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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 239

Santa Monica Daily Press



USC REGROUPS
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE BIG NUMBER ISSUE



NO SUN?

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Tourists from Germany were disappointed to find a thick layer of fog blanketing the beach Monday morning. Many Santa Monicans have commented on the unusually cool weather this summer. SMDP columnist Dr. Reese Halter gives his opinion on the weird weather and global warming in his column, Back to Nature, on page 4. Temperatures will be in the mid 70s today.



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

YAY! **A group of girls play a game of duck-duck-goose at the Save Our Schools finale celebration at Santa Monica High School on Sunday. The fundraising effort generated over $1.3 million for local public schools.**

Education donations top $1.5M

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Donors to the two-month long "Save Our Schools" fundraising drive contributed more than $1.5 million to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation — an amount leaders of the effort said could save 18 teaching positions this school year.

After laying off 58 teachers this spring as part of $7.1 million worth of budget cuts, the school board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to decide how many positions can be re-filled thanks to the donations.

Contributions to the SOS campaign were earmarked for one of three "buckets," with $655,000 donated to relieve elementary class sizes, $332,000 donated to relieve secondary class sizes and to hire counselors, and $397,000 donated to fund music programs and to pay for school libraries.

The balance of the donations were undesignated, giving the school board discretion over how to spend the money.

"Our community has demonstrated time after time that it cares about maintaining the quality of our local public schools. This

SEE SOS PAGE 9

Feds say homeless vets to be housed by 2012

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Veterans Administration plans to complete renovation of a facility to house homeless combat veterans on the agency's West Los Angeles campus by 2012 — faster than local officials previously thought — a VA spokesman said on Monday.

In an update on Santa Monica City Hall's homelessness programs last month, Kate Vernez, assistant to the City Manager, said VA officials had estimated the project could take up to four years to complete.

But on Monday, Ralph Tillman, chief of communications and external affairs for the VA's West L.A. Healthcare Center, said the agency's Washington, D.C. headquarters released what he called an "aggressive" construction timeline that foresees completion of the facility by November of 2012.

"Every effort is being made to accelerate this as much as possible at the highest level," Tillman said of the project.

The facility, known as Building 209, is one of three little-used structures on the West L.A. campus designated to become therapeutic housing for homeless veterans.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki in June approved $20 million for its rehabilitation — a step that was hailed by local officials and advocates as a major victory for Los Angeles-area homeless veterans.

There are 6,540 veterans sleeping on Los Angeles County streets each night, according to a joint statement from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), U.S. Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Beverly Hills) and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky announcing the funding.

The VA's timeline calls for officials to award a design contract for the facility next month. The VA would then begin soliciting construction bids next June and would select a builder by September, 2011. Construction is expected to take 14 months.

"This schedule is there to meet a need, and that is to provide housing for our homeless veterans as soon as possible,"

SEE VETS PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010

'This is Not Here'
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy.
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Back by popular demand for one more performance, Beach=Culture presents Holly Rothschild's "This is Not Here," the culminating project of her 10-week artist residency at the Beach House. This event is free.

Sculpting church
First Presbyterian
1220 Second St.
The works of painter/sculptor Laddie John Dill are on a display outside at First Presbyterian. Dill's work is influenced by neo-dadaist Robert Rauschenberg, minimalist Keith Sonnier and environmental artists Robert Smithson, Dennis Oppenhein and Robert Irwin. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 451-1303.

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010

Art and a ride
Santa Monica Pier Carousel
Daily
An exhibit featuring photographs by Elena Perrotta are on display in the Carousel Building through Sept. 15, 2010. The exhibit is open during normal Carousel business hours and closed on Tuesdays. This event is free.

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.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010

Dancing at twilight
Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
She may not have the name recognition of singers like Aretha Franklin or Gladys Knight — but when it comes to putting her own stamp on a song and filling it to the brim with soul, there are few who can match R&B powerhouse Bettye LaVette — the headliner at this Thursday's installment of the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Dance Series.
The Tom Nolan Band opens this free show.

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.

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Images courtesy Heal the Bay

LONG ROAD HOME: **Heal the Bay's comical short, playfully titled 'The Majestic Plastic Bag,' tracks the migration of a single-use bag.**

Satirical film draws attention to growing plastic pollution

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM BAY Environmental watchdog Heal the Bay is using some humor and an Academy-Award winner to put pressure on the state Senate to pass AB 1998, a Santa Monica lawmaker's ban on single-use plastic bags.

The local organization that promotes safe, clean and healthy coastal waters recently released a satirical mockumentary narrated by actor Jeremy Irons charting the life cycle of a plastic bag.

The comical short, playfully titled "The Majestic Plastic Bag," tracks the migration of a plastic bag from a grocery store parking lot to the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch," with Irons' rumbling voice emulating the dramatic tone of the Discovery Channel's popular "Life" series, giving the plastic bag a personality.

During the short, the bag is attacked by a maintenance worker at a local park, while another is tormented by a tea-cup yorkie.

The mockumentary takes a disturbing turn at the conclusion, showing marine life strangled by tons of floating plastic in the Pacific.

"Never actually bio-degrading, here the plastic bag can live indefinitely, peacefully co-existing with billions of other petroleum species before breaking into ever tinier plastic pieces, thus completing the plastic cycle of life," Irons says sarcastically in the film.

Heal the Bay officials created the short to draw attention to the destructive force of

SEE VIDEO PAGE 9

Brown could be in for large pension

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown would receive two pensions totaling more than $78,000 a year if he were to start drawing from California's retirement systems next year, his campaign reported Monday.

Brown spokesman Sterling Clifford said the campaign received figures from the state after the Orange County Register raised questions about the attorney general's pension benefits.

Brown has been critical of the bloated salaries and benefits paid to administrators in the Los Angeles County city of Bell. The city manager in the blue-collar city of about 39,000 was being paid $800,000 a year before resigning last month, making him eligible for a $600,000-a-year state pension. The California Public Employees Retirement System has frozen the retirement benefits for him and two other highly compensated city employees pending the outcome of an investigation.

According to Clifford, one of Brown's pensions comes from his service as state attorney general, secretary of state and two previous terms as governor, which ran from 1975 to 1983. He said Brown also could draw from his two terms as the mayor of Oakland, as well as a short stint as a law clerk with the California Supreme Court after graduating from law school.

Brown, who is 72, is not currently drawing from either pension. State officials said he would have to pay income taxes once he begins receiving those pension checks, as do other retirees.

Clifford said Brown's retirement benefits won't change much if he wins the governor's race in November against Republican Meg Whitman. He said Brown would get a "few hundred dollars more" each year in benefits.

According to the California Citizens Compensation Commission, the governor is due to receive $212,179 annually, although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger does not take a salary.

Brown makes about $151,000 a year as attorney general, after an 18 percent pay cut given to all constitutional officers.

Brown has tapped one of his pensions before. In 1998, at age 60, he received a pension of $19,000 annually from the Legislative Retirement Service pension. He stopped collecting eight years later when he was elected attorney general.

At that point, he was getting $20,000 annually, Clifford said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Voters must wake up

Editor:

According to Sonya Fox Sultan ("Defending the Steering Committee," Aug. 12) the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights Steering Committee supported three candidates who failed to win the required votes at the SMRR convention because these people have "consistently supported rent control and worked hard to protect tenants." If one doesn't object to replacing democracy with oligarchy, that argument makes a small particle of sense for Pam O'Connor, the City Council candidate, because the council does deal with a few rent control issues.

But what about the school board candidates they added, Ralph Mechur and Oscar de la Torre? What does the school board have to do with rent control? In fact, why does an organization supposedly devoted to protecting rent control even get involved in electing our school board? They say it's to support public education, but who in this city doesn't?

Over the years the results have been toxic. Because many renters who don't know much about the schools just vote the SMRR slate, anyone on that slate gets elected. No SMRR school board candidate has been defeated since Bob Holbrook did it 24 years ago. A few non-SMRR candidates have been elected, but only when SMRR didn't run a full slate.

So instead of having a school board accountable to the voters, we get six or (currently) seven board members who are accountable to only eight voters. As long as these mostly nameless – even on their own website – Steering Committee members are happy, SMRR school board members can do whatever they want, pretty much thumbing their noses at the public or (currently) sitting there like bobble-heads doing whatever the superintendent says to do.

Wake up this year, voters.

Larry Flannigan
Santa Monica

It's all the same

Editor:

Terry O'Day's and Gleam Davis' letter clarifying City Council's decision to uphold the boycott on Arizona's mobile home manufacturer's bid ("Don't get the wrong impression," Aug. 13) said that since the payment for these replacement mobile homes would come from federal grants, their cost would have no impact on our city's finances – even if selecting a different supplier resulted in a costlier product.

Where do council members O'Day and Davis imagine federal funds originate? In a rain cloud above the city, showering pennies down upon us all? These funds come from taxes, same as the dollars funding our direct city expenses. We all pay those taxes with hard-won and increasingly scarce funds. These council members have a responsibility to be frugal and prudent with our dollars, whether they originate from the city's budget or that of the federal government.

I personally happen to agree with the Arizona boycott. But standing by one's principles is no reason to abandon fiscal prudence. If there is a cost to upholding principles, that cost must be acknowledged and accounted for honestly, regardless of the funds' origin. The breathtakingly callous comment made in the council members' letter should make every working man and woman wonder how tenuous is these folks' connection with the financial realities of our times.

Dan Jansenson
Santa Monica





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wild weather proves global warming

IN 2006 I FINISHED THE BOOK "WILD Weather: The Truth Behind Global Warming." As a field biologist with a quarter century of experience I felt anxious about how nature and people would cope with the times ahead.

So far this year globally the weather patterns, insects, wild fires, melting glaciers and sea ice and the oceans all appear to be on performance-enhancing drugs eclipsing, in some cases, thousand year events.

The first half of 2010 shattered many weather records since the inception of continuous record keeping in 1879. Of immediate concern is the lightning speed of 34,000 square miles, each day in June, that Arctic sea ice melted; it was more than 50 percent greater than the average rate of 20,000 square miles a day set in 2006.

Ice, be it on polar seas or land is crucial for reflecting incoming solar radiation and keeping Earth cool, particularly at night.

Let me remind you that we are using four times more energy than our forbearers did 100 years ago. Our consumptive use of fossil fuels is 16 fold over the same time period. And fossil fuels release CO2 which traps heat and raises Earth's temperature.

Last week a chunk of ice four times the size of Manhattan Island broke off the Petermann Glacier on Greenland, the third chunk since 2001; it will contribute to raising sea levels and likely cause havoc in shipping lanes off Newfoundland.

Whenever Earth warms up a few degrees the Arctic appears to multiply that factor by about three. Polar bears will not only perish due to missing sea ice but also from exposure to melting ice releasing persistent organic pollutants including flame-retardants and bisphenol A (BPA) used to harden plastics. The latter is a horrid chemical which disrupts all animals (including humans) endocrine system and it's a synthetic estrogen which lowers sperm counts in males. Globally, we manufacture six billion pounds of BPA a year.

It stores in fat cells of seals, which are the main food source of polar bears. These contaminants are bio-accumulated and biomagnified up the food chain. So the higher you are, the higher the contaminants.

As Arctic soils, which were permanently frozen, thaw about 1.5 billion tons of CO2 is being released. In comparison, cars and light trucks in the U.S. emit about 300 million tons of CO2 per year.

In April in the Andes a chunk of ice measuring 1,640 feet by 665 feet broke off from the Hualcan glacier crashing into a lake creating a 75-foot tsunami-like wave that swept away at least three people and destroyed the water processing plant serving 60,000 people in Carhuaz, Peru.

Indonesia's high elevation Papuan glacier has been decimated by 80 percent of its ice since 1936, two-thirds of that melted since it was last measured in 1972. One square mile that is 32 yards deep is all that remains. Inside glaciers are flecks of dust and trapped miniature air bubbles; they hold all the answers to ancient weather shifts. Globally, glaciers are disappearing faster than scientists can decipher them.

Even more distressing news recently revealed that 40 percent of the world's phytoplankton is missing. The culprit is the warming surface oceans' that are preventing nutrients from mixing effectively in the upper layers and denying natural fertilizer to green life. Phytoplankton, incidentally, is responsible for removing one third of the rising CO2 from our stratosphere.

Two weeks ago the State of Climate report was released by 300 scientists from 48 countries and they unequivocally agree human-induced global warming is undeniable.

As ocean temperatures rise coral reefs are mass bleached. In other words, the corals that hold a symbiotic relationship with algae, expels them — they both die and the coral turn white. So far this year sever bleaching has occurred in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, and scientists are waiting with bated breath to see the outcome on Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, Hawaii. Some of the most potent pain and cancer medicines ever discovered (and awaiting discovery) reside in coral reefs around the globe.

Almost three million acres of forestland have burned in Russia, including 20,000 dried-up peat bogs as it's experiencing what their top weatherman is now calling a one in one thousand year heat wave. Moscow reached 100 degrees for the first time in recorded history.

This spring and summer, forest fires have charred six million acres in northern Canada and now NASA's Aqua Satellite has recorded enormous plumes of carbon monoxide from the fires forming a ring around the planet as it moves northward.

Billions of native bark beetles have laid waste to 81 million acres of forests in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Colorado and Wyoming in the largest feeding frenzy in modern times. As temperatures rise, forests dry out and trees are unable to manufacture gooey pitch, their only means of protection against the beetles.

Those forests are of paramount importance for holding winter snowpacks, which have been diminishing over the past 50 years, releasing moisture slowly in the springtime and providing fresh water to about 55 million people across the West. And Lake Mead, the enormous reservoir of the Colorado River that feeds Arizona, Nevada, California and Northern Mexico, is the lowest it's been since first being filled in 1930.

Droughts in Russia have caused one third of the grain crops to fail and the price on the world markets has spiked wheat by 70 percent and barley by 50 percent.

In April, Australia experienced a biblical plague of crop-destroying locusts encompassing 190,000 square miles or the size of Spain. Another swarm is now amassing and $1.8 billion worth of pastures, cereal and forage crops are at risk.

Torrential monsoonal rainfall has affected 14 million people (6 million children) in Pakistan. Over 700,000 people have been evacuated to 450 relief camps.

Interestingly, there is a link between the torrential rains in Pakistan and inferno heat in Russia. As air was pumped into the upper stratosphere by monsoonal Asian winds it created a high pressure condition thousands of miles away conducive to heat waves now blanketing Russia.

Energy efficiency in America is a necessity.

The lawmakers in Washington must retro-fit all government buildings, colleges and military facilities across our nation. About five million people on Main Street need jobs. Moreover, by painting rooftops

SEE NATURE PAGE 8

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail

I WALK MY DOG MANY DAYS A WEEK down by the Santa Monica Pier, and I always love cutting through the Chess Park. The players are usually very engrossed in their games, as they try to outthink their opponent a play or two ahead. I'm not a very good chess player. I've played maybe a half dozen times in my life. But when it comes to thinking through problems, I'm excellent.

It's one of the traits that makes me a good divorce lawyer, I can sit for hours and think through the various ways the other side is going to manipulate a situation. A huge part of strategy and negotiation is knowing what the other side wants. If you can figure out what the other side wants, it makes it easier to either give it to them and move past the conflict, or withhold it, so that you can get what you want.

For instance, two weeks ago I spent six hours in a court trying to get a settlement in place. Mom had filed a motion with the court, saying she was "concerned about the sleeping arrangements" of her 6-year-old daughter when she was with dad. The subtext was mom was worried about dad molesting the little girl. This was her third attempt at such vile slander and the third time that either a Child Protective Services investigator sided with dad, or the pediatrician, or the psychologist and now a social worker appointed by the court.

Her attorney was of a type that I can only describe as angry, bitter, defensive, attacking, and thinks their client does no wrong — ever. We spent the better part of the day going back and forth, and in the end, we arrived at an agreement which was so weak, that it became obvious to me mom never had any doubts about dad — he's a perfectly wonderful father. This was all about control.

We see that same dynamic played out in the Levi Johnston and Bristol Palin drama. They have allegedly just reached a custody agreement wherein he gets some limited visitation with his son, and they "share" legal custody, but if they can't agree, then her decision wins. That doesn't sound very equitable to me, and in fact it is the type of arrangement that can lead to increased anger and resentment because the father has no real say in the decision making process.

Why would Bristol at 20 years old be considered such a better parent than Levi, that he should have less than a 50 percent say in how his son is raised? Why is he so limited in the amount of time that he is given in a custody battle? Again, it's about control.

For the best current example of the way the strategy game is played we have only to look to Oksana Grigorieva and Mel Gibson. She has masterfully boxed him into a corner on the child custody issue.

He's got his part in this drama of dysfunction, but her actions speak to me of a person who very thoroughly thought out how to get what she wanted.

Her stated reason for making the recordings was to "protect herself" if something should happen that night, because she was so scared for her safety. I'm sorry, but I'm calling her out on that one. I am in no way saying that she wasn't in danger, or that Mr. Gibson's behavior was acceptable in any fashion. It absolutely was unacceptable for him to be so threatening on those recordings.

Which is why I am calling her out. It was so unacceptable that anyone else would have hung up. I tell people when they are scared for their safety, they should leave for a safe location, call the police and/or arrange for an emergency protective order, but staying on the phone and recording the call is a brilliant strategy move. Having the presence of mind to record a call, and to remain so calm throughout the tirade is a winning combination for a restraining order, and a civil settlement.

I don't know if his tirade was unprovoked or not, and frankly the law doesn't care, his behavior was unacceptable. All the element of provocation does is humanize him, a fact that I'm not inclined to stress based on his homophobia, bigotry and general contempt for humanity.

My point though is, like a good game of chess, or a nasty custody battle, strategy matters, and going into a situation with a strong strategy prepared allows one to come out of it victorious.

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

The Q Line

Rolling feast

The City Council last week approved a new permit that allows property owners to turn parking lots into mobile food truck courts.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Are you interested in dining at these impromptu dining spots?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Judge frees thief sentenced to potential life term

A prisoner serving a potential life sentence for stealing food from a Los Angeles church will be a free man.

A judge on Monday ordered the release of Gregory Taylor, who was sentenced in 1997 under California's three-strikes law. Taylor cried as the judge amended his term to eight years and the courtroom erupted in applause.

The Stanford Law Project filed a writ of habeas corpus to have Taylor released, and the district attorney did not oppose it. Paperwork for his release will take at least two days to complete.

Taylor was arrested 13 years ago while trying to pry open a screen above the church's kitchen door. A priest testified Taylor was often given food and allowed to sleep at the church.

Taylor was convicted of burglary and was sentenced to 25 years to life because of two prior robbery convictions.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Test results shows progress among state's students

Newly released data shows that California students continue to make progress in English and math despite deep budget cuts to public schools.

The California Department of Education on Monday released results of the 2010 Standardized Testing and Reporting program, or STAR tests.

The department says the percentage of California students that scored at or above the proficient level in English rose two points to 52 percent. In math, it rose two points to 48 percent.

State schools chief Jack O'Connell says California students have made gains in reading and math for eight consecutive years.

He says all groups have made academic progress, but black, Latino and poor students continue to trail their white and Asian peers.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Lifeguards warn swimmers after shark sighting

Lifeguards in San Diego are warning beach-goers to swim at their own risk after reports of sharks near the La Jolla shore over the weekend.

Lifeguard Andy Lerum says lifeguards using high-powered binoculars spotted what they believe to be a great white about 50 yards from the beach on Sunday at about 5 p.m.

Lifeguards say a kayaker also reported seeing a shark about the length of the boat Sunday morning.

Lerum does not know if lifeguards later saw the same shark.

He says most swimmers were staying out of the water Monday in the two-mile-long stretch from La Jolla Cove to Scripps Pier covered by the 24-hour warning.

He says sharks are not often seen so close to shore. The last fatal shark attack in the area was in 2008.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Defense questions witness in Smith case

A hospital psychiatrist who has been critical of Anna Nicole Smith's doctor for overmedicating the model was accused Monday by a defense attorney of weaning Smith from addictive drugs too quickly and ignoring the celebrity model when she went into distress.

The cross-examination of Dr. Nathalie Maullin by attorney Steve Sadow, who represents Smith's lawyer-boyfriend Howard K. Stern, was the first volley in a battle of doctors expected to dominate the case.

Stern is a co-defendant in the drug conspiracy case.

Maullin testified she treated the former Playboy model at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center when she came in pregnant and in withdrawal from the painkiller Methadone and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax.

Maullin said she concluded that Smith's doctor, co-defendant Sandeep Kapoor, had prescribed drugs that amounted to "overkill" for Smith's condition.

On cross-examination, Sadow elicited testimony from Maullin that she diagnosed Smith in 45 minutes as having a borderline personality disorder and ordered her weaned off Xanax.

Testimony also indicated Maullin was slow to respond when she began receiving calls from the hospital reporting Smith had hallucinations, couldn't sleep, was agitated and had fallen out of bed, suffering bruises.

Maullin said she didn't rush to the hospital when the calls came in over two days reporting Smith was extremely agitated and impatient.

Maullin said she didn't consider it an emergency.

"She was safe. She was in a hospital. Nothing bad was going to happen to her," said Maullin.

A nurse's notes from the period showed that Smith was complaining of pain all over her body, Maullin acknowledged. But she said she was never told that.

Maullin said when she did arrive at the hospital, she encountered Stern who had been at Smith's side throughout.

"I think he cared very much how she was," said the witness.

"Do you remember telling him the detox might have been too aggressive?" asked Sadow.

"I could have," she said.

Kapoor, Stern and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide excessive opiates and sedatives to Smith. They are not charged in her 2007 overdose death.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Model's lawsuit against talent agency dismissed

Court records show a former beauty queen has dropped a lawsuit that accused a top talent agency and one of its agents of unwanted sexual advances.

The dismissal was filed Monday in a federal court in Los Angeles.

Boxer takes new path with current Senate campaign

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON California Democrat Barbara Boxer has been charmed in her three previous runs for the Senate.

Her first race was in 1992, nicknamed the Year of the Woman, when female voters in California made their presence felt after the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Her re-election campaign six years later came as California's economy sailed along and as voters felt more optimistic about the country's direction than just about any other time in the last quarter century.

Her third Senate campaign took place as the ranks of Democrats soared in California and in the midst of growing anger and pessimism about the war in Iraq. Boxer was one of the war's leading critics.

No politician wins three terms to the U.S. Senate without a strong resume and campaign presence, but it's also clear that Boxer has run under favorable political conditions that bear little resemblance to what she faces this year.

One of the Senate's most liberal members finds herself battling for a fourth term amid a struggling economy, a general anti-incumbent mood and persistent Republican criticism of government spending.

Another potential vulnerability for Boxer: Republican challenger Carly Fiorina is her first female challenger in a Senate race, muting a potential advantage in a state where women comprise the majority of the electorate.

That's why the race between Boxer and Fiorina is considered a toss-up, even in a state that tilts heavily Democratic in statewide elections.

"It's the first time Barbara Boxer has run when she's swimming against the tide instead of with the tide," said Ken Khachigian, a campaign adviser for Fiorina.

Boxer is aware she has a fight on her hands: The most recent fundraising reports show she has more than $11 million in the bank and expects to spend at least $35 million. But she adamantly disputes any contention that the political climate is worse now than during previous races.

"I think my first race was tougher, and I think my race with Matt Fong was tougher," Boxer said.

Indeed, Boxer has consistently said all her races have been tough, and for the most part, she's right, but she appears to be discounting some of the favorable events she had going for her in her previous races.

In her first Senate race, California was going through difficult economic times, with unemployment nearing double digits, but there were no incumbents to blame.

Fellow Democrat Dianne Feinstein also ran that year in a special election. Electing two women to the U.S. Senate represented a historic opportunity that enticed more women to go to the polls. Women made up 53 percent of the voters in the 1992 general election, up 2 percentage points from the election four years earlier.

"Women were strongly for both of those candidates," said Mark DiCamillo, director of the nonpartisan California Field Poll, "and women were a majority of the voters."

Even so, the race didn't break Boxer's way until the campaign's final days, when GOP challenger Bruce Herschensohn was confronted by a Democratic operative at a campaign stop and accused of visiting strip clubs. He acknowledged visiting a strip club once, but the issue dominated the airwaves and helped Boxer win by a 48 percent to 43 percent margin. By comparison, Feinstein won her race 54 percent to 38 percent.

Six year later, it would be hard to find a better time to run as an incumbent. The state's unemployment rate hovered at around 5.5 percent most of the year and 57 percent of California voters believed the country was moving in the right direction — the second highest yearly total in the Field Poll's history. The issue that voters most wanted the candidates to talk about was education — at 31 percent. Jobs and the economy ran a distant third at 6 percent.

Court puts hold on gay marriages pending appeal

LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A federal appeals court put same-sex weddings in California on hold indefinitely Monday while it considers the constitutionality of the state's gay marriage ban.

The decision, issued by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, trumped a lower court judge's order that would have allowed county clerks to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on Wednesday.

Lawyers for the two gay couples that challenged the ban said Monday they would not appeal the panel's decision on the stay to the U.S. Supreme Court. They said they were satisfied the appeals court had agreed to expedite its consideration of the Proposition 8 case by scheduling oral arguments for the week of Dec. 6.

"We are very gratified that the 9th Circuit has recognized the importance and the pressing nature of this case by issuing this extremely expedited briefing schedule," said Ted Boutrous, a member of the plaintiffs' legal team. "Proposition 8 harms gay and lesbian citizens every day it remains on the books."

Attorneys for sponsors of the voter-approved measure applauded the decision. In seeking the emergency stay, they had argued that sanctioning same-sex unions while the case was on appeal would create legal chaos if the ban is eventually upheld.

"I think the basic notion that this case is not final until it's gone through the complete appellate process really prevailed," said Douglas Napier, a lawyer with the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal firm.

"Rather than have this kind of pingpong effect of having the decision overturned, appealed and then overturned again, it's better to have this kind of decision," he said.

Under the timetable laid out Monday, it was doubtful a decision would come down from the 9th Circuit before next year.

A different three-judge panel than the one that issued Monday's decision will be assigned to decide the constitutional question that many believe will eventually end up before the Supreme Court and further delay a final outcome.

County clerks throughout the state had been preparing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples for the first time since Proposition 8 passed in November 2008. The measure amended the California Constitution to overrule a state Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex unions earlier that year.

"I'm sad, but I'm also glad that I didn't pay the $100 to reserve an appointment at the clerk's office," said Thea Lavin, 31, of San Francisco, who had planned to wed her partner, Jess Gabbert, 30, if the stay were denied. "This has happened so many times before where we take two steps forward, one step back."

Chief U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker had ordered state officials to stop enforcing Proposition 8 beginning late Wednesday afternoon after ruling Aug. 4 that the ban violated the equal protection and due process rights of gays and lesbians guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

The ban's backers appealed that ruling and also asked the 9th Circuit to block same-sex weddings in the meantime. They claimed in papers filed with the 9th Circuit that gay marriages would harm the state's interest in promoting responsible procreation through heterosexual marriage.







VETS
FROM PAGE 1

Tillman said. "And I think it's a good indication of how committed our secretary is toward that end."

Since learning about the seldom-used VA buildings in 2004, Santa Monica Mayor Bobby Shriver has been a leading advocate for turning all three structures into facilities for homeless veterans.

"Vets moving is the goal line — if we're going to cross that goal line in 2012 that's great," he said of the announced construction timeline for Building 209. Once completed, the facility could house 75 homeless veterans, Tillman said.

Shriver said the scale of Los Angeles' homeless problem should encourage federal officials to work to complete the renovations of the other two VA buildings designated for homeless services.

"With thousands of homeless veterans there's absolutely no reason to wait on the other two empty buildings," he said.

"EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO ACCELERATE THIS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL."

Ralph Tillman,
Chief of communications and external affairs for the VA's West L.A. Healthcare Center

To begin work on Building 209, the U.S. Congress must first give its approval.

A spokesman for Feinstein, Gil Duran, on Monday said the senator was committed to getting the project authorized by Congress quickly. Its approval has not yet been attached to a pending bill, he said.

A spokeswoman for Waxman could not be reached for comment by deadline Monday.

nickt@smdp.com



NATURE
FROM PAGE 4

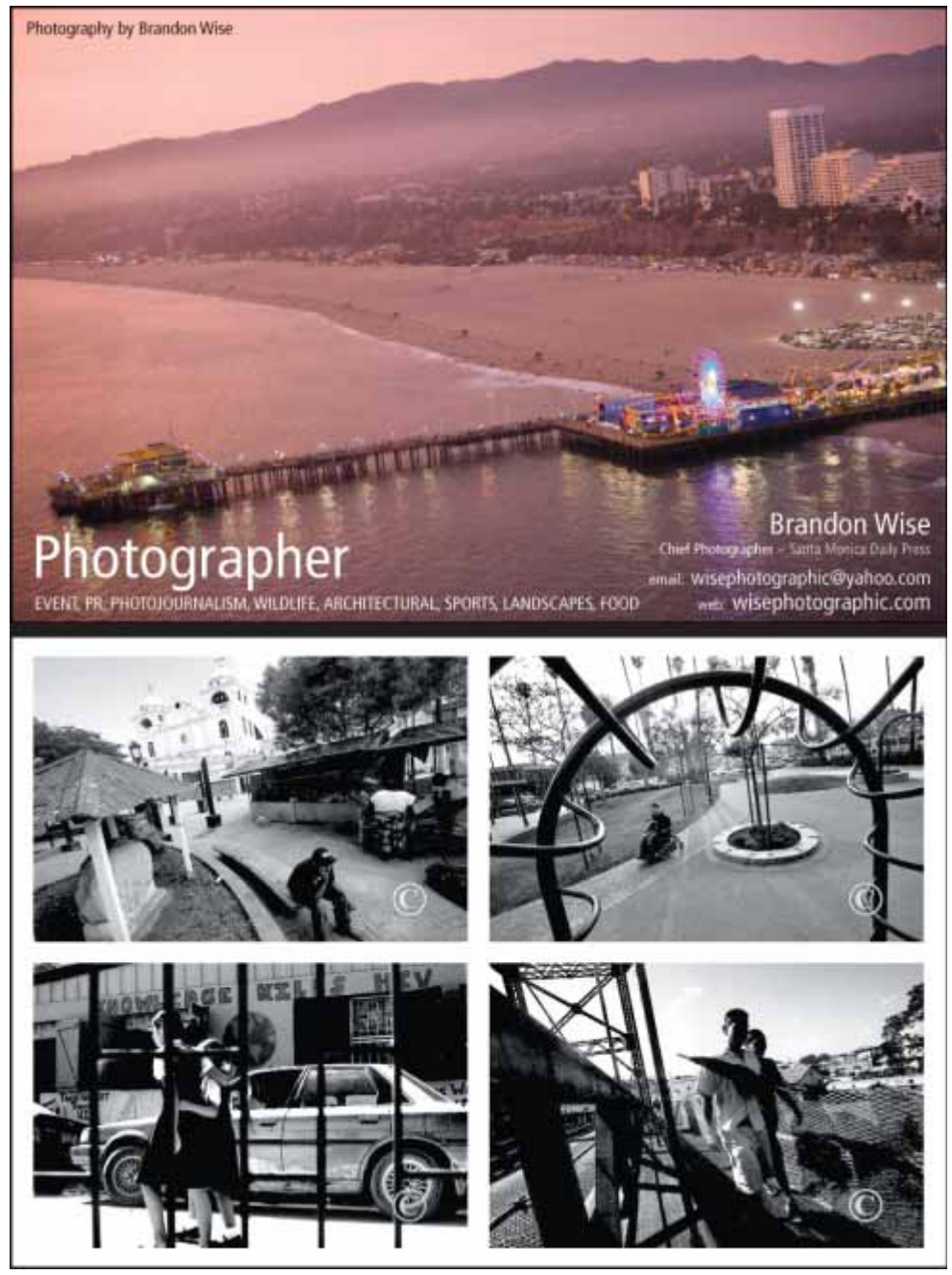
white, air conditioning costs on government buildings will be reduced by $750 million dollars a year, which can help offset workers' salaries. In addition, white roofs will mimic millions of square miles of missing sea ice, helping to cool the Earth's temperature.

Texas oil giants Valero Energy and Tesoro Corp have mounted a fear campaign to thwart AB 32, California's Global Warming Law, this November. Californians have always valued the environment first and foremost. It's time to take a stand, once and for all, and allow innovation to deliver a made-in-America green technologies energy solution.

DR. REESE HALTER is a science communicator and the voice for ecology.







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SOS
FROM PAGE 1

summer it has rallied to do just that," said Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs President Shari Davis.

The committee in charge of the fundraising drive consisted of more than 100 volunteers. More than 1,000 people participated in the campaign, which brought in donations from more than 2,000 contributors, including businesses, foundations, community members and parents.

"The success of Save Our Schools breaks a number of records for the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation," said Linda Gross, the foundation' executive director. "Not only is this the largest dollar amount that we have raised in such a tight time frame, but this campaign has seen more volunteer and community participation than any previous campaign in our history."

"OUR COMMUNITY HAS DEMONSTRATED TIME AFTER TIME THAT IT CARES ABOUT MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF OUR LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THIS SUMMER IT HAS RALLIED TO DO JUST THAT."

Shari Davis,
Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs President

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VIDEO
FROM PAGE 3

plastic pollution in California and beyond.

"Rather than lecturing the audience, we wanted to create a film that would capture people's attention with humor," said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay. "At the same time, we saw this as a subversive way to make viewers realize the serious, far-reaching problem of single-use plastic bag pollution."

Though lighthearted in tone, the short film hammers home the stark reality of California's plastic bag pollution situation: 19 billion bags are used every year, creating over 123,000 tons of unnecessary waste, costing taxpayers $25 million in cleanup costs a year, Gold said. Less than 5 percent of all single-use plastic bags are recycled, with many ending up as litter and in the ocean as plastic pollution.

The state Senate is expected to take a floor vote on AB 1998 by the end of August. The measure would create a uniform statewide policy for addressing all types of single-use bags. The governor has indicated his support if the bill reaches his desk.

If passed, the landmark bill would make California the first state to ban single-use plastic bags at supermarkets, convenience stores and large retail establishments with pharmacies; limit the distribution of paper bags at these stores to encourage consumers to adopt reusable bags; and require reusable bags to be available for purchase at these stores.

"The big goal and challenge for me was creating a piece that was both entertaining as well as informative," said mockumentary director Jeremy Konner of Partizan Pictures. "I come from the world of comedy, and I believe strongly in the power of humor as a way of making accessible that which otherwise could be inaccessible, uninteresting information,"

With little to no budget, the entire film project was created solely with donated time and resources — many from Heal the Bay supporters within the entertainment industry who believe in the concept and the cause.

The film was shot on location throughout Los Angeles and is available on the Heal the Bay website, www.healthebay.org, as part of its marine debris education and advocacy work.

Earlier this year, Heal the Bay launched the first part of this campaign with "Trash Your Friends," an April Fools' Day prank, in which users could "trash" a website with animated garbage to call attention to plastic bag blight.

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Obama hits road to stump for Democratic candidates

BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

MILWAUKEE Flying thousands of miles to reap millions of dollars, President Barack Obama is dashing across the country to help his party retain power, essentially offering one familiar argument: Republicans don't solve problems.

"Don't give in to fear," Obama said Monday in his latest ominous vision of a country led by the opposition party. "Let's reach for hope."

Obama has settled on his message for the pivotal midterm elections, which means what he said Monday in Milwaukee will sound like what he says Tuesday in Seattle and Wednesday in Miami. He is covering more than 8,000 freewheeling miles in three days, the kind of personal attention that gets donors to the door.

This week offers not just a window for Obama to campaign — Congress is gone, his summer vacation awaits — but also a window into his thinking about the fall campaign. Despite deep voter impatience over the sickly economy, the White House is betting people will stick with Democrats if the choice is framed as one between those who act and those who obstruct.

On Monday, he warned of reliving a dreadful past, saying Republicans want voters "to be afraid of the future."

"The worst thing we could do is to go back to the very same policies that created this mess in the first place," Obama said at a fundraiser in Wisconsin. "In November, you're going to have that choice."

Obama has advanced all the big parts of his agenda — the massive stimulus spending bill, health care reform, the rewriting of rules for Wall Street — with little or no Republican support. Republicans counter that the president's policies have come at a huge cost to taxpayers far into the future without the payoff many voters want most: jobs.

Obama's campaign speech is filled with lines he has used for weeks. As intended, they usually yield fresh laughs and applause from local, friendly audiences who have never had occasion to hear them before. Like his metaphor about Republicans and driving: put the car in "D" (as in Democrat) if you want to move ahead, "R" if you want to go backward.

As leader of the Democratic Party, even with diminished appeal, Obama has political job description that demands he help elect lawmakers and state executives who support his agenda. He needs them, too.

In Milwaukee, Obama spoke at a basketball arena to raise money for the state Democratic Party and for Tom Barrett, the city mayor who is running for governor in a competitive race. Campaign officials refused to say how much Obama raised. Lunch tickets cost $250, but getting a photo with the president could be had for $10,000 donation.

By nightfall, Obama was to be in Los Angeles for a glitzy fundraiser for Democratic congressional candidates at the home of television producer John Wells, whose hits include "The West Wing." The event, which also features House Speaker Nancy Pelosi plus such Hollywood figures as Steven Spielberg, included ticket packages that cost $30,400 per couple.

The president is also raising money over the next two days for Sen. Patty Murray of Washington; Gov. Ted Strickland of Ohio; and the Florida Democratic Party. By pairing official events each day with political ones, the White House can bill taxpayers for most of the cost of the trip, a tradition that predates Obama and one he plans to continue aggressively.

In November, all 435 House seats, one-third of the Senate, and a majority of governor's and legislative jobs will be on the ballot. Democrats now control the House and Senate, but the hurting economy has turned voters against incumbents.

Obama's official agenda each day is to underline his efforts to jump-start the lumbering economy. That was his message at ZBB Energy Corp. in Menomonee Falls, Wis., where he told workers they are helping rebuild America.

Shrimping season reopens after Gulf of Mexico oil spill

CAIN BURDEAU
MARY FOSTER
Associated Press Writers

GRAND ISLE, La. Fishermen who spent much of the summer mopping up oil from BP's disastrous spill got back to work as the fall shrimping season in Louisiana's coastal waters opened Monday amid anxiety over whether the catch will be tainted by crude and whether anyone will buy it even if it is clean.

Scores of shrimpers headed out at first light, and early reports indicated a plentiful and clean catch.

"We're not seeing any oil where I'm at. No tar balls, nothing," said Brian Amos, a 53-year-old shrimper who trawled in his 28-foot skiff, The Rolling Thunder, in a bay near Empire.

It was a step toward normalcy for many coastal towns that have been in limbo in the nearly four months since the spill shut down fishing, an economic linchpin for dock owners, restaurants and many other businesses along the Louisiana coast. Louisiana ranks first in the nation in shrimp, blue crab, crawfish and oysters, and the state's seafood industry overall generates an estimated $2.4 billion a year.

Also Monday:

— Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, who is overseeing the oil-spill crisis for the government, said it will take at least a week to permanently plug the well with mud and cement once he gives the go-ahead for the "bottom kill." He said he is not sure when that will happen, because scientists are working on ways to perform the kill without further damaging the well.

— The Obama administration announced it is requiring environmental reviews for all new deep-water oil drilling, ending the kind of exemptions that allowed BP to drill its ill-fated well with little scrutiny.

— BP said it will give federal and state health organizations $52 million to help people dealing with stress and anxiety because of the spill, which erupted after the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon exploded April 20, killing 11 workers. The oil finally stopped flowing in mid-July after BP put a temporary cap on the blown-out well.

Amos and his fellow shrimpers were working in Louisiana's state-controlled waters, which extend three miles from shore. Shrimpers who ply those waters lost most of their spring season — which runs from mid-May to early July — because of the spill. The fall shrimping season runs from mid-August to December.

Shrimping is also open in state-controlled waters off Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas. Federal waters, which are open nearly year-round for boats to trawl for bigger shrimp, remain closed to shrimping off Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, though some spots could open within days, depending on the results of extensive tests.

Laboratory tests on seafood from the gulf have shown little hazard from oil, and a test is being developed for the chemicals used to disperse the crude, though there is no evidence they build up in seafood. Still, shrimpers are worried that the public won't want what they catch.

"I feel that we have had a bad rap on the perception of our product," said Andrew Blanchard, who waited Monday for shrimp boats to arrive at his processing plant in Chauvin. Fewer arrived than normal, five versus the usual 20 on a normal opening day.

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Stocks make minor gains

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks managed to break a four-day losing streak Monday by the slimmest of margins. Investors had no change of heart about the economy, however, and again poured money into the safety of U.S. Treasurys.

The Dow Jones industrial average fluctuated along with the other big market indexes throughout the day. The Dow closed down just over a point, but the other indexes had slight gains. There were more winners than losers on the New York Stock Exchange.

Investors were dealing with more downbeat economic news, but it wasn't bad enough to set off significant selling. A report on manufacturing in New York state fell short of forecasts and Japan became the latest country to show signs of slowing growth. The reports raised investors' concerns about the pace of the global economic recovery.

Analysts said Monday's short buying spurt was a pause following four days of losses that sent the Dow down almost 400 points.

"The market is really being controlled by (short-term) traders," said Mike Rubino, CEO at Rubino Financial Group in Troy, Mich. "The long-term investor doesn't appear to be anywhere in sight."

Without those long-term investors, trading is expected to remain erratic for the foreseeable future.

The Dow fell 1.14, or 0.01 percent, to 10,302.01. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.13, or 0.01 percent, to 1,079.38, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 8.39, or 0.4 percent, to 2,181.87.

The Nasdaq, which has fallen more than the other indexes, got a lift from technology company deals. Among them, Dell Inc. said it is buying 3Par Inc., a maker of data storage equipment, for about $1.13 billion.

Advancing stocks were ahead of losers by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume remained extremely light at 3.15 billion shares, down from Friday's 3.35 billion. Many traders are on vacation. And those who are at their trading desks are making few moves in an uncertain economy.

Investors continued buying Treasurys, driving interest rates lower. U.S. government bonds are looking more and more appealing to investors wanting to find a safe place for their money as the economy cools and stocks drop.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.57 percent from 2.68 percent late Monday. Its yield is often used to help set interest rates on mortgages and consumer loans.

The yield on the 10-year note is near the level it last hit in March 2009 when stocks fell to a 12-year low.

"It's a sign of pessimism that investors accept that low a yield," said Joe Heider, principal at Rehmann Financial in Cleveland.

Japan said its economy grew just 0.1 percent in the second quarter, well below the 1.2 percent growth in the first quarter and short of expectations. The report follows signs last week that both the U.S. and Chinese economies are not growing as fast as earlier in the year.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said manufacturing activity in the state rebounded slightly this month after falling sharply in July. Despite the modest gain, activity did not expand as much as had been forecast, which indicates that economic growth remains tepid.

The New York Fed's Empire State Manufacturing Index rose to 7.1 in August from 5.1 in July. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters forecast the index would rise to 8. It was 19.6 just two months ago.

Regional manufacturing reports have shown a broad slowdown in recent months. That's particularly discouraging because manufacturing provided the most consistent signs of growth during the first few months of the year.

The reports are the latest to indicate that the global economy is growing, but not as fast as it did during the first few months of 2010. The slowdown has concerned traders who were predicting growth to pick up during the second half.

"We're scared of our own shadows here," said Jamie Cox, managing director at Harris Financial Group in Richmond, Va. "We need to readjust our signs from above-trend growth. If not, we're going to be perennially disappointed."

News about the housing market was also discouraging. The National Association of Home Builders said its monthly index of builders' sentiment fell in August for the third straight month.

3Par rose $8.35, or more than 86 percent, to $18. Dell fell 5 cents to $11.96.

Lowe's Cos. said Monday its quarterly profit and revenue rose, though both measures fell short of forecasts. The home-improvement retailer also lowered its full-year revenue forecast. Lowe's rose 11 cents $19.70.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 and Germany's DAX index both rose less than 0.1 percent. France's CAC-40 fell 0.4 percent.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

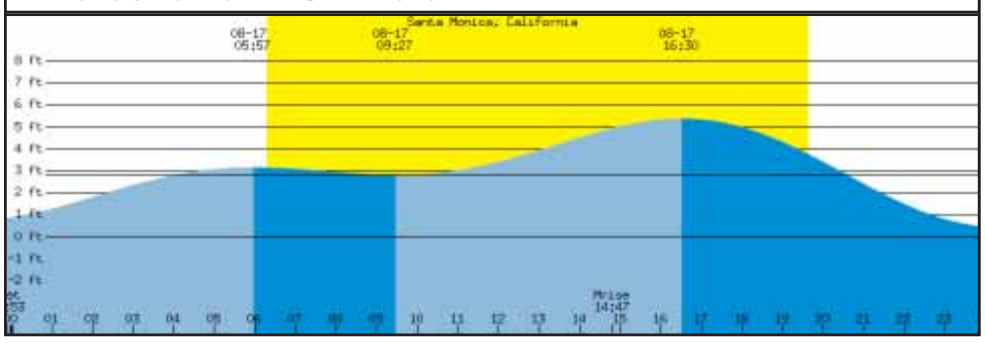
Swell Forecast

Looks like another small day, perhaps knee to waist.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a slight increase in southern hemi swell, enough to bring consistent waist high waves to 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 **August 11, 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 -- 44/ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4/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 Lechusa and Las Alisa 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
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce 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.	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18948 PCH stairs.	D	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.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	F	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.	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.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay'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.

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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NCAA FOOTBALL

Trojans begin to regroup

GREG BEACHAM,
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The admission form for Southern California football practice is a page long. People wishing to stand on the sidelines while the Trojans work out must fill in their driver's license number, age, phone number, e-mail address and name of employer.

They also must assent to six declarations, including: "You agree not to arrange, provide or promise to provide any benefits to any current USC student-athlete (or their relatives or friends) from yourself or on behalf of anyone else," and "You certify that you are not an agent (e.g., sports agent, marketing agent or financial advisor to athletes) or any such agent's employee, representative or affiliate (including 'runners')."

If the applicants pass this test, they can stand where actor Will Ferrell, thousands of casual fans and maybe even a few unscrupulous characters stood for much of the past decade. So far during the Trojans' first training camp after severe NCAA sanctions, the sidelines have been mostly empty and silent.

"I don't really notice it," center Kristofer O'Dowd said. "It's just one of the things we need to deal with in these sanctions. We'll handle it, no problem. We're handling everything they throw at us."

This is USC football for a new age — more cautious, less boisterous, yet still determined to be the best on the West Coast.

The Trojans can't do things the way former coach Pete Carroll did, but the men in charge of the rebuilding project still believe there's something special in the program that has produced seven Heisman Trophy winners — including the Heisman bearing Reggie Bush's name that was returned last month.

"I do not imagine SC fans ever lowering expectations," coach Lane Kiffin said. "I would be shocked, and I hope they don't. We didn't come here for that."

Kiffin's practices at USC's downtown campus sometimes bear little resemblance to the freewheeling affairs run by Carroll on the way to seven Pac-10 titles and two national championships over the past decade. The team that gathered for its first workouts of training camp earlier this month was smaller than any team in recent memory, thanks to transfers brought about by the sanctions.

The Trojans already know they won't finish their season in a bowl game: USC is serving a two-year bowl ban, four years of probation and several additional restrictions. While a few players left the school, the majority of USC's top talents stayed, determined to realize the dream Carroll sold.

"I do get a sense from the players that they have an us-against-the-world mentality, that everybody is counting them out," Kiffin said. "I don't really look at it that way or emphasize that, but I think it's helping some of our players."

Kiffin took over a few months before USC was sanctioned, putting a coach with his own history of NCAA missteps into a possibly awkward situation. Mike Garrett, the athletic director who hired Kiffin and labeled the sanctions as jealousy, was replaced before new school president Max Nikias even assumed his job.

Nikias hired former USC quarterback Pat Haden, a successful businessman and television commentator who believes in building an athletic department with a focus beyond the Coliseum. Right after taking the job, he spoke of his passion for women's athletics, his desire for students to experience the world outside their sport, and his overriding determination to run a clean department.

"I understand football is the 800-pound gorilla, and we've got to feed the beast, but we're going to have a good overall program," Haden said. "We're going to try to be perfect in our compliance."

To that end, Haden is putting together a nine-person compliance department and stringent controls on nearly everything Kiffin does. J.K. McKay, Haden's former Trojans teammate, is a constant presence at practice as Haden's liaison to the team.

Haden and Nikias even met with the football team before its first practice, but anybody expecting an antagonistic relationship between the new administrators and the flashy young coach has been disappointed. Kiffin is warmly supportive of Nikias and Haden, who have expressed optimism about Kiffin's ability to implement their desires.

"He's my coach, and I love my coach," Haden said.

USC appealed some of the sanctions against the program on June 25, seeking to cut in half its bowl ban and scholarship restrictions. A ruling on the appeal isn't likely until several months into 2011.

The sanctions essentially allowed any unhappy players to leave the school without penalties, and several took advantage. Defensive end Malik Jackson transferred to Tennessee, fullback DJ Shoemate headed to Connecticut and linebacker Jarvis Jones went to Georgia.

Yet Kiffin believes every player who left the Trojans was in search of more playing time, looking to play closer to home or simply not fitting into the USC program.

The players who stayed attacked their offseason conditioning workouts with a new vigor. Sometimes they even got too vigorous: Fullback Stanley Havili and defensive back T.J. Bryant got into a fight on the final day before training camp, leaving Bryant with a fractured cheekbone. The players made up immediately afterward, but Kiffin still suspended Havili for one day of camp.

Until their season opener Sept. 2 at Hawaii, the Trojans will be hard at work in front of tiny crowds on campus. Even with all the disadvantages stacked against them, the Trojans were picked to finish second in the Pac-10, a measure of respect for the talent still wearing cardinal and gold, now practicing in silence.

USC's roster is still dotted with future NFL draft picks such as defensive tackle Jurrell Casey, defensive end Armond Armstead and wide receiver Ronald Johnson. Matt Barkley had an up-and-down first season as USC's quarterback, but he was just a freshman. His potential is enormous.

But the Trojans' opportunities are limited by the sanctions and the atmosphere around the program is definitely different.

"It might be a good thing," Barkley said. "We don't know yet. This is all new."

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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Toy Story 3 (G) 1hr 49min
1:30pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:40pm

Middle Men (R) 1hr 45min
4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:05pm

Despicable Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Kids Are All Right (R) 1hr 44min
2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

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

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:40pm, 3:55pm, 7:15pm, 10:35pm

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
11:40am, 2:55pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:05pm, 7:55pm, 10:40pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:10pm, 3:45pm, 7:10pm, 10:25pm

Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Step Up 3D (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:10am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:35pm

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:50am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:05pm, 10:45pm

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

Mademoiselle Chambon (NR) 1hr 41min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Extra Man (R) 1hr 48min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Peepli Live (NR) 1hr 46min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Farewell (2003) (NR) 1hr 30min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

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

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore 3D (PG) 1hr 22min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 6:45pm, 9:00pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:05pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Expendables (R) 1hr 43min
11:00am, 11:50am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

The Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 2:25pm, 5:05pm, 7:55pm, 10:40pm

Flipped (PG) 1hr 30min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Let your mind wander, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ A willingness to forge a new path is nothing new for you. Still, others need to see what happens when you do just that. Many will demonstrate interest and admiration. Be careful with someone who is perpetually stern. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)
★★★★★ Listen to your instincts, especially if you're confronted with too much work. You could be exhausted by your daily life and work. Understand the importance of taking better care of yourself. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others are full of energy and vitality. You will be challenged to match their performance. Focus on your goals. A child, loved one or new friend wants your attention. Tonight: Know that you are not the Energizer Bunny. You need your rest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Focus on accomplishment and getting the job done. You might feel pressured by a personal or domestic matter. You are on top of your game; a boss respects your skill at handling pressure. Tonight: Accomplish as much as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination takes you elsewhere. Unless you are extremely agile and quick, others could be upset. You are a natural conversationalist. Force yourself to screen calls and other distractions. Tonight: Let go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your sense of direction helps you cruise past an immediate hassle. Your finances draw a lot of attention. Remember your priorities. Value security more than money when making decisions. Stay on top of a problem. Tonight: Happy to go home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You could try many different ways of communicating the same message. The opportunity to practice this ability easily could arise in a conversation. Keep calling a key person who you need to hear from. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your inner voice pushes you in a certain direction, especially regarding finances and partnership. Follow through, even if you cannot logically explain what you are thinking. Use care with someone you meet today. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your spunkiness could be daunting to many. If you indulge in spontaneous behavior, you'll land on your feet. One associate or friend might be taken aback, but many people admire your independence. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Kick back and let others demonstrate their ability to lead and integrate different information. You still could wind up doing more than your fair share of work. Others simply respect what you say. Many are more comfortable when you lead. Tonight: Use your instincts with a boss or older friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Zero in on a key desire. Meetings provide a wonderful platform for meeting new people and also swapping information. Understand that you cannot see every option. Encourage others to play devil's advocate. Tonight: Where people are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Understand what is going on with a boss. You might not like his or her style, but you have little choice. Employ special care with your finances, especially as a partner has very different ideas from yours. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

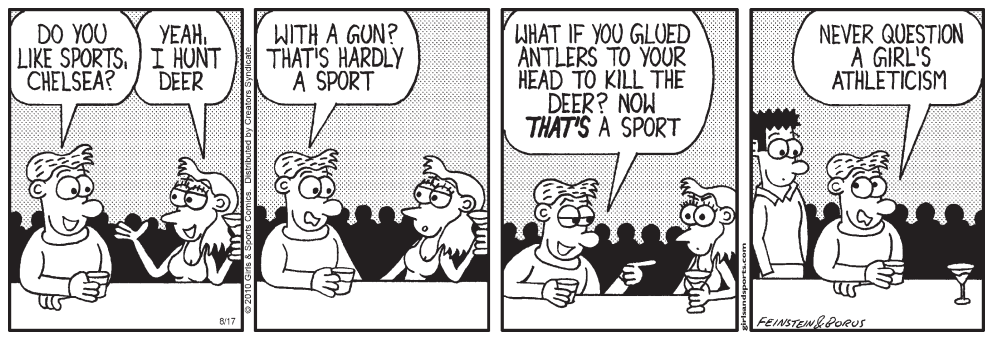
Happy birthday

This year, much comes down your path that could be very exciting. The unexpected runs riot in your life, encouraging you not to take the status quo for granted. Many of you will learn to let go of a need to control situations. Some of you will opt to go back to school and learn more in your chosen field, or go into a new field of study. Travel also could be very appealing. Be open to letting go of certain mental pictures. If you are single, you could meet someone very exciting, only to suddenly meet someone else equally as exciting. Trust yourself to know when you meet the right person. If you are attached, the two of you also gain through getting away from your routine. Consider a second honeymoon. SAGITTARIUS always is up for adventure.

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

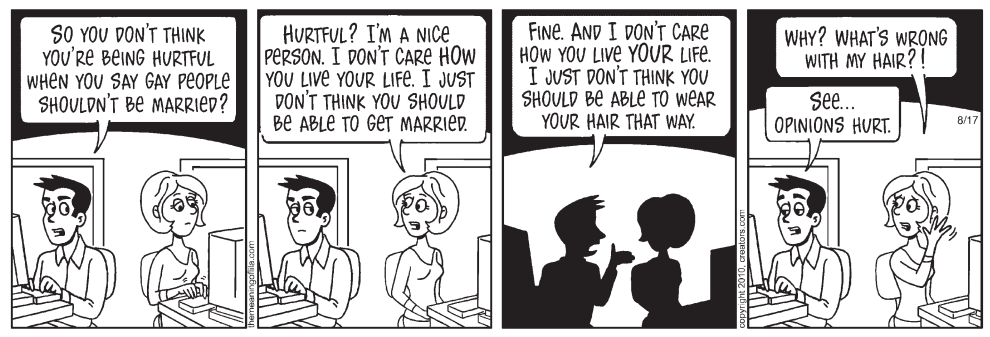
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



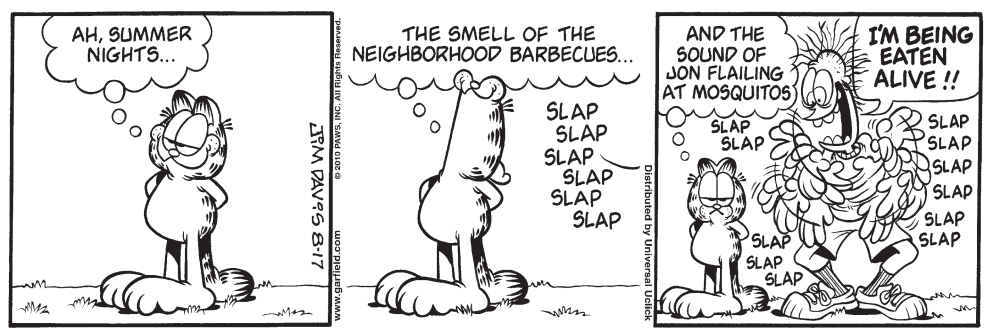
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



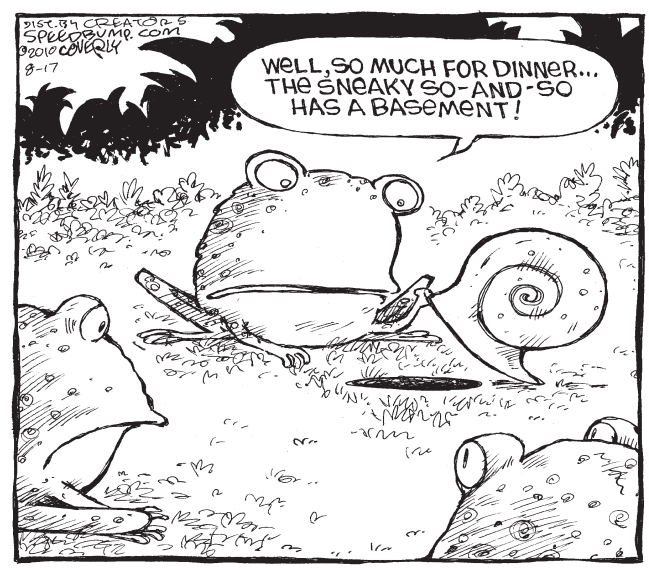
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly





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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Taxi feature
6 No-frills
11 Send away
12 Wear down
13 Old serving aid
15 Baseball's Mel
16 Museum stuff
17 Lummox
18 Baseball-cap feature
20 Swift
23 Hunting weapon
27 Resting on
28 Author Sheehy
29 Piper of rhyme
31 Screen dot
32 Zealous
34 Dressing ingredient
37 Simple denials
38 "That's it!"
41 Insect-eating bird
44 Circle spokes
45 Chicago airport
46 Stopped
47 Zodiac sign

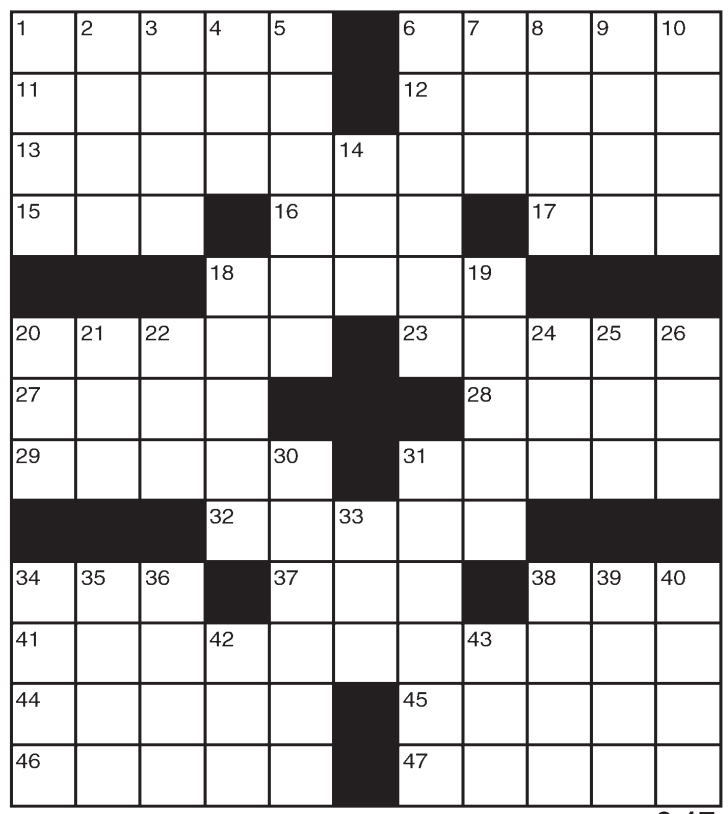
DOWN

1 Office note
2 Way out
3 Incline
4 Moose kin
5 Settled a debt
6 Casino patron
7 Pendulum path
8 Manhattan area
9 Concept
10 Bennett of "What's My Line?"
14 1040 org.
18 Deadly snake
19 Unbending
20 Ludacris' music
21 Had lunch
22 Kettle
24 Phoned copy
25 Tell tales
26 Building wing
30 Noisome
31 Duel weapon
33 Large snake
34 Storybook monster
35 — instant
36 "Shane" star
38 Melville captain
39 Frau's spouse
40 Vicinity
42 Draw
43 Greek X

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



8-17

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 17 24 43 55 Meganumber: 36 Jackpot: $86M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 12 24 36 40 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 7 19 25 34 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 3 9 EVENING: 7 1 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 10 Solid Gold 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:41.15

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

■ They Don't Make "Drug Lords" Like They Used To: (1) Widely feared Jamaican drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke was arrested in June and extradited to New York City after being picked up wearing women's clothes and a 1970s-style Afro wig too small for his head (with a pink wig on standby). The Jamaica Observer reported that Coke wet his pants as he was arrested. (2) Longtime South African drug lord Fadwaan "Fat" Murphy, speaking at a bail hearing in January in Cape Town, disclosed that he was born a hermaphrodite and has a separate identity ("Hilary"), which became relevant when arresting officers discovered that Murphy was wearing a strap-on penis. Nonetheless, he insists he is a man: "I look like a man. I talk like a man. I am a man."

■ "(A) new high point" in electoral politics in Philadelphia occurred this spring, according to the publisher of Philadelphia Gay News, when openly gay state Rep. Babette Josephs "outed" her primary opponent Gregg Kravitz as straight. According to Josephs, the heterosexual Kravitz was posing in Josephs' gay-friendly 182nd District as bi-sexual. Kravitz said he is "attracted" to both men and women and found Josephs' comments offensive.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1914 World War I: Battle of Stalluponen – The German army of General Hermann von François defeats the Russian force commanded by Pavel Rennenkampf near modern-day Nesterov, Russia.

1915 Jewish American Leo Frank is lynched for the alleged murder of a 13-year-old girl in Marietta, Georgia.

1918 Bolshevik revolutionary leader Moisei Uritsky is assassinated.

1942 U.S. Marines raid the Japanese-held Pacific island of Makin (Butaritari).

1942 World War II: The U.S. Eighth Air Force begins regular combat operations in Europe with an attack on the marshalling yards at Rouen-Sotteville.

1943 The U.S. Eighth Air Force suffers the loss of 60 bombers on the Schweinfurt-Regensburg mission.

WORD UP!

incunabulum
\ in-kyoo-NAB-yuh-luhm \ , noun;
1. The earliest stages or first traces of anything.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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MOVING SALE
Items include couch, chair, ottoman, entertainment center, kitchen table, coffee table, lamps, night stands, kitchen wares, etc!
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For info and pictures go to
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TREK 7200 Hybrid Bicycle
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Gently used, 2 years old. Tires still have excellent tread. Feels like a cruiser but gears and road tires make it fast and easier to ride.

Will throw in manual tire pump and kryptonite lock with key. Specs are listed below. Serious inquiries only.

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617 MIDVALE, 2+1.5 Townhouse style. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, tile countertop, wood and carpet floor. W/D hookups, parking, no pets. $2600/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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2+1, $1995

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MAR VISTA 12760 Matteson Ave #5 1+1 $1085/mo stove, fridge, tile and wood-floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets non smoking call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $750 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12309 Culver Blvd. #14 stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, utilities included, intercom entry, gated no pets. $975/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. Units 4 1+1 $925 stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, balcony, laundry, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

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

SANTA MONICA $1275.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, stove, refrig, patio, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #108 Open daily for viewing 8am to 7pm. Additional info in apt Mgr: apt #101 (310)780-3354

SANTA MONICA $1595.00 2 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, stove, refrig, parking 2533 Kansas Ave., #106 Open daily 8am to 7pm. Additional info in apt Mgr: apt #101

WLA $1700/MO near Bundy/SM Blvd. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, upper, large closets, fireplace, appliances, laundry, parking, attractive, smaller building, (310) 828-4481

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Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
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Investment Opportunity



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Easy to Show



614 26th Street
4 Bed, 4.5 Bath
$1,749,000
North of Montana
Franklin School District
Call for Appointment
Easy to Show



1031 18th Street #5
3 Bed, 3 Bath
$885,000
Wonderful Townhouse
Franklin School District
Open Sunday August 22nd
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Just Reduced!!



124 Idaho Avenue #303
3 Bed, 3 Bath
$1,190,000!!
Beautifully Remodeled
New York Style Condo
Killer Location:
Corner of 2nd & Idaho
Call for Appointment
Easy to Show

New Listing



11687 Montana Ave #208
2 Bed, 1.75 Bath
$519,000
Huge Balcony!
Open Sunday August 22nd
2:00pm - 5:00pm

For Sale or For Lease



1000 Westgate #211
1 Bed, 1.5 Bath
$439,000 or $2,349/ Month
Spacious Condo
Great Location!
Open Sunday August 22nd
2:00pm - 5:00pm



1325 Washington Unit #E
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$439,000
Top Floor Unit
North of Wilshire!
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2:00pm - 5:00pm

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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from ALL Agents from ALL Companies Listed for Sale As of Mid August 2010

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$1,995,000	$2,105,000
North of Montana	$3,495,000	$1,395,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,614,500	$709,000
South of Wilshire	$773,500	$649,000
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$569,000
Ocean Park	$1,439,000	$909,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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