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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 228



RICKIE LEE JONES PLAYS PIER
SPECIAL SECTION

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE LOOK WITHIN ISSUE



RIDE ON

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Steven Heppting, a fourth grader from St. Monica Elementary School, rides through the Bicycle Rodeo obstacle course with help from Santa Monica police Officer Ismael Tavera during the National Night Out at the Civic Auditorium parking lot on Tuesday.

Murder suspect pleads not guilty

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE A 55-year-old man accused of stabbing a woman to death on Sunday in the courtyard of the Santa Monica home for the mentally ill where she lived pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder on Tuesday afternoon.

The man, Rigoberto Ruiz, allegedly stabbed his victim, Rosalind Sue Olson, 61, in the chest after a confrontation that took place at The Manor, a home for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled located at 1905 Pico Blvd.

Olson, a resident of the facility, was pronounced dead at 8:20 a.m. Sunday by paramedics from the Santa Monica Fire Department.

Police said they recovered a knife they believe is the murder weapon but have not disclosed further details about the attack.

Ruiz, who had been living in a semi-assisted living facility on the 2000 block of Pico Boulevard that is affiliated with The Manor, was arrested on Sunday without incident.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court record revealed Ruiz in 1991 was convicted of robbery.

He is being held on $1 million bail. His next court hearing is set for Aug. 10 at the Airport Courthouse, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

nickt@smdp.com

Assembly backs bill calling on FAA to reduce noise, pollution at SMO

BY REBECCA KHEEL
Special to the Daily Press

SACRAMENTO Those living near the Santa Monica Airport who are concerned about pollution from jets have a potential ally in the state Legislature.

A resolution asking federal authorities to impose restrictions to reduce noise and air pollution at SMO is awaiting a vote in the state Senate after passing in the assembly 46 to 21 on June 21.

The joint resolution, titled Relative to Santa Monica Airport, or AJR 41, was authored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu (D-53rd District), co-authored by Santa Monica state Sen. Fran Pavley (D-23rd District) and sponsored by Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (CRAAP), a group of residents near the airport fighting air and noise pollution.

The non-binding resolution urges the Federal Aviation Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Transportation to review noise levels, the safety of flight operations at SMO and to carefully examine the air pollution impact on the surrounding communities.

The resolution was introduced to the Assembly on April 20 after a February study at UCLA found jet take-offs and landings are contributing to elevated levels of black carbon that is associated with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

"One of the reasons I authored this resolution was to raise awareness of the pollution," Lieu said. "People have been breathing it in and getting sick, and I'm at a loss as to why nothing has been done."

SEE SMO PAGE 9

Churchill painting at King's Head Pub stolen

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said, "A joke is a very serious thing."

Tell that to the thief that made off with a prized painting of the great World War II statesman that prominently hung in the Ye Old King's Head Pub since the popular British establishment opened its doors on Santa Monica Boulevard 35 years ago.

SEE PAINTING PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010

Freshen up
Downtown Santa Monica
Arizona Avenue & Second Street, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Get the freshest fruit and produce available at this weekly Farmers' Market. There are also a variety of prepared foods available.

Drink up
Pourtal Wine Tasting Bar
104 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Come to Pourtal for "Wine Woof Wednesdays" where a purchase of more than $25 earns a free dog walking service. While you're enjoying your drink, your dog will be taking a stroll along Palisades Park. For more information, call (310) 393-7693.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010

Cool out with Rickie
Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The fifth installment of the Twilight Dance Series promises to be one of the most entertaining yet as iconic hipster Rickie Lee Jones takes the stage to perform a compilation of songs both old and new. For more information, visit santamonicapier.org.

The art of wine
PAINT:LAB
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Spend the evening expressing your creativity at this paint, wine and cheese event. For $25, attendees get acrylic paints, brushes, easels, space, wine and cheese. Canvasses must be purchased separately. The evening is uninstructed. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Friday, Aug. 6, 2010

Open for business
Santa Monica Place
10 a.m.
The grand opening of Santa Monica Place will feature entertainment, deals and giveaways. There will even be prizes.

Line up for 'A Chorus Line'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
A Tony Award-winning musical about the personal experiences of Broadway dancers, showing at the intimate, 200-seat Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica. Tickets are $23 for adults and $18 for seniors and students. Parking is free. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

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.

CORRECTION

A story in the Tuesday, Aug. 3 edition ("Stabbing called 'random attack,'" page 1) should have stated that murder suspect Rigoberto Ruiz would also be charged with a probation violation, not a parole violation.

Turning scraps into gardening gold

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

NOMA Instead of tossing leftovers into the garbage, a select group of residents living north of Montana Avenue can now place their scraps of filet mignon and lobster tails in their green, yard waste bins so the food can be turned into nutrient-rich compost for gardening under a city-sponsored recycling program.

The Food Scraps Curbside Collection Pilot Program kicks off today, city officials said, with 600 single-family homes participating. Those who received a letter in July are eligible.

The scraps will be transported to a private company specializing in commercial composting. In about two weeks, the final product is then returned to City Hall where it is given away for free to residents four times a year, city officials said.

All food can be placed within the green bin including meats, bones, dairy, bread, fruits, vegetables, egg shells, baked goods, rice, beans, pasta, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags and other plate scrapings. Pilot participants should not include liquids, oils, grease or items such as metal, plastic, glass, pet waste, treated wood or other trash. Backyard or vermicomposters can use the pilot for items that should not go in backyard compost piles, such as meat, bones, and dairy.

Food composting is an important step for City Hall as it move toward zero waste, and one that city officials hope Santa Monica residents will find easy and straightforward.

By taking food scraps out of the garbage waste stream, a landfill's life span can be extended and methane gas production, which contributes to global warming, can be reduced, city officials said. It also reduces the concentration and toxicity of leachate, the water that comes out of landfills that has to be treated.

Participant feedback will be collected throughout the pilot, analyzed and used to potentially develop a citywide rollout of curbside food scraps collection.

For more information about the pilot, visit www.smgov.net/r3 or call the Resource Recovery & Recycling Division at (310) 458-2223.

There will be a free composting workshop on Aug. 14 at Virginia Avenue Park.

kevinh@smdp.com



RIDE FOR LIFE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Bike riding philanthropists ride to the first stop of the Kiehl's 'LIFERIDE' at the Kiehl's skin and hair care store on Montana Avenue on Tuesday afternoon. The ride helps raise awareness and money for The Foundation for AIDS Research and its search to find a cure for AIDS.

Malibu adds deputy to patrol PCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

PCH Hoping to make the stretch of Pacific Coast Highway that runs through Malibu safer, the city has added an additional full-time Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department motorcycle deputy to patrol the roadway.

In just the first two weeks of stepped-up enforcement, an additional 135 traffic citations have been issued, officials said in a press release.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides traffic and law enforcement for Malibu on a contract basis. It launched the enhanced enforcement on PCH with temporary motorcycle deputies in July. Of the 135 citations the deputies issued in two weeks in July, 80 percent were for speeding violations while the remaining citations were for right-of-way, cell phone, drivers' license, stopping, seat belt and pedestrian violations.

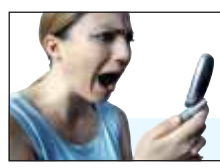
"The new motorcycle deputy will focus on speeding motorists along PCH because that is the No. 1 cause of accidents," said Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station Captain Joseph Stephen.

The Malibu City Council in June agreed to spend $175,000 for the first year to pay for an additional full-time motorcycle deputy to patrol PCH. In future years, continuing the service will cost nearly $250,000 annually.

Malibu City Manager Jim Thorsen said the city receives about 19 percent of revenue collected from traffic citations and will earn at most $30,000 in revenue because of the additional deputy.

"Public safety is the top priority for the city of Malibu, and the increased traffic enforcement is already helping to slow down motorists, reduce unsafe driving maneuvers and make PCH a safer thoroughfare," said Malibu Mayor Jefferson Wagner.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is SMPD the new LAPD?

Editor:

The Santa Monica Police Department should realize that it cannot tarnish the image of a good man without adversely affecting its reputation in the community. Oscar de la Torre has more in common with the average educated American than does the "old school" gang member description of him provided by the department in a recent report submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Oscar, who holds a bachelor and master's degree, is a community organizer and public servant whose philosophy is peace, unity, and social justice. He is a family man who works toward resolving unfortunate racial tensions in our community through education and conflict resolution. His method is prevention and not criminalization of our youth, an approach that often leads him to step on a few people's toes.

I may not have always agreed with Oscar, but I have understood the importance of people like him, particularly in underrepresented communities like the Pico Neighborhood. Santa Monica is a progressive city that promotes diversity and organizes countless cultural events. We're a city with active community members who empower others to vote and participate in our democratic process. We have many of the elements that community activists, historians, sociologists, and urban developers would say are needed to inspire citizens to build a healthy community and bring an end to discriminatory policies. The City of Santa Monica is a place where civic-minded leaders like Oscar de la Torre ideally should be allowed to thrive. It concerns me that anyone who might slightly question the SMPD will later be silenced by having his character and an entire career of service destroyed. Are we not allowed to hold police departments, city officials, and other public authority accountable?

Unfortunately, Oscar is being attacked not for his policies but for his politics. The 59-second video used as evidence by the SMPD concludes with Oscar de la Torre stepping up to break up a fight. He succeeds in stopping the fight in less than a minute amidst a large and dangerous crowd. Oscar, like many of our police officers, has a son who he would like to tuck in bed every night. He stepped into a dangerous situation and resolved it without the badge, gun, and uniform that would have freed him of scrutiny. If this is not political law enforcement, than the SMPD has to present the community with other recent cases in which they have charged citizens with a felony for stopping a fight.

An attack on Oscar's character by the SMPD is an attack on all residents of Santa Monica who also stand for peace, unity, and social justice. The nonsensical decision to attack a community leader undermines the hard work of good police officers who have made great efforts to build a healthy relationship in the community, particularly in the Pico Neighborhood. The homeless population in Santa Monica has taught us that when all sectors of society are working together to change the lives of a vulnerable population we can achieve great success. Why not do the same for our youth? The SMPD should work with people like Oscar de la Torre who dedicate themselves to inspire and build opportunities for our children. SMPD, don't become like the LAPD that ruined its reputation in the community. This is Santa Monica. We have different standards and expectations of our police department's daily business. Now go out there and catch the real bad guys.

Marlene de la O
Santa Monica





Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Obama betting on the American worker

DO YOU REMEMBER BARACK OBAMA circa January of 2009? He was the man who had crushed the Clintons and bested the Bushes on his way to the White House, the most inspiring presidential candidate any of us had ever seen, the bane of Republican and FOX News existence, and the leader of the fired-up-and-ready-to-go Democratic Party. Do you miss him? Well, I have good news: He's back, he's better than ever, and his sights are set on the mid-term elections.

I caught the first glimpse of the Campaigner in Chief on Thursday as I was watching "The View" on TiVo. It was the first time a sitting president had appeared on daytime TV since the George and Laura Bush interview with Dr. Phil and I couldn't help thinking, "Why is he on that couch?"

About halfway through the show, I realized he came to debut the theme we'll be hearing during the fall campaign to a relatively friendly crowd (Elisabeth Hasselbeck's disrespect aside). After defending the decision to bail out Chrysler and GM, he said, "The one thing I want to just tell everybody here in this audience is: don't bet against American workers. Don't bet against American ingenuity. We still have the best workers in the world, the best technology in the world, the best universities in the world. And if we get our mojo back over the next several months, then I am absolutely confident that we are going to be doing terrific."

That same theme came up the next day at a Chrysler plant in Detroit. President Obama was defending those bailouts again when he said, "There were leaders of the 'just say no' crowd in Washington. They were saying … standing by the auto industry would guarantee failure. One of them called it 'the worst investment you could possibly make.' They said we should just walk away and let those jobs go. I wish they were standing here today. I wish they could see what I'm seeing in this plant and talk to the workers who are here taking pride in building a world-class vehicle. I don't think they'd be willing to look you in the eye and say that you were a bad investment. They might just come around if they were standing here and admit that by standing by a great American industry and the good people who work for it, that we did the right thing. It's hard for them to say that. You know, they don't like admitting when I do the right thing. But they might have had to admit it. And I want all of you to know, I will bet on the American worker any day of the week!"

Later that day, he visited a GM plant in Hamtrack, Mich. where he stood in front of a Chevy Volt and previewed a little more of the offensive strategy. "Now, let's be clear, we're not out of the woods yet." He said, "We're going to have to make sure the government, business — everybody is working in the same direction. We've got to export more. We can't just buy from other countries; we got to sell to other countries. And that means we've got to make sure that our trade deals are fair. But let me tell you when I look out at this plant, and I look out at all of you, it gives me hope. It confirms my conviction: don't bet against the American worker! Don't bet against the American people!"

Once could be a fluke; but twice is a trend, and three times is a reasonable certainty. I'm reasonably certain this is what we're going to be hearing for the next couple of months.

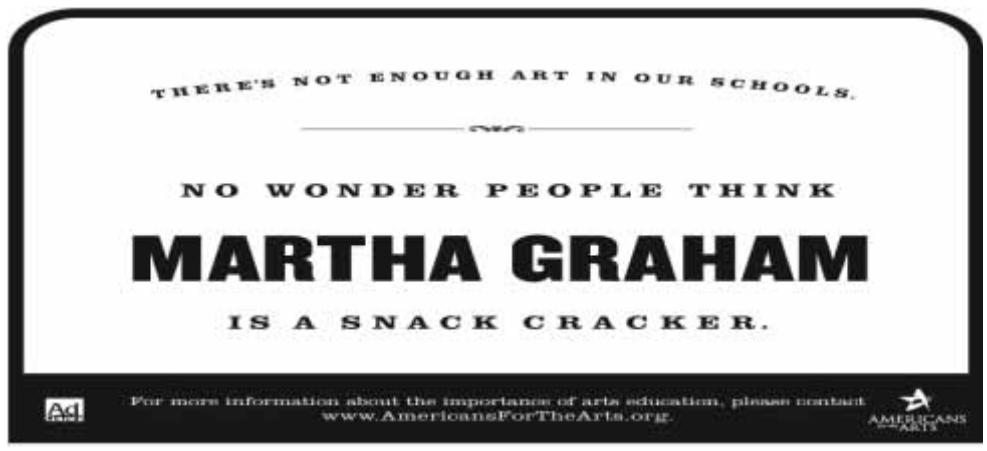
The Republicans are also testing their campaign themes; and they've decided to go with two main messages. The first is that deficits are so terrible that the federal government should never spend money it doesn't have — even on unemployment insurance payments for millions of American workers. The second is that tax cuts for a few very wealthy people should be extended, despite the fact that doing so would add trillions of dollars to the deficit. It seems like these two ideas wouldn't go together, and that's because they don't.

But when you're talking about the Republican leadership, you're not dealing with people who care too much about things like consistency or principle. They only care about getting elected. Back in 2002, then Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the deficits from the second Bush tax cut would threaten the economy. Vice President Dick Cheney let him know what was the top priority by saying, "You know, Paul, Reagan proved deficits don't matter. We won the mid-terms."

We're all living with consequences of that Bush team's economic policies and we can all agree it would have been a good idea to try a different approach. Yet when National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Pete Sessions was asked what Republicans would do if they were in power, his answer was, "We need to go back to the exact same agenda" of the Bush administration.

With a choice between betting on Bush policies and betting on the American worker, it's reasonably certain President Obama's Democratic party will hold on to control of Congress for two more years.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who can't believe President Bush is releasing his book in early November, just in time to make himself an issue in the campaign. Kenny's past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Taylor D'Andrea, Lenika Cruz, Rebecca Kheel, Dennis Lin
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Brittney Seeliger
brittneys@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sales tax not really for the schools

NICE MOVE BY OUR CITY MANAGER

"Hot" Rod Gould getting the City Council to place on the November ballot an increase of the local sales tax by one-half of a percent, saying the cash is needed to shore up future budget deficits and possibly help the struggling school district.

By placing an advisory measure on the ballot asking voters if half of the estimated $12 million to be generated by the tax should go toward the schools, Hot Rod hopes to get the support of education advocates, a powerful voting bloc in Santa Monica.

But what he's really doing is trying to get the tax passed by any means necessary so that all of the $12 million will go to cover the shortfall of revenue at City Hall.

Please allow me to explain. The city of Los Angeles is currently experiencing a 16 percent decline in sales tax revenue. Los Angeles' administrative officer, Miguel Santana, said, "Overall tax revenue has declined by double digits for four quarters straight. The city hasn't seen this since the Great Depression."

This means even if this new tax increases passes, we can expect city employees to demand the cash stay in City Hall to prevent cuts and layoffs.

Did you hear Hot Rod tell us why he believes the city of Santa Monica will not experience a similar drop in sales tax revenue that L.A. has experienced? In a letter to this newspaper, he said, "City Hall does not anticipate any revenue reduction." Mr. Gould picked some very choice words. With this tax he does not anticipate a revenue reduction for the city because the tax will fill that gap. I love this guy.

The National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors report states, "Local governments across the country are now facing the combined impact of decreased tax revenues, a falloff in state and federal aid and increased demand for social services. Over the next two years, local tax bases will likely suffer from depressed property values, hard-hit household incomes and declining consumer spending."

Go ahead, Mr.Gould, tell the people of Santa Monica that the tax being raised is because City Hall will most likely need the money. It's OK to be honest with the voters. Unlike the drama queens that run the budgets for our schools, at least Hot Rod is planning ahead.

It was a slick move to place a non-binding advisory measure on the ballot asking the voters if they want this tax for the schools. A majority of voters already spoke in the last special election two months ago and said they want money for the schools so why ask a question when you already know the answer? Because they want the voters to believe the money is for the schools without being required to give it to the schools. That is brilliant.

The root of the problem is the fact that our schools are terrible at budgets and planning. The district knew there was going to be a shortfall, but they failed to adequately plan for it. The people of Santa Monica were willing and able to give money to the schools. In 2008, they gave $60 million a year over the next five years to Santa Monica College in the form of bond money to build facilities for a majority of students who don't live here and have no love for Santa Monica. They decided that the students of other cities were more important than Santa Monica's own children because they did not know the local schools needed the money. If the people of Santa Monica gave that $295 million to our schools instead, that bond money could have funded the Measure A shortfall for almost 60 years.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is like your teenager that suddenly needs money for something important two minutes before it is required. The fact that we gave millions to SMC shows that the people were willing to give them money if only they asked. Instead we have drama. The lack of accountability in our schools starts from the top.

Our city manager shows an impressive ability to hide in the open. Mr. Gould demonstrates his mad skills when he states "37 of the 79 cities that have enacted such a tax, have found that the increased tax has no impact on taxable sales of any business type." Does that mean 42 of the 79 cities had a negative impact from this type of tax increase? Were these studies done under different financial circumstances i.e. before the Great Recession started and while the economy was still growing?

Hot Rod, are we going to experience a revenue drop of more than 16 percent, preventing us from collecting the $12 million you project? I strongly believe this tax increase will not bring the revenue promised, yet City Hall will spend it before it collects it. How about we collect the tax for one year, see how much is raised, and then spend only what we collect? Even if this tax passes, we should make the proposed difficult cuts now and build a rainy day fund, just in case this economic storm lasts longer than expected.

DAVID ALSABERY is a founding member of the Hot Rod Gould fan club and all around nice guy. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Power of endorsement

Powerful political party Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights held its convention on Sunday. A number of candidates in this year's City Council and Board of Education races were seeking an ever-important SMRR endorsement.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think that a SMRR endorsement is crucial, or do you think it's overrated?

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ECONOMY

Recovery effort falls to thrifty consumers

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON American shoppers are being careful about how much they spend, and that's making businesses cautious about hiring.

For the economic recovery to gain strength — and the unemployment rate to come down in any meaningful way — consumers will need to become less frugal. But a flurry of data released Tuesday suggests families are reluctant to increase their spending, even as they buy more stuff, including cars and consumer staples like razors and shampoo.

"Once the unemployment rate starts coming down in a significant way, consumers will feel more confident and start spending. But businesses are reluctant to step up hiring until they see stronger demand," said Chris G. Christopher, senior economist at IHS Global Insight. "It's a Catch-22 situation."

Unemployment stands at 9.5 percent. The government's next jobs report comes out Friday.

General Motors and Chrysler on Tuesday posted higher U.S. sales for July, a sign that Americans are still willing to buy big-ticket items. And Procter & Gamble, maker of Tide laundry soap and Pampers diapers, said its revenue grew 5 percent in the latest quarter.

But other industry and government data were more downbeat.

Factory orders dropped in June for the second consecutive month after nine straight months of gains, the Commerce Department said. And the number of buyers who signed contracts to purchase homes fell in June to the lowest level on records dating back to 2001, according to the National Association of Realtors.

One telling detail about consumers' habits these days came from the Commerce Dept.'s personal income and spending report for June: the annualized savings rate stood at 6.4 percent, the highest level in nearly a year — and triple the rate in 2007, before the recession.

The savings rate hasn't dipped below 5 percent since October 2008.

Even the way people are paying for things shows a change in attitude about money. Consumers shied away from accumulating new debt during the second quarter, according to the latest reports from MasterCard Inc., and Visa Inc.

Overall card use rose 14 percent. But the growth came almost entirely from debit cards, which rose to $465 billion, from $408 billion a year ago. Credit card use edged up less than a percent to $345 billion from $342 billion last year.

Analysts believe consumers have now rebuilt savings and will be open to spending more in the coming months.

"We think most of the required increases in savings have already happened and that further increases in incomes will translate into consumer spending," said Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Capital.

Consumer spending is important because it accounts for 70 percent of total economic activity.

Last week, the government said economic growth for the second quarter slowed to 2.4 percent. Many analysts believe it will dip further in the second half of the year because of high unemployment, shaky consumer confidence and weakness in home prices in many major metropolitan areas.

While personal income growth was flat in June, it rose in April and May. But households chose to save the extra money rather than spend it.

Longer term, that may not be such a bad thing, economists said, because the savings help households get control of their bills and make purchases they can afford.

"It is of some comfort that households now appear to have something of a cushion that can be used to pay down debt or support spending," said Paul Dales, U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Make no mistake, Americans are spending money. But they want value for their purchases or a good deal. If they don't get either, many are passing on name brands and living with generic goods.

The automakers that posted higher U.S. sales in July did so through summer promotions and easier credit plans.

P&G executives said they've noticed shoppers shift to cheaper brands. In response, the company has cut its prices, offered discounts and created lower-priced versions of some brands to hold onto customers. This explains why net income for the quarter was down to $2.2 billion from nearly $2.5 billion a year prior.

"The economic recovery in the United States will be uneven," Bob McDonald, president, CEO and chairman, told investors. "I think we are seeing that already. We don't expect a double-dip recession ... but we have got to keep innovating and keep growing."

Saving more and budgeting for purchases may be good for families. But it worries retailers, who employs 14.4 million Americans, or about 11 percent of total employment.

Retailers stepped up hiring earlier this year after a solid winter holiday shopping season, then cut jobs in May and June as consumer spending slowed.

Craig Johnson, president of retail consulting firm Customer Growth Partners, says stores would prefer Americans saved in the 3 to 4 percent range. But he expects shoppers to keep squirreling money away at the higher rate even through the Christmas holiday season.

"This is a real sign that people are very cautious about spending," he said.



ECONOMY

U.S. auto sales rise in July

DAN STRUMPF
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT Summer promotions and easier credit lured shoppers back to car buying last month, a relief to an industry worried about June's sales slowdown.

Every major automaker except for Ford and Daimler said their July sales topped those in June. The biggest monthly sales gains were posted by Nissan, Toyota, Volkswagen, Subaru and Kia.

The industry sold just over 1 million cars and light trucks in July. That's 6.6 percent higher than in June, when worries were growing that the economic recovery might be faltering. Sales also were 5.1 percent higher than in July of 2009, a year where sales fell to a 30-year low.

Pickup trucks and luxury cars were big sellers. Ford Motor Co. said July was the first month in two and a half years that it sold more than 50,000 F-150s. Sales of the Toyota Tundra full-size pickup jumped 40 percent over last July. The newly redesigned Jeep Grand Cherokee also saw sales jump.

Cadillac's SRX crossover, also redesigned this year, saw surging sales — up 750 percent over last July — and Acura sales were 45 percent higher.

Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends and analysis at the car pricing website TrueCar.com, said growth in truck and luxury sales is a positive sign since buyers are most likely to hold off purchases in those segments when times are tough.

Toprak said there is a great deal of pent-up demand in the market now. He expects that to translate into sales gains in the last half of the year, even if the economy hasn't fully recovered.

"There are many consumers out there who are making need-based purchases, who can't wait any longer," he said.

Expressed as an annual rate, July sales were at a pace of 11.98 million. That's higher than last year's total sales of 10.4 million, but still far from the peak sales of 16.9 million in 2005.

Still, July's gains gave the automakers confidence that a double-dip in car buying doesn't appear to be developing. "The industry recovery continues to be very modest but also continues to be in the right direction," said Bob Carter, a Toyota Motor Corp. group vice president.

Summer promotions — which usually begin in August but were pulled ahead by the nervous industry — drew out buyers even though cars weren't any cheaper than previous months.

Chrysler, for example, promised to make buyers' first two months' payments up to $1,000. They also offered up to $4,000 in cash or a 60-day return guarantee on new vehicles. But the automaker's actual incentive spending — an average of $3,105 per vehicle — was $100 less than June and $1,000 less than last July, according to Edmunds.com.

As long as employment continues to improve and gas prices stay below $3 a gallon, "sales should rise on a gradual basis," said General Motors Co.'s chief economist Ted Chu.

There is also steady improvement in car loan approval rates, Chu said. GM announced last month that it would buy a company specializing in loans to customer with poor credit, a significant chunk of new car buyers.

Road construction spurred by federal stimulus money has helped pickup sales, said Emily Kolinski Morris, Ford Motor Co.'s senior U.S. economist. Demand from agriculture, mining and drilling has also held steady even as home construction has languished, she said.

GM's sales rose 2.6 percent over June and 5.4 percent over last July. Newly launched models such as the Chevrolet Camaro muscle car, Chevrolet Equinox crossover and Buick LaCrosse sedan showed strong increases.

Ford's sales were flat from June but up 3 percent over last July. Ford's overall sales were weighed down by a double-digit drop in Mercury sales. Production of the brand stops at the end of this year.

Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. saw sales rise from June — 20.3 percent for Toyota and 5.4 percent for Honda — but both saw small decreases compared with last July.

Toyota is still suffering from a rash of safety recalls earlier this year, Toprak said, while Honda hasn't acted as aggressively as other automakers to lure Toyota buyers. Both automakers also said last year's Cash for Clunkers program created huge demand for small cars that wasn't matched this year. The program began in the last six days of July and gave buyers up to $4,500 in tax credits to trade in old cars and trucks.

Ford said September will be a good gauge of the strength of the market, since comparisons to last August will be skewed by Cash for Clunkers. Ford reiterated its forecast of around 11.5 million total U.S. sales this year.

The stall in June's auto sales didn't worry Ford's chief sales analyst. "One month's sales either way doesn't really faze us," said George Pipas.

Other automakers reporting sales Tuesday:

• Nissan Motor Co. said July sales soared 28 percent from June on brisk sales of cars and small SUVs. Sales rose 15 percent compared with July 2009.

• Volkswagen sales were up 13.4 percent from June and 16 percent from July 2009. Sales of the Golf small car jumped 193 percent from last July.

• Kia sales rose 11 percent from June and 21 percent from July 2009, helped by new models like the Sorento crossover and the Soul hatchback.

• Subaru sales rose 11 percent compared with June and 10 percent from July 2009, led by the Outback crossover.

• Hyundai sales rose 6 percent from June and 19 percent from July 2009 on strong sales of midsize and smaller sedans such as the Sonata and Elantra.

• Daimler sales slipped 5 percent from June, but compared to July 2009, sales were up 7 percent. Strong sales of Mercedes-Benz luxury cars offset plunging interest in the Smart minicar.







State tests new procedures for parole agents

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California parole officials, stung by recent high-profile failures in the system, said Tuesday they are beginning to test more intensive monitoring of parolees in four counties as the first step in a five-year plan to improve supervision of high-risk offenders.

Selected parole agents in Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Sonoma counties this week began supervising 48 parolees, down from the usual 70 offenders, said Robert Ambroselli, director of adult parole for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The lower caseloads will increase the amount of attention agents can devote to each parolee, he said.

The new policy being tested in the four counties requires agents to meet with parolees and their family members, drug counselors and prospective employers or job-training agencies to develop individual goals.

Parolees who meet their goals may be rewarded by having to undergo drug tests, searches of their homes and intensive interviews with relatives once every other month instead of at least monthly, Ambroselli said in an interview. They can also qualify to end their parole after a year instead of the typical three years.

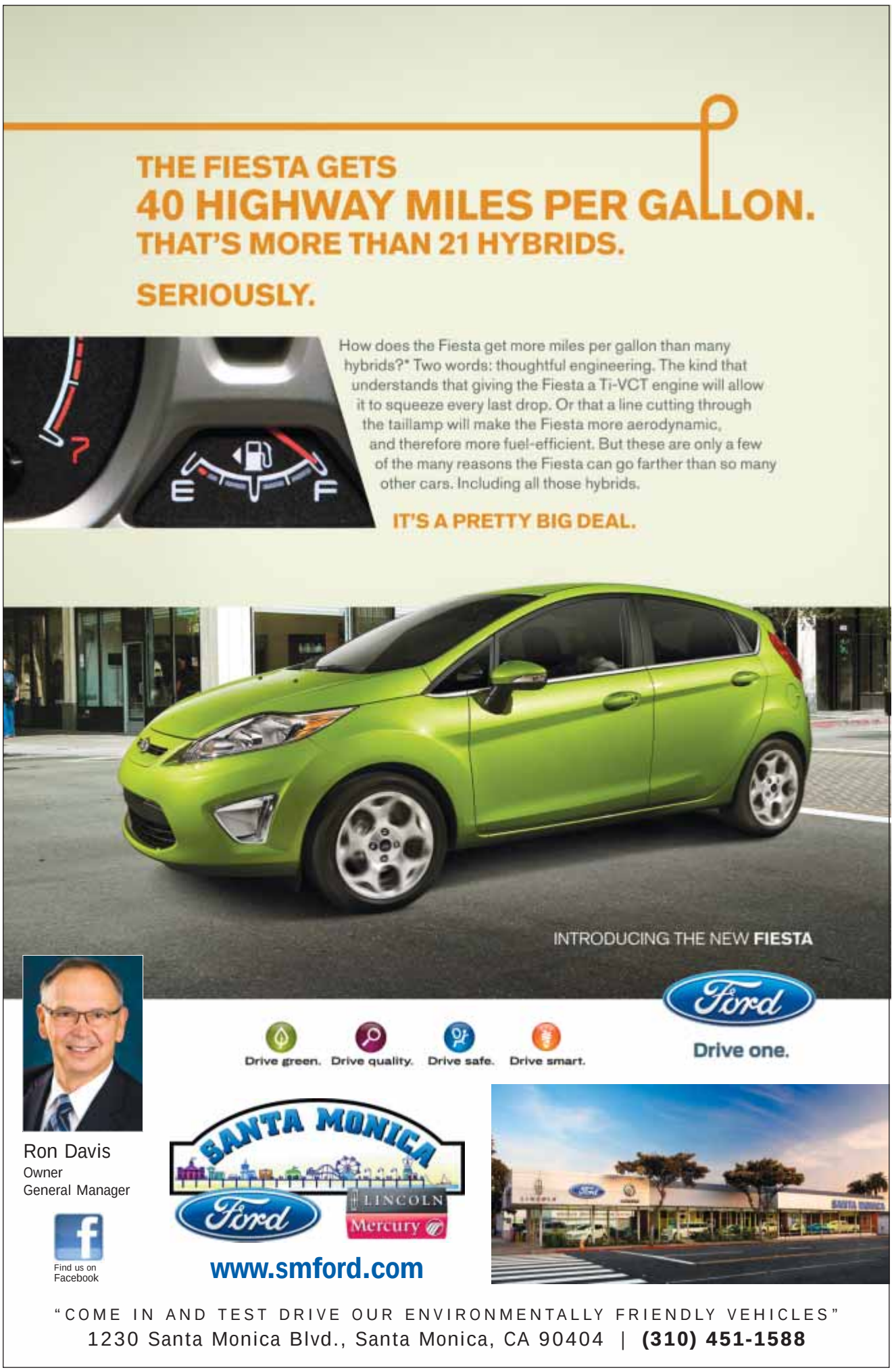
Experts had recommended the state dump its old system in which overworked agents often conducted cursory home visits, drug tests or brief conversations with parolees or family members.

Agents and their supervisors will also get more training. The department is hiring nearly 440 new agents, and hiring more supervisors to reduce the number of agents each must oversee.

The change is one benefit from a law that took effect in January that ended parole supervision for ex-convicts who were convicted of lesser crimes or are considered to be less dangerous.

The law was projected to save $200 million in its first year in part by reducing the number of parolees returned to prison for violations. Half the savings is going back into increased supervision of parolees considered to be higher risk, and to catch parole violators.

Sex offenders will not be included in the new policy until a task force makes its recommendations later this year. The task force was convened after agents failed to discover that a convicted sex offender was allegedly keeping Jaycee Dugard hidden at his Contra Costa County home for 18 years. They also elected not to revoke the parole of a convicted child molester who later pleaded guilty to killing two San Diego County teenagers.



Statewide races raise big dollars

ROBIN HINDERY
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO With most eyes on California's staggeringly expensive governor's race, several other statewide office bids are drawing big contributions as well.

Candidates continued to submit their latest campaign finance reports until late in the evening Monday for the six-week period ending June 30.

San Francisco County District Attorney Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for attorney general, brought in $412,000 and spent nearly twice that. Her opponent, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, brought in $341,000 but has accrued more than $170,000 in debt this year.

Insurance commissioner hopeful Dave Jones, a Democratic state assemblyman, brought in $184,000 in contributions, largely from lawyers and the auto industry. That was about four times what his Republican opponent, state Assemblyman Mike Villines, raised over the same period.

However, Villines maintains a nearly $123,000 advantage in cash on hand.

In the race for the nonpartisan position of superintendent of public instruction, Assemblyman Tom Torlakson's fundraising and spending — $176,000 and $431,000, respectively — dwarfed that of his opponent, retired schools superintendent Larry Aceves, who raised $18,000 and spent $7,000.

Torlakson has received the coveted endorsement of the California Teachers Association, which has donated nearly $26,000 to his campaign so far.

The biggest campaign war chest among non-gubernatorial candidates belongs to Treasurer Bill Lockyer, a Democrat who has $8.5 million on hand. His opponent, state Sen. Mimi Walters, has $350,000.

The lieutenant governor's race is also showing a sizable gap in cash on hand, with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom reporting $495,000 in the bank. His opponent, Republican incumbent Abel Maldonado, has just $90,000 on hand. The former state senator, appointed to the job in April by Schwarzenegger, also reported $261,000 in debt.

In the secretary of state's race, Irvine real estate developer and former NFL player Damon Dunn netted nearly double the contributions of incumbent Democrat Debra Bowen. Dunn, a Republican, has about $176,000 on hand, while Bowen has just more than $113,000.

State controller John Chiang, a Democrat, had raised $125,000 in his bid to retain his seat, leaving him with nearly $1.3 million. His opponent, Republican state Sen. Tony Strickland, raised $173,000 and has about $309,000 on hand.

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SMO
FROM PAGE 1

He said he hopes the Obama administration's FAA is less industry-friendly than that of previous administrations and is more receptive to the resolution's requests.

Martin Rubin, the director of CRAAP, said the key issue addressed in this resolution is that there are no federal regulations that protect residents who live near airports. As far he knows, this resolution is the first of its kind, Rubin said.

He said he would like the resolution to force the FAA to impose a buffer zone of at least a mile between where jets take off and residents live. That would either mean restricting use for larger jets so the runway could be shortened or buying the surrounding homes so there are no nearby residents.

"People with a financial interest in operating the jets are trying to guard their turf," Rubin said of why nothing has been done to address the pollution.

Lieu said there has been no formal lobbying opposition to the resolution.

But the Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association (AOPA), a national nonprofit organization for general aviation, is concerned with and has been watching the resolution, said Chris Dancy, media relations director for the AOPA. Though the resolution is non-binding, AOPA disagrees with the resolution's call to the FAA to allow Santa Monica to ban the fastest classes of airplanes: C and D. City Hall voted to ban class C and D aircraft in 2007, but was blocked from doing so by the FAA.

"We hope at some point the FAA and the city can work together instead of the city taking charge," Dancy said. "Only the FAA has authority to determine which aircraft can use an airport."

> **"PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BREATHING IT IN AND GETTING SICK, AND I'M AT A LOSS AS TO WHY NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE."**
>
> **Ted Lieu,**
> Democratic assemblyman of the 53rd District

But Pavley said it is necessary that the resolution encourage the FAA to honor Santa Monica's decision to restrict which aircraft use SMO, as residents remain concerned.

"With this joint resolution, we are sending a strong and clear message to the federal government that the FAA and the EPA should work together with Santa Monica city officials and with local residents to review and address noise issues, air pollution emissions, and safety of flight operations at Santa Monica Municipal Airport," she said. "My office has received more than 100 e-mails and letters from homeowners who are concerned by the daily impacts of the increased noise and the increased pollution from the growth in jet traffic at Santa Monica Airport over the past decades."

The resolution is expected to be voted on in the Senate by the end of the legislative session, Aug. 31, and may be voted on as soon as Thursday, Lieu said. He said he is optimistic about the Senate passing it.

"Because this resolution is factual," he said, "it's hard to be opposed."

news@smdp.com

PAINTING
FROM PAGE 1

The suspect snatched the large oil painting of Churchill roughly two weeks ago when the pub's staff was most vulnerable — between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. when the restaurant is closed but the bar is hopping.

"Someone came into the restaurant from the pub and took it while no one was looking," said King's Head general manager Dusty Kerr.

The pub's owners have decided not to phone the police, instead opting to handle the theft by themselves by offering a reward for the painting's return. Kerr would not disclose how much is being offered, but she did say no questions will be asked.

The value of the painting is unknown.

"If it was just a prank, bring it back and we will not prosecute," Kerr said. "We just want the painting back."

The painting, which came over from England when the original owner, Phil Elwell, opened the pub and put it on the main wall of the restaurant's dining room, portrays a troubled Churchill above a stark cityscape shrouded in smoke. Behind him is a torn Union Jack, the flag of the United Kingdom, which is hung upside down to symbolize the danger and turmoil Britons faced during the great war.

For decades, the painting hung over loyal customers as they dined on fish and chips and kidney pies. Kerr said the theft has ironically been good for business as those same customers have come back wanting to get a good look at the crime scene.

"A lot of people know that painting," Kerr said.

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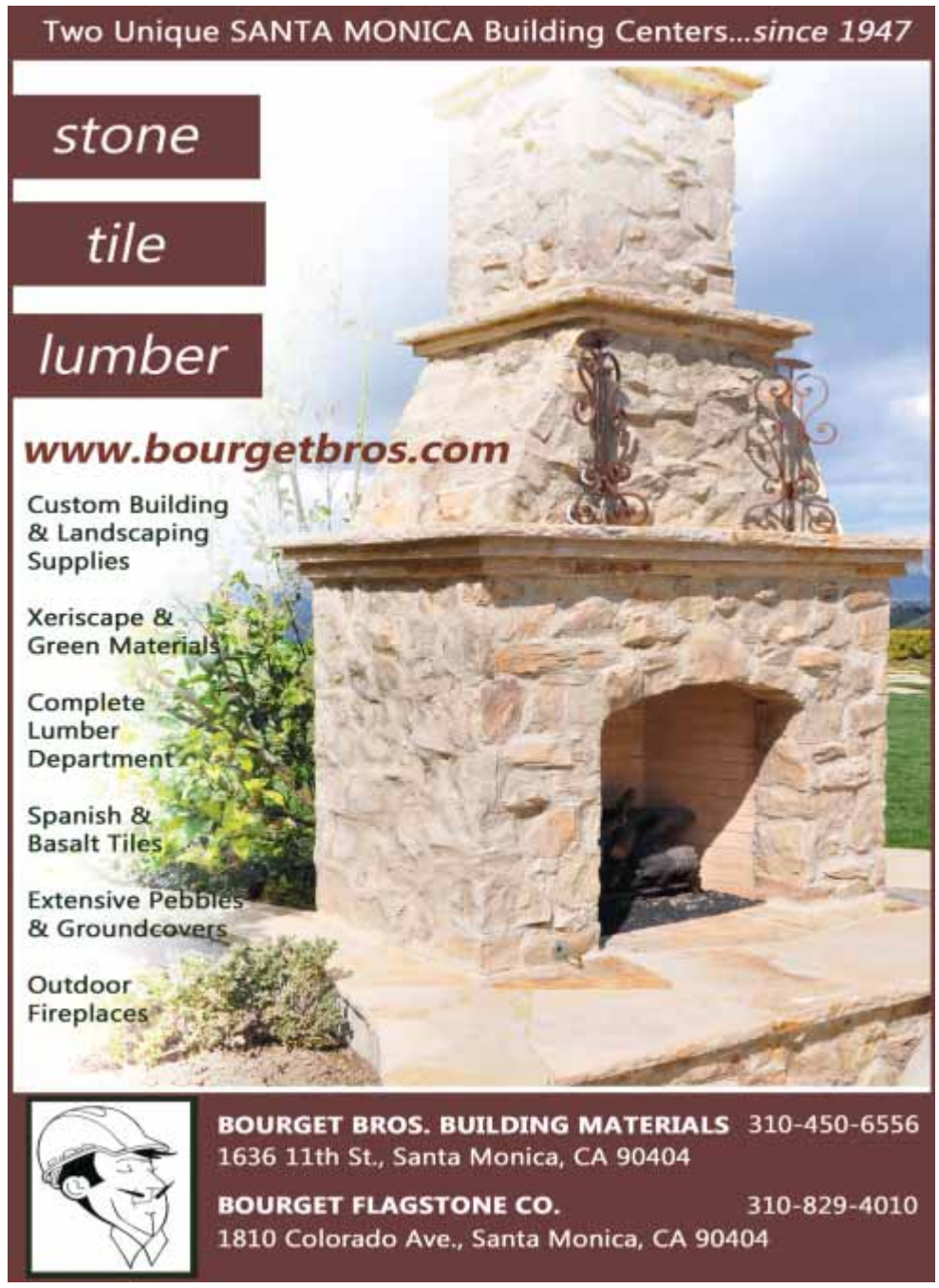
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9 killed in shooting at beer distributorship

STEPHEN SINGER
Associated Press Writer

MANCHESTER, Conn. A warehouse driver who a union official said was caught on video stealing beer from the distributorship where he worked went on a shooting rampage there Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding two before committing suicide.

Omar Thornton, 34, pulled a handgun after a meeting in which he had been offered the chance to quit or be fired, Manchester Police Chief Marc Montminy said. Among those killed was Thornton's union representative at the meeting.

The gunman, who was black, had complained of racial harassment and said he found a picture of a noose and a racial epithet written on a bathroom wall, the mother of his girlfriend said. Her daughter told her that Thornton's supervisors told him they would talk to his co-workers.

Brett Hollander, whose family owns the distributorship, said, "I can assure you there has never been any racial discrimination at our company." And a union official said Thornton had not filed a complaint of racism with the union or any government agency.

Thornton had been caught on videotape stealing beer, Teamsters official Christopher Roos said.

"It's got nothing to do with race," Roos said. "This is a disgruntled employee who shot a bunch of people."

Thornton's girlfriend had been with him the night before the rampage and had no indication he was planning it, said her mother, Joanne Hannah.

On Tuesday morning, about 50 to 70 people were in the warehouse about 10 miles east of Hartford during a shift change when the gunman opened fire around 7 a.m., Hollander said. Adding to the chaos at the warehouse was a fire, which was put out. Montminy said he didn't know how the fire started, but didn't think it was set.

The shooting was over in a matter of minutes, Montminy said. The victims were found all over the complex, and authorities don't know if Thornton fired randomly or targeted specific co-workers, Montminy said.

After shooting his co-workers, Thornton called his mother, Hannah said.

"He wanted to say goodbye and that he loved everybody," Hannah said.

Thornton was alive when police got to the scene but killed himself before officers got to him, Montminy said. A police sharpshooter had approval to fire on Thornton when he killed himself, an official with knowledge of the scene told the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Hannah said her daughter, Kristi, had dated Thornton for the past eight years. Kristi Hannah did not return calls for comment.

"Everybody's got a breaking point," Joanne Hannah said.

Hannah described Thornton as an easy-going guy who liked to play sports and video games. She said he had a pistol permit and had planned to teach her daughter how to use a gun.

Hollander's cousin, Steve, who's a vice president at the company, was shot in the arm and the face. Hollander said he thought his cousin would be OK. Steve Hollander would not comment when reached on his cell phone.

Police declined to release the names of those killed.

Among the dead was Bryan Cirigliano, 51, of Newington, president of Teamsters 1035, according to the union. He had been Thornton's representative at Tuesday's disciplinary hearing, the union said.

Bill Ackerman, a 51-year-old warehouseman, also was killed, said his girlfriend, Stephanie Laurin.

"I was like, 'Where's Billy, where's Billy?' and they said they hadn't seen him. And then one of his co-workers told me ... that he saw the shooter go to where Billy's room is that he works in," she said. "I was just praying to God that he was OK."

Ackerman, who enjoyed playing golf and rooting for the Boston Red Sox, had worked for the company for about 20 years, she said.

The Hartford Courant identified another victim as Victor James, 59, of Windsor. Two victims were being treated at Hartford Hospital.

The rampage was the nation's deadliest since 13 people were fatally shot at Fort Hood, Texas, in November. A military psychiatrist is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in that case.

In Connecticut, a state lottery worker gunned down four supervisors in 1998 before committing suicide, and six people were killed in 1974 in botched robbery at a bakery in New Britain. Two men were convicted of that crime.

On Tuesday, a few dozen relatives and friends of the victims gathered a few miles away at Manchester High School. Outside, people talked, hugged and cried. Others talked on cell phones.

Police officers from numerous agencies and police and fire vehicles surrounded the warehouse, on a tree-lined road in an industrial park just west of a shopping mall.

Thornton listed Hoffman's Gun Center & Indoor Range in Newington as among his interests on his Facebook page. A company official declined to comment.

Thornton filed for bankruptcy protection a decade ago. His Chapter 7 petition in 2000 listed $4,850 in assets, including a 1994 Chrysler Concorde, and more than $15,000 in liabilities — primarily debt on credit card and student loan payments. His debts were discharged in March 2001 and the case was closed the following month.

The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities said Hartford Distributors has never had any complaints filed against it.

The Hollander family is widely respected in Manchester, said state Rep. Ryan Barry, a lifelong resident. He said the family-owned Hartford Distributors sponsors local sports teams and the family is civic-minded.

"Everybody knows the Hollanders as good, generous, upstanding people," Barry said. "They're embedded in the community. Everyone knows Hartford Distributors. They treat their employees very well and they're part of the fabric of the town."

In a statement, Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell offered condolences to the victims' families and co-workers.

"We are all left asking the same questions: How could someone do this? Why did they do this?" she said.

BP begins work on well seal

GREG BLUESTEIN &
HARRY R. WEBER
Associated Press Writers

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO BP embarked Tuesday on an operation that could seal the biggest offshore oil leak in U.S. history once and for all, forcing mud down the throat of its blown-out well in a tactic known variously as "bullheading" or a "static kill."

The pressure in the well dropped quickly in the first 90 minutes of the procedure, a sign that everything was going as planned, wellsite leader Bobby Bolton told The Associated Press aboard the Q4000, the vessel being used to pump in the mud.

He said the work could be complete by Tuesday night or Wednesday, though BP said the effort could continue through Thursday, and engineers won't know for more than a week if it choked the well for good.

The 122 crew members on the Q4000 were excited about being part of what could be the final resolution to a drama that started with the April 20 explosion on the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon, Capt. Keith Schultz said.

"I'm a mariner and we lost mariners out here," said Schultz, who is on his second 28-day tour of duty since the spill started. "I'm very confident we'll be able to kill this well. It's been one magical time trying to get this thing plugged."

A 75-ton cap placed on the well in July has been keeping the oil bottled up inside over the past three weeks, but that is considered only a temporary measure. BP and the Coast Guard want to plug up the hole more securely with a column of heavy drilling mud and cement.

The static kill involves slowly pumping mud down lines running from a ship to the top of the ruptured well a mile below. BP said that may be enough by itself to seal the well.

But retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man for the spill, made it clear that to be safe, the gusher will have to be plugged up from two directions. He said the 18,000-foot relief well that BP has been drilling over the past three months will be used later this month to execute a "bottom kill," in which mud and cement will be injected into the bedrock 2? miles below the sea floor.

"There should be no ambiguity about that," Allen said. "I'm the national incident commander and this is how this will be handled."

Over the past few months, with each failed attempt to stop the leak, the American public has learned some of the oil industry's lingo, including "top kill," which is similar to the static kill, "top hat," and "junk shot," an attempt to clog up the well with golf balls and rubber scraps.

Before the cap was lowered onto the well, 172 million gallons of crude flowed into the sea, unleashed by the April 20 explosion aboard the drilling rig Deepwater Horizon that killed 11 workers.

BP won't know for certain whether the static kill has succeeded until engineers can use the soon-to-be-completed relief well to check their work.

Allen said the task is becoming more urgent because peak hurricane season is just around the corner. Tropical Storm Colin formed far out in the Atlantic on Tuesday, but early forecasts say it will travel toward the East Coast rather than the Gulf. And while the cap appears to be holding tight, the static kill would give scientists more confidence the well won't leak again, he said.

"The quicker we get this done, the quicker we can reduce the risk of some type of internal failure" of the massive cap, he said.

Gulf residents anxiously awaited the outcome. In Yscloskey, La., Russell Prats, a crab dealer, said he is confident the static kill will work, but concerned that people will still be scared to eat seafood.

NYC panel clears way for mosque near WTC site

BETH FOUHY &
KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK A city panel Tuesday cleared the way for the construction near ground zero of a mosque that has caused a political uproar over religious freedom and Sept. 11 even as opponents vowed to press their case in court.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously to deny landmark status to a building two blocks from the World Trade Center site that developers want to tear down and convert into an Islamic community center and mosque. The panel said the 152-year-old lower Manhattan building isn't distinctive enough to be considered a landmark.

The decision drew praise from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who stepped before cameras on Governor's Island with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop shortly after the panel voted and called the mosque project a key test of Americans' commitment to religious freedom.

"The World Trade Center site will forever hold a special place in our city, in our hearts," said Bloomberg, a Republican turned independent. "But we would be untrue to the best part of ourselves, and who we are as New Yorkers and Americans, if we said no to a mosque in lower Manhattan."

The vote was a setback for opponents of the mosque, who say it disrespects the memory of those killed at the hands of Islamic terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. Jeers and shouts of "Shame on you" could be heard after the panel's vote.

The American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative advocacy group founded by the Rev. Pat Robertson, announced it would challenge the panel's decision in state court Wednesday.

ACLJ attorney Brett Joshpe said the group would file a petition alleging that the landmarks panel "acted arbitrarily and abused its discretion."

The proposed mosque has emerged as a national political issue, with prominent Republicans from former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich lining up against it. The Anti-Defamation League, the nation's most prominent Jewish civil rights group, known for advocating religious freedom, shocked many groups when it spoke out against the mosque last week.

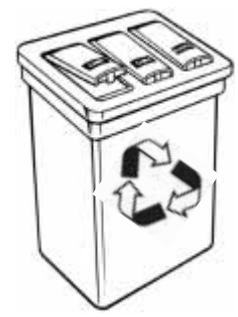
The League said building the Islamic center "in the shadow of the World Trade Center will cause some victims more pain — unnecessarily — and that is not right."

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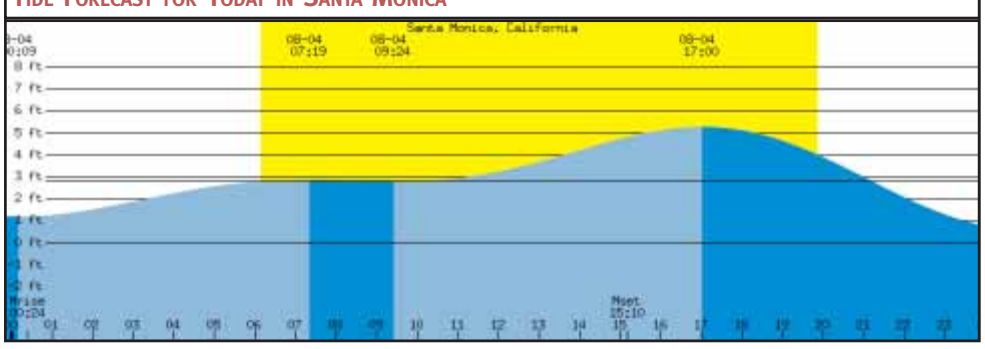
Swell Forecast

Looks like a waist high day for south facing breaks, smaller for west facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks similar: knee to maybe waist high for south facing breaks.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **July 28, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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 Lechasa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fences.	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.	F	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos 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.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	B	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	D	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.	C	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

NFL

LT ready to lead Jets

DENNIS WASZAK JR.
AP Sports Writer

CORTLAND, N.Y. The menacing dark visor is still there, hiding LaDainian Tomlinson's determined eyes.

The logo on the helmet is different these days, but the desire to be great remains.

For everyone who thinks he's a shell of the player he once was, the New York Jets running back can't wait to burst through the line and show that you're wrong.

"I just want to prove that I'm not done," Tomlinson said Tuesday. "I still can make plays and I'm still a valuable part of the team. That's what it's about and I'm eager to do that."

At 31, Tomlinson is on the downside of his career, but he and the Jets are convinced he can help them in their quest to win the Super Bowl.

"Oh, he's still quick," second-year running back Shonn Greene said. "He's still got that quick step and he's very versatile. He can do a lot of things, line up in the slot, outside. I think he still has it."

That's what the Jets were banking on when they signed him to a two-year deal in March. Granted, Tomlinson is coming off the worst season of his career after rushing for 730 yards and averaging 3.3 yards per carry for San Diego. He also struggled against the Jets in the playoffs when he had 24 yards on 12 carries.

"The thing, honestly, about Tomlinson is if he's coming down, he's coming down from the very top of the mountain," coach Rex Ryan said. "It's not like he was three-quarters of the way coming down."

The 2006 NFL MVP is eighth on the league's career rushing list with 12,490 yards, but was cut by San Diego in February. Once one of the NFL's most dynamic players, Tomlinson is expected to back up Greene and do whatever he can to help an offense that ranked first in rushing a year ago.

"This is my first time going live in practice in all my years and I love that because it's football, and you're going to get hit," he said, smiling. "The quicker you get acclimated to getting hit and being on the ground, it's better for you when the games start."

Tomlinson routinely would see limited action in the preseason with San Diego, not playing much — if at all — during games. He'd like that to change this summer.

"I want to play," he said. "I want to be with the guys. Everybody else is going to play and I want to be a part of that."

Tomlinson insists he has always been a good teammate, despite what some Chargers players might say. A few recently told the San Diego Union-Tribune that Tomlinson often wanted things his way.

"We all had a great relationship and I never put myself in position to be bigger than the team," he said. "I mean, I never act like that. So, it was surprising, but, it is what it is and guys are going to feel differently and I'm moving on."

That means he's focused and committed to the Jets now, recharged and ready to go. Need proof? Look no further than Tomlinson's right calf, which sports a Jets logo — matching the Chargers logo tattooed on his left calf.

When the team took its conditioning test Sunday, trainers advised Tomlinson not to take it because he tweaked a hamstring a few days earlier.

"I said, 'Guys, listen: There's no way my first day here I'm going to sit out and not run and take this test. I want to be with everybody else and do it,'" he said. "They asked me if I was sure, and I said, 'Yeah, I know my body.'"

Sure enough, Tomlinson passed and has looked solid on the field through three practices.

"He had a bounce today," Ryan said, "that I was like, 'Wow!'"

Tomlinson acknowledged that it's a bit surreal practicing with the Jets' defense after playing against it for so many years.

"It's kind of weird," he said, grinning. "I've always said, 'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.'"

One lasting image Jets fans might have of Tomlinson is when he made a vicious cut that froze Ty Law in his tracks in a game at the Meadowlands in 2005. Asked if he could still pull off one of those ankle-twisting plays, Tomlinson laughed.

"Oh, yeah, absolutely," he said. "If you ask those guys, I think they'll tell you that I've still got some of that in me."

NOTES: Backup QB Kellen Clemens (left calf) practiced for the first time after starting camp on the active-physically unable to perform list. DT Kris Jenkins (hamstring) is still not practicing. ... Ryan raved about K Nick Folk: "I'm officially not worried about our Pro Bowl kicker anymore." Folk, a Pro Bowl selection in 2007 with Dallas, was shaky through the offseason workouts and Ryan acknowledged he was concerned about his performance.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Dry Land (AMC INDEPENDENT) (R) 1hr 32min
12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

The Kids Are All Right (AMC INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation) (R) 1hr 44min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) 1hr 51min
1:30pm, 4:05pm, 6:40pm, 9:15pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (Digital Presentation) (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 6:50pm, 9:40pm

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

Despicable Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:00am, 1:20pm, 3:45pm, 6:15pm, 8:45pm

Despicable Me 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 1:15pm, 2:15pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:50pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:35am, 2:05pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Toy Story 3 in Disney Digital 3D (RealD 3D) (G) 1hr 49min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:50pm, 9:25pm

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

Around a Small Mountain (R) 1hr 39min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Cyrus (R) 1hr 46min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

The Girl Who Played with Fire (R) 2hrs 24min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Life During Wartime (NR) 1hr 53min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

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

Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (PG) 1hr 22min
12:10pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:25pm, 9:50pm

Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 22min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm, 6:40pm, 9:05pm

Charlie St. Cloud (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:05pm, 7:35pm, 10:05pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
11:20am, 2:35pm, 6:00pm, 9:20pm

Ramona and Beezus (G) 1hr 44min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:35pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:05pm, 3:40pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

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

Your treat, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Don't lose track of what is happening within your immediate surroundings in the a.m. Choose to say little, knowing you will have an opportunity later. A change in attitude from others could prevent any comments. Tonight: Midweek, break with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21)
★★★ Others might not get your intent. Perhaps you exhibit a lack of clarity. Right now you are honoring a different drummer. Others might be taken aback by this new personality trait. You might wonder if you have an alternative. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 22-June 20)
★★★★ For the moment, ignore what goes on in the a.m. You will have a radical change of perspective by the afternoon. Remain sure of yourself when dealing with others in the afternoon. You also could be more realistic. Tonight: Others seek you out, pronto.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Emphasize what is. If you get caught up in what you would like, you might experience a total backfire. A meeting could prove to be more significant than you anticipated. Remember, you don't need to make a decision quickly. Tonight: Do your thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Perhaps because you have such a Lionesque and dignified approach is why people naturally defer to you. Take action and do what you feel is needed. You sense the tides as they turn in your favor later. Tonight: Midweek break.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Others test their limits. Whether they are conscious of it or not, it makes no difference, as the experience is the same for you. Keep breaking patterns, and detach from your traditional response. A chance to take the lead in an important endeavor happens -- finally. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Recognize what is going on behind the scenes through discussions with a key player. Don't act on your knowledge just yet. New information will be forthcoming, adding yet another slant to the situation. Tonight: Let your imagination go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Like it or not, others continue to be dominant. This could feel like a problem if you let it. Remember, this is a passage, and you can change the dynamics in a New York minute. Feel better now? Tonight: Dinner for two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Getting past a confusing matter this morning happens, even if you can't find the path. The unexpected occurs, opening up several dynamic possibilities. Opt to have people around you, as you enjoy them so much. Tonight: Acting like it is Friday night?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your greatest push needs to be in the morning, when all creative wheels seem to be on "go." On the other hand, you might not even make it to work, as you could get distracted. Know that by the afternoon you could have way too much to do. Tonight: Clear out a project or run an errand or two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might want to avoid dealing with family but find it impossible. On the other hand, you might want to hide out this morning and not be seen at the office. By the afternoon, you can have a much more upbeat perspective. Tonight: Let your hair down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Play the cynic, but listen well. Much information heads in your direction. How you understand what is happening affects nearly every other aspect of your life. Smile and remain upbeat. Tonight: Do some tough thinking.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday! You will want to create more security through a higher profile than in the past. You will make your imprint on your community as well as your professional associates. Through networking, you greet unusual success and happiness. Be open to friendship and creating much more of what you want. If you are single, if and only if you decide to change that status will someone float into your life. Attached Leos find they are a strong force in making the bond work. Stay on the high road. GEMINI points to the correct path.

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

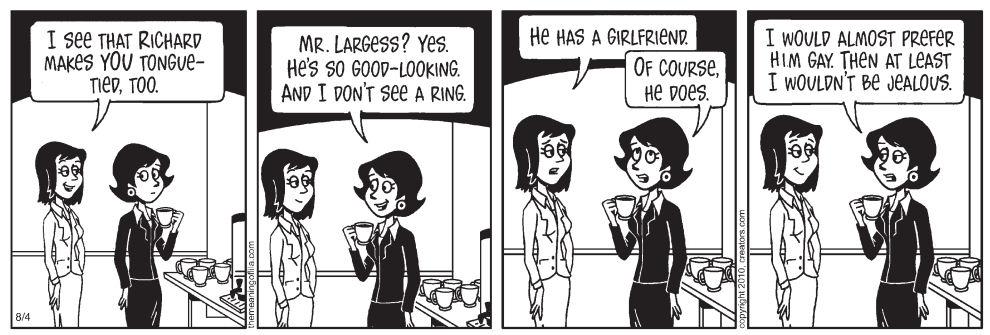
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



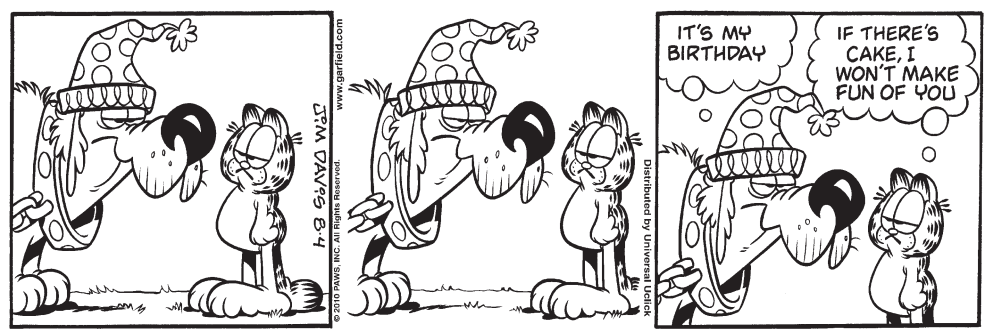
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



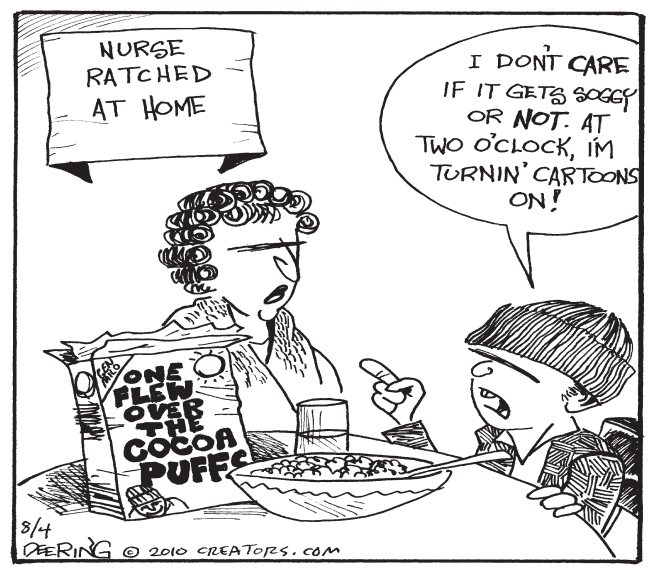
Garfield

By Jim Davis



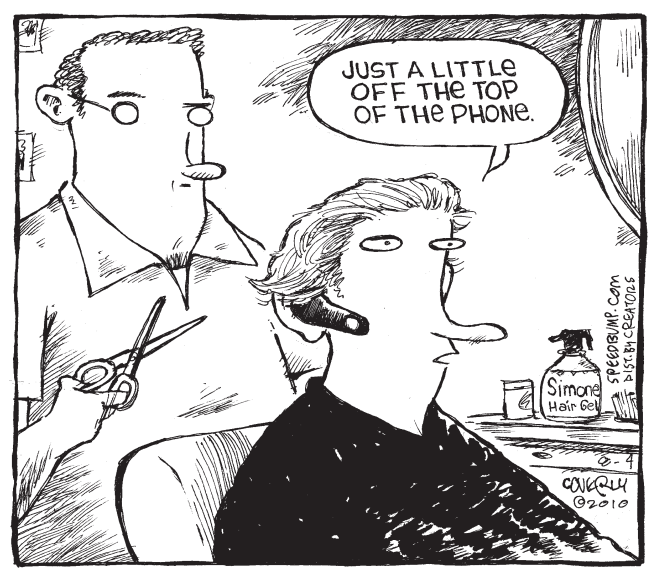
Strange Brew

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 ★★★

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

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

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

ARITHMO™ CrossMath

+ × − ÷

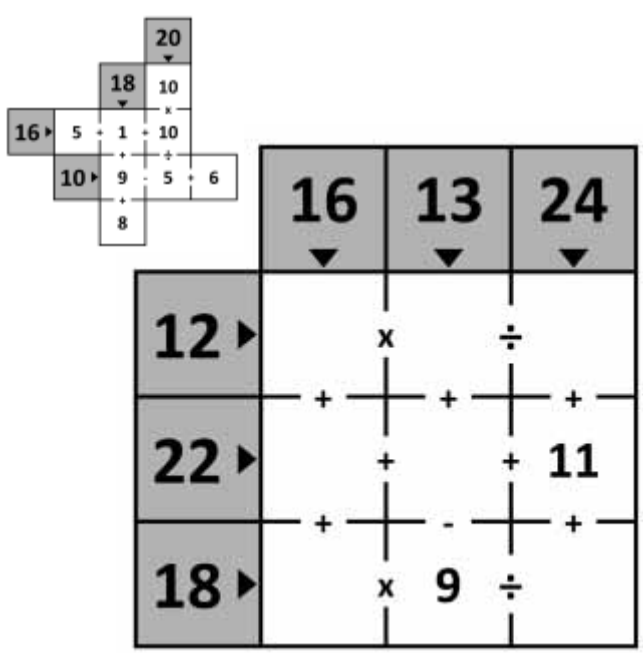
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 502





MYSTERY REVEALED!

Michelle Terris *news@smdp.com*

Resident Cameron Hopper correctly identified this photo of a telescope at the Santa Monica Pier. He will receive two VIP passes to Pacific Park. Check out tomorrow's paper for another chance to win.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Poker payment
5 Congo setting
11 Ripped
12 Like some showers
13 Track shape
14 "Shoo!"
15 Buddy
16 Leaves
17 Clumsy sort
19 Swindle
22 Cerberus' place
24 Before dawn
26 Press
27 Green stone
28 Small amphibians
30 Diamond side
31 Shoe shade
32 Elementary particle
34 Green stroke
35 Cry from Homer
38 Financially solvent
41 Like some cars
42 South Dakota capital
43 Had debts
44 Market worker
45 Writer Rice

DOWN

1 Proton's place
2 Telescope sight
3 Ferret out
4 Snaky swimmer
5 Monastery head
6 "Don't move!"
7 Big trucks
8 Ceremony words
9 Paint buy
10 Bar order
16 Director Van Sant
18 Pre-Easter time
19 Heightened enforcement
20 Ye — Shoppe
21 Russian refusal
22 Intimation
23 Region
25 Open a bit
29 Cube side
30 Diet no-no
33 Say
34 Chorizo base
36 Farm team
37 Jekyll's evil half
38 LAPD alert
39 Fragrant tree
40 Summer zodiac sign
41 Big snake

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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			

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 30 40 48 52
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: $42M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 13 37 43 47
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: $16M

Fantasy 5: 10 14 21 31 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 0 7
EVENING: 6 3 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:45.39

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

■ Things You Didn't Think Happened: (1) Although 85 percent of Americans are covered by health insurance, the figure in Rwanda is 92 percent. In that country's 11-year-old system, everyone pays $2 a year -- obviously just for basics. However, Rwandans' main problems are more easily treatable -- infections, malnutrition, malaria, unsafe childbirth -- and not expensive diabetes, obesity, cholesterol-clogged arteries. (2) In Israel's West Bank, Palestinians have a highly competitive race-car season, and one team on the rise this year is the sexism-fighting female squad led by driver Suna Aweida. "Driving is driving," she told BBC News in June.

■ In July, acknowledging pressure from local Asian activists, officials at the Exchange mall in Rochdale, England, said they would remove the toilets from two of the facility's restroom stalls and build "Nile pans," also known as "squat toilets" -- also to Westerners referred to as "holes in the ground." The officials said they were trying to serve the many Pakistani and Bangladeshi immigrants living in Greater Manchester.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1902 The Greenwich foot tunnel under the River Thames opens.

1906 Central Railway Station, Sydney opens.

1914 World War I: Germany invades Belgium. In response, the United Kingdom declares war on Germany. The United States declares its neutrality.

1916 World War I: Liberia declares war on Germany.

1924 Diplomatic relations between Mexico and the Soviet Union are established.

1936 Prime Minister of Greece Ioannis Metaxas suspends parliament and the Constitution and establishes the 4th of August Regime.

1944 The Holocaust: a tip from a Dutch informer leads the Gestapo to a sealed-off area in an Amsterdam warehouse where they find Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family.

1946 1946 Dominican Republic earthquake: an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 hits northern Dominican Republic. 100 are killed and 20,000 are left homeless.

WORD UP!

tarry \ TAR-ee \ , verb; 1. To remain or stay, as in a place; sojourn. 2. To delay or be tardy in acting, starting, coming, etc.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. #113 Single, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $875 move-in special $500 off (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 3, 1bdrm/1ba $1075/mo. stove, fridge, time/carpet,floors ceiling fan blinds, parking, laundry, no pets. $1000 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100895609 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DRAILLE MANAGEMENT, 824 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 300, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : WILLIAM SEO, 22701 DRAILLE DR. , TORRANCE, CA 90505 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant has not yet begun to transact business /s/: WILLIAM SEO; OWNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/30/2010. 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 7/28/2010, 8/4/2010, 8/11/2010, 8/18/2010

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Killer Location:
Corner of 2nd & Idaho
Call for Appointment
Easy to Show

New Listing



11687 Montana Ave #208
2 Bed, 1.75 Bath
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Huge Balcony!
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,147,500	$2,279,500
North of Montana	$3,397,000	$1,397,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$769,000
South of Wilshire	$852,500	$649,850
Sunset Park	$1,172,500	$574,000
Ocean Park	$1,282,000	$850,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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