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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 222

Santa Monica Daily Press

INSURANCE HARD TO COME BY
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE EARLY DEADLINE ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GOING ONCE: **The L.A. County Office of the Assessor indicates that the total assessed value of Santa Monica property is up 2.6 percent.**

Assessed property values on the rise

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CITYWIDE As property values across the county continue to slump amid one of the weakest economies the nation has seen in years, Santa Monica appears to be an exception to that rule.

The Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor released assessment rolls earlier this month and the numbers for the county at-large look grim as the overall gross total slipped .09 percent for what officials called a moderate loss of less than $1 billion from last year. It is the first decline in values since 1996, but Assistant Assessor Robert Quon attributes the decline partially due to his office's proactive review of 473,000 homes across the county.

In Santa Monica, the picture is a bit brighter with total property values coming in at a robust $23.5 billion, with an increase of $608 million from 2008 stats. The county recorded a 2.6 percent increase from last year's roll, but some in the real estate business question that number.

Realtor Kate Bransfield was surprised to hear that the area increased at all considering the lukewarm real estate market.

"The market is kind of flat," Bransfield

SEE VALUES PAGE 11

Engaged couples go green with weddings

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A $300 used gown, invitations made from hops and yeast, and a vegan dinner created from locally-grown ingredients all combine for one sustainable wedding.

It's exactly what Santa Monica couple Austin Nicholsen and Kate Shukle have planned for their Aug. 29 nuptials at Hartley Botanica in Somis, a small agricultural town in Ventura County where the couple will be hosting what they describe as an elegant yet eco-friendly affair before approximately 200 guests.

"When we were planning our wedding, the very first thing that came to mind is how do we do this in a way that is cohesive to our lifestyle, which is obviously a strong focus on environmental awareness, and minimize usage without sacrificing the style and aesthetic of what a nice wedding should be," Shukle, an artist and waitress at Real Food Daily, said.

The elements of the green wedding will include a used gown purchased on Craigslist, homemade desserts, locally-grown flowers for all arrangements, and favors that will come in the form of hand-made postcards, natural wood chopsticks and seeds.

Even the gift registry will be green, but only in the fact that the couple didn't set one up.

"It's how we live our life," Nicholsen, a musician and entertainer, said. "We try to always buy the most sustainable products

SEE GREEN PAGE 10

Mexican drug cartels expand to other nations

FRANK BAJAK &
JUAN CARLOS LLORCA
Associated Press Writers

GUATEMALA CITY Guatemalan drug boss Juan Jose "Juancho" Leon was summoned by Mexican traffickers for what he was told was business. Instead, dozens of attackers ambushed his entourage with grenades and assault rifles, killing Leon and 10 others in a brazen demonstration of power.

Mexican drug traffickers are branching out as never before — spreading their tentacles into 47 nations, including the U.S.,

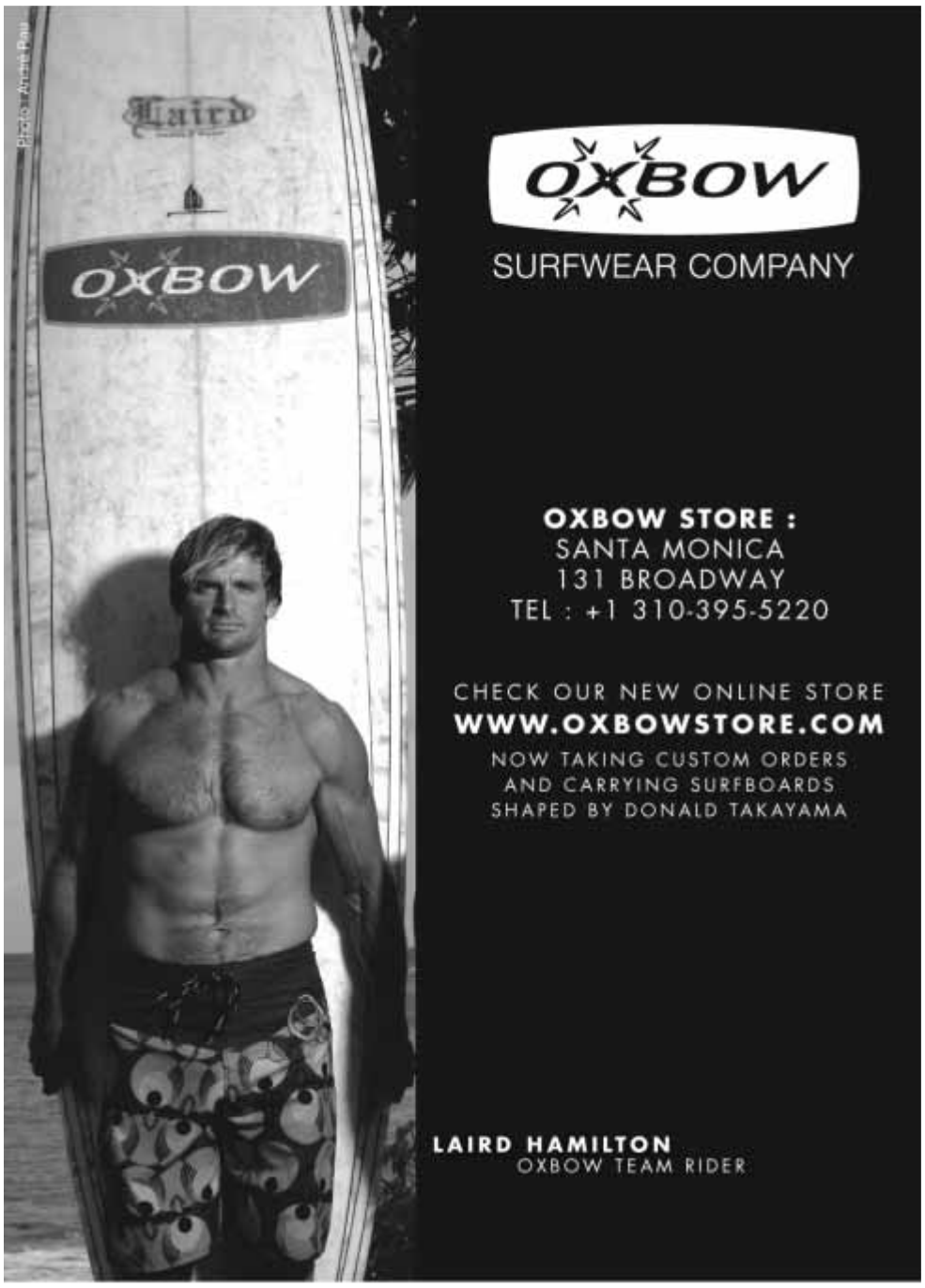
SEE DRUGS PAGE 13


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thespians of tomorrow

Morgan-Wixson Theater
2627 Pico Blvd., 12:30 p.m.
Kids on Stage invites you to their fun-filled, family-friendly versions of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Mamma Mia." Tickets $4 for Santa Monica residents. Call (310) 314-0035 for more information.

Ballroom by the bay

Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Free ballroom dance lesson, starting at 7 p.m., followed by dancing on the 3,000 square-foot dance floor. Join the Santa Monica Bay Women's Club for waltz, fox-trot, swing, hustle and Latin dancing. No partner necessary! Admission: $10. For more information, call (310) 487-0911.

Get your groove on!

Club Main
2941 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Get down and shake off your stress with fun salsa dancing. Every Wednesday is Isabelle's Salsa Night at Club Main. Dance for free after 9 p.m. Beginning and intermediate salsa lessons available from 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m. for $15. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

Pick up some tips: LeTip business referral club

Best Western hotel meeting rooms
Santa Monica Blvd. and 19th St., 7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Business owners and professionals meet each Wednesday morning to share tips or referrals to help one another grow their businesses. Breakfast served. First visit is free. Call (310) 920-9642 for more information.

Kids get creative

The Christian Institute
1308 Second St., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Shop at the Farmers' Market and Third Street Promenade while your children enjoy arts and crafts. Canvas projects, printmaking, mosaic tiles, theater acts, games and more. Class and parking are free; $20 suggested donation for supplies. Ages 9 and up. Space is limited. To reserve a space, or get more information, call (310) 394-4178. Ask for Lydia.

Social hour

Riva Restaurant
312 Wilshire Blvd., 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Junior Chamber for the July Networking Social. This is a great opportunity to meet other young professionals over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The event costs $18 for non-members and includes two drinks and an assortment of hors d'oeuvres. Contact Grace at grace.wang@smjaycees.org to RSVP.

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Wizards rock

Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
Celebrate the release of the sixth Harry Potter movie with a rock concert featuring wizard rock specialists The Remus Lupins and the The Whomping Willows. 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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAR VISTA

Protecting the bay

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has provided a grant to the city of Los Angeles for a new rainwater harvesting pilot program in the Mar Vista, Sawtelle and Jefferson communities, which will provide free assistance to residents and commercial businesses to collect rainwater for storage and use.

The program's aim is to reduce the amount of polluted rainwater that runs into the ocean and the Department of Public Works hopes to enlist at least 600 property owners by fall 2009.

Residents who sign up for the program will be eligible for complementary installations of rain barrels, downspout disconnections or planter boxes. The retained rainwater will then be routed for on-site irrigation.

"Rainwater is a natural resource. Harvesting that resource locally by collecting rainwater is one of the easiest and most profoundly important things a person can do," said Lisa Cahill, citizen forestry manager for TreePeople.

A typical L.A. home directs an average of 14,000 gallons of water down it's drains and into the storm drain system each year. By capturing rainwater, residents can reduce pollution entering the Santa Monica Bay and adhere to the Department of Water and Power's newest water conservation requirements.

"This program sets an important first step for future citywide roll-out. Our hope is that the pilot areas will begin the momentum needed to generate interest in harvesting rainwater throughout the entire community," said Wing Tam, program manager for the rainwater harvesting program.

Call (562) 597-0205 or visit www.LArainwaterharvesting.org for more information.



PARTY TIME!

Fabian Lewkowicz *santamonicacloseup.com*

Director of sales of The Lobster, Lynne Thoms, (left) and executive chef Allyson Thurber (right) give general manger Jack De Nicola a celebratory kiss during their 10-year anniversary party on Monday, July 20. All three have worked at the restaurant since it opened in 1997. The original restaurant was built in 1923, and remained open until 1985.



Photo courtesy Santa Monica Fire Department

DOING IT FOR THE DEPARTMENT: **Members of the Santa Monica Fire Department's basketball team pose for a picture with their gold medals, which they won after beating teams from big cities such as Oakland, Sacramento and Long Beach.**

On fire on the court

BY EMMA TROTTER
Special to the Daily Press

ANAHEIM Trading their hoses and protective jackets for an orange ball and athletic uniforms, the Santa Monica Fire Department gave it their all, bringing home the gold in basketball during the California Firefighter Olympics, held in Anaheim last week.

This is the fourth year SMFD has competed — and the first year they've medaled at all. Players attributed their success to hard work in the "off-season," a great support network and the efforts of team members.

"We played in some rec leagues on our days off," firefighter Nick Jones said. "That helped us get more familiar with playing with each other.

"For a small department we were well represented by our families, and off-duty members also came out to support us," he continued. "It stood out compared to a lot of the other departments."

Engineer Dan Caldwell pointed to the coaching skills of Jones and firefighter Ryan Demirdjian.

"They did a good job utilizing subs and calling time-outs at the right time," he said.

Players said Demirdjian and Matt Hill, another firefighter, stood out as clear MVPs, particularly during a game against Sacramento that went to double overtime.

"Demirdjian was injured during that game, but he was able to come back and help us win — practically on one leg," Jones said.

This was the first year both star players were able to compete.

"Demirdjian made an amazing three point shot, with two people fouling him, to keep us in the game," added firefighter Justin Crosson. "We were the underdogs, but we went undefeated."

Hill followed with a similar shot, Caldwell said.

Free throws by firefighter Tony Barbi, one of two big men on the team, were also clutch in the Sacramento game as the seconds dwindled.

> **"WE WERE THE UNDERDOGS, BUT WE WENT UNDEFEATED."**
>
> Justin Crosson
> firefighter

"I had been missing every single free throw, and I'm normally not that bad," he said. "It was funny — everyone thought I was going to miss."

Barbi said it wasn't the competition that made the Sacramento game so close.

"We were playing our worst," he said. "I

SEE **HOOPS** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No excuse for breaking the law

Editor:

In Randy Walburger's letter to the editor ("Being poor isn't a crime," page 4, July 21), he posed the question, "So is it constitutional to make and enforce laws that criminalize people for simply being poor ... ?"

Sure it is. Except that the Santa Monica Police Department doesn't arrest people for "being poor." They warn, cite and arrest people for camping, which is breaking the law by sleeping on the beach or in the city's parks or spaces after dark when they are closed.

Being poor or homeless doesn't excuse one from abiding by the law in the city of Santa Monica nor anywhere else in the United States. Mr. Walburger's letter states that people are, "being arrested, handcuffed, jailed, tried, convicted and sentenced for being caught lying down ... ," which implies that they are being wrongly treated when all they are doing is something innocent like "lying down." Campers are, in fact, breaking a law which exists for the safety of our citizens, among other reasons. You can't just lie down anytime and anywhere you want, Mr. Walburger. Ignoring the law is wrong. Sorry. There are reasons for vagrancy and camping laws that you fail to recognize in your letter, and I imagine in your everyday life.

Homelessness is a horrible thing. Everybody should have a home. Unfortunately, many people don't. Some people think there are a finite, unchanging number of homeless people in the world and/or in Santa Monica, which is not true. These people think that if we just build X number of shelters with X number of beds we will solve the homeless problem in Santa Monica. Also not true. Some people actually think that the homeless people on the streets of Santa Monica are displaced former residents of Santa Monica. Again, most homeless people on the streets of Santa Monica probably aren't former residents, and we all know that every time we read about them in detail or talk to one.

In reality, there are millions of homeless people and countless runaways in the world, and every day more of them come here to Santa Monica. Why here more than other places? Perhaps as a tourist mecca with hundreds of thousands of pedestrians every weekend it's easier to panhandle here than in other places that don't have pedestrians en masse. Not to mention the homeless support available here that you don't get in other places. Unfortunately, a lot of that support encourages people to stay homeless – homeless in Santa Monica.

The only sensible approach is the one that City Hall is already taking, but it takes time and money. The Homeless Court, for example, can help homeless people who need it, and help all the citizens of our city by separating the chronically ill from the down-and-out people who are sick and need another chance at life from lawbreakers and riff-raff. It's a successful program that has worked before elsewhere.

It's not the responsibility of the residents of this city nor the government of this city to solve the world's housing and homeless issues. Allowing scofflaws who want to camp simply because they are poor is inexcusable and irresponsible. If one really wants to help the homeless, they should volunteer at a shelter, church, sober-living or halfway house, or donate to these places, the Salvation Army, Alcoholics Anonymous or Santa Monica on behalf of the homeless. Just don't suggest that it's OK to break the law by trivializing it, or suggest that laws should only apply to people who aren't poor.

Carlos Pineiro
Santa Monica

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life
HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council
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National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



Going Postal

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

Houston, we have a problem (or) bang, zoom, straight to the moon

MONDAY, JULY 20, MARKED THE 40TH anniversary of the greatest endeavor of mankind since the invention of Cheez-wiz which culminated in the first footfalls of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin upon the lunar Sea of Tranquility. The technological arc of inventions on the short-list that has evolved from this noble enterprise include Velcro, home satellite dishes, smoke detectors, Odor-Eaters and the ever-popular cordless vibrator. Did you know that your hand-held Blackberry has exponentially more memory by a factor of eight than it's great granddaddy computer from the Apollo command module? How far has your Blackberry taken you lately?

The space program also engendered the phrase, "We can put a man on the moon but we just can't seem to get a physical specimen of Obama's original birth certificate."

I was 12 years old when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. I remember playing outside in my front yard on that summer night with some of my neighborhood friends when my dad called me into the house. I grew up in the legacy of the long tall shadow of Werner von Braun's Saturn V rocket as my dad had worked extensively on the command module for the Apollo program over at the old North American Aviation plant in Orange, Calif.

There's a Best Buy there now.

Many folks that came to our house for dinner and late night, beer-fueled pinochle games worked in California's legendary aerospace industry where the term "rocket scientist" was a testament of their occupation and not a school yard pejorative from the current dysfunctional playpen of the SMMUSD.

It's so sad to see California burn up on re-entry.

On that night, I knew that my dad, a country redneck from Kentucky, was watching epochal history that he helped create, unfold as an archetypal achievement that rivaled only with the building of the pyramids of Egypt in scope and breadth. Funny, my dad has never thought that his contribution to the space program as anything more significant than being just an average guy with a very expensive toolbox and an eclectic education. Everybody may remember "King Cheop's pyramid" but who remembers the grunting ground-pounder who put the damn thing together?

Over the decades, however, the space program has also spawned a throng of conspiracy-minded chuckle-butts who have spewed with frothing indignation that the moon landings were nothing more than a series of oogedy-boogedy government hoaxes and that they "... will not let this aggression stand, man."

Let me get this straight. Conspiracy theorists can't believe Buzz "Bust 'em in the Chops" Aldrin walked on the moon yet then further believe that Al Gore can save the polar bears by commanding the weather?

Obviously, these nimrods need to put down the pipe, as they seem to be smoking a bad batch.

These pirates adorned with tricorn tin foil hats also embrace the alleged intrigues of 9/11, the Priory of Sion, Bigfoot, chem-trails and the joint Bavarian-reptilian Illuminati demonology. What's the big deal? Aren't we all going to be dead by 2012 anyway? I just saw a movie trailer about 2012 last week right before the new "Harry Potter" movie.

Hanlon's Razor stipulates: "Never attribute to malice that which can be explained by your own stupidity."

Is it an inconvenient truth that allegedly grown-up New Age noisegeeks who dismiss the astrophysical achievements of the men and women with "The Right Stuff" are the same Area 51 gas bags who dress up like Yoda for a frollicking night of "War Hammer," Red Bulls and downloadable porn in the basement of their mom's trailer? Let me guess, we're supposed to pay for their healthcare too, right?

I was raised around astronomy maps and telescopes. I'm still trying to con my dad out of his classic Celestron 8 much to my repetitive dismay. I don't have a problem reconciling "God" with "science" either. I look at the night sky and see both. I was trained by Jesuits to recognize the difference.

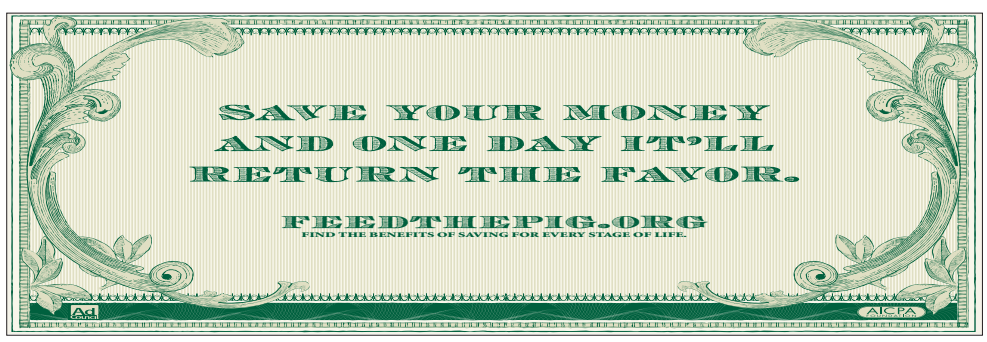
Space is cool.

As a demonstration of humility within the ordered magnitude of universal Big Bang-iness, try this exercise. But please spare me, however, from the noxious notion that you are some one-of-a-kind "snowflake" training to be a psychic channeler of ancient alien races from the planet Tampax. Remember that "snowflakes" have a tendency to melt under combustion.

Pick out any point in the night sky along any azimuth and declination you choose. Within that "point" in the sky there are approximately 200 galaxies of approximately 100-200 billion stars each. Now multiply that by the other 64,799 points in your night hemisphere. Please notice that you're looking at an awful lot of untaxed real estate outside of 90405. Further notice that your effect upon it is quintessentially irrelevant.

Now sit back and ponder over your Tang-flavored martini straight as to when are we going to get up off this rock to go meet the neighbors.

STEVE BREEN always wanted to be a spaceman to colonize a conservative red planet and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.



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, Natalie Jarvey, Emma Trotter
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano, Benjamin Brayfied
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

Drew Swadling
drews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

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

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lobbying the four horseman

SIXTY YEARS AGO, A UNION ORGANIZER named Walter Reuther changed America forever when he negotiated employer-funded pensions and health care for UAW workers at Chrysler and GM. To the 180 million people who now get their health insurance through their employers because Walter Reuther made that deal for his union members, it probably doesn't matter that he was a socialist.

President Obama is holding a prime time press conference tonight to discuss his plan to reform our healthcare system. And it probably doesn't matter to the 47 million uninsured who would finally get coverage that RNC Chairman Michael Steele called the plan "socialism." The last details are being worked out and we've now gotten to the point where quality, affordable health care for all Americans is within reach. The fact that it's being held up by four Democratic senators who need a lesson in progressive politics is unacceptable.

Because 2010 is an election year, any reform must be passed in 2009. So the president wants a deal done before Congress leaves for their August recess. Last week, Democratic Sens. Ben Nelson, Mary Landrieu, Ron Wyden, and Joe Lieberman sent a letter to the Senate leadership asking for more time to consider the proposals. But since these changes have been coming for six decades and the president's plan has been in the works for six months, there is no more time.

I understand Democrats aren't used to winning, so they don't know what to do with the power the voters gave them last November. But these four senators can rest assured that there is no risk in voting with the guy whose promise to reform our healthcare system helped win the election in a landslide — and whose coattails were long enough to carry their party to control of Congress. When they add that to the 54 percent of people who support the plan, the 10 percent of people who only oppose it "somewhat," and the 3 percent margin of error in the new Washington Post-ABC poll, they've got as many as two-out-of-three people on their side and a mandate to reform the system.

The sticking point, as always, is money. Insuring those 47 million people will run an additional $1 trillion — pushing our healthcare bill over the next 10 years to about $36 trillion — and these shaky senators are afraid to vote for the tax increases we'll need to cover the cost. They don't realize that even if we do nothing and leave millions of people to continue to fend for themselves in emergency rooms and urgent care facilities, our healthcare costs over the next decade will still be in the neighborhood of $35 trillion. And we will be no closer to solving the problem.

The alternative is for these four horsemen of the uninsured apocalypse to support the president's plan to basically spend $1.03 for every $1.00 worth of health care we get for the next 10 years in order to ensure that 97 percent of us are covered. It might be tough to go back to Nebraska, Louisiana, Oregon, and Connecticut and tell the top 6 percent of income earners that they'll be paying slightly higher taxes, but nothing worth doing is ever easy. And I seriously doubt that anyone would try to say they can't afford to contribute a few bucks to the national "make sure everybody's covered and healthy" fund when they earn $25,000 per month.

But this fight isn't about money, it's about moving forward. It's about progress toward a more perfect union that, by definition, requires progressive policies. We use a progressive tax code to determine the fair price each of us should pay for the right to live and work here, and there is no reason why we shouldn't have a progressive policy to determine the fair price each of us should pay for the right to quality health care.

On a purely political level, none of these senators has anything to lose by voting for the president's plan. The only one up for re-election next year is Wyden, and there simply aren't enough wealthy voters who would punish him for raising their taxes to counter the legions of loyal Democrats in Oregon who would reward him for supporting the president. Landrieu owes her victory in a way-too-close race last November to the Obama wave and isn't up for re-election until 2014. Nelson isn't up again until 2012 and won't face a serious challenge. And after going off the reservation last year, Lieberman had better get in line or he and Hadassah won't be welcome anywhere this side of Tel Aviv.

The fact that there is opposition to the progressive policies that move our society forward is no reason not to pass them. Progressives give us safety nets like Social Security and Medicare, and conservatives let us know when they've grown too big. Meanwhile, everyone's standard of living improves. That's progress.

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

The Q Line

Home for the homeless?

The ACLU filed a suit last week claiming City Hall violated constitutional rights by arresting a group of six plaintiffs for breaking a local law against camping when there is a lack of sufficient shelter beds to accommodate the homeless.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

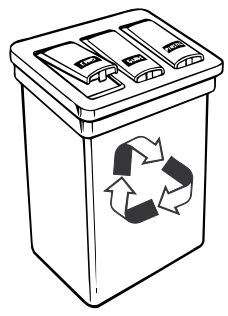
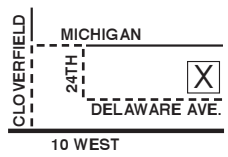
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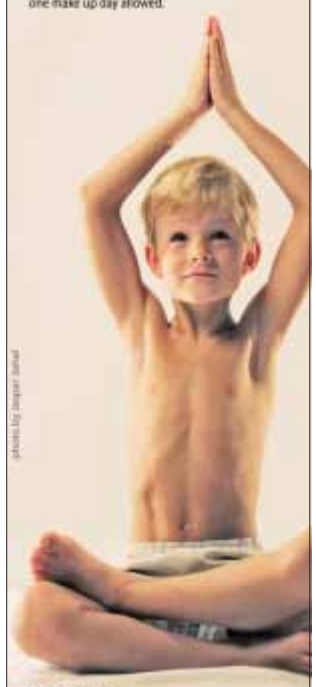
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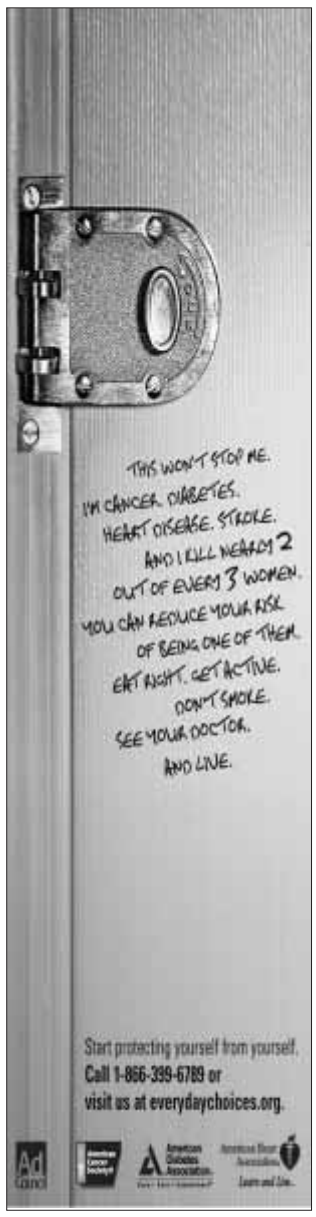
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Bernanke tells Congress that Fed has exit strategy

JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke sought to assure Wall Street and Congress Tuesday that the Fed will be able to reel in its extraordinary economic stimulus and prevent a flare up of inflation when the recovery is more firmly rooted.

Bernanke, in prepared testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, also said any such steps will be far off in the future and that the central bank's focus remains "fostering economic recovery."

To that end, he again pledged to keep its key bank lending rate at a record low near zero for an "extended period." Economists predict rates will stay at record lows through the rest of this year.

Bernanke is expected to face tough questions from lawmakers about taxpayer bailouts of financial companies, slow-moving government efforts to curb home foreclosures and efforts by the Obama administration to expand its regulatory duties.

Laying out a plan now to unwind the Fed's stimulus may give Bernanke more leeway to hold rates at record lows to brace the economy. That's because doing so could tamp down investors' fears that the Fed's aggressive actions to lift the country out of its longest recession since World War II could spur inflation later on.

"It is important to assure the public and the markets that the extraordinary policy measures we have taken in response to the financial crisis and the recession can be withdrawn in a smooth and timely manner as needed, thereby avoiding the risk that policy stimulus could lead to a future rise in inflation," Bernanke said. "We are confident that we have the necessary tools to implement that strategy when appropriate."

The Fed chief also sought to beat back an Obama administration proposal that would create a new consumer protection regulator for financial services and strip some of those duties from the central bank.

Consumer groups and lawmakers have blamed the Fed for not cracking down early on dubious mortgages practices that fed the housing boom and figured into its collapse. Later this week, the Fed will issue a proposal boosting disclosures on home mortgages and home equity lines of credit. It also will include new rules governing the compensation of mortgage originators.

Bernanke also urged Congress to keep proposals to audit the Fed away from monetary policy duties. "A perceived loss of monetary policy independence could raise fears about future inflation," he warned.

To revive the economy, the Fed has plowed trillions into the financial system in an effort to drive down rates on mortgages and other consumer debt. It also has created programs to bust through credit clogs, a key ingredient to turning the economy around.

When the time comes, the Fed will need to soak up that money.

Besides raising its key bank lending rate, the Fed can raise the rate it pays banks on reserve balances held at the central bank, Bernanke said. That would give banks an incentive to keep their money parked there, rather having it flow back into the financial system, where it can stoke inflationary pressures. The Fed also can drain money from the financial system by selling securities from its portfolio with an agreement to buy them back at a later date or it can sell securities outright.

Steering the economy from recession to recovery will be a delicate move for Bernanke — economically and politically.

On the economic front, Bernanke repeated the Fed's forecast that the economy should start growing again in the second half of this year, but he warned growth would be slight, leading to higher unemployment.

Despite some improvements — including a stabilization in consumer spending and moderating declines in housing activity — the economy remains vulnerable, he said.

"Job insecurity, together with declines in home values and tight credit, is likely to limit gains in consumer spending," Bernanke said. "The possibility that the recent stabilization in household spending will prove transient is an important downside risk to the outlook."

The nation's unemployment rate climbed to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent in June. The Fed says it could rise as high as 10.1 percent this year, and stay elevated into 2011. The post-World War II high was 10.8 percent at the end of 1982, when the country had suffered through a severe recession.

Expectations for a lethargic recovery should keep a lid on inflation this year, Bernanke said. With consumers likely to stay cautious amid rising unemployment, companies won't be able to jack up prices.

Obama auto task force warns against dealer plan

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Obama administration warned Congress on Tuesday that a House-approved plan to restore shuttered General Motors and Chrysler dealerships would threaten the auto companies' bankruptcies and recovery.

Ron Bloom, the leader of the White House's auto task force, told a House Judiciary subcommittee that the plan would set a "dangerous precedent" and raise legal concerns that could force the companies to intervene into a completed bankruptcy.

"By all measures, these companies had far too many dealers relative to the number of cars they were selling," said Bloom. He noted that the average Toyota dealer sells four times as many vehicles as an average Chevrolet dealer.

If Congress gets involved, Bloom said, it could jeopardize the ability of taxpayers to recoup billions in federal aid to GM and Chrysler. The government has provided about $65 billion to keep the companies afloat and reorganize it through bankruptcy.

The House approved a measure last week that would force GM and Chrysler to restore about 3,000 dealerships expected to be closed through the bankruptcies. The Senate has not yet considered the plan.

No jobs, no insurance: hard times for young

CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

Emily Weinstein graduated from college into an economic meltdown, and as a self-employed jewelry maker she'll be lucky to bring in $16,000 this year.

Heath insurance is out of reach, so she avoids thinking about what would happen if she got sick, was hurt in a traffic accident or was severely burned while making a silver necklace in her home studio.

"Would I have to declare bankruptcy at age 23 or would my parents have to bail me out?" asked Weinstein, of Portland, Ore. "What would I do?"

Like millions of other uninsured adults in their 20s, Weinstein is watching Congress as it advances legislation to overhaul health care. The recession has deepened young adults' career struggles. It has also sharpened their interest in health insurance.

Already the least likely of any age group to have coverage, adults in their 20s face brutal job searches and more time uninsured because of the recession. Nearly 30 percent, 13.2 million, were uninsured in 2007, according to the Commonwealth Fund, a New York-based research center. Many young adults work entry-level jobs without insurance and, despite new laws in some states, they're eventually too old to stay on their parents' policies.

Ben Brenner, now 23, couldn't find work in finance, his preferred field. After a four-month search, he took a part-time job for a small real estate agency in Deerfield, Ill., for an hourly rate and no health benefits.

He was able to stay insured as a dependent on his stepmother's plan until December. Then he went without insurance briefly. Now he has a $5,000 deductible he calls "absurdly high" and pays $53 a month through a plan designed for young adults. He "felt relieved knowing I had an insurance card in my wallet."

He supports the Obama administration's push to cover more Americans and lower the cost of health care, but is unsure how he feels about tax increases to pay for it. He's in favor of requiring everyone to have health insurance.

"I think it should be mandatory to have insurance because if you're uninsured and you go to the hospital, the taxpayers are footing the bill anyway," he said.

A June survey for the Kaiser Family Foundation found young adults don't vary much from their elders in views on health care, said public opinion researcher Mollyann Brodie of Kaiser.

But twentysomethings were nearly twice as likely as senior citizens to say they would be "better off" if President Barack Obama and Congress reformed the health care system. People in their 20s were more likely than senior citizens to say they would be willing to pay more so that more Americans could be insured. The nationally representative random sample of 1,205 adults was conducted by land line and cell phone by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

Some features in the health care plans working their way through Congress would benefit young adults. Depending on their income, they could qualify for subsidies on insurance premiums or, for the poorest, expansion of Medicaid. One plan allows them to stay on their parents' policies until age 26.

Some young adults learn about insurance the hard way.

Nursing student Sarah Posekany is only 27, but she's already filed for bankruptcy because of colon surgery when she was uninsured. She still owes thousands of dollars in medical bills.

"It's not fair," said Posekany of Cedar Falls, Iowa. "We should learn how to be a strong nation and take care of everybody."

Posekany now has insurance but must wait a year for her pre-existing condition to be covered.

Katie Miletti, 24, is a full-time college student studying to work with disabled preschoolers. A survivor of childhood cancer, she still deals with the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy. After she became too old for coverage under her mother's policy, she was uninsured about a month before qualifying for Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for the needy and disabled.

"Everyone should have health insurance," said Miletti, who lives in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. "I don't think it should matter what your health problems are, how rich you are, or what your income is."

The insurance industry terms this age group "the young invincibles" because many of them think they'll never get sick or hurt.

Nick Bernstein used to feel that way. Marking time during the recession, he worked as a waiter with a plan to pay off college loans and get a graduate degree in wine production. Leisure time was filled with backpacking, mountain climbing and snowboarding.

On April 1, at Stevens Pass, Wash., near Seattle, he hit a rock while snowboarding and landed hard, breaking his collarbone and separating his shoulder.

In the ambulance, Bernstein told the paramedics he didn't know if he had insurance. Luckily, he was still covered under his stepfather's plan, so the bill for the first $27,000 surgery didn't fall solely to him.

But his coverage may end before he's well. Doctors recently diagnosed a staph infection. Temporarily unable to work, he needs to figure out how to get insurance when he turns 25 in November and is dropped from his stepfather's policy.

When this age group buys insurance, they often opt for cheaper monthly premiums with high deductibles. But those deductibles, paid out of pocket before coverage kicks in, can lead them to avoid care, experts say.

Joe San Roman, 26, of Agoura Hills, Calif., nursed a broken wrist with shots of tequila through the night so he wouldn't have to pay for an emergency room visit. He's insured, but has a $1,500 deductible. He waited until morning when he could get treatment in a visit to his doctor's office.

"I didn't want to have to drop $1,500," he said.

At age 28, Holly Brown's adulthood has been shaped by the recession. Laid off from a job she'd held for four years, she's been unable to find other work.

"I told my mom I might have to marry somebody for their health insurance," said Brown of Round Lake, Ill., who has a chronic lung condition. She's managed to stay on her company's health plan through the government COBRA program. COBRA allows workers to keep their insurance for 18 months after they leave jobs if they pay the premiums, which can be steep.

Congress is considering extending COBRA eligibility even longer.

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California lawmakers seek compromise on budget

JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California's legislative leaders on Tuesday began lobbying their rank-and-file members to vote for a compromise designed to close the state's $26 billion shortfall even as advocates objected to health care, transportation and public safety cuts.

The Republican and Democratic leaders of the Assembly and Senate began briefing their caucuses on a plan backed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to close the gap by cutting spending, taking money from local government and speeding up tax collections.

The state needs to pass a revised annual spending plan before the state can assess its finances and stop the state from issuing more IOUs.

"Getting this budget agreement enacted will be a big step forward, but our state still has a lot of hard work and sacrifice ahead before we are out of the woods," state Treasurer Bill Lockyer said in a statement Tuesday.

Lawmakers already have begun hearing from law enforcement agencies, local governments and union officials about the potential effects of the budget deal. A contentious vote is expected Thursday.

The governor and lawmakers announced the compromise late Monday, nearly three weeks after the state began issuing pay-you-later warrants to thousands of state contractors and vendors. Many recipients had trouble finding someone to take them after several major banks stopped accepting IOUs.

Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders say their plan would get the state back on firm financial ground and prevent further sinking of the state's credit rating, already the lowest in the nation.

The agreement was not expected to resolve California's financial problems as the economy continues to struggle and tax revenue lags far behind the level of the boom years.

"This is, of course, one of the most difficult economic times to face our state since the Great Depression, so none of these were easy choices," said Assembly Minority Leader Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo. "I think we selected a path which will lead the state back to the point where we will be strong."

Personal income fell this year in California for the first time in 70 years, leading to a 34 percent plunge in income tax revenue during the first half of the year. California's unemployment rate hovered at 11.6 percent in June, the highest in modern record-keeping.

The $26.3 billion shortfall amounts to nearly 30 percent of the state's general fund, the account that pays for day-to-day state services. The sheer size of the deficit meant that any effort to balance the state's books would be felt throughout the state, from college students seeing a sharp increase in fees to local police and fire departments that face cuts as the state takes about $4 billion from city and county governments.

Monday's agreement reduced general fund spending from $92 billion to $88 billion, taking California back to 2005 levels.

The compromise includes billions in cuts to education, health care, prisons, welfare and other programs. The rest of the deficit will be made up by a combination of borrowing from local governments, shifting money from other government accounts and accelerating the collection of certain taxes.

The cuts include $6 billion to K-12 schools and community colleges. Nearly $3 billion will be cut from the California State University and University of California systems, while the state prison system will be cut by $1.2 billion.

Medi-Cal, the state's health program for the poor, will be cut by $1.3 billion.

Welfare, in-home support services and a health care program for low-income children also would suffer cuts but would not be eliminated as Schwarzenegger had originally proposed.

In exchange, the budget includes some of the reforms to social programs the governor wanted, including changing the duration that welfare recipients can continuously receive benefits.

Schwarzenegger also succeeded in having a proposal to expand oil drilling off the Southern California coast included in the budget agreement.

Under that plan, drilling would be allowed from an existing rig off the Santa Barbara coast, generating about $1.8 billion in revenue over time. The proposal, opposed by many conservation groups, would be the state's first new offshore oil project in more than 40 years.

The governor will get authority to sell some state assets, such as the Orange County Fairgrounds and state office buildings.

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2290 (CCS) and 2291 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Numbers 2290 (CCS) and 2291 (CCS) , which were adopted by the City Council on July 14, 2009

Ordinance Number 2290 (CCS) amends Chapter 6.104 of the Municipal Code to conform the City's massage regulations to new State requirements. It also requires that doors to massage establishments be unlocked during business hours to ensure fire safety and requires that all massage operators report a full list of all employees by the 5th working day of each month.

Ordinance Number 2291 (CCS) amends Municipal Code provisions pertaining to the design standards for solar energy systems and other code provisions impacting such systems' installation. The ordinance establishes a streamlined, ministerial process for the installation of most solar installations, clarifies the procedures for installing solar systems on properties with landmark status, and establishes objective development standards for solar installations, including height limits, setbacks and restrictions on visibility.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the city Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone (310) 458-8211.

California students protest fee hikes and campus cuts

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif. Hundreds of California State University students demonstrated outside the chancellor's office Tuesday against an emergency budget plan that would lead to sharply higher fees, fewer students and furloughs for most of the system's 47,000 employees.

The CSU Board of Trustees was expected to vote on Chancellor Charles B. Reed's proposal to close a $584 million budget shortfall caused by an unprecedented cut in state funding to the 23-campus system, the nation's largest university.

The state is expected to reduce funding for its two public university systems — CSU and the University of California — by 20 percent under a tentative budget deal reached Monday by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders to close a $26 billion deficit.

The student protesters, who traveled to Long Beach from across California, said the fee hikes, enrollment reductions and program cuts would reduce access to CSU, considered one of the country's most affordable universities.

"Fees are increasing, but the quality of education is going down," said Vanessa Rojas, a senior English major at CSU Bakersfield and the first in her family to attend college.

"We're looking at a closed-door situation where transfer students and incoming freshmen won't be able to get into public higher education."

Under Reed's plan, student fees would rise by 20 percent — on top of a 10-percent increase approved in May. Adding the $672 fee hike, undergraduates on average would pay $4,827 annually.

The plan calls for all CSU employees, including senior administrators, to take furloughs two days a month and see their pay cut by about 10 percent. The move would save $275 million annually, but the university would have to reach agreements with its employee unions.

Enrollment at CSU, which has about 450,000 students, would be reduced by 40,000 during the next two years.

Earlier this month, the university closed admissions for the winter and spring 2010 terms.

In addition, the university system would need to cut a total of $183 million from individual campus budgets, which is expected to lead to staff layoffs, fewer course offerings and cuts to academic programs and student services.

Chancellor Reed said the university has few attractive options for addressing its budget shortfall.

"Everybody that is part of the California State University family is going to feel the pain," Reed said last week.

The university's employee unions are weighing whether to accept the furloughs, which are intended to reduce layoffs and preserve benefits.

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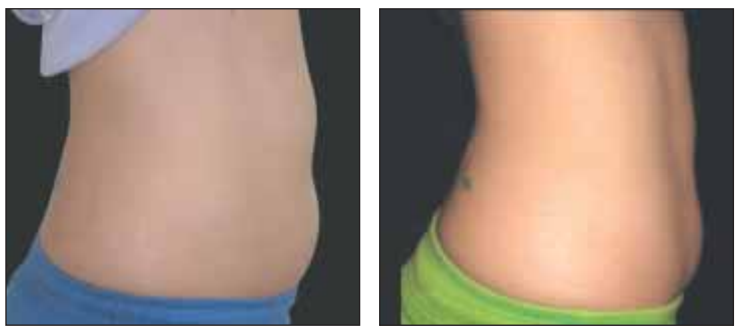


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Green weddings becoming popular option for couples

FROM GREEN PAGE 1

and recycle as much as possible."

As sustainable living has become more mainstream, so too have similarly themed weddings, giving couples today a wider selection of vendors that specialize in eco-friendly methods. The growing green wedding market now includes everything from green planners to green venues.

One of the biggest ways to go green is by going local with as many parts of the wedding as possible, hiring caterers closer to the venue and ordering ingredients that are in season, whether it's food or flowers.

> **"WHEN THEY COME TO THE WEDDING THAT DAY, WE NOT ONLY WANT THEM TO BE SHARING IN OUR WEDDING, BUT WE ALSO WANT THEM TO GO AWAY WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF WHAT THINGS CAN BE LIKE IN LIFE."**
>
> **Kate Shukle**

"Ask vendors a couple of questions before you hire them," Anja Winikka, the editor of TheKnot.com, said. "Ask what practices they do and in what ways they are eco-conscious."

Another area to cut back on could be the invitations, taking out all of the extra pieces, including tissue paper and response cards, instead directing guests to a Web site where they can RSVP.

"That saves money and cuts down on needs of paper," Winikka said.

The planning for a green wedding is in the early stages for local couple Darra Adler, the coordinator for the Santa Monica Farmers' Market, and her fiancé Matt Henigan, a senior account executive for Sustainable Works' Business Greening Program.

The couple just recently became engaged in April and are planning on marrying at Temescal Gateway Park next June.

"Weddings can be really over the top and we're doing a lot to keep things local," Adler said. "It fits in with both of our lifestyles and we want all of that to be reflected in our wedding."

They recently hired Megan Fickling of Santa Monica-based La Partie Events to plan the wedding, fitting in with their theme of hiring local vendors.

Some ideas that the couple and planner have already brainstormed include hiring caterers from the Farmers' Market and purchasing locally-grown flowers for the event. Fickling said that the arrangements could be made from reused containers and vases.

She added that a wedding can be made sustainable by making a donation to an environmental organization for each guest in lieu of a favor. Brides can also buy dresses that are made out of organic cotton or reused material.

Fickling said the couple is her first to specifically request a green wedding, adding that she was excited to receive the call.

"I was happy that a couple was going to prioritize [sustainability] and they still wanted it to be beautiful and elegant like any couple does and there are a lot of ways to do that and still be green," she said.

Whether a green wedding costs more than a conventional one seems to depend on the event. Experts say that serving an organic cake might cost more than a nonorganic cake, but ordering locally-grown flowers that are in season could cost less because it cuts down on shipping costs.

Nicholsen and Shukle said they don't believe their wedding will be any more expensive than a non-eco event, and that it might even be cheaper because so many parts of it are homemade, including the invitation for which they bought the card stock online and assembled over glasses of wine and old episodes of "The Simpsons."

The couple also went green on the wedding bands and engagement ring — the former are antiques and the latter was originally a gift from Nicholsen's father to his mother when the groom was born.

"It's fun for me personally to defy the odds of what people think it's going to be," Shukle said. "When they come to the wedding that day, we not only want them to be sharing in our wedding, but we also want them to go away with a renewed sense of what things can be like in life."

melodyh@smdp.com

Quarterfinal went to double overtime

FROM HOOPS PAGE 3

don't think the opponent was that much better."

The championship game against Long Beach was not as intense — SMFD set the tone from the beginning of the game, scoring three-point shots in each of their first three possessions and never losing the lead.

Of nearly 20 teams competing last Tuesday through Friday, only SMFD kept a perfect record, beating Oakland, Richmond, Garden Grove and Pasadena in addition to Sacramento and Long Beach.

SMFD's team was on the younger side, Jones said, with most players in their early-20s to mid-30s. Some played basketball in high school or college.

"But it's been a while, you know?" Jones laughed.

The team consisted of 11 members — Jones, Caldwell, Hill, Barbi, Crosson, Demirdjian, Captain Jason Wells and firefighters Bryce Johnson, Ryan DeMamiel, Matt Bailey and Ryan Shook.

Most players agreed that the team would try to defend their title next year, but there are other options.

"Maybe we'll revamp our softball team and not play basketball," Barbi said. "Let's go out on top."

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Values slide in county

FROM VALUES PAGE 1

said. "It has not gone up two percent or any percent.

"I had a number of clients call me up telling me that they got a notice [from the county] saying that their property values have declined."

She said that a number of those same people then reported getting another letter from the county saying values have increased. She is at a loss to explain the discrepancy from the county report and what's taking place on the street.

The Assessor's Office confirmed that letters had been sent out to county residents, but officials were unsure how many were sent to Santa Monicans in particular.

Quon said he wasn't exactly sure how Santa Monica came to increase in total value, but did offer some insights.

"Our experience is that the more affluent areas retain their value and did not suffer as much of a precipitous decline like Lancaster," he said. "Places with fairly new construction are the ones that have had the steepest decline in value. That is borne out in Riverside County."

He said that his office calculates changes in the total value based on change of ownership as well as proactive reassessments, a program the county has aggressively pursued this past year to relieve property taxes of some of the county's residents hardest hit by the slumping real estate market.

While the Assessor's Office claims that much of its proactive drive to reassess values was to decrease tax bills for owners, Bransfield questions how the county came to the conclusion that property values are up in Santa Monica.

She cited numbers from the Multiple Listing Service that do not support the county's claims. She said that property values are off from last year. In some cases as much as 20 to 30 percent.

Numbers provided by the Combined Los Angeles Westside Multiple Listing Service illustrate her stance. Condo sales in the Wilshire/Montana neighborhood, locally known as Wilmont, were down 14 percent per square foot. From Jan. 1 through June 30 of 2008 square-foot rates were $664. During that same period in 2009 the price sank to $568.

Single family home sales during that period reflect a 24 percent decrease from last year.

Ocean Park was one of the few areas that has shown growth. The lowest median price for a home in that area is listed at just over $1 million, or up 76 percent from last year. The median price was up 29 percent and the highest was 25 percent higher than 2008. All impressive numbers considering the overall slide across the city.

While Bransfield disputes the county's assessment numbers, she does believe that the market appears to have bottomed out in Santa Monica.

"There is a lot of pent-up demand out there," she said. "There are a lot of people sitting on the fence, but when a good property that is well priced goes on the market we get a lot of responses."

She said the onus is on sellers to set realistic asking prices for their properties.

"Buyers set prices; sellers and agents don't," she said. "We try to list prices at a strategic rate.

"Our goal is to reach all the buyers who are buying in that neighborhood," she added. "A well priced property can still get offers."

daniela@smdp.com

L.A. Marathon moved back to March

DAILY PRESS STAFF

The L.A. City Council agreed Tuesday to move the Los Angeles Marathon back to a Sunday in March beginning next year, siding with runners who said holding the race on Memorial Day meant hotter and potentially dangerous temperatures.

The race had traditionally been held on the first Sunday in March. But after Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt bought the marathon from a Chicago company last year, the council bowed to religious leaders who complained that the street closures associated with the race and its 20,000 runners would often block access to churches.

As a result, the marathon was held this year on Memorial Day, with the idea running the race on a holiday would cause fewer disruptions because many people have the day off.

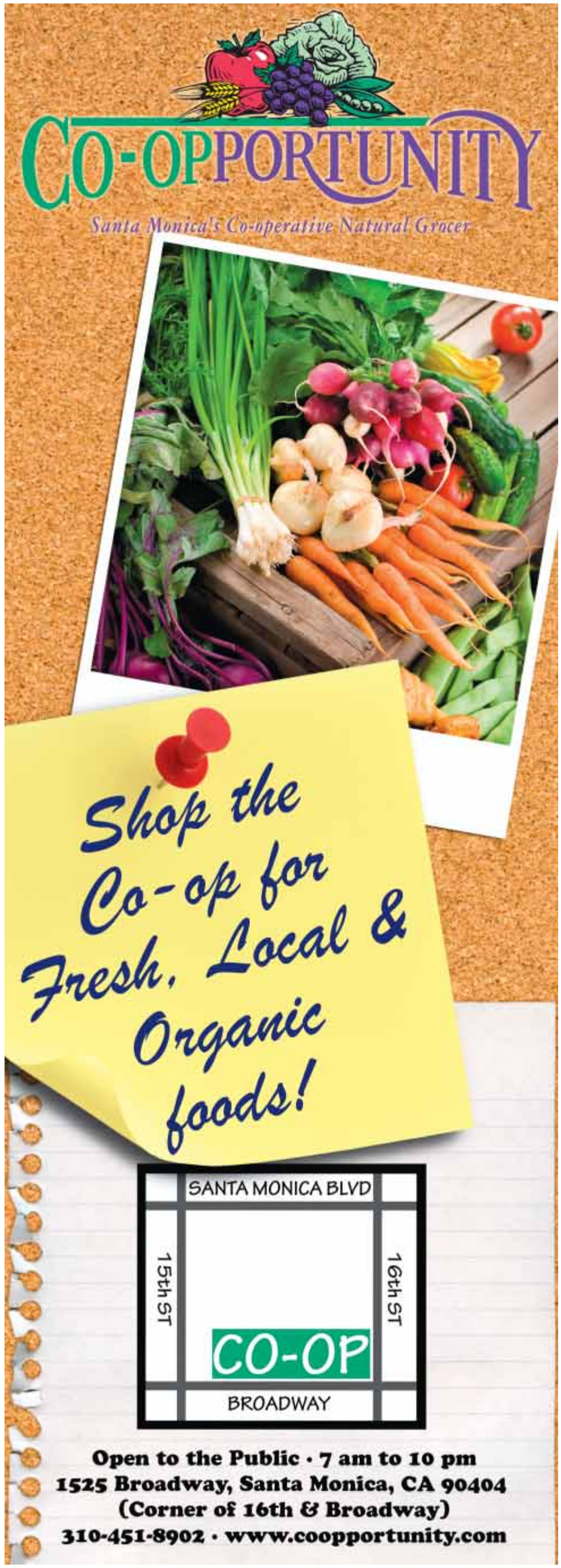
Councilman Tom LaBonge, chairman of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee, recently asked city Chief Legislative Analyst Gerry Miller to weigh the pros and cons of holding the marathon on a federal or state Monday holiday or on a Sunday.

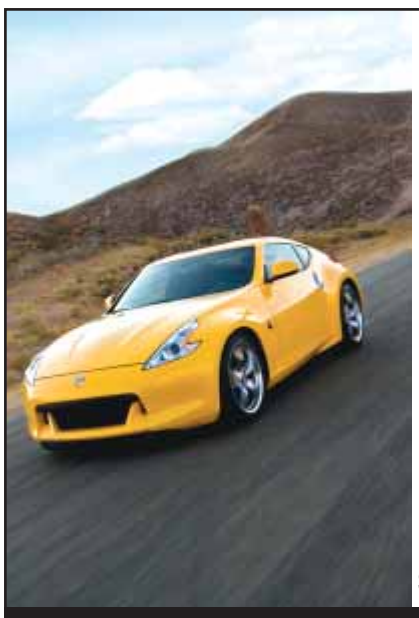
In response, Miller recommended holding the marathon on a Sunday, noting that "deployment of necessary city personnel from all departments for an event of this magnitude is problematic because most employees do not want to work on a holiday Monday."

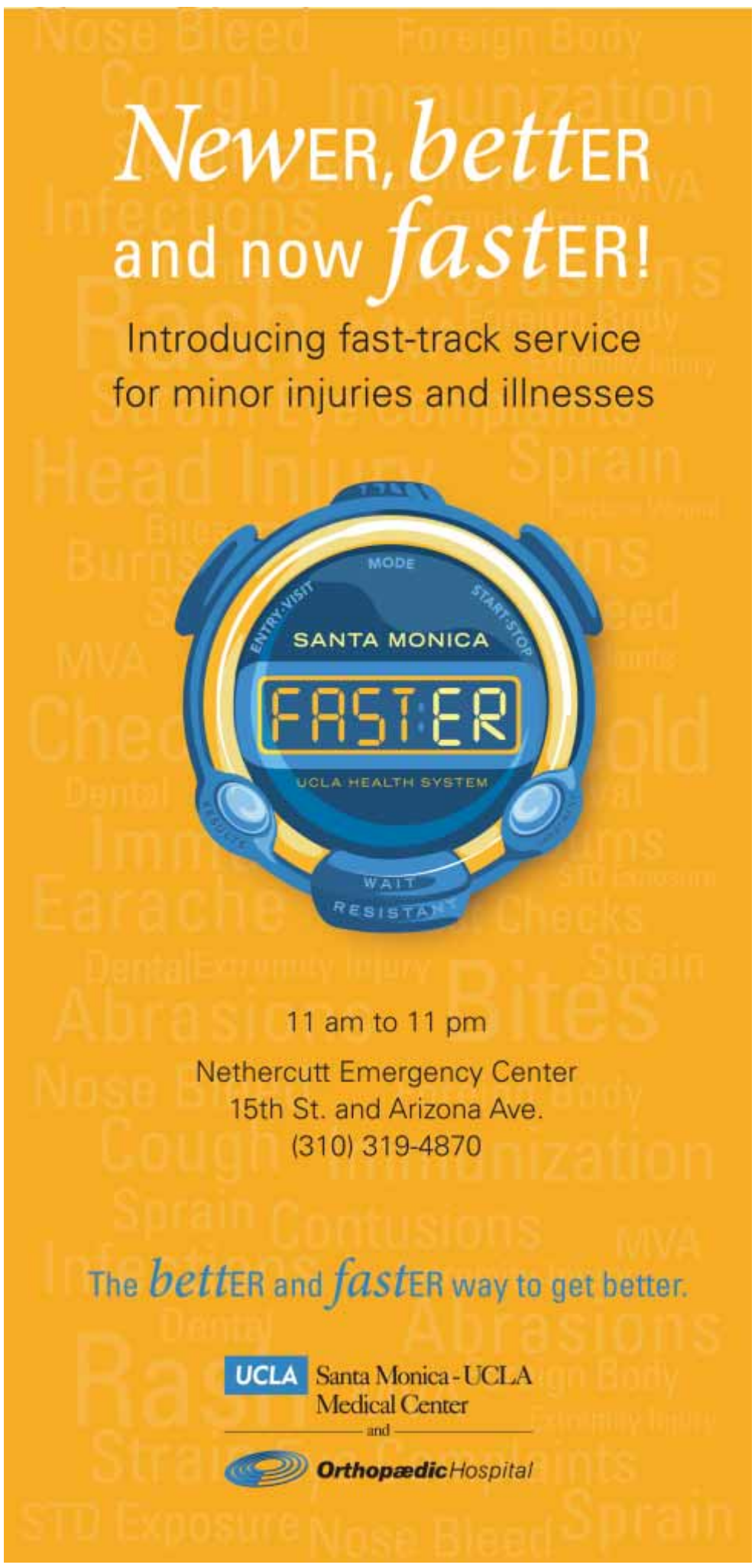
He noted that for this year's Memorial Day race, the Department of Transportation had a "40 percent no-show rate" among its employees, and the Police Department was forced to cancel vacations and order officers to work on overtime pay.

news@smdp.com









Obama: No time for delay on health care proposal

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Debate raged on unabated Tuesday over the pace and shape of legislation reinventing health care as President Barack Obama tried to remain on the offensive against stiffening opposition, especially from Republicans.

Following a recent pattern, harsh public exchanges ricocheted along Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to the Capitol amid laborious work on the measure that Obama has insisted be put together before Congress leaves in August for its recess.

Obama stepped once more before the cameras at the White House to say strides have been made. At the same time, he repeated that the sticker shock that critics keep citing will be worse in the absence of an overhaul and exhorted Washington to "insist that this time it will be different."

Republicans hewed to the emerging message: It's too expensive and it's all happening too fast.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky argued that a rapid-fire approach carries pitfalls similar to ones he said have adversely affected a $787 billion economic stimulus package. "Health care reform is too important to rush through and get wrong," McConnell argued in a floor speech.

Said Obama: "The American people understand that the status quo is unacceptable."

Beyond the talking points cascading through the capital, Obama had a meeting planned later Tuesday with Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has been among the major players in developing legislation that among other things would spread the health care coverage umbrella over the roughly 50 million people who don't now have that protection.

"They don't care who's up or who's down politically in Washington," the president said. "They care about what's going on in their own lives. They don't care about the latest line of political attack. They care about whether their families will be crushed by rising premiums."

At a crucial moment in the health care discussions, Obama's comments did not contain new details or arguments. He tried to keep up the momentum by emphasizing the positive — the broad areas of agreement so far — as opposed to the differences and obstacles that threaten to derail or postpone the effort.

He's trying to stay in front of the mounting debate on health care reform by offering statements and doing interviews nearly by the day. His mission is to get the House and Senate to pass bills before they break for their August recess, a brisk timeframe that has lawmakers working overtime and Republican critics lashing at the president, accusing him of rushing and overreaching. The goal is to rein in long-term health costs while simultaneously spreading coverage to the uninsured.

Obama repeated key points of agreement between the White House and lawmakers. Among them: people should not be denied coverage because of an existing health problem, they should not lose coverage if they change jobs, and they should have choices in their coverage. Left unsaid were the deep divisions and tough decisions about how to pay for the extensions of coverage to millions who don't have it and how to contain those growing costs in the long run.

"I know that there is a tendency in Washington to accentuate the differences instead of underscoring common ground," Obama said. "But make no mistake: We are closer than ever before to the reform that the American people need, and we're going to get the job done."

Obama's increased personal involvement comes with sticker shock reverberating around Capitol Hill in the wake of a bleak prognosis from the Congressional Budget Office last week saying lawmakers' health proposals wouldn't hold down costs.

The president generically criticized critics of the legislation as people who are either trying to delay action until unnamed "special interests" can kill the bills, or others who just want to score political points.

"That's one path we can travel," he said. "Or we can come together and insist that this time it will be different. We can choose action over inaction. We can choose progress over the politics of the moment."

Earlier, in an interview aired on NBC's "Today," Obama said none of the bills being negotiated in Congress are "where they need to be" yet.

The House is scheduled to break for the summer on July 31; the Senate goes on recess on Aug. 7.

Obama defended his timetable, telling NBC that "if you don't set a deadline in this town, nothing happens." But he also signaled in a separate interview with PBS on Monday that he'd be willing to give ground a bit if were a matter of legislation spilling over "by a few day or a week."

Obama is pressing his case hard this week: at a children's hospital on Monday, in the Rose Garden Tuesday, at a prime-time news conference Wednesday and a town hall in Ohio on Thursday.

Obama remains noncommittal on a surtax to pay for the overhaul, which some experts have said could cost over $1 trillion in the next several years to reconstitute and incorporate some 46 million uninsured into the system. In the NBC interview, he did reiterate his opposition to taxing people's employer-provided health benefits, however.

Obama has said that people making over $250,000 a year should have to pay more, and he defended his insistence on getting a bill from lawmakers before they leave next month.

Obama's meeting later Tuesday follows a committee drafting session that lasted past midnight Monday as the panel slogged through numerous amendments, with majority Democrats turning back Republican attempts to change the bill.

But Committee Chairman Henry Waxman's bigger difficulties were with his own party, particularly a bloc of fiscally conservative Democrats who oppose the legislation in its current form over costs and other issues.

Waxman and his aides have been deep in talks with these conservative "Blue Dog" Democrats, and as the panel wrapped up its work in the wee hours Waxman announced he was canceling a drafting session planned for Tuesday so negotiations could continue.

"We're having conversations with different members to work out some of the issues so we can make this thing move forward," Waxman, D-Calif., told reporters. He declined to elaborate.

Drug boss 'Juancho' summoned by Mexican traffickers

FROM **DRUGS** PAGE 1

Guatemala and even Colombia, long the heart of the drug trade in Latin America.

The expansion comes amid a military crackdown in Mexico and the arrests of major Colombian suppliers and poses a new challenge for efforts to stop the flow of drugs into the United States.

In dozens of interviews with officials and experts in seven countries, The Associated Press found that the Mexican mobs increasingly buy directly from the cocaine-producing Andes and have begun using countries as distant as Argentina to obtain the raw material for methamphetamine. Mexican gangsters have been arrested as far away as Malaysia as they seek new markets for cocaine and "meth" supply sources.

"There are more Mexican drug traffickers in South America today than at any time ever, period," said Jay Bergman, the Andean regional director for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The United States has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to help Colombia dismantle its major cartels but may have actually helped the Mexicans gain traction in South America in the process.

In the past two years, Colombia extradited 14 warlords to the U.S. on drug-running charges and another six major traffickers have been killed or arrested. Mexican emissaries and money are flowing into the country to fill the void.

"The belief is that the Mexicans are trying to get closer to the source of supply and take over the transport," said Jere Miles, chief of the unit that tracks trade-based money laundering for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mexican traffickers have turned up in many Colombian cities and are working to get cash in the hands of peasants to boost coca production, said Colombian police director Gen. Oscar Naranjo.

"We have evidence of Mexicans sitting in Medellin, sitting in Cali, sitting in Pereira, in Barranquilla," he told the AP.

In neighboring Peru, the world's No. 2 cocaine-producing country after Colombia, Mexican traffickers are bribing customs officials at airports and seaports and laundering money by investing in real estate. At least four major Mexican cartels now buy cocaine directly in Peru, said Sonia Medina, chief public prosecutor for drugs and money laundering.

In the last three years, 40 Mexicans have been arrested in Peru on drug-trafficking charges, mostly low-level couriers smuggling 22 to 44 pounds (10 to 20 kilograms) of cocaine in suitcases, said Col. Leonardo Morales of Peru's anti-narcotics police.

Traffickers rent homes in Lima's best neighborhoods for weeks at a time. One suspect, Saulo Mauricio Parra Tejada, was arrested there in June after police found four suitcases with 234 pounds (106 kilograms) of cocaine in his car. A second man with Parra commandeered a taxi and fled in a shootout with police.

"We presume he was headed for the airport," Morales said.

Drug-related killings — with the sudden appearance of Mexican cartel-contracted hit men — are also on the upswing. Three Mexicans believed involved in the drug trade and 15 Colombians were murdered in Lima in the past two years.

"When Peru's mafias dealt pretty exclusively with Colombians, you didn't see that," said Eduardo Castaneda, a Peruvian anti-drug prosecutor.

Other Latin American countries have started playing a role as transshipment points for the chemicals used to make methamphetamine, a highly addictive street drug.

Mexico supplies 80 to 90 percent of the methamphetamine sold in the U.S., according to the DEA. The drug is made from pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, commonly found in cold and flu medicines and typically obtained in bulk from India and China.

In 2007, Mexico banned the import and domestic use of both chemicals. So the problem spread abroad. Last year, the United Nations identified, for the first time, the manufacture of methamphetamine and other illicit synthetic stimulants in 10 nations, including Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Guatemala and Honduras.

In Argentina, ephedrine imports rose from 5.5 tons in 2006 to 28.5 tons the following year, according to the DEA. Half the 1.2 tons of ephedrine Argentine authorities seized last year was bound for Mexico in a shipment of sugar.

Also last year, police took down a methamphetamine lab in Buenos Aires linked to the Mexican Sinaloa cartel. In all, 23 people — including nine Mexicans — were arrested.

Court papers say the cartel exploited Argentina's lax financial oversight and plodding judiciary to set up shell companies to import ephedrine from India and China. The papers say employees then ground up the ephedrine, liquefied it and shipped it in wine bottles to Mexico.

In another case, three young entrepreneurs were found in a ditch, hands bound with plastic. Investigators say they were pumped with bullets in a gangland-style killing for crossing Mexican mobsters.

Two of them, Sebastian Forza and Damian Ferron, apparently tried to short-change Mexicans who were buying in bulk from them.

They owned pharmacies and "adulterated the ephedrine, thinking they'd take advantage of the Mexicans' stupidity," said Tony Greco, who recently retired from the DEA after six years in Argentina.

A month later, Argentina began to tightly restrict sales of ephedrine. Greco said Mexican gangs in Argentina have since returned to trafficking cocaine from Bolivia, where the U.N. says coca production is up for a third straight year and whose president, Evo Morales, expelled the DEA last year. Greco said the cocaine is shipped from there to Europe, Africa and Asia.

In the meantime, the sale of drugs used to make meth has also spread. In Honduras, authorities seized 3.5 million pseudoephedrine pills from smugglers last year, arresting four Mexicans. In El Salvador, police are investigating the disappearance of 2 million pseudoephedrine pills from a 2008 shipment, and cough medicine purchased in bulk has been sent north.

Peru, where the drugs remain for sale, is among countries where traffickers routinely take a group of people, hit as many retail outlets as possible and buy the maximum amount of pseudoephedrine they can get, in what police call "smurfing."

Santa Monica Daily Press
The Agent Directory
Your guide to local real estate agents


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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

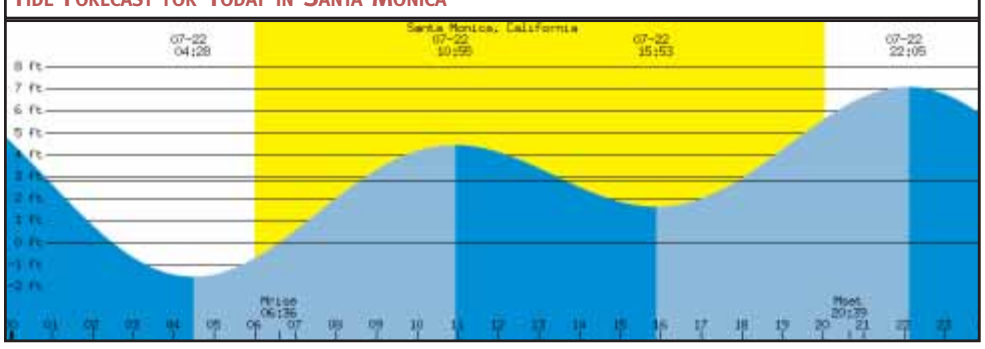
Swell Forecast (not available)

Some minor SW is expected from 200 degrees or so, and should help south facing breaks with some waist to chest high waves. NW wind swell should bring waist high waves to west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

This weekend head high surf is expected around most all south facing breaks with the better set waves running a foot or so overhead.

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 **July 14, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, 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 Lachusa 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 Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	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	F	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	F	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	D	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	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

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

NFL

Roethlisberger accused of sexual assault in lawsuit

SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. A woman is accusing Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger of raping her last summer in his penthouse hotel room at Lake Tahoe.

The woman worked at Harrah's hotel-casino at the time and says the attack happened when the Super Bowl-winning quarterback was in Tahoe playing in a celebrity golf tournament. She also alleges in the civil suit that Harrah's officials refused to investigate her complaint and went to great lengths to cover up the incident.

Roethlisberger's lawyer David Cornwell denies the claim and says the quarterback will be "fully exonerated."

The lawsuit filed in Reno on Friday seeks at least $390,000 in damages. It says she has been in and out of hospitals for treatment of depression since the episode.

It was not immediately clear if the woman went to law enforcement with her complaints.

ESPN reporter secretly videotaped nude in hotel

PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press Writer

BRISTOL, Conn. ESPN reporter Erin Andrews was secretly videotaped in the nude while she was alone in a hotel room and the video was posted on the Internet, her attorney and the network said.

The blurry, five-minute video shows a nude blond woman standing in front of a hotel room mirror. It's unknown when or where it was shot.

Andrews' attorney, Marshall Grossman, says the 31-year-old reporter plans to seek criminal charges and file civil lawsuits against the unknown cameraman and anyone who publishes the material.

"While alone in the privacy of her hotel room, Erin Andrews was surreptitiously videotaped without her knowledge or consent," Grossman said in the statement. "She was the victim of a crime and is taking action to protect herself and help ensure that others are not similarly violated in the future."

A woman answering the phone Tuesday at Grossman's office said he would have no further comment.

Andrews has covered hockey, college football, college basketball and Major League Baseball for the network since 2004, often as a sideline reporter during games.

A former dance team member at the University of Florida, Andrews was something of an Internet sensation even before the video's circulation. She has been referred to as "Erin Pageviews" because of the traffic that video clips and photos of her generate, and Playboy magazine named her "sexiest sportscaster" in both 2008 and 2009.

She last appeared on the network as part of its ESPY Awards broadcast on Sunday, and is scheduled to be off until September, when she will be covering college football, ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said.

"Erin has been grievously wronged here," Krulewitz said. "Our people and resources are in full support of her as she deals with this abhorrent act."

It was not clear when the video first appeared on the Internet. Most of the links to it had been removed by Tuesday.

Ephraim Cohen, a spokesman for the video portal Dailymotion, could not confirm the video had actually appeared on his company's site, but said it may have been there months ago. He said a search for the name of the user who purportedly uploaded the video showed the person had opened an account in February, but had since closed it.

"As far as we can tell, the user took the account and the video down a while ago," he said.

Illegal videos often are posted to multiple sites such as YouTube and Dailymotion, which remove them as soon as they are found. The videos also often circulate on peer-to-peer or file-sharing sites, much like illegal music downloads.

Graham Cluley, who writes a blog for the antivirus software maker Sophos, wrote that several links purporting to send Internet users to the Andrews video actually sent them to sites with malicious software and computer viruses.

He said the some of the hackers actually include a portion of the video on their sites, apparently hoping that the malware gets passed along as users share the link with friends.

"They keep on using (videos like this) because it works," Cluley said. "If more people thought with their head rather than with their trousers, maybe less of these viruses would spread on our computers."



MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for times.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:15, 9:45

Blood: The Last Vampire (R) 1hr 29min
11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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

The Proposal (PG-13) 1hr 48 min
11:15 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20

Up (Digital 3-D) (PG) 1hr 36min
10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:00 a.m., 2:30, 6:20, 9:45

Public Enemies (R) 2hrs 23min
11:30 a.m., 2:45, 6:40, 10:00

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
12:00, 12:45, 3:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:30, 11:15

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

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

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 26min
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15

The Poker House (R) 1hr 48min
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

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

Bruno (R) 1hr 28min
11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:40, 2:40, 3:50, 4:50, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:10, 10:30

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

My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:10 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) 1hr 27min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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

Put your feet up, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You could feel energy building all day. In fact, after high noon, you might feel that no shoes are too big to walk in. Hopefully something triggers in your brain and says "whoa." With confidence as an ally, you will be able to accomplish a lot. Tonight: Fun and games.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ More appears to be involved in a situation than you originally considered. How you deal with it and the choices you make could be critical. Have faith in the process and time, both of which are your friends. Tonight: Put your feet up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ No question, one needs to have money, but remember that Geminis are about ideas. See money as a symbol of a job done well. Approach your work and your life from that position. The results cannot help but be different. Tonight: Visit on the way home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Be happy if someone steps in and wants to do it his or her way. Why fight this person? Often, it is out of habit rather than a sound decision. Consider your reasons as well. Take some time to recharge and energize. Tonight: What might be a treat?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Experience the surge of energy as the Sun enters your sign midday. Your innate confidence builds, as you no longer hesitate to share even on a vulnerable level. Your world becomes an even more receptive audience. Tonight: All grins, and why not?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You simply know things, and that trend continues. "I just know" -- don't try this logic on others. New energy infuses your mind right now. Don't try to make it anything more or less than it is. Tonight: Vanish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You move from the role of leader to participant, just for a while. The relief of being one of the gang has its own uniqueness and is quite liberating. Know what you have to offer. Tonight: Where people are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Listen to others' logic, but be prepared to take a stand. Take time to explain a situation carefully, and you'll create less dissension. Everything will work out. Look to more peace and quiet. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others count on your perspective and insight. Though weighed down by another person's views at first, you will be able to see the bigger picture. No matter how much you do or where you go, others always seem to want to hear what you think. Tap into that knowledge. Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Others dominate. Don't continue to push your way into situations; rather, relax and flow. If you want, you could also do nothing. Others will run around and intercede anyway. Why fight city hall? Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Finish off one project before launching into another. In the p.m., you could find others distracting. Pull back and think about how to maximize the present energy. You will find a way that might surprise even you. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Understanding could lead to a new level of interaction with a child or loved one. Though feeling quite mellow, as you look around, there is a lot to be done. Don't hesitate to go for what you want, though you might need to re-evaluate action based on new information. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

Happy birthday

This year, your energy merges with your sense of direction. Your ability to greet "new" and handle multiple issues comes to the forefront. Mobilize your emotional and intellectual assets to create your desires. If you are single, there is no reason to maintain that status. If you are attached, remember, two lives merge in this relationship. Be active in your sweetie's life. LEO often feels challenged by you.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



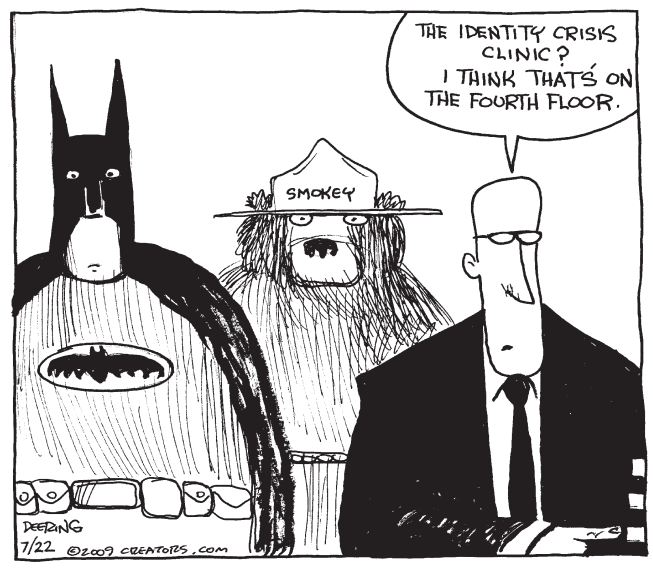
Garfield

By Jim Davis



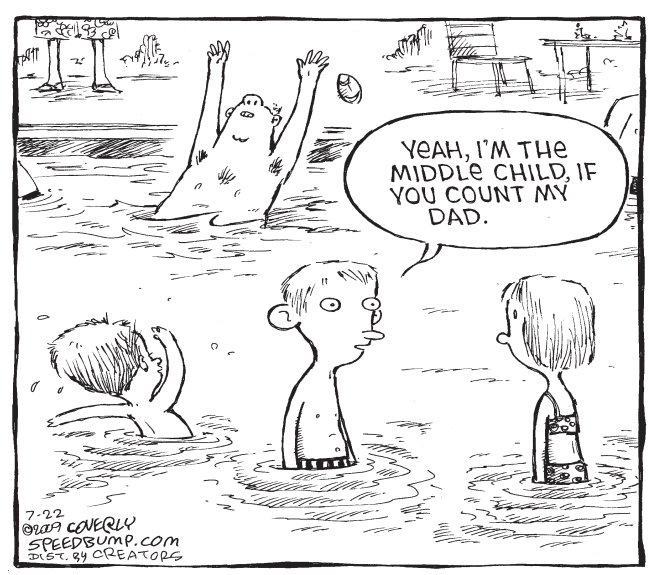
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Superstar Streisand
7 Pinnacle
11 Verdi creations
12 Lobster part
13 Stellar twins
14 Muscle quality
15 Radio trouble
17 Dealing need
20 Signed
23 Under the weather
24 Citrus hybrid
26 Boxing great
27 Successful song
28 Rep.'s rival
29 Some change
31 Julep need
32 Invited
33 Colony members
34 In seventh heaven
37 Heels
39 Makes ready
43 Clarinet's cousin
44 Circus site
45 Disavow
46 Hot and humid

DOWN

1 Marsh
2 Zoo resident
3 "Man on the Moon" band
4 Invigorating
5 Harangue
6 Tibet setting
7 Thespian's job
8 Registered one's arrival at work
9 Bishop or rook
10 Flock female
16 Colors
17 Huntress of myth
18 New York's — Island
19 Selected, as an icon
21 Choose
22 Rotunda tops
24 Screen vamp Bara
25 Suffer
30 Grammer of "Frasier"
33 Old saw
35 Bar bills
36 Fix copy
37 Atlantic catch
38 Tad's dad
40 Sch. supporters
41 Male turkey
42 Bond, for one

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

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11						■	12			
13						■	14			
■	■	■	15			16			■	■
17	18	19		■	■	20			21	22
23			■	24	25					
26			■	27			■	28		
29			30				■	31		
32					■	■	33			
■	■	34			35	36		■	■	■
37	38			■	39			40	41	42
43				■	44					
45				■	46					

7-22

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 8 17 40 47 50
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: $37M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 23 24 34 40
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 3 17 31 32 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 9 0 3
EVENING: 4 5 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:46.50

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

■ Scientology trains its leaders a good deal more aggressively than other religions do, judging by the revelations by four former church officials to the St. Petersburg Times in June. In an exercise concocted by founder L. Ron Hubbard, leaders who screw up are taken out to sea and forced off a gangplank with the admonition, "We commit your sins and errors to the deep and trust you will rise a better Thetan (immortal spiritual being)." The rituals can also take place in a cold swimming pool, with the transgressors in business suits. Also, to test leaders' commitment, the head Scientologist, with a boombox, conducts games of musical chairs to reward the last man sitting (using the music of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody": "Is this the real life? / Is this just fantasy? / Caught in a landslide / No escape from reality").

■ "Pop" is a 2 1/2-year-old Swedish kid whose "gender" is unknown to everyone, including Pop. "It" will be counseled that people do not have identical apparatus between their legs, but Pop's folks told the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet in June that they intend to ignore all cultural characteristics of "boys" and "girls" in raising Pop. To the parents, "gender" is a social construct, and Pop will someday decide which roles seem appropriate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1587 An English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina.

1796 Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleaveland.

1929 Inmates at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, N.Y. made an unsuccessful mass escape attempt.

1933 American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world as he returned after traveling for seven days, 18 3/4 hours.

1937 The Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

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sedulous \SEJ-uh-luhs\ , adjective: 1. Diligent in application or pursuit; steadily industrious. 2. Characterized by or accomplished with care and perseverance.

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091015817 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BCG SANTA MONICA, 457 17TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GLENN P. CRAMER,457 17TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402; LAWRENCE N. GODDARD, 5812 ZUMIREZ DR, MALIBU, CA 90265; WILLIAM E. BAGSHAW, 800 ALISAL COURT, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership.

DBAS

Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/1/1991. /s/: GLENN P. CRAMER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/7/09. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/10/2009, 7/17/2009, 7/24/2009, 7/31/2009

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North of Montana	$3,197,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$989,000
South of Wilshire	$899,000	$575,000
Sunset Park	$1,157,000	$744,250
Ocean Park	$1,650,000	$842,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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