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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 204



Santa Monica Daily Press

A LEGEND REMEMBERED
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW ISSUE

Here comes the taxman — again



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BEATING THE NEW TAX: **Sales Executive Tony Arevyan (right) scans a new Apple iMac for Pat Cramer (center) and his daughter Hillary at Mac Mall electronic store on Wilshire Boulevard Tuesday afternoon. Some fear that new taxes may make large purchases less accessible.**

Residents brace for latest tax increase, some not so happy

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Business owners and shoppers across the city are gritting their teeth in anticipation of the sales tax increase going into effect today, raising Santa Monica's rate to 9.75 percent.

"It's counterproductive to what the state wants to do," said Pat Barrett, president of Barrett's Appliances on Lincoln Boulevard.

Barrett feels that instead of raising revenue, the tax will only discourage people from buying.

"Not only does the government need taxes to operate — we are well-attuned to the fact that sales taxes are a fact of life," Barrett said. "But when you are in a depressed economy, to effectively raise the price that people have to pay will only decrease sales."

The half-cent increase was narrowly approved by voters last November in the form of Proposition R, a transit tax expected to generate an estimated $40 billion over the next 30 years, helping to fund traffic light synchronization projects, repair potholes,

SEE **TAXES** PAGE 9

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Big things in the offing for Samohi hoops squad

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The first game of the season may be nearly five months away, but the Vikings' girls basketball team isn't taking the summer off.

The squad from Santa Monica High School is proving that last season's trip to the semifinals of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division IA playoffs wasn't a fluke. With star guard Thea Lemberger leading the charge the Vikings went 5-0 at a team camp at UCLA this past weekend giving Head Coach Marty Verdugo confidence that next season may be a success in the making.

"I think we're going to be very good in a different way," Verdugo said. "We had to slow it down last season."

He looks to up the pace for a team that returns a strong backcourt built for speed. Lemberger and junior Kristina Johnson paced the team during a camp that saw the Vikings defeat South Torrance, Burroughs, Monte Vista, San Pasqual and Hart high schools.

The trip to UCLA was particularly significant for Lemberger who has been extended a scholarship to play for the school after her upcoming senior season.

Lemberger, who has also drawn interest from Santa Clara, New Mexico, Oregon and Cal State Fullerton among others, is undecided on the offer, but is leaning toward accepting it.

"I like UCLA and New Mexico right now," she said. "I'm just waiting to see what my options are after July. I want to see what comes up then make my decision from there."

Verdugo, who has coached the team for four seasons, is excited to produce the program's first NCAA Division I prospect and hopes that success carries over to other players.

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 8


SUMMER STACKABLES

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Writing workshop
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 7 p.m.
Looking for constructive criticism? Share a piece of a work in progress to receive opinions, insight and suggestions from your peers. Call (310) 260-9110 for more information.

Savvy caregivers
Sunrise of Santa Monica
1312 15th St., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
The Alzheimer's Association Savvy Caregiver Program is a free six-week course that provides caregivers with the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to care for a family member who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The class meets at Sunrise of Santa Monica and caregivers must attend all six consecutive sessions on Wednesdays from June 3 — July 8. To enroll, e-mail kami.holman@alz.org or call (310) 930-625 for more information.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a free lesson at 7 p.m. and stick around after for more dancing for $10. Learn how to waltz, fox-trot, swing and hustle by request. Partners are not required. Parking is available next door. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Thursday, July 2, 2009

Prose and poetry
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Come read, listen and enjoy free open prose and poetry readings every Thursday. Everyone and all genres are welcome, including poetry, fiction and non-fiction, as long as there is a 1,000 word limit per reader. Visit forthmagazine.com/upcoming-events or call (310) 396-8566 for more information.

Laughter welcome
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Get ready to laugh your socks off! Led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader, this is a body-mind exercise for all ages and fitness levels. The cost is $10 per person. Visit www.kimselbert.com or call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

What's new?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Discuss this week's key news stories at home and abroad in a free-wheeling environment. Moderator Jack Nordhaus is a former college history professor and will address everything from politics to society and culture. Call (310) 540-0443 for more information.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM PIER

Water to be shut off

Between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. Thursday, water to the pier will be shut off to allow time for a quick repair on the sewer line. The city asks that pier tenants refrain from using sinks and faucets or flushing toilets and urinals between these hours.

"If anybody flushes, we're dead," said on-site project manager Randall Martinez. "It's going to splash right on us and I don't want that."

Martinez and his crew will be replacing a four-inch connector line with a six-inch one. Those two inches make all the difference for a new restroom facility on the pier – with about 20 women's stalls and six men's stalls, Martinez estimated – that should open by September.

Without this pipe, Martinez said, "our new restroom facility won't be worth a damn."

The only people affected by the shutdown will be pier tenants – about 10 to 15 businesses, Martinez said.

DP

SMMoA

Board names trustees

The Santa Monica Museum of Art recently appointed Bruce A. Samuels, MD, and Randi Malkin Steinberger to its board of trustees.

Samuels is a cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and an assistant clinical professor of medicine at UCLA. He recently led an effort to provide uninsured and under-insured artists with access to Cedars-Sinai's ambulatory clinic.

Steinberger studied art history and photography in Florence, Italy. She has won critical acclaim for her books and documentary films.

"Through our exhibitions and programs, we seek to identify the important voices in the chorus of contemporary art that need to be heard," said Elsa Longhauser, SMMoA's executive director. "In supporting the museum as board members, especially during these times of financial insecurity, they are helping us to advance that mission," she added of the new members.

The SMMoA Board of Trustees was established to promote museum oversight, governance, legal and fiduciary compliance, fundraising and the representation of diverse communities. Other board members are president Peter A. Gelles, Price Latimer Agah, Rosa Sinnott and Philip Yenawine.

Through exhibitions, education and out-

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 9

Fawcett remembered in L.A.

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES The life of "Charlie's Angels" star Farrah Fawcett was celebrated Tuesday at a private funeral in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Her longtime companion, Ryan O'Neal, was among pallbearers who accompanied the casket, covered in yellow and orange flowers, into the Roman Catholic cathedral.

Fawcett's friend Alana Stewart and "Charlie's Angels" co-star Kate Jackson were among early arrivals before the hearse pulled up, accompanied by 10 motorcycle officers. The service, which was closed to the public, lasted more than an hour as fans and news media watched from across a street.

A bag piper was the first to emerge from the cathedral after the service, followed by several priests and the pallbearers carrying Fawcett's casket. Her father was helped into a limousine as dozens of other mourners waited nearby to board several white shuttle buses.

The funeral program said Fawcett's and O'Neal's 24-year-old son, Redmond, was to do the service's first reading. He has been jailed in a drug case but received a judge's permission to attend the funeral. He was not seen outside the cathedral, however.

The program, which featured a photograph of a smiling Fawcett, also said Ryan O'Neal was to read the 23rd Psalm and eulogies were to be given by Stewart and Dr. Lawrence Piro, Fawcett's cancer specialist.

Fawcett died in Santa Monica Thursday at age 62 after a public battle with cancer. O'Neal and Stewart were at her side.

"After a long and brave battle with cancer, our beloved Farrah has passed away," O'Neal said in a statement last week. "Although this is an extremely difficult time for her family and friends, we take comfort in the beautiful times that we shared with Farrah over the years and the knowledge that her life brought joy to so many people around the world."

Diagnosed with a rare cancer in 2006, Fawcett's battle with the disease was documented in "Farrah's Story," which aired last month on NBC.

Stewart, a producer of the documentary, said Fawcett was "much more than a friend; she was my sister."

"Although I will miss her terribly, I know in my heart that she will always be there as that angel on the shoulder of everyone who loved her," Stewart said in a statement.

Redmond O'Neal was jailed April 5 on drug charges.



JUNE GLOOM LINGERS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

From the top of the Pacific Plaza apartment complex on Ocean Avenue, clouds could be seen covering the city all day Tuesday.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Biking brings peace

Editor:

In light of the flurry of letters over the real danger of people bicycling on the sidewalks, both to the pedestrian and the bicyclist, I hope bicycling continues to grow, as it obviously is, in Santa Monica.

Every day I see more and more cyclists along the path on Broadway. Perhaps this will motivate the City Council to put in more bicycle lanes to help make it safer to ride on the streets and not the sidewalks. And bicycling not only lessens our respective carbon footprints, it also helps make Santa Monica a more peaceful place to live.

More to the point, walking and bicycling subtly lessens the path to American wars by getting people out of their four-wheeled, two-ton steel gas guzzlers.

"The next time you hear a motorist complaining of being soaked, mention the enormous sums in support that is handed to the industry by all taxpayers – where everyone pays for the privileged choice of the driver, directly and indirectly – and that includes paying with lives in fighting the wars for cheap oil," said writer Kurt Lesser.

Andrew Kay Liberman
Santa Monica

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Health insurance help

Editor:

Our healthcare crisis isn't solely about the 50 million Americans without health insurance. More and more of us with health insurance can't afford the out-of-pocket costs we are charged for care. In fact, 62 percent of all bankruptcies filed in 2007 were due in part to medical expenses, and 78 percent of those individuals had insurance. Not surprisingly, if we don't enact reform, at least half of American households will need to spend more than 45 percent of their income to buy health insurance just seven years from now.

We deserve access to affordable health care and if we continue without help from Congress, fewer and fewer will be able to get the care we need. We must guarantee everyone has fair access to affordable coverage.

Robert Frcek
Santa Monica

Get on board

Editor:

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation strongly supports the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act (HR 2057) and urges Congress to swiftly pass the legislation in order to safeguard individual vehicle ownership rights today and in the future.

We believe that consumers are entitled to the right to choose how their motorcycle, car or other type of vehicle is maintained or upgraded. The point of Right to Repair is to protect the freedom of American consumers to choose how they take care of their vehicles, be it in their driveway or at a trusted repair facility, and to ensure that they have access to all the information required to complete service and repairs.

Vehicles, including motorcycles, are becoming increasingly complex with the addition of more and more computer technology, and that is only going to increase in the future. Ready access to accurate service and repair information from the manufacturers is essential to the safety and well being of the entire American motoring public.

We encourage all motorists to visit www.righttorepair.org to send a letter to each of their congressional representatives, urging them to support the Right to Repair Act by adding their names to the growing list of co-sponsors.

Jeff Hennie
Vice President of Government Relations
Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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Going Postal

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

Weenie dog diplomacy

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, THE OBAMA administration extended an open-handed, Fourth of July invitation to the Iranian thugocracy for a weenie roast (without preconditions of course) while Iranian security forces had their hands clenched in an authoritarian choke hold around the necks of their own people? I can hear Obama now hunkered over the grill, "How do you like your dissidents cooked, Mr. Khameini? Medium, well done or big and bloody?"

Wow. No clue!

We don't even have diplomatic relations with these chuckle heads yet Obama invited them over for our national birthday party? Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Well, so far so good. Evil is triumphing in Iran while Obama votes "present."

It was later reported that our King of Kielbasa from Mombassa then rescinded the Fourth of July party invitations in order to salvage his ego in retrograde to his insipidly naive decisions. It's rumored, however, that Obama invited RuPaul instead as the first lady wants to exchange fashion tips since they look so much alike. Let's get this party started, right?

Excuse me folks, but aren't we still the U.S.A., the leader of the free world, the arsenal of democracy, that shining city on the hill, yada-yada? Unfortunately, Top Dog Obama has since scratched those daily American entree items while substituting them for the a la carte menu of pulled pork-stimulus sandwiches with ACORN tossed salads smothered in bail-out flavored Kool-Aid vinaigrette from the hopey-changitude buffet. All for only $787 billion dollars!

What a bargain!

During his June 23 pool party presser, the president was slow roasted over the mesquite briquettes by Chuck Todd of NBC who queried about Obama's frequently referenced sanctions against Iran should the violence further escalate. Der Wienerschnitzel-in-Chief, visibly in a pickle and not relishing the moment, then saucily admitted to then not possessing a single recipe of retribution and demurred to wait because he "doesn't know how this will play out."

Wow squared. No clue or plan!!

Obama's foreign policy canapé then deep-fat fries itself beyond recognition in his acid reflux emetic, "Those who stand up for justice are always on the right side of history." Excuse me, Mr. Spectator-in-Chief, but while the French are continually racking up the three pointers on the international indignation scoreboard, you are the bench warming towel boy with big ears. Does the Obama Doctrine merely consist of loitering on the sidelines for the shot clock to "play out" so you can then conveniently "stand up for justice?"

Wow cubed! No clue, no plan and no huevos!

After he had watched Iranian martyr Neda Soltan die on YouTube, Obama then solemnly "Homered," "I think that anybody who sees it knows that there's something fundamentally unjust about it." Folks, allow yourselves to wallow around on the floor in the 11 herbs and spices of that statement. "I think that … there's something fundamentally unjust about it."

You think? Duh!

What a remarkable grasp of the obvious! This is the most superlatively understated definition of "think" that has ever drooled forth from an alleged "smart" guy since the Clintonian redefinition of "is." Does Obama "think" that Heinz is our 57th state and that they export ketchup? What would he "think" if one of his own daughters lay on the pavement after being turned into Blutwurst by some faceless government goon from the Iranian DMV? Would he still "think" of that as "fundamentally unjust" or would he just pay the parking ticket?

Folks, after the first crackdowns were reported and especially after Neda Soltan's demise, I didn't need 10 days to express outrage. I didn't need 10 days to be appalled. And I certainly didn't need 10 days to assign condemnation.

But President Obama did.

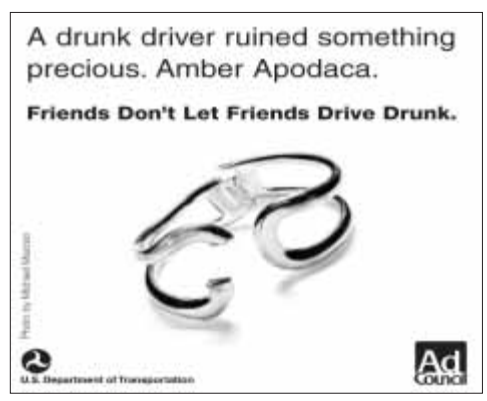
He seemed to pussyfoot uncomfortably around Soltan's gruesome extinction as an ill-timed global warming episode that's rained out his future holiday picnic with man-crush and Persian disco monkey, President Manny Ahmadinnerjacket.

In light of Obama's jejune defense of women's rights during his recent speech in Cairo, doesn't it bespeak of the obtuse callousness from our president, that the most important things to him during the first 10 days of the Iranian revolt were pimping for pocket change at a Democrat fundraiser, playing golf or dashing out for some gelato with his daughters and "puppy pops" for the first pooch? All of this while another man's daughter made a more sanguinary contribution towards Iranian democracy on a dirty street corner a half a world away. I understand that Neda Soltan's family will not be attending the weenie roast on Independence Day at the White House this year.

You know, there's something fundamentally unjust about that.

STEVE BREEN supports hope and change in Iran this Fourth of July and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.





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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Remembering the King of Pop

MICHAEL JACKSON ONCE MADE ME THE most popular sixth grader at Weston Middle School. In 1983, I used a futuristic device known as a VCR to record "Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever" and brought the tape into school. This TV special included performances by legendary artists such as Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye, but will always be remembered for 13 minutes of magic from Michael. I had convinced our music teacher to let us watch the video at the end of class and after a Jackson 5 reunion and song medley, we (teacher included) sat mesmerized as Michael took over the entire auditorium with his performance of "Billie Jean." None of us had ever seen anything like it, and we all wanted more.

For his part, Michael Jackson the entertainer never let us down. He gave us everything he had every time we saw him — and we saw him a lot. For 45 years every aspect of his life (mistakes included) has been pretty well documented and put out there for public consumption. The fact that he basically lived his entire life in front of the camera means those of us who care to can remember Michael any way we want — from the child star with the adorably oversized afro to the "Invincible" King of Pop. Combine that with the fact that his body of work is so incomparably extensive, and it's clear he will live forever because Michael Jackson is bigger than life.

I've been trying to figure out how I'd like to remember him and I've decided it's as he was between 1978 and 1993 — by far my favorite Michael era.

At the age of 20 he played the Scarecrow in the 1978 movie, "The Wiz," where his famous vulnerability and the power of his voice on "You Can't Win, You Can't Break Even" combined for perfect casting. In 1979 "Off The Wall" began an unprecedented streak of commercial and critical success that saw four straight albums with at least four top 10 singles in 12 years. "Thriller" came in 1982 and his transcendent talent totally transformed pop music through the emerging medium of the music video. As a solo artist, he was on top of the world in 1984 and could have commanded any price for anything he wanted to do. Instead of touring to promote "Thriller," he let his brothers back in on the act on their "Victory" and donated his $5 million share to charity. Three years later he gave us five more #1 singles on the album "Bad" and set a world record when over a half-a-million people attended seven sold-out shows at Wembley stadium in London. He released "Dangerous" in 1991 and scored himself four more top 10 hits leading up to his mind-blowing performance at the Super Bowl in 1993 — the only time that game has ever seen an increased audience during the halftime show.

His work as an artist and entertainer would be impressive enough on its own, but it would be wrong to talk about Michael's life without remembering his incredibly generous philanthropic work around the world. At the age of 25 he was invited to the White House by President Reagan and Nancy to receive an award for his support of charities that help people deal with drug and alcohol abuse. The next year he co-wrote the charity single "We Are The World" and, along with three dozen of the biggest names in the music business, helped raise over $60 million to aid people starving in central Africa due to a devastating drought. He also started the Heal the World Foundation to "improve the conditions for children throughout the world" and has provided food, shelter and medicine to kids all over the globe. He truly put his money where his mouth was when he donated the profits from all 67 shows on the "Dangerous" world tour to the foundation.

Michael and his music have been a big part of the soundtrack of my life since the days of 45 rpm. One of my earliest memories is dancing to "I Want You Back" with my partner, the unstoppable Derick Grant, at the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts annual recital. No middle school dance could end without "Billie Jean," "Beat It" and "Thriller." In eighth grade I tried in vain to convince Mychal Feldman that I owned the leather jacket on the "P.Y.T." cover, but my mom wouldn't let me wear it to school. I almost broke my ankles and my nose trying to master that crazy anti-gravity lean from "Smooth Criminal," and when my first real girlfriend broke my heart, it was the bubblegum goodness of "Remember the Time" that kept me from going insane.

Blasting my newly purchased copy of "The Essential Michael Jackson" in the car yesterday, I started to well up when "Man In The Mirror" hit its crescendo. But instead of feeling sadness because Michael is gone, I was actually relieved because now he can finally be appreciated. Then I skipped to "Another Part of Me" and cranked it up.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Special delivery

The U.S. Postal Service is considering reducing mail deliveries to just five days a week, a departure from the traditional six.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Would the reduction be harmless or would it negatively impact your life or business?

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


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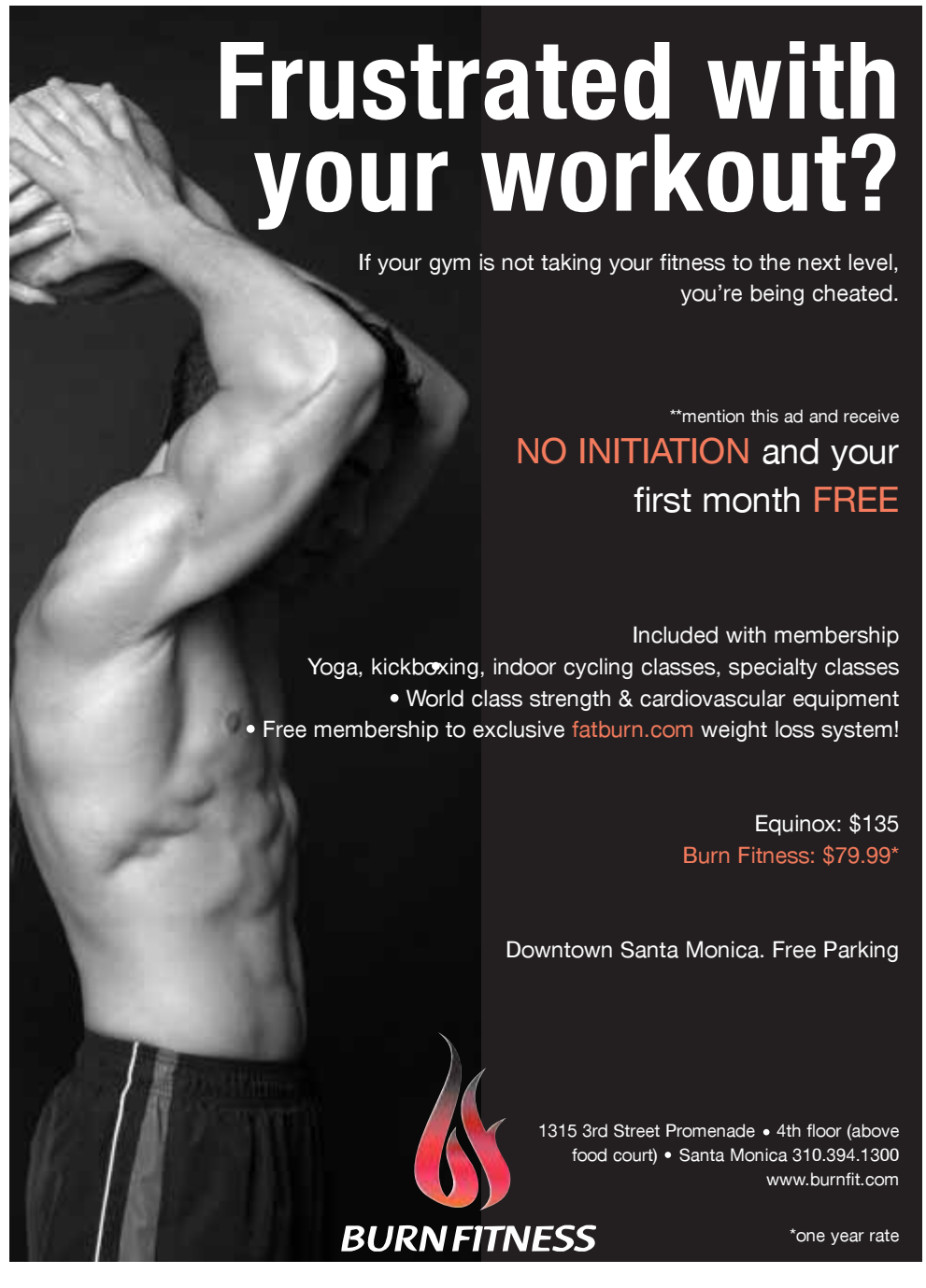

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AGRICULTURE

Corn, soybean crops could ease food cost concerns

CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
AP Agribusiness Writer

ST. LOUIS Farmers planted an unexpectedly large crop of corn and soybeans this year, easing some fears of rising food costs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Tuesday a record 77.5 million acres of soybeans were planted through June, up 1.8 million acres from last year. Farmers also planted 87 million acres of corn, up 1 million acres from last year and the second-largest corn acreage in more than 60 years.

The unexpected boost in planting could mean crop supplies won't be as tight this year as many analysts feared a few months ago. Lower commodity prices would be welcomed by ethanol makers and meat companies that have been stung by higher feed prices over the last two years.

In Tuesday trading, corn futures sank 29.25 cents to $3.4775 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, while soybeans for July delivery advanced 11.25 cents to $12.2625 a bushel.

The USDA also reported a bigger supply of corn reserves on hand than many analysts expected. About 4.27 billion bushels or corn are stored on farms and grain bins, up 6 percent from last year and above the 4.18 billion bushes analysts had predicted, according to CME Group, with the Chicago Board of Trade.

The boost in supply is reinvigorating ethanol producers, who are slowly starting to ramp up production and look at reopening plants that were shut down last year when grain prices skyrocketed and oil prices crashed, said Brian Basting, commodity research analyst at Advance Trading Inc. in Bloomington, Ill.

"It appears to be a slow healing process" in the ethanol industry, Basting said. "We're seeing the (profit) margins creep back into positive territory."

The robust planting came as a surprise after rainy weather in the eastern Corn Belt caused farmers to delay planting because the ground was too soggy. But losses in those states appear to have been offset by perfect weather in western states like Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota, said Greg Wagner, senior commodity analyst with Chicago-based AgResource Co.

"Those crops, at least today, are looking in great condition," Wagner said. But he warned late planting in several states could still make this year's crop susceptible to drought or heavy rains. "We know these crops are lagging in maturity, so we need to find out what the weather patterns are going to be."

Cotton planting, meanwhile, was at a 25-year low. Farmers planted about 9 million cotton acres this year, their fewest since 1983, with growers in Mississippi and Louisiana planting their smallest acreages on record. There was also a 46 percent decline in upland cotton acreage in California, where scarcity of irrigated water has been a persistent concern.

"It's pretty easily explained in that cotton is probably the most expensive crop to grow (in Louisiana), and ... the price is just in the tank," said Sammye Crawford, deputy director of the state's branch of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

LEGAL NEWS

Madoff probe pushes forward following sentencing

LARRY NEUMEISTER & TOM HAYS
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK Bernard Madoff, even as he faces the prospect of dying behind bars for his epic swindle, has never wavered on one point: He acted alone.

Federal investaigators haven't budged either: They don't believe him.

The day after Madoff was given a 150-year term, a person close to the investigation said Tuesday the sentencing marked "the end of the beginning" of a far-reaching investigation expected to answer lingering questions about how the disgraced financier pulled off perhaps the largest financial fraud history — and who helped him.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, told The Associated Press on Monday that prosecutors expect to charge at least 10 more people in connection with the scheme. The person said Tuesday that no arrests were imminent.

The U.S. attorney's office refused to comment on the status of the investigation or potential suspects.

Defense attorney Ira Sorkin said Tuesday that Madoff likely would be transferred from a federal jail in Manhattan to an unspecified prison in the next month. His client, he added, was "resigned to his fate."

Madoff, 71, pleaded guilty in March to charges that his secretive investment advisory business was a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out thousands of investors and ruined charities.

Madoff admitted his own crimes, but has claimed members of his inner circle s his firm were innocent bystanders.

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TECHNOLOGY

China backs down from Web filter plan

JOE MCDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING In a rare reversal, China's government gave in to domestic and international pressure and backed down Tuesday from a rule that would have required personal computers sold in the country to have Internet-filtering software.

Just hours before the rule was to have taken effect, the government said it would postpone the requirement for the "Green Dam" software. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said it made the decision partly because some PC manufacturers were having difficulty meeting the deadline. It did not say whether the plan might be revived.

The change of course averted a possible scuffle with Washington. Top U.S. officials had protested the plan after it was imposed abruptly in May, calling it a barrier to trade. Angry Web users circulated online petitions protesting Green Dam, while industry groups warned the software might create computer security problems.

The controversy reflected the conflict between the communist government's desire to control information and China's high-tech ambitions. The country has an increasingly informed, vocal public and tighter links to companies that create urgently needed jobs and tax revenue.

The decision was a "victory for China's civil society," said Li Fangping, a Beijing lawyer who had demanded a public hearing on the plan.

"Many citizens worked together and voiced their opposition to the forced installation of this filtering software and forced the government to at least think more deeply about it," Li said. "We hope now that they will go ahead and completely drop this order."

News of the announcement spread in China quickly via Twitter and the Chinese mini-blogging site Fanfou. Some bloggers said they expect the government to look for a way to carry out Green Dam that attracts less attention.

"They are using the word 'delay,' instead of saying they stopped the plan," said Wen Yunchao, a Chinese blogger who has been among the most vocal critics of Green Dam. "I think that it's possible that at some point in the future the government could still enforce their policy and install software on personal computers that filters the information people are able to look at. So, I am calling this an intermediary victory."

China's communist government encourages Internet use for education and business, and the country has the biggest population of Web users, with more than 298 million. But authorities try to block access to material deemed obscene or subversive, and Beijing operates the world's most sweeping system of Internet filtering. U.S. companies such as Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Google Inc. have cooperated in way or another with government requests to tamp down criticism.

The Green Dam software would raise China's controls to a new level by putting a filter inside each PC. Chinese authorities said it would be needed to shield children from violent and obscene material online.

Analysts who have reviewed the program say it also contains code to filter material the government considers politically objectionable. Separately, a California company claimed Green Dam contained stolen programming code.

Chinese Web surfers ridiculed Green Dam by saying it would block access to photos of animals and other innocuous subjects. State media reported extensively on the complaints, a rare move. Chinese media usually uncritically support government policy.

Green Dam already is in use in Internet cafes in China and has been installed since the start of this year in PCs sold under a government program that subsidizes appliance sales in the countryside.

China accounted for 14 percent of the 63.5 million PCs shipped worldwide in the first quarter, according to the research group IDC. Beijing-based Lenovo makes the most computers for China, capturing nearly 27 percent of the market in the first three months of the year. It is followed by Hewlett-Packard Co., whose laptops and desktops make up about 14 percent of shipments.

Other large PC makers such as Toshiba Corp. and Taiwan's Acer Inc. said they were ready to provide Green Dam on disks beginning Wednesday. Worldwide industry leaders HP and Dell Inc. had declined to discuss their plans, possibly waiting for a diplomatic settlement.

TECHNOLOGY

Yahoo to build data center near Buffalo

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUFFALO, N.Y. Internet pioneer Yahoo Inc. plans to open an East Coast regional data center near Buffalo.

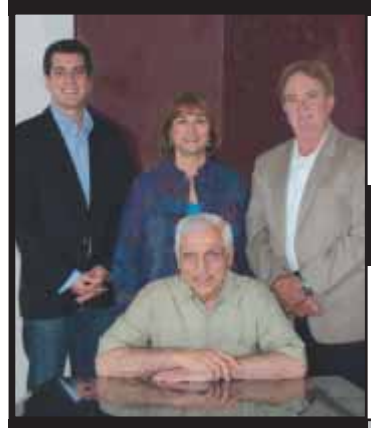
Gov. David Paterson on Tuesday said the center, housing computer systems and other equipment, is set to begin operating at an industrial park in Lockport in January 2011.

The New York governor said it will create about 125 jobs and construction could begin this fall.

Based in Sunnyvale, Calif., Yahoo has been expanding its number of data centers around the country. The centers use a large amount of energy, and Paterson said the New York Power Authority came up with a low-cost hydropower plan to lure Yahoo to Lockport.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said he hopes Yahoo's decision will help other high-technology companies realize that the western York region offers "a well-educated, talented and affordable workforce, a high quality of life, and cheap, clean power."

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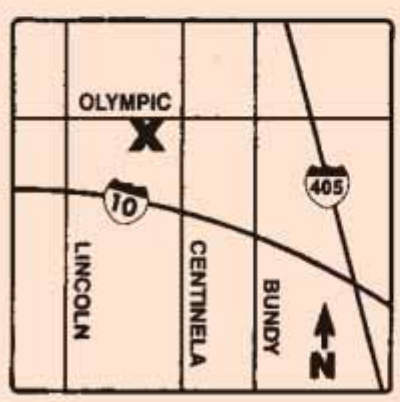
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Jackson begged nurse for sedative

LYNN ELBER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Michael Jackson was so distraught over persistent insomnia in recent months that he pleaded for a powerful sedative despite warnings it could be harmful, says a nutritionist who was working with the singer as he prepared his comeback bid.

Cherilyn Lee, a registered nurse whose specialty includes nutritional counseling, said Tuesday that she repeatedly rejected his demands for the drug, Diprivan, which is given intravenously.

But a frantic phone call she received from Jackson four days before his death made her fear that he somehow obtained Diprivan or another drug to induce sleep, Lee said.

While in Florida on June 21, Lee was contacted by a member of Jackson's staff.

"He called and was very frantic and said, 'Michael needs to see you right away.' I said, 'What's wrong?' And I could hear Michael in the background ..., 'One side of my body is hot, it's hot, and one side of my body is cold. It's very cold,'" Lee said.

"I said, 'Tell him he needs to go the hospital. I don't know what's going on, but he needs to go to the hospital ... right away."

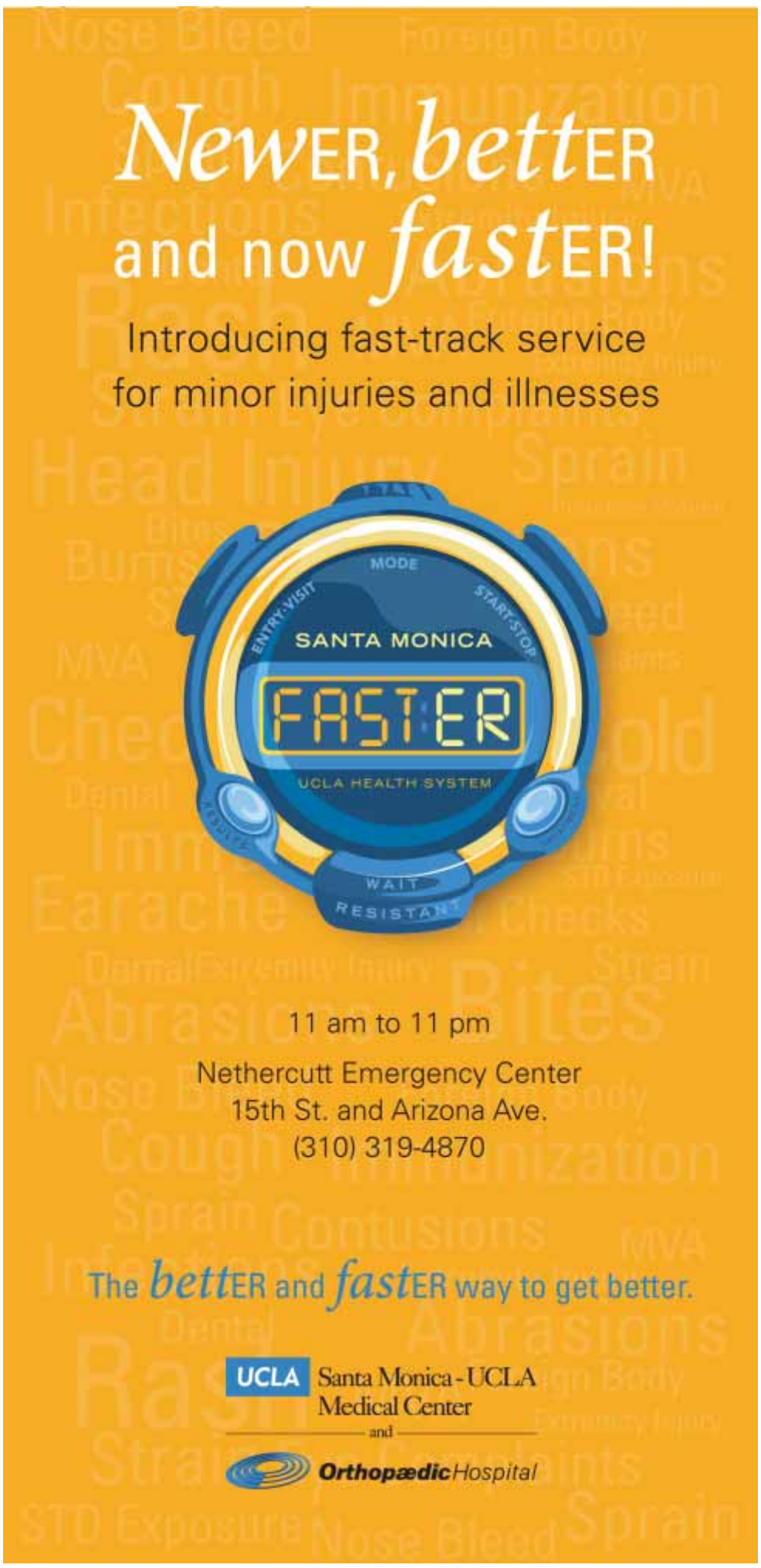
"At that point I knew that somebody had given him something that hit the central nervous system," she said, adding, "He was in trouble Sunday and he was crying out."

Jackson did not go to the hospital. He died June 25 after suffering cardiac arrest, his family said. Autopsies have been conducted, but an official cause of death is not expected for several weeks.

"I don't know what happened there. The only thing I can say is he was adamant about this drug," Lee said.

Following Jackson's death, allegations emerged that the 50-year-old King of Pop had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants. But Lee said she encountered a man tortured by sleep deprivation and one who expressed opposition to recreational drug use.

"He wasn't looking to get high or feel good and sedated from drugs," she said. "This was a person who was not on drugs. This was a person who was seeking help."



Samohi hoops makes strides during break, pleasing coach

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 1

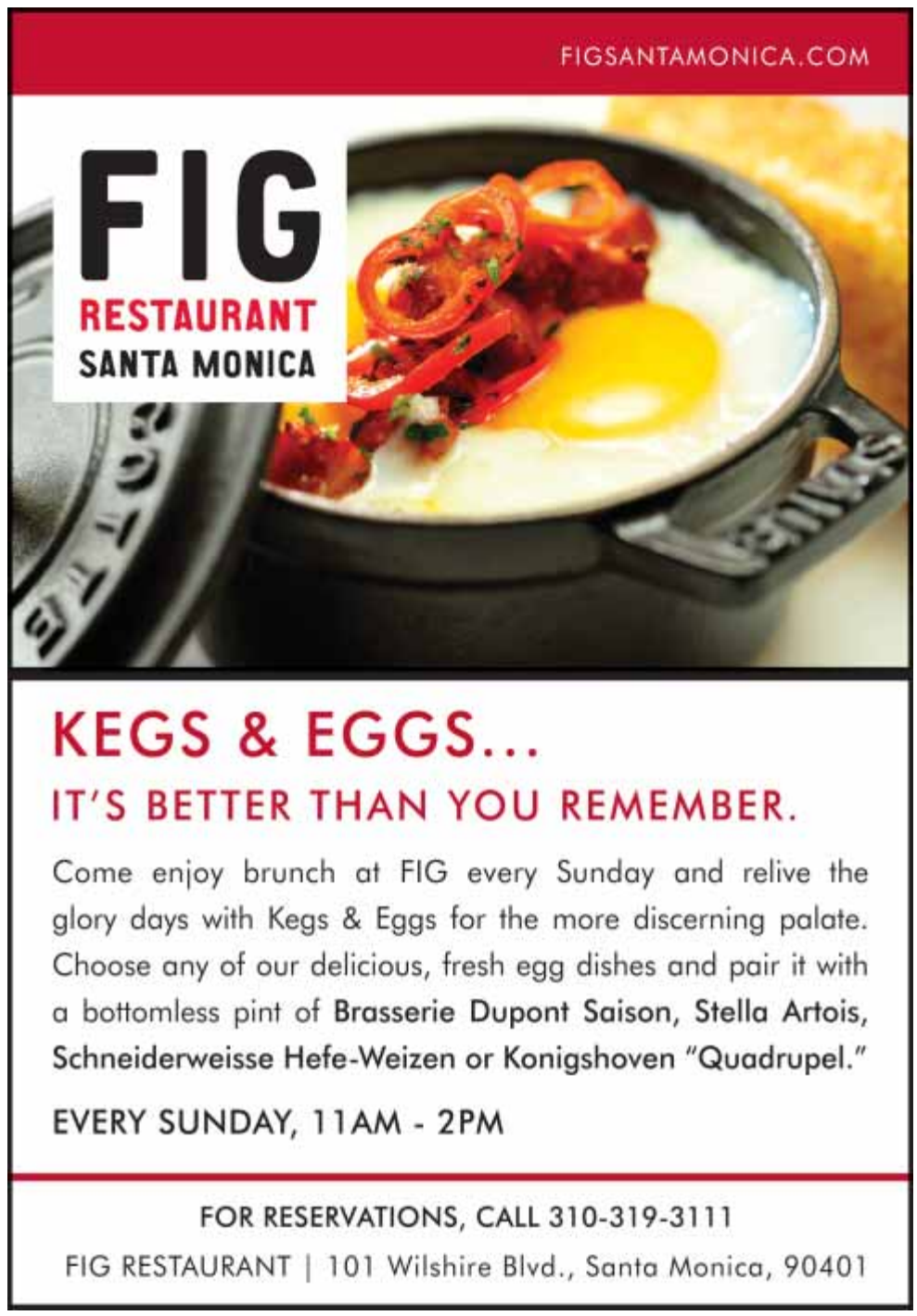
He said that the team currently has two other top prospects in addition to Lemberger. He said that Johnson and sophomore Sabrina Norton, daughter of former UCLA and NFL standout Ken Norton Jr., are also drawing the eyes of major college recruiters.

Developing viable prospects is just one way Verdugo hopes to continue his program's success. He added that it encourages other, younger players to dream big and gives them the confidence that what they achieve is not done so in a vacuum.

"The job for me is to get them ready to play at that next level," Verdugo said. "It makes me feel good as a coach. You hope to get girls to that top tier."

That aspiration appears to have taken shape at Samohi as the girls team has quickly become one of the most successful programs at a school that takes its sports seriously.

daniela@smdp.com



New sales tax may help state, but at a heavy cost

FROM **TAXES** PAGE 1

expand light rail lines, and purchase clean-fuel buses, all to improve traffic flow.

The measure passed with 67.22 percent of the vote. It required a super majority of 66.67 percent to pass.

The increase comes just two months after the state sales tax was raised by 1 percent, pushing L.A. County's rate to 9.25 percent. That increase is supposed to be temporary, scheduled to expire on July 1, 2011.

Though very high, Santa Monica's tax rate is actually far from the top of the list. Avalon on Catalina Island now has a tax rate of 10.25 percent, and the board listed the highest tax rate at 10.75 percent for the cities of Pico Rivera and Southgate.

"8.25 is the base rate in California, so there are some cities that have 8.25 percent," said Anita Gore from the state Board of Equalization, naming Bakersfield and Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County as examples. "All of [Los Angeles County] will have the 9.75 rate, and then within L.A. county there are cities that have add-on special district taxes [such as Proposition R]."

David Carr, principal investment analyst for City Hall, listed the tax breakdown as follows: 6 percent will go to the California general fund; 1.5 percent will go to L.A. County for traffic and transportation purposes voted in through Propositions A, C and R; 1 percent will go to local jurisdictions such as Santa Monica; .5 percent goes to public safety funds allocated to local jurisdictions including Santa Monica; .5 percent goes to local funds to support health and social service programs (no effect on Santa Monica) and .25 percent goes to the state for the 2004 economic recovery bonds.

"The funds will be used for traffic relief and transportation upgrades throughout the county over the next 30 years," Carr said. "While this is a county-wide tax, a portion of the funds will be allocated back to all jurisdictions in the county including Santa Monica."

The state of California, like much of the United States, is in great need of revenue. Some doubt, however, the sales tax's effectiveness in increasing income.

Barrett noted that the last time the sales tax went up, he had the same number of buyers, but that altogether they bought one third fewer products. He knows buyers look mostly at the bottom line — not just the item's listed price, but its cost including taxes and any other added on prices.

"We're doing okay, we're maintaining more than our market share based on market figures," he said. "I think they could do an awful lot to spur the economy … lower the sales tax for a month, for July or August for example — here's the month where you can go out and buy. Have a sale on sales taxes!"

Sunset Park resident Debbie Rothschild, a licensed clinical social worker, considers the increase too small to change her ordinary shopping habits but said bigger buys will be harder to manage.

"It will only affect expensive items, but other than that, it will make no difference," she said.

Santa Monica artist Karla Klarin feels more strongly about the tax increase.

"There's something about it being pretty much 10 percent which is very off-putting," she said. "It's easy to figure how much tax it will be and that's not an incentive to go out and buy. It also makes me lean toward places like Amazon [online], where there's no sales tax and I'll wait the extra few days to get my books. Politicians think they can do whatever they want and we'll follow like sheep — but we're not sheep."

news@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FROM **BRIEFS** PAGE 3

reach programs, SMMoA seeks to expand boundaries and enhance public knowledge of art. SMMoA is located in Building G1 of Bergamot Station on Michigan Avenue. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of $5, $3 for seniors and students. For more information, call 310 586-6488 or visit www.smmoa.org.

DP

CITYWIDE

Fireworks warning

Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone wants to remind everyone that lighting fireworks is illegal in Santa Monica, so instead of breaking the law, join him for the third annual Fourth of July Parade along Main Street.

Hone will be the grand marshal for this year's event, which begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center on Independence Day. Bands, civic groups, sports teams and more are invited to participate. Call (310) 564-1968 or visit www.opa-sm.org to register.

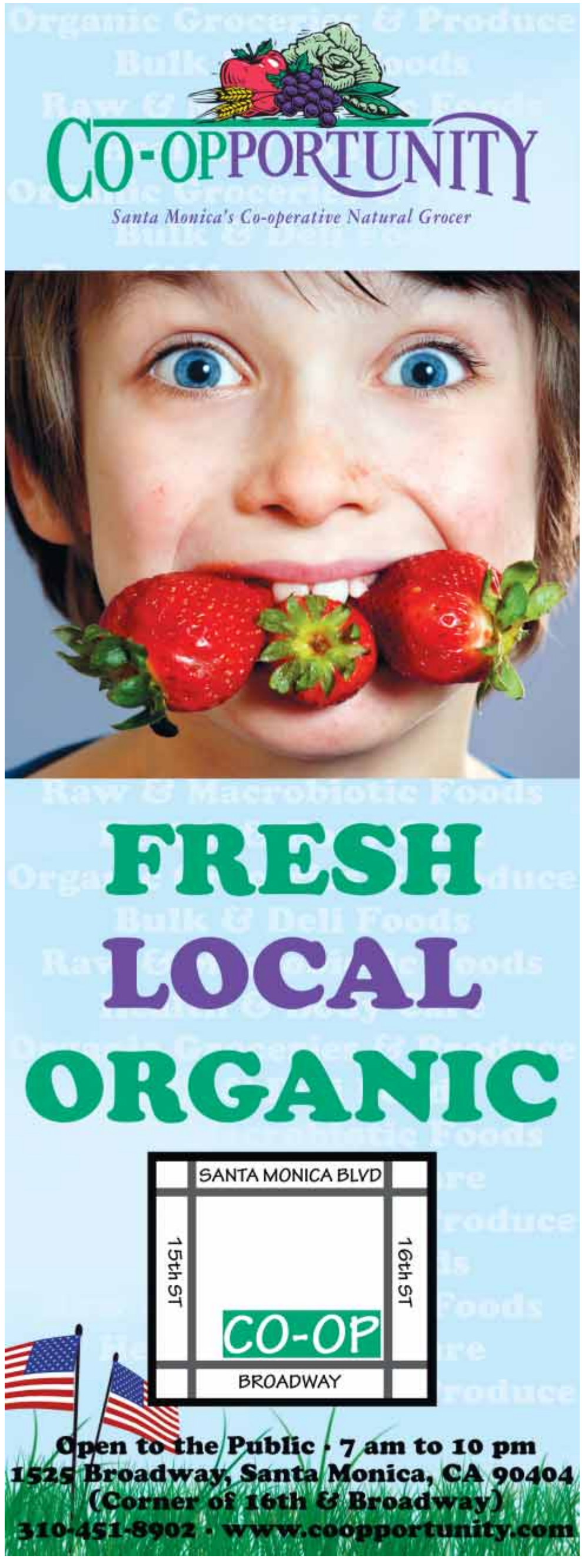
The SMFD cautions residents against the use of amateur fireworks — all types of which are illegal in Santa Monica. Negative effects can include scarring, loss of vision and dismemberment for users and bystanders as well as fires and property damage.

"Safe and sane fireworks don't exist," said Dr. John Hall, assistant vice president of fire analysis and research for the National Fire Protection Association. "When things go wrong with fireworks, they go very wrong, very fast, far faster than any fire protection provisions can reliably respond to."

Heavy traffic is expected west of Lincoln Boulevard throughout the holiday weekend. The Santa Monica Pier will be closed to vehicular traffic from Thursday at midnight to Sunday at midnight. All of the pier's shops, rides and attractions will be open during their regularly scheduled hours of operation and the pier will be accessible to pedestrian traffic.

Main Street between Colorado Avenue and Marine Street, Neilson Way between Ocean Park Boulevard and Barnard Way and Barnard Way between Ocean Park Boulevard and Neilson Way will be closed Saturday from 6 a.m. until noon. Discounted parking will be available at the Civic Center Structure/Lot and the Main Library Structure.

DP



LAUSD chief upset by 'Bruno' school photos

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The chief of the nation's second-largest school district is fuming over comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's magazine photo shoot with high school football players.

Los Angeles Superintendent Ramon Cortines isn't amused by the GQ magazine photos shot at Birmingham High School that feature the "Borat" star in his new incarnation as gay Austrian fashionista "Bruno."

The GQ cover story features pictures of Baron Cohen wearing shoulder pads, tight red shorts, an athletic cup and little else as he poses with football players at the school in the San Fernando Valley.

Cortines says the district "allowed our students to be used." He says the photos violate the district's policy on use of the school's name, and he has punished the principal and athletic director. Cortines would not provide details.



Public speaks out on death penalty

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO More than 100 speakers lined up Tuesday for their chance to weigh in on California's new proposed rules for executing condemned inmates at a state hearing that quickly morphed into a debate over the morality and practicality of capital punishment.

George Husaruk and his wife drove two-and-half hours from their home near Willits to argue that California can no longer afford the death penalty.

"We need to use the money for education," the middle-school teacher said during a daylong meeting convened by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to take public comment on its proposed lethal injection procedures. The agency received more than 5,000 written comments in the last two months on the 42-page draft by prison officials, who were ordered by a federal court in 2006 to revise their plan.

Though the audience was warned to keep its comments focused on the proposal itself, the hearing soon expanded into a wider death penalty discussion. Most speakers signed up to address the issue Tuesday morning opposed the death penalty.

Outside the hearing room, Father George Horan, a Catholic priest from Los Angeles, argued heatedly with death penalty advocate Howard Garber over whether life in prison without parole is a just sentence for heinous killers.

Many abolitionists have seized on the high cost of implementing the death penalty during California's dire fiscal crisis. A report released last year by a commission created by the state Senate concluded that it will cost the state at least an additional $137 million a year to support the death penalty rather than make the maximum sentence life in prison without parole.

Garber and other death penalty supporters blame the lengthy appeal process for the condemned for the high costs. "Ninety percent of the appeals aren't contesting guilt," Garber said outside the hearing.

After Tuesday, the state will have up to a year to assess the comments and edit the proposed procedures before they become official regulations. Only then will they be presented to U.S. District Court Judge Jeremy Fogel, who has suspended executions in California until prison officials fix the deficiencies he identified in the lethal injection process.

In 2006, Fogel halted executions until officials expanded the death chamber at San Quentin prison and provided more executioner training and other upgrades to ensure the condemned do not suffer cruel and unusual punishment.

The state has since constructed a new death chamber and the proposed new regulations require execution team members to undergo monthly mock executions. The rules would require three syringes, each filled with different drugs, to be administered by staff licensed to give injections in California. A physician must be on hand to declare death.

At least 10 death row inmates complained in writing that they have not received copies of the new regulations.

Among the issues brought up at Tuesday's hearing, religious groups complained that a proposal requiring a chaplain to send a written report to prison officials discussing the mental state of a condemned inmate violates the confidentialy promises implied by clergy.

The proposed regulations also don't discuss how women will be executed, said Gloria Killian, who was released from California prison in 2002 after serving 16 years for a murder she didn't commit. There are currently 15 female inmates on death row.

"Where will they be housed in an all-male prison?" Killian asked. "Women deal with emotion, trauma and other events differently than men do."

Even if the state's proposal passes legal muster, it would take at least a year to reinstate the death penalty.

Whatever is decided in California, which has the nation's largest death row at 680 condemned inmates, is expected to shape how other states carry out executions.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court signed off on Kentucky's lethal injection process last year and lifted a brief nationwide moratorium, the federal government and 36 states that employ the execution method have experienced varying degrees of success in restarting capital punishment.

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Franken wins Minnesota Senate race after long delay

BRIAN BAKST
Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. Al Franken ascended Tuesday from the ranks of former "Saturday Night Live" comedians to an even more exclusive club, outlasting Republican Norm Coleman in an eight-month recount and courtroom saga to win a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Franken's victory gives Democrats control of 60 seats in the Senate — the critical number needed to overcome Republican filibusters. When Franken is seated, which could come as early as next week, his party will have a majority not reached on either side of the aisle in some three decades.

"When you win an election this close, you know not one bit of effort went to waste," Franken said. "The way I see it, I'm not going to Washington to be the 60th Democratic senator, I'm going to Washington to be the second senator from Minnesota."

Coleman conceded the election hours after a unanimous state Supreme Court ruled that Franken — who moved into politics with books poking fun at conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh — should be certified the winner. In doing so, he pulled the plug on a bitter election that was ultimately decided by 312 votes out of nearly 2.9 million cast.

"Franni and I are so thrilled that we can finally celebrate this victory," Franken told reporters outside his downtown Minneapolis town house, where he was accompanied by his wife. He added: "I can't wait to get started."

Coleman could have carried his fight into federal court, but it was unlikely to overturn the state Supreme Court's decision. The prospect created months of intrigue over whether Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty would sign an election certificate for Franken if Coleman was still pursing appeals, a possibility that became moot with Coleman's concession.

"The Supreme Court has made its decision and I will abide by the results," Coleman said outside his St. Paul home. Appearing relaxed and upbeat, Coleman said he had congratulated Franken, was at peace with the decision and had no regrets about the fight.

"Sure I wanted to win," said Coleman, who declined to talk about his future and brushed aside a question about whether he would run for governor in 2010. "I thought we had a better case. But the court has spoken."

After Coleman ended election night ahead by several hundred votes, he called on Franken to concede. The Democrat refused, and the thin margin triggered an automatic recount that ultimately put him ahead by 225 votes. Coleman challenged those results in January, but a review by a three-judge panel expanded Franken's lead to 312 votes by the time it ended in April.

Coleman appealed to the state's high court later that month, arguing election officials across Minnesota were inconsistent with rules on absentee ballots, unfairly robbing thousands of people of their votes. But the state's high court soundly rejected that reasoning, voting 5-0 that there was no reason to apply a more lenient standard in judging absentees, as Coleman wanted, than the law required.

"I think what you had was 12 judges look at this through the canvassing process, through the recount and throughout the trial, and all agreeing unanimously that I won more votes than anybody else in the election," Franken said. "I think that is conclusive, and I think that this has been as thorough, as painstaking, as transparent as possible."

Franken has come a long way from the goofy 1980s "SNL" skits where he mocked politicians, portrayed the self-affirming Stuart Smalley and pranced around in little more than a Speedo. His career evolved in the 1990s with books harpooning Limbaugh and he later gained a liberal following as a radio show host on the "Air America" network.

Minnesota has elevated an entertainer to political office before, most notably when it elected ex-pro wrestler Jesse Ventura governor in 1998.

Franken declared his candidacy more than two years ago, and he and Coleman combined to spend $50 million in pursuit of the seat. That's more than double what was spent in 2002, when Coleman won the seat that had been held by the late Paul Wellstone.

For Democrats to exercise their newfound strength with Franken in office, they will need to be as united in support of a bill as Republicans are in opposition, regardless of regional differences, ideology, or political self-interest.

The situation is further complicated by the illness of two senior Democrats who have been absent from the Capitol for weeks. West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd was recently released from a hospital after undergoing treatment for a staph infection, and Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy is battling brain cancer. It is not known when, or whether, either will return to the Capitol.

An early test of the Democrats could come next month, when health care legislation reaches the Senate floor. Democrats have been seeking agreement on a bipartisan plan with a handful of Republicans. But if those talks falter, they and the White House may end up needing 60 votes to advance one of the Obama administration's highest priorities.

In the months since Election Day, both Franken and Coleman kept low profiles. After Coleman's term expired in January, he took a job as a consultant and strategic adviser to the Republican Jewish Coalition, a group that advocates in Washington on Jewish issues.

Franken has taken some steps to ensure a quick transition, appointing a staff in waiting that includes communications staffers, a chief of staff and a state director. He said Tuesday he had been told his assignments would include the Judiciary Committee, a role that would put him immediately in the thick of confirmation hearings over Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said Franken told her Tuesday he's "ready to get started immediately." The Democrat said Franken is expected to immediately dive into the health care debate.

"This victory was hard earned for Al Franken and his family," she said. "Franni Franken had a suitcase packed, ready to go to Washington at a moment's notice, like you do when you're waiting to have a baby. She had a toothbrush, clothes, all of that, ready to go."

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 65°

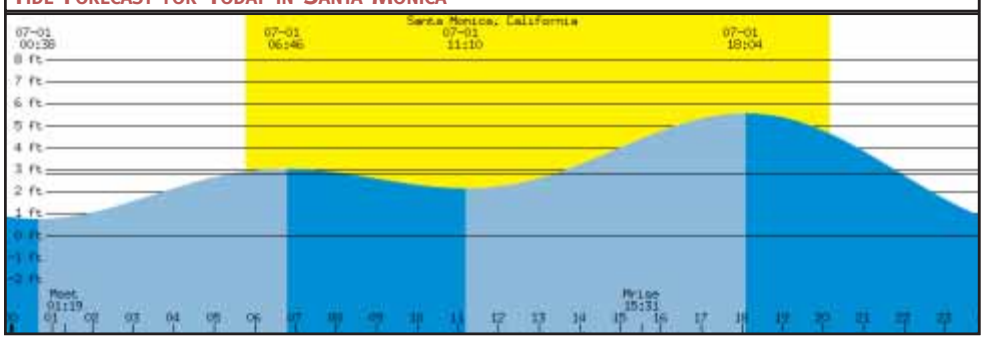
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

The SW swell should linger with chest high waves around south facing breaks, but head high pluses will likely become less frequent.

Long Range Synopsis

This weekend we should see some modest southern hemi come in from 200-210 degrees, and with 14-second periods. South facing breaks are looking at waist high waves.

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: **June 16, 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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 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 Arlos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	C	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	D	ns
Pearco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	B	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	C	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	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'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.

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

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

The Beaches of Agnès 1hr 50min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Star Trek (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:20, 3:15, 6:20, 9:20

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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

The Proposal (Closed Captions) (PG-13) 1hr 48 min
11:00am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30

Up (PG) 1hr 36min
11:30am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50

Up (Digital 3-D) (PG) 1hr 36min
10:40am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
10:50am, 1:30, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40, 10:45

The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3 (R) 2hrs 01min
11:10am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
10:00am, 12:30, 1:30, 4:00, 5:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:50

Public Enemies (R) 2hrs 23min
10:00am, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40

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

Whatever Works (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

The Stoning of Soraya M. (R) 2hrs 11min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

Summer Hours (L'Heure d'ete) (NR) 1hr 40min
1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

Moon (R) 1hr 52min
1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55

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

Year One (PG-13) 1hr 40min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Away We Go (R) 1hr 37min
11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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

All smiles, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ If you feel as if you are walking on a fault line, you might not be far from wrong. Unexpected events or realizations could prevent boredom but produce stress. Tonight: Show your appreciation through actions and words.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Defer to others and stay on top of situations, especially at work. You could discover how unpredictable a friend is, and, in fact, what hits home is that what you thought was a given proves otherwise. Tonight: Listen to offers, then decide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ While others are distracted -- and you are no exception — stay centered, knowing clearly the end results you desire. Tonight: Find your favorite chair and relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ News could come in from out of left field, and it might be quite shocking. Listen, but be willing to seek out your own information and facts. Tonight: Time for a midweek break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might want to understand what is going on with others behind the scenes. Listen to news and stay in touch with different aspects of a situation. Oddly enough, you do have the answers within. Center and re-evaluate. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication rolling, even if you are not 100 percent happy with what you hear. Others seem to want to go overboard, and perhaps you don't care. Others seek you out en masse and could be overwhelming. What you hear could be presented in a novel, dynamic way. Tonight: Find the right person, and you could laugh a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Your more possessive side emerges, perhaps because you have been drained by recent demands. On some level, there can be no negotiating. You are prone to take a risk right now, anyway. Tonight: You don't have to break the bank in order to treat yourself to one item.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your personality melts barriers, and others are highly responsive. You are able to create a stronger bond when people feel your warmth. Communication feels inspired on some level. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Stop and take in all the different factors that surround an issue. Your instincts come through, be it with money or love. If you are nonreactive, you will get more information. You have much to think about, either way. Tonight: Hide out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have a sense of what you want and know where you are going. Take a stand and allow others to understand that they can join in and support you. But being against you would be a bad place. Tonight: Only what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are ahead of the game, as many ideas and energy stem from you. People will tap into you quite frequently because you think outside the box, thus coming up with unusual suggestions. Tonight: Start thinking "vacation."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Go for something different, understanding that you might be blazing a new trail with a partner or friend. Listen to suggestions, but your resourcefulness is not to be laughed at. Use it, and the end results will be good. Tonight: Have a discussion over dinner!

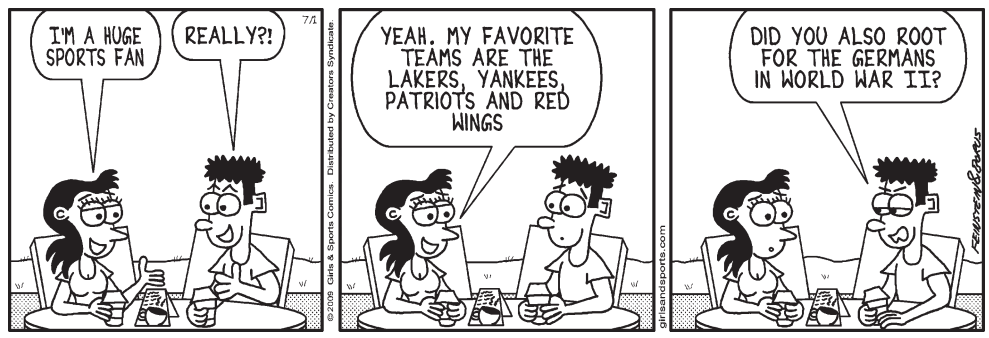
Happy birthday

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

This year, get ready! A lot happens out of the blue. The good news is you cope with this energy and demand, and come up with very creative suggestions. You handle excitement well and flourish this year. Lose the word "no" from your vocabulary. Everything is possible once you commit to manifesting. If you are single, suitors surround you like bees to honey, as your libido energies are very high. If you are attached, you certainly can heat up your relationship in a positive manner. Think back to when you just met. Take your loved one back to those days. SCORPIO finds you exciting and deep.

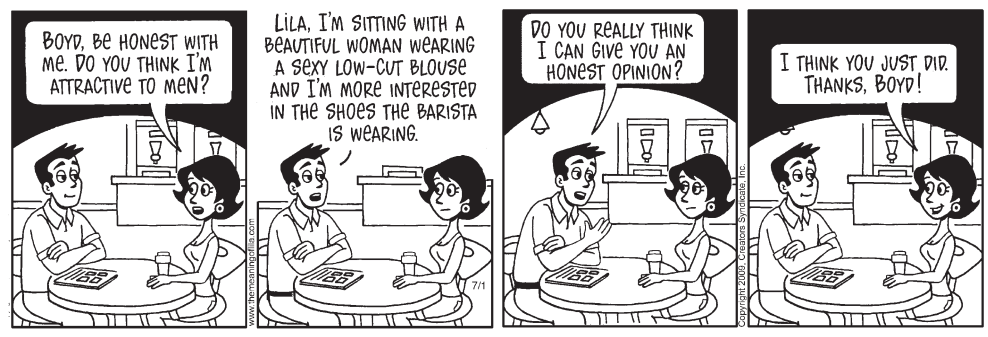
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



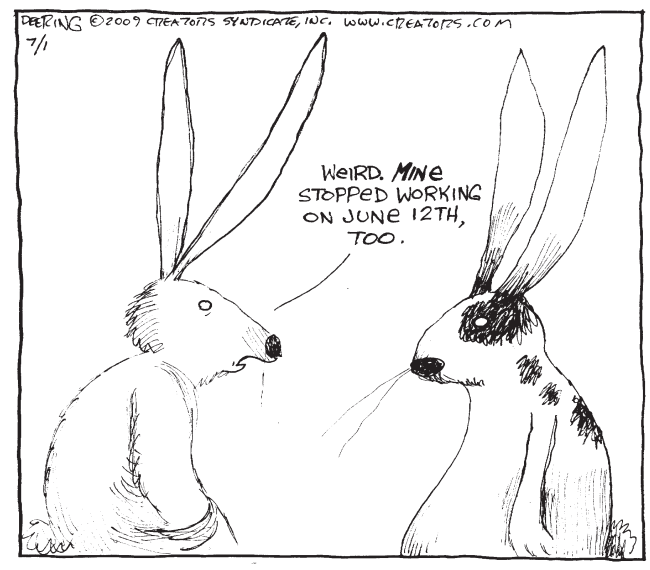
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Easy —
6 Disparaging remark
10 Still life subjects
11 Flared dress
12 Nigeria's former capital
13 "Something's — Give"
14 Ready for business
15 TV psychologist
16 Unruly group
17 Take to court
18 Shade tree
19 Pins
22 Model Banks
23 Hardens
26 Soft rolls
29 Tear
32 Cheerer
33 Lab critter
34 Kind of band
36 Matador's foe
37 Top story
38 Bad kind of situation
39 Packing box
40 Make amends
41 Golf goal
42 Big ringers

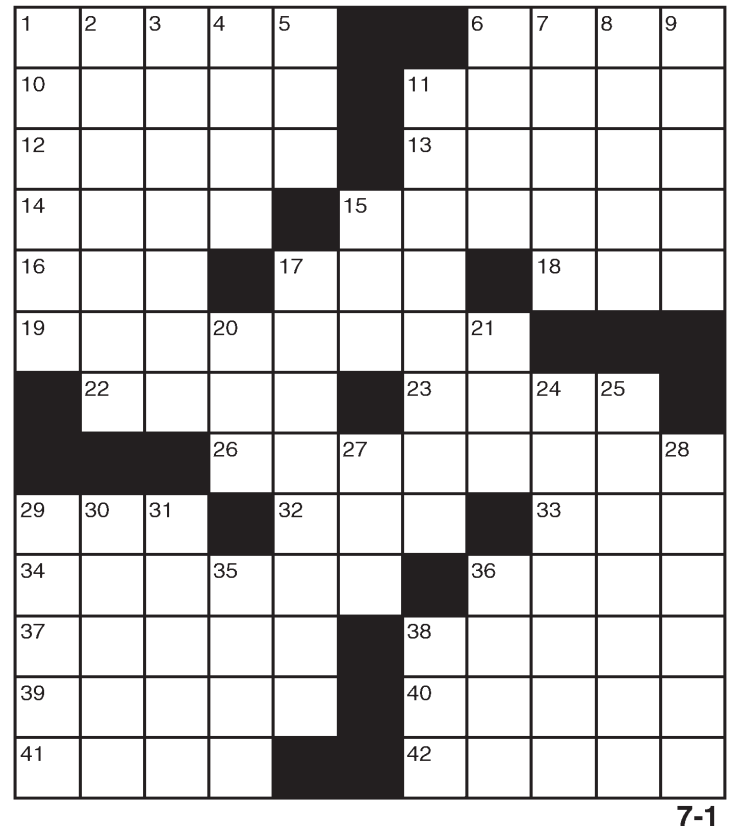
DOWN

1 Self-assurance
2 Shipping stop
3 Short hairdo
4 Wrinkle remover
5 Slalom section
6 Sow chow
7 Supple
8 Up to
9 Kingdom
11 Mutually accepts
15 "Well, that's obvious!"
17 Pacino movie
20 Ball
21 Short time
24 Dress in, hurriedly
25 Very hot
27 McShane or McKellen
28 Boulders
29 Kitchen pest
30 Overture
31 Rose part
35 Plant pest
36 Dorothy's dog
38 Old horse

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



7-1

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EVENING: ...

DAILY DERBY 1st: ...
2nd: ...
3rd: ...
RACE TIME: ...

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

■ Because of what an April Boston Globe report called "a decades-old interpretation of the state's militia laws," state government employees who are also members of the Massachusetts National Guard and who go on active duty are paid much more money if deployed at home than in Iraq or Afghanistan. State law requires those Guardsmen on domestic duty to be paid both for their state job and their military duty while Guardsmen in the war zones collect only the higher of the two salaries.

■ Britain's Local Governments Are Afraid of Everything: (1) The Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service issued rules recently requiring the use of long poles to test high-up fire alarms because letting the firefighters use stepladders might lead to injuries. (2) The South Kesteven District Council decided in May to no longer hoist the oversized Flag of St. George outside Bourne Town Hall on St. George's Day -- because of the "risk" involved in using an 8-foot ladder on a plinth above a spoked gate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1867 Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

1859 The first intercollegiate baseball game took place in Pittsfield, Mass., between teams from Williams College and Amherst College. (Amherst won the nearly four-hour, 26-inning contest by the score of 73-32.)

1863 The Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

1946 The United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

1959 The controversial motion picture "Anatomy of a Murder," starring James Stewart, was released.

1968 The United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and nearly 60 other nations signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

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