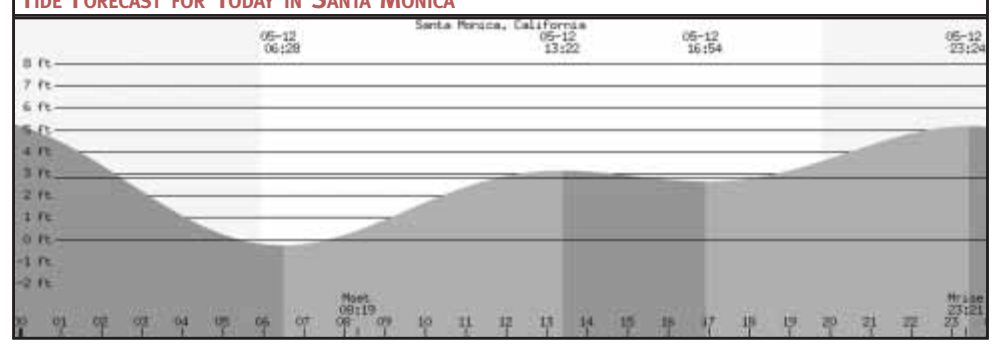
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

Tuesday the 12th sees a light swath of southern hemi come ashore as NW wind swell begins to build. Most all breaks are looking at waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 13th the light southern hemi remains, but we should see a slight increase in NW wind swell. West facing breaks could increase a bit to chest or shoulder high.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: **May 5, 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 -- 42 / 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 Alisos 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	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	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	A	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	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Love 'N' Dancing (PG-13) 1hr 33min
2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45

Star Trek (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55

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

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)
1:30, 2:15, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:15, 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

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

Star Trek (2009) (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
12:15, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:15, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30

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

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

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

Little Ashes (R) 2hr 7min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Lemon Tree (NR) 2hr 1min
1:40, 7:00

Ballerina: A Portrait of Five Exceptional Russian Ballerinas (NR) 1hr 20min
11:00 a.m.

The Dalai Lama Renaissance (NR) 1hr 36min
11:00 a.m.

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

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:40, 4:30, 7:00

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
Noon, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 9:30

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

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
Digital Projection
1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

Next Day Air (R)1hr 24min
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40

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

Pay those bills first, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The problem lies in perceptions rather than actions. Knowing when to turn around and try another course evolves to a greater strength and develops into an asset. You express an insatiable desire to grow. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ How you deal with someone could make all the difference ultimately. Listen to news that heads in your direction. You might not have all the answers, but you'll certainly come up with solutions. Be willing to step up and make that difference. Tonight: Let your imagination lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Walk a different path and find out the who, what and maybes of a situation. You are more in touch with some basic needs than many, even those of a partner. Convincing this person of that might be another story. Do be discreet. Tonight: Relate closely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others could surprise you with their requests. There is no need to blow a fuse or get personal with someone. Know what you are doing. Tonight: Sort through your options.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You are fiery and determined. Someone can't get everything you say, as you might challenge this person unintentionally. Step back and consider options that present themselves. If you need to open up a conversation, do. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
HHHHH When facing a confusing situation, the vagueness simply might be how you see it. You can move right out of that frame of mind and see a different situation, one that is much more positive. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your innate creativity bubbles forth. Your ability to move past a problem or handle someone more clearly emerges after a very confusing conversation. You might think that others are irritable and somewhat touchy. You might not be wrong, either! Tonight: Listen to what another shares.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, even if you fall into a pit. Understand what might be motivating someone else and what needs to happen. Your sense of humor emerges once you start talking. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Finances might come into play far more than you anticipated. How you say no, even if you don't want to, could define the end result of a project. Realize where you are in handling a certain situation. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Thoughts could be serious early on. Prepare for an intense day, where you might need to support yourself in what you want or desire. Being focused will allow for more free time later. Tonight: All smiles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take your time and refuse to jump into anything. Honor your thoughts without feeling the need to share them completely. Gather more information and honor a new direction and goal. A conversation could be volatile if you play into someone else's stuff. Tonight: Get lots of R and R.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Keep your focus, even though you might want to complain about a major indulgence. Not everyone needs to see a situation like you do, nor do they have to agree with you. Tonight: Off to a ballgame or another happening.

Happy birthday

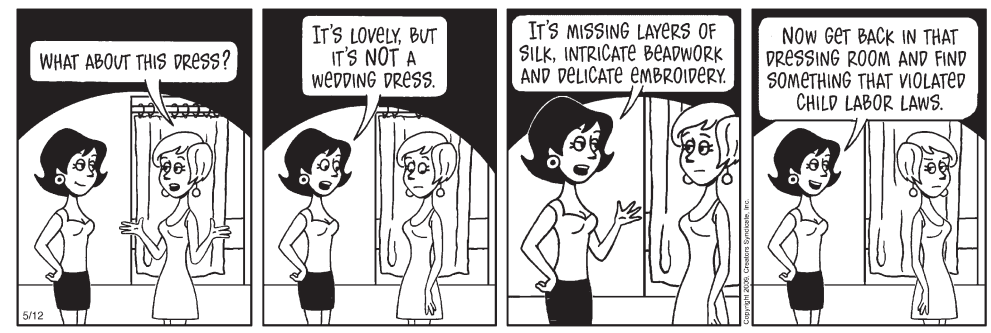
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, events and people will encourage another view, to see life differently and open new doors. As a result, you grow in new and dynamic ways. Travel and education also could play into this scenario. How you deal with key people in your life is reflected in forthcoming events. If you are single, you will meet someone quite dynamic and different. Whether you decide to hang in there and make this person yours ultimately will be your call. If you are attached, by enlarging your vision, you will transform your relationship. CAPRICORN is nothing if not pragmatic.

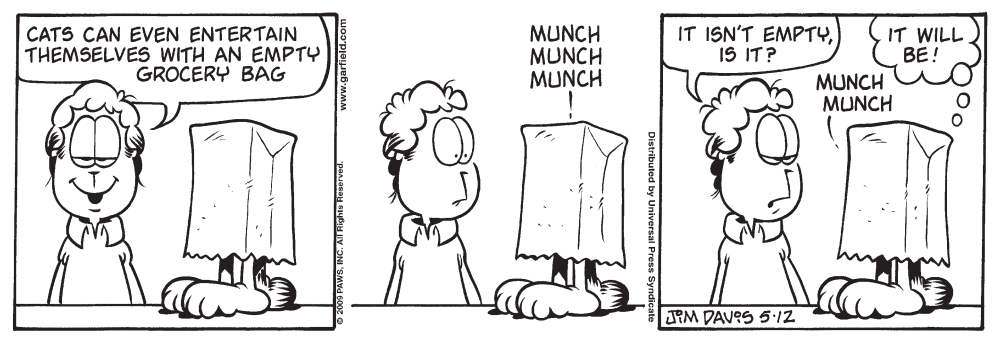
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



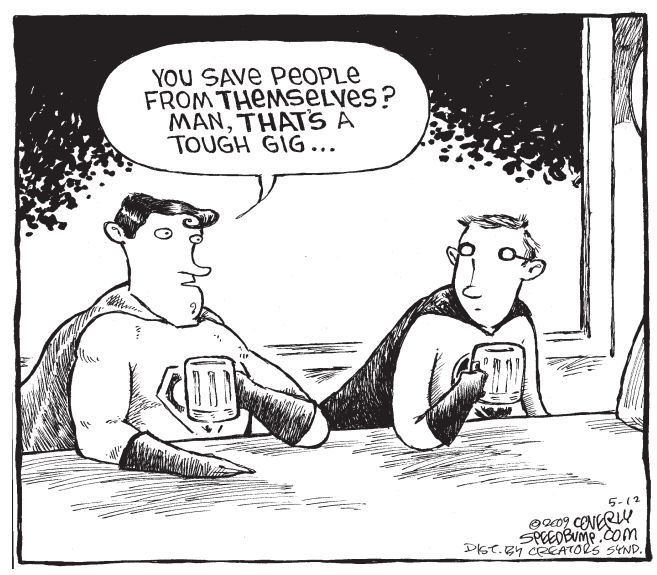
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Santa Monica, CA

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

9	2	5	4	8	6	1	7	3
7	3	1	5	9	2	8	4	6
4	6	8	7	1	3	2	5	9
5	9	7	2	6	1	3	8	4
1	8	2	3	4	9	5	6	7
3	4	6	8	7	5	9	1	2
2	1	3	6	5	7	4	9	8
8	7	9	1	2	4	6	3	5
6	5	4	9	3	8	7	2	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. Check the Web site for color. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Left at sea
5 "The Plague" author
10 Eye-popping prints
12 Solitary
13 Work reminiscent of a past time
15 Rage
16 Chart shape
17 Sinking signal
18 Sadat's predecessor
20 Debt reminder
21 Buffy's weapon
22 Angel's topper
23 Prickly plants
25 "Darn!"
28 Colorings
31 Burden
32 Popular card game
34 Halloween mo.
35 Knight's title
36 Writer Levin
37 Old printer patterns
40 Perfect
41 Verdi songs
42 Spine-tingling
43 "Ratatouille" rat

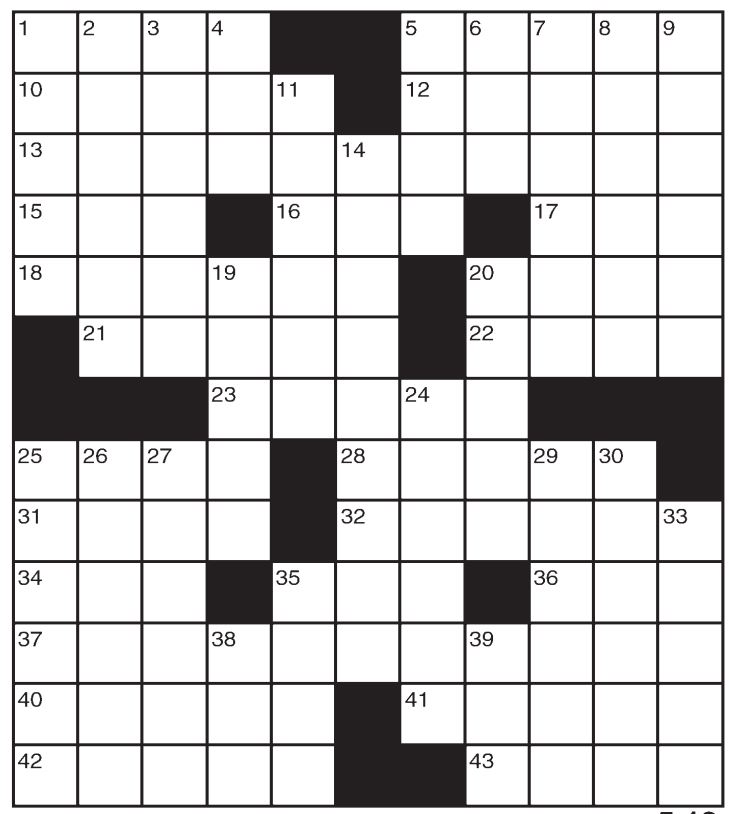
DOWN

1 Visit briefly
2 Verdi works
3 Least common
4 Half of hex-
5 Bullfighter's need
6 Will Smith biopic
7 Brandy TV series
8 Straighten, as a rope
9 Handles
11 Kansas city
14 Well-aimed shot
19 Bags
20 Beijing setting
24 — del Fuego
25 Sweatshirt type
26 Make cryptograms
27 Patrol boat
29 Ed Norton's wife
30 Brook
33 Impudent
35 Store event
38 Avril follower
39 Like some verbs: Abbr.

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

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



5-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 12 27 29 32 34
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $28M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 7 26 42 23
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 2 8 22 24 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 6 5
EVENING: 8 6 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.41.51

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

■ **People Different From Us:** (1) Howard Sheppard, 30, of Deltona, Fla., was sent to Florida Hospital DeLand in January after he found some bullets on the ground and experimented to see what would happen if he struck one with a metal punch. (He got shot in the arm.) (2) Eric Fortune, 19, was sent to the Ashtabula County (Ohio) Medical Center in March after nagging his brother into shooting him in the leg. According to a police report, Fortune had told the brother that he had always wondered what it was like to get shot. (It was so painful that he cried.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1870 an act creating the Canadian province of Manitoba was given royal assent, to take effect in July.

1907 actress Katharine Hepburn was born in Hartford, Conn.

1932 the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, N.J.

1937 Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

1943 during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

1958 the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).

1970 the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

1975 the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters.

1978 the Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be given only female names.

1982 in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who was trying to reach Pope John Paul II.

WORD UP!

bombinate \BOM-buh-nayt\, *intransitive verb*:
To buzz; to hum; to drone.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GIVE OF YOURSELF American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs volunteer sales help. You can contribute by spending 4 hours per week Thurs., Fri., or Sat.assisting in our up-scale resale shop in Santa Monica. Conact Terry or Shaunnah at (310) 458-4490.

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1244 11TH st. single, $1025/mo $250 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

25 Westwind, Marina Peninsula Unit #1 1+1 Newly remodeled spacious dishwasher, tile countertops, hardwood floors, balcony, fireplace, intercom entry, laundry,parking, No pets.$1695/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica $1595.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #21 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #19. Move-in-special-available

Santa Monica $1550.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #209 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #101.

Santa Monica $1695.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, Dshwshr, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #21 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #19. Move-in-special-available

Santa Monica $1695.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, Dshwshr, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #21 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #19. Move-in-special-available

SANTA MONICA / Mar Vista/Palms Adj. $1200.00 to $2150.00 1 Bdrm, 2 Bdrms, w/appliances, parking For list of our vacancies, see manager at : 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #19, Santa Monica move-in-special available

Westwood 619 1/2 Midvale upper 2+1 stove, fridge, large patio, carpet, blinds, ceiling fan, parking no pets, $2495(310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 2.Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $895/mo (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

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North of Montana	$3,550,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$895,000
South of Wilshire	$895,000	$599,000
Sunset Park	$1,100,000	$639,000
Ocean Park	$1,224,000	$949,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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