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TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 250

Santa Monica Daily Press

TROJANS GO 3-D
SEE PAGE 16

We have you covered

THE ENJOY SUMMER WHILE IT LASTS ISSUE



WELCOMED ADDITION

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Visitors to the Santa Monica Pier use the new public bathroom facility on its opening day Monday.

Preparing for the next four years

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Jenny Saldana has a long to-do list for the next four years — join the crew team, drama club, engineering society and fight for social justice causes.

And of course, finish college.

Saldana is among the hundreds of high school graduates from Santa Monica who will begin college in the next few weeks, some going to far-away universities to leave the familiar comfort of Southern California, others attending schools closer to home.

For all, it's a momentous step into adulthood.

"I just want to do things I have never really done before like being on the crew team and go to Europe to study abroad," Saldana, who will attend Santa Clara University, said. "There are so many things I want to do in that school."

She will begin school next month with some idea of what to expect in college, like the heavy courseload and sea of unfamiliar faces. But like most college freshmen, Saldana knows to expect a year of adjustments.

Such was the case for Erin Nadel, a Santa Monica High School graduate who will become a sophomore at Vassar College in New York and described her first year as being bumpy, mostly due to issues staying healthy and problems with her roommate.

Nadel was one of many students in her dormitory who contracted mononucleosis, an illness she said is common in college because of the close living quarters.

"In general I always felt like I always had a cold," she said. "It's like going to preschool for the first time because suddenly you're around people who have germs from the entire country and you're living together and eating together."

She learned that maintaining a routine schedule, going to sleep and waking up at regular hours, is not only good for staying physically healthy, but also staying mentally

SEE COLLEGE PAGE 9

Cities to get less sales tax

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The economic downturn continues to hurt businesses in Santa Monica where city officials are expecting to see less money come in from the state this month because of declining sales tax revenues.

The California State Board of Equalization, which collects $53 billion annually in taxes and fees to support state and local government services, recently sent letters to 337 finance directors notifying that there will be a reduction in the local monthly allocation for August because of an unprecedented drop in taxable sales this year.

For City Hall, that means a payment of about $1.67 million, which reflects a decline of about $209,183.

There are 768 cities that receive the monthly allocation which is based on a formula that includes historical allocation, growth factor adjustments to the base, transfer and audits, and cash receipts. The state receives returns from most retailers on a quarterly basis but pays local governments an advance monthly to keep the money flowing, adjusting it after the reports are completed, Anita Gore, the board spokeswoman said.

"We have been anticipating a 14.4 percent decrease so everybody knew that sales would be down in the economic downturn and the result in taxes would be reduced that go to local (governments) but the downturn has been greater than anticipated," Gore said.

The reductions this month affected those jurisdictions whose decline in revenues were greater than 21.4 percent. About 15 other municipalities received letters stating that they would not receive any August advance.

"Because there is estimating that goes into these and it's not precise until we get all the information in and all the returns are scrubbed to make sure nobody made an error in reporting, which takes several months, those localities that took an even greater hit … are the ones whose allocation we reduced this time," Gore said.

While city officials didn't anticipate the

SEE TAX REVENUE PAGE 8



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Fight Multiple Sclerosis with Bike MS
Library Alehouse
2911 Main Street
Join Bike MS and the Library Alehouse as they raise awareness and funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis. 15 percent of the entire day's sales will be donated to Bike MS. Amazing Race host Phil Keogan will lead a training ride, beginning at the Library Alehouse at 5:30. For more information, call (310) 479-4456.

Group fun at Wokcano
Wokcano Santa Monica
1413 Fifth St., 8 p.m. — 2 a.m.
Wokcano is pleased to host group party evenings throughout the week on the beautiful outdoor deck. Bring your friends for dinner and drinks to celebrate milestones, or simply to enjoy the warm and inviting lounge setting every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call (310) 458-3080 for more information.

Exploring history through photography
First United Methodist Church
1008 11th St., 9 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
FUMC presents a beautiful, free photo exhibit by church member Allan Walker to coincide with the Santa Monica Pier's 100th anniversary. This exhibit will be open daily through Sep. 9. For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

Wednesday, August 26

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 4th St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Join us for free dance lessons, followed by dancing on the club's 3000 square foot floor. Waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle and more — no partner necessary. Admission is $10. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

LeTip Business Referral Club
Best Western Hotel meeting rooms
Santa Monica Blvd. and 19th St., 7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Business owners and professionals meet each Wednesday morning to share tips or referrals to help one another grow their businesses. 7 a.m for breakfast. First visit is free. Call (310) 920-9649 for more information.

Writing your college essay
Montana Ave. Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Get tips for writing your college essays. Learn how to write essays that set you apart from other applicants: learn about pitfalls to avoid, the difference between UC and private college essays and more, from independent college counselor and professional writer Tiiu Lukk. Call (310) 829-7081 for more information.

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

In the My Write column published in the Aug. 24 edition of the Daily Press – "Look what's coming to town: Higher taxes and lower speeds" – it should have stated that the committee studying the feasibility of an emergency parcel tax will report to the school board on Dec. 10.

AP Source: Coroner rules Jackson's death homicide

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles County coroner has ruled Michael Jackson's death a homicide, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press, a finding that makes it more likely criminal charges will be filed against the doctor who was with the pop star when he died.

The coroner determined a fatal combination of drugs was given to Jackson hours before he died June 25 in his rented Los Angeles mansion, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the findings have not been publicly released. Forensic tests found the powerful anesthetic propofol acted together with at least two sedatives to cause Jackson's death, the official said.

Dr. Conrad Murray, a Las Vegas cardiologist who became Jackson's personal physician weeks before his death, is the target of a manslaughter investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department. According to a search warrant affidavit unsealed Monday in Houston, Murray told investigators he administered a 25 mg dose of propofol around 10:40 a.m. after spending the night injecting Jackson with two sedatives in an unsuccessful attempt to get him to sleep.

The warrant, dated July 23, states that lethal levels of propofol were found in Jackson's system. Besides the propofol and two sedatives, the coroner's toxicology report found other substances in Jackson's system but they were not believed to have been a factor in the singer's death, the official said.

Murray has spoken to police and last week released a video saying he "told the truth and I have faith the truth will prevail." His attorney, Edward Chernoff, had no immediate comment but has previously said Murray never administered anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

A call to the coroner's office was not returned Monday.

Murray did not say anything about the drugs he gave to Jackson.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Send a (beef) salami to your boy in the Army

Help the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan feel a little more comfortable with a care package filled with goodies from home, including batteries, baby wipes, dried fruit and People magazine.

The Santa Monica Police Officers' Association is collecting items to send to troops overseas as part of a national effort that has supplied the men and women in the armed forces with more than 12,000 care packages.

The SMPD currently has one officer in Iraq, and another just returned home from his deployment.

Those who would like to donate can drop off items at the Public Safety Facility, which is open 24 hours a day, at 333 Olympic Dr.

The collection period ends Sept. 13.

Items on the troops' wish lists are gum, candy, nuts, hand sanitizer, canned tuna, travel-size board games, Q-Tips, white athletic socks and pre-sweetened powdered Gatorade and Crystal Light, among other items.

People are encouraged to write letters of appreciation to the troops. Non-prescription medicine such as aspirin, eye drops, foot powder, lip balm and sun block are also needed.

No pork products can be shipped to Iraq and Afghanistan, which are Islamic countries. Due to postal regulations, no aerosols can be mailed.

For more information on the donation drive, visit www.forthetroops.us, or call Paula Cornell at (805) 306-0830.

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photo courtesy Jana Strain

DEEP BREATH: **Jana Strain (center), a Canadian freediver and resident of Santa Monica, set a new Pan American Women's Freediving Record Aug. 21 with a swim of 181 meters (594 feet) on a single breath, in two minutes and 20 seconds at the Aarhus Swim Stadium in Denmark.**

Swimmer puts a strain on her competition

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

DENMARK Santa Monica resident Jana Strain is making waves across the globe as a top competitor in her sport: freediving.

Strain, who is Canadian, set a new Pan American Women's Freediving Record Aug. 21 with an underwater swim of 594 feet in one breath, breaking her existing record of 561 feet. Her swim lasted two minutes and 20 seconds. Strain is only the fifth woman to

SEE STRAIN PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Investing in the future

Editor:

"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When I consider the opportunities I was given growing up and that my children have had, it breaks my heart to know that right here in Malibu and surrounding communities we have parentless, homeless, disadvantaged children who need our help. As a volunteer for Safety Harbor Kids (SHK), I have seen first hand the difference that SHK is making in the lives of these kids. Founder John Williams was once a homeless, parentless teen in Malibu himself. Now a successful businessman, he and his wife Petrie founded SHK to provide a support system for local children living in the foster care system.

The kids that SHK serve typically have been abused and/or neglected. Many of them live in group homes run by staff and are expected to go out into the world on their own when they turn 18. I recently met one such young man, Giovanni, who dreams of becoming an architect and had been taking architecture classes at a community college. Then he "aged out" of the system and had to scramble to find a place to live and a way to support himself. This is a critical juncture for him. If he gets support (like a paid internship and some training), he can continue on an upward trajectory. If not, he'll have to take a menial, dead-end job just to survive. SHKs is working with foster children in the 10-17 age range to give them training, support and options for when they turn 18.

Please join us as a volunteer or contributor. Consider bringing your children and teens to the SHK events to help others and also to gain an appreciation for what they've been given. SHK has many programs to enrich the lives of our local at-risk kids in the foster care system and offers a safety net to keep them from falling through the cracks. For more information, please visit www.safetyharborkids.org.

Cynthia Randall
Volunteer
Safety Harbor Kids

Outsource the prisons

Editor:

Can you guess why California is having a financial problem? This is the annual cost of keeping people in prison:

$18,031 – Texas ($29.40 per day)
$20,108 – Florida ($55.10 per day)
$20,524 – Illinois ($56.23 per day)
$25,823 – New York ($70.75 per day)
$49,000 – California ($134.24 per day)

We have an option other than letting out half of the inmates. Gov. Granholm of Michigan has offered to charge us $30,000 per year to house our inmates. Is that better then releasing them?

David Alsabery
Santa Monica

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A child is calling for help.



Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tenacious pinyon woodlands

TREES ARE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL, long-lived forms of vegetation on our planet. Some are tall like the redwoods or massive like sequoias while others are exceptional water conservationists.

Pinyon pines fall into the latter category as they have carved out a niche on the edge of deserts occupying an astounding range of over 75,000 square miles in the American southwest.

The Spanish named them pinyon or nut-bearing pines because of their very large, wingless seeds. Pinyon seeds are popular in salads and pesto.

Pinyon pine and their constant companion juniper grow in low, open forests or woodlands. Tree canopies do not touch because moisture is scarce.

The history of pines is rich and dates back over 180 million years to the age of the reptiles. About 75 million years ago the pines migrated into North America across the wide Bering land bridge that several times connected Alaska with Siberia.

Many species migrated as far as the Mexican highlands, which today boasts exquisite diversity of pines.

Sixty million years ago, during the Paleocene Epoch, the North American climate began to warm and get drier. Ocean and land cores show that a massive drought ensued for 30 million years forcing any vegetation that remained in the U.S. southwest to become drought tolerant.

The great moisture-loving redwood forests of Nevada perished, making way for the incoming drought-hardy pinyon pines.

There are about 100 species of pine worldwide. Interestingly, there are 11 species of pinyon pines; two in the U.S. and nine only found in Mexico. In addition, there are three species of junipers found throughout the pinyon woodlands.

Single-leaf pinyons of California, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and Utah exhibit a fantastic distribution found with barrel cactus of the Sonoran Desert at 3,200 feet above sea level and with the high elevation bristlecone pines at 9,700 feet on Utah's Frisco Peak.

The Colorado pinyons of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma also display an impressive range from the frigid Great Basin Desert of Wyoming to the edge of the Mogollon Rim to the fringes of the high wind-swept plains of the Oklahoma panhandle.

Pinyons exhibit a remarkable genetic variability providing a deep pipeline for continuing evolution and protection from climate change.

One unlikely curator, the bushy-tailed wood rat, has given scientists a glimpse of the vegetation patterns of the southwest over the past 30,000 years.

Bushy-tailed rats build their homes or middens amid rocks. They drag dry sticks, cones, needles, dried leaves and anything shiny into their middens. Over time the debris becomes well trodden and encrusted with residue from evaporated urine. Essentially, the urine welds the material together leaving a shiny surface.

Well-preserved middens found in caves are wonderful museums containing animals and plants from the last ice age.

Vulture Cave above the Colorado River in the lower Grand Canyon is one such example that has provided paleo-scientists a rare opportunity to see the woodland forests that crept down the hills and lived in the valley bottom during the Pleistocene when temperatures were almost 6 degrees cooler with 7 inches more precipitation.

The gregarious and raucous-voiced pinyon jay is a conspicuous critter in these woodlands. Flocks of a hundred or so birds regularly sweep through these forests.

Pinyon pines produce two colors of seeds. Light tan seeds are mostly empty and completely disregarded by the jays. The chocolate-brown seeds, on the other hand, are carefully examined first for their weight. Then a "click-test" is performed on the seed whereby the bird rapidly opens and closes its mandibles. Presumably the seed must make the right sound, otherwise its discarded.

Pinyon jays store up to 20 seeds in their elastic esophagus and fly as far as six miles away. They carefully place several seeds into the litter of dead needles and twigs on the forest floor, remembering where most, but not all, of their food or caches are located.

It's an elegant symbiotic relationship: Tree feeds birds and birds plant trees. The seeds are an important food source for stellar jays, Clark's nutcrackers, small ground mammals, black bears and desert bighorn sheep.

Pinyon pines were central to the Hopi, Zuni, Pueblo, Washoe, Shoshone, Paiute and Navajo nations.

Gooey pitch was used to cement turquoise into silver settings, to waterproof basketry water jugs and to give stone griddles a nonstick surface — analogous to Teflon.

Medicinally, the pitch was used for dressing wounds and fumes of burning gum were inhaled to cure colds and ear aches.

The seeds were collected in the fall by entire tribes and stored as a crucial winter food source. They were eaten raw, roasted, boiled whole or ground into flour.

Pinyon seeds are rich in proteins, amino acids especially tryptophan (facilitating restful sleeps), fats, complex carbohydrates, phosphorus, vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin and niacin.

My favorite snack while working in the woods is pinyon pemmican — toasted pinyon seeds and chocolate chips with a light sprinkle of shredded coconut.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and conservation biologist. His upcoming book is entitled "The Incomparable Honey Bee," Rocky Mountain Books. He can be contacted through www.DrReese.com.



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ham hock happiness

IT'S THE END OF THE SUMMER SEASON. Seriously. We are at the last two weeks before summer is unofficially over and we begin the speed trials to Christmas. It's been an odd summer for me, well, it's been an odd year for that matter.

So far this summer, I've taken just two quick trips, one to the river and one to Las Vegas. The Vegas trip last weekend was great, and if it is any indicator of the overall health of the economy, we're definitely on the rebound. All summer I've been inundated with "hotel specials" and "super low rates" from the MGM Mirage hotel chain. And when I finally get out to Vegas, "we're sorry, those are unavailable" and we had to stay in a smoking room, because they were all sold out of the non-smoking rooms.

In short, Vegas is packed. Maybe it's the "end of summer" rush as people are fleeing their homes and troubles, but I watched people and what I saw was a great many bags that were filled with shopping goodies, and not from the 99 Cents store.

There is something delicious about the end of the season, as we wind down the summer and start to put away the plastic party-ware and get out the fine china, we can take a moment to enjoy the last few glimmers of carefree days. I realized the other day that I haven't been on my bike much this summer at all. In fact, I've taken it out once. That rather saddens me for it seems like a waste to not take advantage of the warm summer days and nights by cruising down the boardwalk.

As we close this season, it's a reminder that we should enjoy where we are, both physically and emotionally. Live fully in today. Enjoy the moment, because they go quickly.

I was walking my dog this morning, and as so frequently happens he taught me a lesson by reminding me to be in the moment. We were walking alone in the alley behind my house, right by the Community Corp. building. It was early and my thoughts were consumed with the upcoming week, and a particularly nasty paternity case I'm working on, where mom is trying every dirty trick in the book she can to cut dad out of the baby's life. I was lost in thinking through the ways in which I can use a particular case to my client's advantage, when all of a sudden my dog shoots off towards a pile of spilled food.

Generally this is an experiment in grossness. Dogs have an almost Republican ability to take pleasure in the most disgusting of things, but this morning he found a smoked ham hock — the kind that I would use to make barley soup, or red beans and rice with. Meaty and juicy, it was snapped up by him and we raced home so that he could gnaw on it in the privacy of his backyard.

The gusto with which he pulls me along, and his passion to enjoy this treasure has completely pulled me out of the mental state I am in. We are on a mission, a mission to get home safely so that he can enjoy his pirate's booty.

I'VE BEEN SO CONSUMED THIS SUMMER WITH THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND HOW IT IS AFFECTING MY BUSINESSES AND THE CHILD SUPPORT CASES OF MY CLIENTS, THAT I'VE MISSED OUT ON THE JOYS OF SUMMER.

Twenty minutes later there's not a bit of meat left on the bone, and the bone itself has been buried someplace I guess, since my dog's nose is covered in fresh dirt and his paws are wet from the morning sprinklers.

I've been so consumed this summer with the state of the economy and how it is affecting my businesses and the child support cases of my clients, that I've missed out on the joys of summer. Luckily there are still a couple of weeks to make it happen. I can still enjoy the last two Twilight Dance Series concerts this week and next, which is great, because I like Lila Downs, who is playing this week.

I can still enjoy a couple of morning bike rides to Playa Del Rey for breakfast before it gets too cold in the mornings. There's still time to play in the ocean while the water is warm and the sand is hot.

If I just remember that life throws out opportunities to enjoy, and they can come from anywhere, sometimes they show up like a ham hock in a spilled plate of food. A treasure to be enjoyed, because time marches on, and so do street sweepers.

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

Troubling increase

An article by the Daily Press revealed that crime is on the rise in Santa Monica. The majority of the increase has been fueled by property crimes.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Have you been the victim of crime this year? If so, what took place?

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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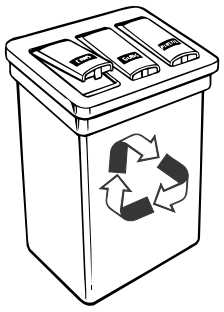


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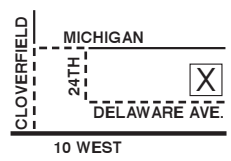


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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making lasting memories over an order of fries

I SPENT THE DAY WITH MY SON. NOW, granted I spend almost every day with my son. But some days are different. Some days, you take a step back and remind yourself to remember this. This moment right here. This is why it is OK that I am always tired. This is why I don't work anymore. This.

Benjamin and I had that kind of day recently. It was nothing big and special, nothing monumental. Nothing that was even Facebook status worthy. But some days you can't imagine how you are not incredibly grateful every day that you get to hang out and raise your child.

But not every day is like that.

Some days, you are vomited on in quick succession about five times (let's call that Monday). Some days your child wakes up at 4:45 in the morning declaring it is light out and time to get up (Tuesday and then also Thursday). But some days, like Wednesday, you head down to The California Science Center and The Space Museum just next door and you shoot rockets and look at satellites and watch all of the older kids in their matching T-shirts in their camp groups and you can't imagine how some day you won't be the one to take him to do all the cool things he likes to do. And you're glad he is only three and clings to you and loves you in that exhausting 24-hour kind of way. And you briefly get sad and protective thinking of him older in one of those T-shirts roaming through the world or at least this museum without you, but then you think of him giggling in the corner with his friends and sitting in The Space Museum's helicopter with a girl he likes and you get excited for him. Soon, in your mind, he is married with kids, a doctor, perhaps in a small practice, who does a lot of charity work.

But none of that is why the day was so special for me, though all of that was nice. It was one simple little moment. We got lunch at The McDonald's at the museum (no lectures please, probably only his second visit to McDonald's) and we got a Happy Meal and I watched him eat French fries. And it was the greatest thing I had ever seen.

He ate them with pure joy. We sat together in this big hall full of loud strangers, my child and I, and enjoyed the quiet connection between us. The fries weren't even that good actually. I ate one and thought I remembered those being better, but for him, they were a delight, a treat. And for me, sitting there with him, together, as he ate a meal I ate as a child as well, was lovely.

Eating those fries with him reminded me of my father. My father died when I was four and my own memories of him are few, if any. My mother tells a story about how he ate French fries. He would take a very long thin one and bite in the middle and then stack the two pieces on top of each other and then bite in the middle again, repeating the whole process until there was no more fry. When he did this it made my mother laugh. When she told me this story, it made me laugh. I don't know why. It's not particularly funny or clever. But the visual of it, for me as a child, was something I could physically do to try to imitate who he was, how he was. And I ate fries like that for years.

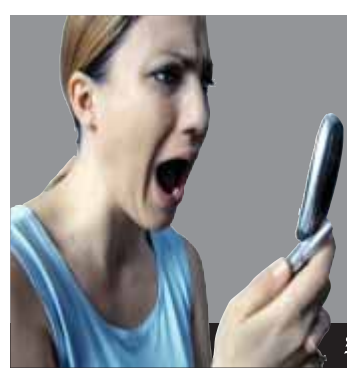
I SAT THERE WITH MY CHILD EATING FRENCH FRIES, KNOWING I NEVER REALLY GOT TO EAT FRENCH FRIES WITH MY DAD AND I WAS SURPRISINGLY NOT SAD. I WAS FILLED WITH LOVE FOR MY SON AND FOR ME AND FOR US AND FELT LUCKY THAT WE HAD EACH OTHER.

I sat there with my child eating French fries, knowing I never really got to eat French fries with my dad and I was surprisingly not sad. I was filled with love for my son and for me and for us and felt lucky that we had each other.

He will not remember that day. He is just three. Childhood memories before the age of four are limited. I know. But hopefully these moments of being together will provide him with a quiet confidence. I know they have for me.

Sometimes it is just a flash, just a moment, like that one, that reminds me to take stock, to look around, to adjust what needs fixing and to accept and feel proud for what I may have done right. I am not perfect. I do not always enjoy the day to day of being a stay-at-home mom. I admit that even on that day at the science center I may have hurried him along from activity to activity because I was bored. But he and I have created a bond and every now and then, like at a museum's McDonald's surrounded by a sea of campers, it announces itself grandly and quite simply knocks my socks off.

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



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In praise of unstructured playtime for tweens

ANNE WALLACE ALLEN
For The Associated Press

When we chose our house after moving to Boise in 2005, we definitely didn't go on curb appeal. Built in 1893, the house was clad in fleshtone cedar shingles, and the bathroom was so small that even the dog could hardly turn around in it.

Yet the house had one feature we loved: It was set in a neighborhood full of scooters, bicycles, swingsets, and other signs that children lived all around.

We were looking for a place where the kids could roam freely, as so many parenting books, blogs, and experts assure us kids don't get to do nowadays. And in our block, we found it.

The kids, now 11 and 9, swing on a tree swing three doors down. They disappear for hours into another neighbor's house, emerging with strange crafts they've created from scraps of wood in the basement.

This week, my daughter and four neighborhood friends spent days in our living room sewing stuffed animals out of mismatched socks, filling them with rice and beans, and selling them to raise money for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

It seems that whenever I talk to experts on childhood — be they psychologists, school principals or other parents — they bemoan the way that childhood has been taken up by structured activities. They talk about our children's over-scheduled, high-pressure lives.

Yet I know — or see — many people making a conscious effort to resist that trend. And despite the pressure we feel to help our kids succeed at sports, at music, and at school, many people manage to make room for play in their kids' lives.

"We have a swing next door, we have scooters, we have bikes, we have skateboards," said Shaun Hammersmark, a Boise landscape designer who works at home and has made a conscious effort to create an environment where her kids, ages 5 and 11, and others can play.

The experts tell us that letting kids play, instead of organizing things for them to do, helps them socially, physically and even academically. Play supposedly promotes creativity and enhances problem-solving skills.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says unstructured playtime helps children learn to share, to conquer their fears, to adjust to new situations, and to stick up for themselves. In a 2007 report, the Academy said free playtime and recess are slipping away as schools focus on meeting new academic achievement demands brought about by laws like No Child Left Behind.

Hammersmark said the freestyle play in her yard helps kids from ages one year to 12 learn to get along with others.

"They learn to work with each other, and what better education can you give your kids?" she said. The academics who study children and childhood tell us kids need to figure out playtime on their own. They don't need to be directed.

"They say, 'I'm bored, I'm bored,' but guess what, five minutes later you peek in and they're playing away," said Brandy Vanderlee, a mother of three in Macedon, N.Y.

There are scolds in the blogosphere who tell us that parents who let their children take risks by being on their own are neglectful. Plenty on the other side say parents overschedule their kids and hinder their development.

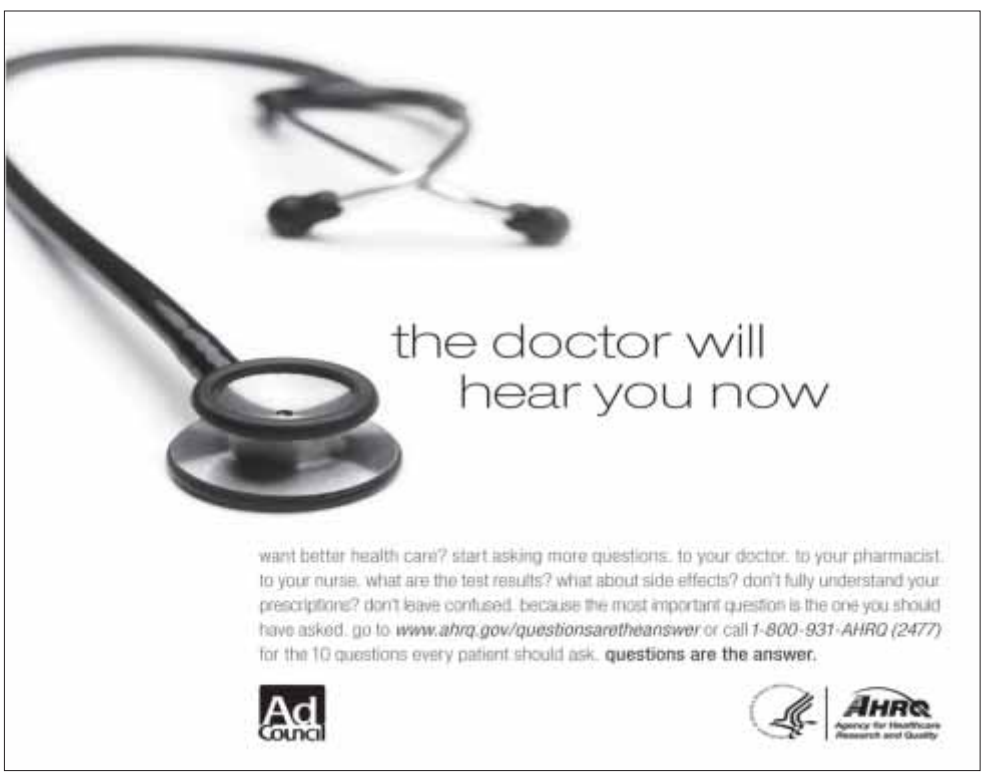
I don't know which side is right. But the kids I know seem happier when we just leave them alone to play.

"In most cultures and through most of history, people did know that kids needed time to play, but they didn't feel that adults should play with kids," said Stephanie Coontz, who teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash.

Until recent decades, "there wasn't this idea that parents should be intervening constantly to make things a teachable moment and expand their minds," said Coontz. "Their minds expand a lot better when they pursue things they're interested in for themselves."

And when they're playing on their own, their parents get a lot more stuff done. Sure, the sewing circle of kids in my living room ended up accidentally using someone's mother's $12 socks that weren't actually mismatched in the course of their stuffed animal creation. A small price to pay for the full day of uninterrupted working time that I enjoyed in my office about 8 feet away.

Then again, they weren't my socks.



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BIG DEBUT

photo courtesy Angel Aguilera

Former Santa Monica High School hurler Tyler Skaggs pitches in his first game for the Angels' minor league squad Saturday, Aug. 22. Skaggs pitched one inning of relief in the top of the sixth inning. He made 11 pitches, eight for strikes, three for balls. He struck out two and got a third batter to pop up.

City Hall sees payments go down by more than $209K

FROM **TAX REVENUE** PAGE 1

letter, they don't believe that the reduction will have a significant impact and will use reserves to fill any gaps.

> **IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT THE CITY WANTED TO SEE HAPPEN BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO CAUSE ANY IMMEDIATE NEED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES."**
>
> **David Carr**
> principal investment analysis
> City Hall

"It's not something that the city wanted to see happen but it's not something that is going to cause any immediate need to make any changes," David Carr, the principal investment analyst said.

City officials have however been expecting to see some decline in sales tax revenues, budgeting for a 9 percent reduction next year.

The nearby communities of Beverly Hills and Malibu also saw their allocations go down by $173,185 and $16,576, respectively. The county took a $365,843 hit.

The board previously sent similar letters to 460 finance directors in May. City Hall saw its monthly allocation reduced by more than $380,000 that month.

Carr said the state isn't taking money away from cities but is rather reducing its estimate of what the actual receipts from the quarter will be.

"The city will still receive what it should have received," Carr said. "The economy is worse in not recovering as fast as had been anticipated."

melodyh@smdp.com

Freshman advised to stay on top of classes, but be social

FROM COLLEGE PAGE 1

alert to keep on top of classes.

It was the courseload that made Nadel the most anxious in the months leading up to her first year in school.

"I was expecting it to be challenging but doable, which it was," she said. "The professors at Vassar are so responsive and interested in teaching and are willing to meet with you outside of class, so that was helpful for the transition."

Nadel said that freshmen should take advantage of what the college has to offer, contacting professors and using the services available, including tutoring, especially for writing.

"There is so much writing that I would suggest having some other pair of eyes look at your writing before turning it into a professor," she said.

One of the areas that proved to be the most challenging for Nadel was the living arrangement.

She lived with a roommate who had a long-term boyfriend who lived three hours away and would visit at least once a month. When they were apart, the roommate would be on the phone late at night, which caused further complications in their friendship.

"I put a huge emphasis on communication," she said. "Even though it's awkward to bring up something, especially if it's little, there is nothing wrong with it.

"It's better for everyone to talk about the living situation than build up resentment."

For Mary Echeverria, the first year was a bit smoother, choosing a school just 30 minutes away — California State University, Northridge.

"As long as you keep up with your classes and assignments, then it's fine," she said. "It's not hard, it depends on how much time and dedication you put into your school work."

Outside of the classroom, Echeverria said she was able to make new friends through students in her acting classes, which just by the nature of the curriculum helped her break out of her shell.

While she enjoys the social life, Echeverria is sure to balance that with academics, which can become challenging for freshmen who may all too easily embrace their newfound freedom.

Her advice is simple — stay focused.

"Being a freshman, there's always a lot of parties and social events to go to and a lot of people can get lost in that and fall behind," she said. "It's important to stay on top of your school work.

"Keep the parties to a minimum."

At the University of Southern California, students are advised during orientation week to get to know at least one faculty member every year and become involved with at least one outside classroom activity.

Amy Johnson, the associate dean of students at USC, which started classes on Monday, said the purpose of developing a healthy relationship with a professor is so that the student can have a mentor from whom they can seek advice.

The professor can also later play an important role — writing recommendation letters when it comes time to apply for graduate schools or jobs.

> **"IT'S IMPORTANT TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR SCHOOL WORK."**
>
> Mary Echeverria
> Samohi graduate

"We know from research that students who are connected to their college and have a healthy informal relationship with faculty and colleagues tend to do better academically," Johnson said.

Students who are involved in a non-academic activity, be it clubs or intramural sports, will have a familiar home base and build a better connection to the school.

"You learn the campus inside out as opposed to having the experience as a student," Johnson said. "It's important for students to not only get the full college experience, but to leave an imprint at the place they'll call home for the next few years."

Lori Dinsmore, who will head to NYU this Friday to begin her freshman year, has been preparing for college by talking to some of her friends who were a few years ahead of her at Samohi.

But she's looking forward to the experience rather than living vicariously through her friends.

Dinsmore will be heading nearly 3,000 miles away for school, but NYU, where she will major in film, will be filled with familiar faces. About seven of her classmates from Samohi will also enroll in the fall and five will be living in the same building.

Her roommates will be complete strangers from across the country.

"I'm kind of nervous about that because I'm generally very reserved," she said. "I've heard that during Welcome Week you have to be as sociable as possible and that will be the basis for how the rest of the year plays out."

Though she's moving far from home to a city where the climate is different and the people are notoriously more brash, Dinsmore said she's excited to see what the future holds.

"I've lived in Santa Monica my entire life and it's a big change so I'm sort of anxiety ridden but I'm sure I'll adjust once I get there," she said.

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- **Submission Deadline is September 18, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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CROWNED

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Pat Jacobberger awards first place in the Best Household Division to Tony during the Santa Monica CFA Cat Show at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Saturday, Aug. 22. More than 250 cats and kittens participated in the cat show.

Local sets new swim record

FROM **STRAIN** PAGE 3

swim more than 574.15 feet in one breath.

She competed at the International Association for the Development of Apnea Individual Indoor Freediving Word Championships in Aarhus, Denmark. The competition is held biannually.

"I was the first woman to swim of the day and it ended up being the longest swim of the day," Strain told the Daily Press Monday. "It was an amazing feeling after I completed what I had set out to do, I could then relax and watch the other athletes."

"I KNOW THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT I HAVE LEFT AND I'M EXCITED TO START MY NEW TRAINING PROGRAM."

Jana Strain
freediving record holder

This is the largest freediving event ever, with over 200 athletes from 40 nations. Dynamic apnea is an underwater swim for distance on a single breath of air using fins. Distance is measured with a metered tape measure, and judges ratify the performance. Other disciplines of freediving include tests in depth and time.

"For me, the most difficult part is dealing with my nerves before the swim," Strain said. "There are many different disciplines in freediving and I had been training for the last year. I have been training the pool dynamic disciplines heavily for six weeks before the competition and prior to that I was focused on depth. It would have been nice to have longer to train, but that is how things worked out for me."

Strain's journey into freediving began when she got her open water scuba certification. Within a year, she had traveled all over the world to dive and got her instructor certification. Strain wanted to learn to dive without gear, and in May 2008, she took her first course in freediving.

That year, Strain attended the association's team world competition and discovered her natural ability in dynamic apnea. Since then, Strain was voted the Best New International Freediver.

In 2009, Strain broke two Pan American freediving records, both without fins. She also won the title of national champion at the Canadian Indoor Finals in April before breaking her own record last week at the Denmark competition.

"I am a fairly new diver and I'm still working out things in training," Strain said. "At the competition I learned that I still have a long way to go. I am excited to get back home where I will try some new methods in training and I can focus on my journey into myself through freediving."

This September, Strain will be competing in the Triple Depth event in Dahab, Egypt. The event lasts from Sept. 1 — Sept. 7. Strain will finally come back to Santa Monica on Sept. 9.

"I know there is a lot more that I have left and I'm excited to start my new training program," she said.

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Cash for Clunkers a jolt for car sales but not a solution

KEN THOMAS &
STEPHEN MANNING
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON Now comes the hard part for the auto industry — luring customers without big Cash for Clunkers discounts.

The popular government rebates gave auto sales a jolt, but it was only temporary. Now car makers and dealerships are forced once again to confront the worst market in a quarter-century.

While Cash for Clunkers may have proved there are still car buyers out there, it is unlikely the heavy demand will last. In fact, the big rush to car lots this month may have had the unintended effect of stealing sales from this fall and next year.

"I am really worried about this winter," said J.P. Bishop, president of a dealership chain in central Maryland. "If you didn't buy now, the only reason you are going to buy over the next three or four months is because your car died."

Cash for Clunkers, which offered drivers as much as $4,500 off the price of a new, more fuel-efficient car, proved far more popular than anyone imagined. Through Monday, dealers reported selling 625,000 vehicles in just a month with the rebates.

The program was set to come to an end Monday night. The government had set the deadline on estimates that most of the $3 billion set aside for rebates would be used up by then. Analysts initially figured the cash would last as long as November.

Cash for Clunkers had its complications: Congress had to race to approve $2 billion more for the program after the first $1 billion quickly ran out. Dealers complained the government was slow to reimburse them for deals they made on new sales.

Hours before the Monday night deadline for Cash for Clunkers sales, the government gave dealers an extension, until noon Tuesday, to file the paperwork to get repaid. The deadline for sales was not affected.

The Transportation Department granted the extension after the Web site set up to handle the claims was temporarily shut down from overload.

For the auto industry, coming off the program could be like a letdown after a sugar high.

Automakers and dealers got a reprieve from a dismal year of plummeting sales, big layoffs and the bankruptcies of General Motors and Chrysler. GM actually added shifts at some plants to meet higher demand.

Cars, trucks and SUVs sold in July at an annual rate of 11.2 million vehicles, the first time this year the figure has crept above 10 million. That's still far below the 16 million vehicles sold just two years ago.

While Cash for Clunkers has helped the auto industry stabilize, it will probably take a full economic recovery to give car and truck sales a lasting rebound.

"There's still a sizable amount of pent-up demand that's going to be felt," said Erich Merkle, president of auto industry Web site autoconomy.com. He said the "baton of Cash for Clunkers" could eventually be passed to a "fundamentally stronger economy."

Sure signs of that, of course, are a ways off. Unemployment is still high and the housing market still weak, enough to keep people shy about making big-ticket purchases, said Rebecca Lindland, a Global Insight analyst.

"While this Cash for Clunkers program provided a respite for an ailing industry, we are not out of the woods yet and we still have a long road to recovery," she said.

There also simply isn't much left for drivers to shop for — especially when it comes to the most popular Cash for Clunkers vehicles, such as the Ford Focus, the Toyota Corolla and some hybrids.

GM, Hyundai, Toyota and Ford have ramped up production of their more efficient models because of inventory shortfalls, but those vehicles won't reach dealers for a while.

Automakers are approaching the next few months cautiously. They are moving to replenish dealer showrooms, but are wary about building too many cars if demand fizzles.

Ford, for example, has said it will boost production by 33 percent from a year ago during the fourth quarter. But Ford executives say that could change depending on customer demand.

GM spokesman John McDonald said Cash for Clunkers has been "very successful" for GM. He said the company estimates 30 percent of its sales increase during the period came from customers who didn't qualify for the government rebates but bought cars anyway.

But McDonald said that no one expects sales to keep going at that rate, and the automaker doesn't see the need to boost them through sales incentives.

"We think it's a good stimulus for the economy and a good way to get people interested in buying cars," he said. "But the idea to increase incentives to make up for this just don't make sense."

There are also signs that Cash for Clunkers may have sapped the market for the near future, with buyers taking advantage of the rebates and buying now rather than sticking to plans to replace their cars next year.

Last week, the automotive research company J.D. Power and Associates predicted Cash for Clunkers will flatten the auto industry's recovery by lowering sales next year. J.D. Power reduced its 2010 sales forecast to 11.5 million from 11.6 million.

"Because this was hot and heavy for such a short period of time, we are going to have a payback," said Jeff Schuster, executive director of forecasting at J.D. Power.

Associated Press writer Ben Greene in Glen Burnie, Md., and Kimberly S. Johnson in Detroit contributed to this report.

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US judge dismisses suit that split Obama, gays

LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA, Calif. A same-sex marriage lawsuit that created a public rift between President Barack Obama and his gay supporters was dismissed Monday on a technicality.

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter ruled the case — the first of several pending challenges to the federal Defense of Marriage Act — must be refiled in federal court.

Carter said the suit had been improperly filed in state court before it was transferred to his jurisdiction. As a result, the judge said, he would not entertain arguments on its merits, at least not yet.

"There is no point for us to go down the line of decision-making and waste time," he said during the hearing in Santa Ana.

The case, brought on behalf of a gay Southern California couple, argues that the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, violates the U.S. Constitution by discriminating against gay men and lesbians.

The 1996 law bars federal recognition of gay unions, including the granting of Social Security survivor payments and other government benefits to couples.

Six states have now legalized same-sex marriage, but the federal law still bars those couples from receiving the benefits.

Gay marriage supporters accused Obama of betraying them this summer, after U.S. Justice Department lawyers filed court papers in the lawsuit strenuously defending the federal law. As a candidate, Obama pledged to work for its repeal.

Following the outcry, the president issued a memorandum extending some benefits to federal employees with same-sex partners. held a White House reception commemorating the 40th anniversary of the birth of the modern gay rights movement, and otherwise sought to reassure restive gay leaders.

Last week, when Justice lawyers filed a new round of papers seeking to dismiss the California case, Obama issued a statement saying he still wants to get rid of the federal law, but the government has an obligation to defend the laws passed by Congress.

Richard Gilbert, the lawyer handling the case for the plaintiffs, said he would accept Carter's invitation to submit it again.

Gilbert said he took the suit to state court only after another federal judge refused to waive court fees for his clients, Arthur Smelt and Christopher Hammer. The Orange County couple are disabled and live on fixed incomes, he said.

Monday's action was the latest episode in a five-year legal losing streak for the couple. With Gilbert representing then, they first went to federal court to challenge both the federal law and California's refusal to grant them a marriage license in 2004.

A federal judge ruled against them, and in 2006 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did as well, saying marriage laws were a state matter and that Smelt and Hammer were ineligible to challenge the federal law because they were unmarried and hadn't tried to secure any federal spousal benefits.

The couple were among the 18,000 same-sex couples who got married in California last year, before voters amended the state constitution to ban gay marriage. They renewed their complaint after Proposition 8 passed in November.

"They keep trying to kill Smelt and Hammer, and it just won't go away," Gilbert said of the ongoing litigation.

Brian Raum, a lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal group that has joined the government in defending the federal marriage law, said Carter was right to dismiss the case on procedural grounds.

The federal government cannot be sued in state courts, Raum said.

Smelt and Hammer's lawsuit could be back in a federal court in a matter of months, when "ultimately it will come down to the merits," he said.

Earlier this year, a gay rights group in Massachusetts filed a lawsuit challenging the Defense of Marriage Act on constitutional grounds. and the state brought a separate case arguing that the law interferes with its right to establish its own marriage laws.

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriages.

STATE BRIEFS

IRVINE

1st new Calif. public law school in 40 years opens

California's first new public university law school in 40 years has opened with an inaugural class of 61 top-ranked students on full tuition scholarships.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky said at a ribbon cutting Monday that the School of Law at the University of California, Irvine, has already exceeded his expectations.

Chemerinsky says students selected for the three-year full tuition program had grades comparable to those at top-20 law schools, and private donations are approaching $30 million.

The school's faculty was recruited from major law schools and its curriculum is billed as innovative, stressing public service and unique legal challenges of the 21st century.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Oldest restaurant in San Francisco damaged in fire

A kitchen fire has caused about $20,000 in damage to the historic Tadich Grill in San Francisco.

Fire officials say the blaze started in a wood-burning stove Monday morning.

Deputy Fire Chief Pat Gardner said the fire was quickly extinguished, and no injuries reported.

The restaurant is the oldest in the city, established in 1849.

– AP

Yahoo to overhaul search before Microsoft deal

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SUNNYVALE, Calif. Yahoo Inc. will keep innovating in search and try to outsmart both Microsoft Corp. and Google Inc. even as the slumping Internet company prepares to lean on rival Microsoft's search technology.

That message emerged Monday as Yahoo previewed a series of search engine upgrades that it plans to introduce before the end of the year, just a few months before Microsoft is supposed to take over responsibility for powering most of Yahoo's search results.

With Microsoft handling the heavy lifting, Yahoo will focus more on designing special touches aimed at making its search results more useful than its rivals, said Prabhakar Raghavan, Yahoo's senior vice president of labs and search strategy.

"We are not going to be a version of Bing," Raghavan said, referring to the brand of Microsoft's search engine. "We are going to have our own Yahoo search experience."

Toward that end, Yahoo plans to devote the left column of its search results to other popular Web services like Facebook, Twitter, Yelp and even Google's YouTube. Click on any one of the icons there, and information from that service matching the search keywords will appear instead of the regular search results at the center of the page.

The feature will enable users to look at Facebook's personal profiles, Twitter's message updates, Yelp's restaurant reviews and YouTube's video clips without having to leave Yahoo.

By drilling deeper into destinations filled with personal information and images, Yahoo is betting its search engine will gain a reputation as the best place to research and discover things about people.

"Searching for people has been Google's domain," said Larry Cornett, Yahoo's vice president of search products and design. "We are going to take that away from them."

Yahoo will be pursuing its lofty ambitions in search with a smaller budgets and fewer engineers.

If it's approved by antitrust regulators, the Microsoft partnership is supposed to reduce Yahoo's spending on search by more than $500 million annually. Part of those savings will be achieved by transferring 400 of its 13,000 employees to Microsoft's payroll. Yahoo also expects to lay off an unspecified number of workers.

The cutbacks has convinced some analysts that Yahoo eventually will phase out of search entirely — a notion that Cornett tried to dispel. "Yahoo will continue to innovate in search," he said.

As it stands now, Google commands a nearly 65 percent share of the U.S. search market, with Yahoo at about 19 percent and Microsoft at nearly 9 percent, according to comScore Inc.

Yahoo's plans to bring more of a social touch to its search page mirrors what the Sunnyvale-based company has been doing in other parts of its Web site.

Late last month, Yahoo front page underwent a makeover that embraced more applications and information from Web sites. And now its widely used e-mail service is ushering in more outside applications as part of long-awaited changes unveiled Monday.

Yahoo believes it can become the main place where people spend their time online by making it easier for its more than 500 million users to import information from elsewhere.

In the process, Yahoo hopes to recapture some of the buzz that it lost to rising stars like Facebook and Twitter while also luring back more advertisers. Yahoo's ad revenue dropped 13 percent in the April-June period, the worst erosion since the dot-com bust at the start of the decade.

The question now whether it has taken Yahoo too long to become a more social animal. For instance, some of the improvements that are finally being blended into its e-mail service were first publicly discussed at a major electronics trade show in January 2008.

Yahoo shares gained 20 cents Monday to close at $14.99. The shares have shed 13 percent since the Microsoft alliance was announced, largely because investors don't think Yahoo got enough in return for relinquishing so much of the control over its search page.

Ex-student arrested in San Mateo school explosion

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN MATEO, Calif. A 17-year-old boy is under arrest after police say he detonated an explosive at a San Mateo high school.

San Mateo police Lt. Mike Brunicardi said the boy is a former Hillsdale High School student. He did not know when or if the boy graduated. His name is not being released because he is a minor.

The explosion happened just after 8 a.m. Monday. The 1,200-student school was immediately evacuated and no one was injured.

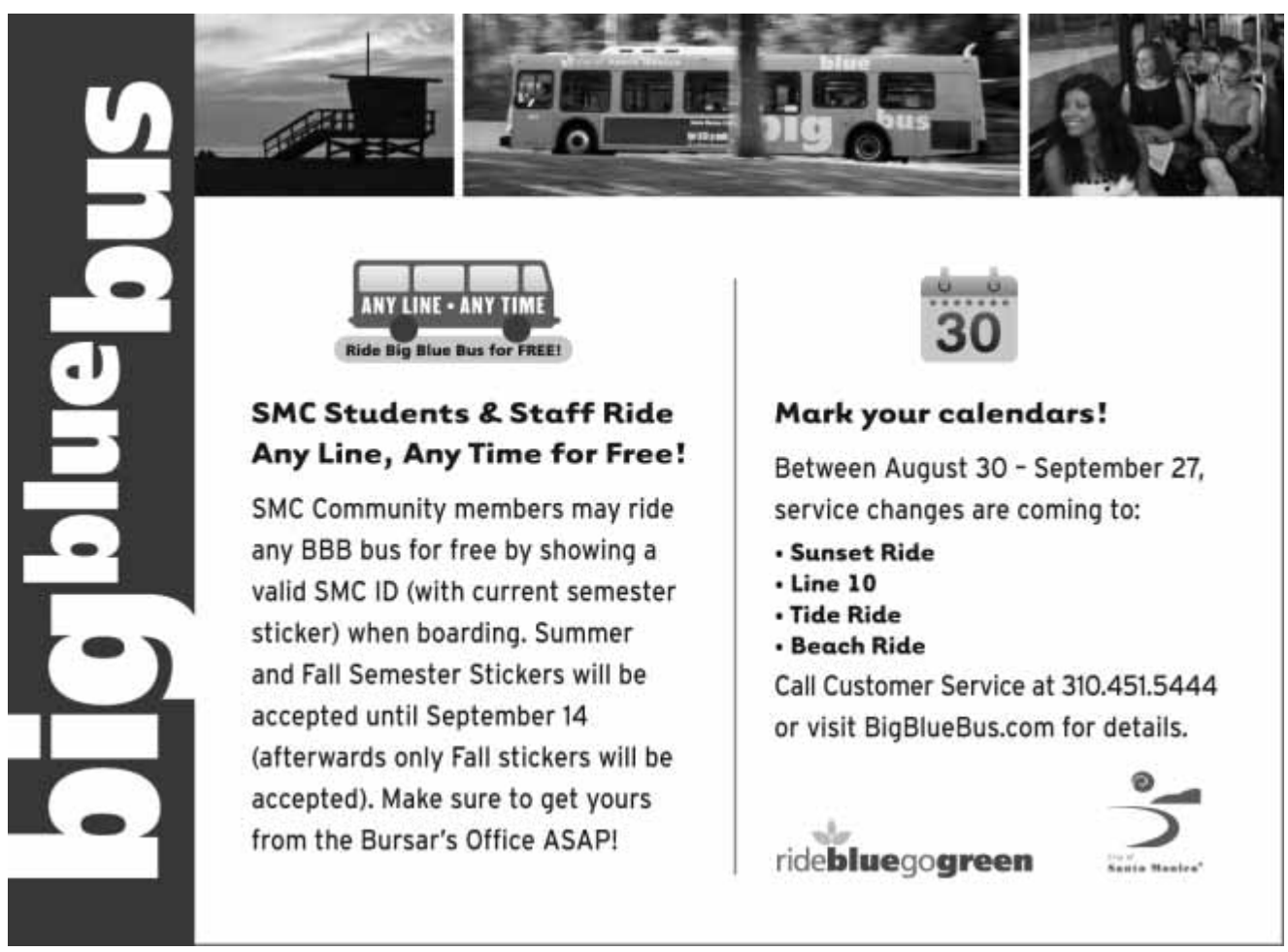
Brunicardi said police had initially received reports that someone was carrying a gun on campus, then subsequent calls of a blast. Brunicardi said authorities never located a gun.

Students and teachers told some media outlets that the power was shut off in the school before the blast. Brunicardi could not confirm those reports.









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AP IMPACT: New meth formula avoids drug laws

JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS
Associated Press Writer

TULSA, Okla. This is the new formula for methamphetamine: a two-liter soda bottle, a few handfuls of cold pills and some noxious chemicals. Shake the bottle and the volatile reaction produces one of the world's most addictive drugs.

Only a few years ago, making meth required an elaborate lab — with filthy containers simmering over open flames, cans of flammable liquids and hundreds of pills. The process gave off foul odors, sometimes sparked explosions and was so hard to conceal that dealers often "cooked" their drugs in rural areas.

But now drug users are making their own meth in small batches using a faster, cheaper and much simpler method with ingredients that can be carried in a knapsack and mixed on the run. The "shake-and-bake" approach has become popular because it requires a relatively small number of pills of the decongestant pseudoephedrine — an amount easily obtained under even the toughest anti-meth laws that have been adopted across the nation to restrict large purchases of some cold medication.

"Somebody somewhere said 'Wait this requires a lot less pseudoephedrine, and I can fly under the radar,'" said Mark Woodward, spokesman for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control.

An Associated Press review of lab seizures and interviews with state and federal law enforcement agents found that the new method is rapidly spreading across the nation's midsection and is contributing to a spike in the number of meth cases after years of declining arrests.

The new formula does away with the clutter of typical meth labs, and it can turn the back seat of a car or a bathroom stall into a makeshift drug factory. Some addicts have even made the drug while driving.

The pills are crushed, combined with some common household chemicals and then shaken in the soda bottle. No flame is required.

Using the new formula, batches of meth are much smaller but just as dangerous as the old system, which sometimes produces powerful explosions, touches off intense fires and releases drug ingredients that must be handled as toxic waste.

"If there is any oxygen at all in the bottle, it has a propensity to make a giant fireball," said Sgt. Jason Clark of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control. "You're not dealing with rocket scientists here anyway. If they get unlucky at all, it can have a very devastating reaction."

One little mistake, such as unscrewing the bottle cap too fast, can result in a huge blast, and police in Alabama, Oklahoma and other states have linked dozens of flash fires this year — some of them fatal — to meth manufacturing.

"Every meth recipe is dangerous, but in this one, if you don't shake it just right, you can build up too much pressure, and the container can pop," Woodward said.

When fire broke out in older labs, "it was usually on a stove in a back room or garage and people would just run, but when these things pop, you see more extreme burns because they are holding it. There are more fires and more burns because of the close proximity, whether it's on a couch or driving down the road."

After the chemical reaction, what's left is a crystalline powder that users smoke, snort or inject. They often discard the bottle, which now contains a poisonous brown and white sludge. Dozens of reports describe toxic bottles strewn along highways and rural roads in states with the worst meth problems.

The do-it-yourself method creates just enough meth for a few hits, allowing users to make their own doses instead of buying mass-produced drugs from a dealer.

"It simplified the process so much that everybody's making their own dope," said Kevin Williams, sheriff of Marion County, Ala., about 80 miles west of Birmingham. "It can be your next-door neighbor doing it. It can be one of your family members living downstairs in the basement."

A typical meth lab would normally take days to generate a full-size batch of meth, which would require a heat source and dozens, maybe hundreds, of boxes of cold pills.

But because the new method uses far less pseudoephedrine, small-time users are able to make the drug in spite of a federal law that bars customers from buying more than 9 grams — roughly 300 pills — a month.

The federal government and dozens of states adopted restrictions on pseudoephedrine in 2005, and the number of lab busts fell dramatically.

The total number of clandestine meth lab incidents reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration fell from almost 17,400 in 2003 to just 7,347 in 2006.

But the number of busts has begun to climb again, and some authorities blame the shake-and-bake method for renewing meth activity.

The AP review of 14 states found:

— At least 10 states reported increases in meth lab seizures or meth-related arrests from 2007 to 2008.

— The Mississippi State Crime Lab participated in 457 meth incidents through May 31, up from 122 for the same period a year ago — a nearly 275 percent increase.

— Several states, such as Oklahoma and Tennessee, are on pace this year to double the number of labs busted in 2008. The director of Tennessee's meth task force said the pace of lab busts in his state is projected to be about 1,300 for 2009, compared with 815 for all of 2008.

Some states lack a central database to monitor cold medicine sales, so meth cooks circumvent state laws by pill shopping in multiple cities and states — a practice known as "smurfing" that allows them to stay under restrictions placed on sales.

Traci Fruit, a special agent with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, said law enforcement officials are becoming increasingly frustrated because there's no way to tell who is buying what "unless we go from store to store ourselves and pull up the records."

Historically, rural states like Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas have been hotbeds for meth use because an important ingredient in the traditional method, anhydrous ammonia, was easily available from tanks on farms where it's used as a fertilizer. But the new formula does not need anhydrous ammonia and instead uses ammonium nitrate, a compound easily found in instant cold packs that can be purchased at any drug store.

Data from the Justice Department and the DEA data suggest the method could only

SEE **METH** PAGE 15

Court: Delaware sports betting would violate ban

RANDALL CHASE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA A federal appeals court ruled Monday that sports betting in Delaware would violate a 1992 federal ban on such wagering, essentially halting the state's plans to start taking bets next month.

The plan was opposed by the professional sports leagues and the NCAA, which claimed it violated the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, would harm their reputations and expose young people to gambling.

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell had pushed for sports betting as a way to help resolve an unprecedented shortfall in state tax revenues and balance the state budget. Attorneys who argued the case for the state appeared stunned by the ruling.

Markell told The Associated Press that his administration was reviewing its legal options but still preparing to offer betting on a limited basis.

"Obviously I'm disappointed, but the bottom line is that Delaware is still the only state east of the Mississippi that can offer this sports betting product on NFL games," Markell said.

"I would have preferred the single-game bets with point spreads on more sports, but we didn't get that," added Markell, admitting that sports betting won't be as big as it might have been.

Delaware was one of four states exempted from the federal ban on sports betting because it once ran an NFL sports lottery in 1976 that required parlay, or multiple bets, on at least three games.

The 1992 law restricts sports betting to the four states that met a deadline to sign up for it: Nevada, where Las Vegas sports books determine the odds for sporting events across the country; Delaware; Montana; and Oregon.

But the leagues argued that the exemption does not allow Delaware to offer bets on single games, or on sports other than professional football.

Speaking for a three-judge panel, Judge Theodore McKee said Monday that the betting plan as currently envisioned violates the federal ban. A written opinion explaining the judges' reasoning will be issued at a later date.

Administration officials said they will later decide whether to appeal the ruling to the full appeals court, or to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lawrence Hamermesh, a professor of corporate and business law at Widener University, said pursuing an appeal would be difficult. The state's chances are slim because there was no split on the three-judge panel, and there is no broad impact from the ruling, he said.

"This is a one-off situation," said Hamermesh, who described the state's position as "pretty weak."

The court heard almost two hours of argument from attorneys regarding the denial of an injunction that would have prevented the betting from beginning with the start of football season in September.

But instead of ruling on the injunction, the appeals court turned directly to the league's claim that sports betting would violate the federal ban.

"We were hoping the court would rule on the merits," said Kenneth Nachbar, an attorney representing the NFL, NBA, NHL, NCAA and Major League Baseball. Nachbar and NCAA spokesman Erik Christianson both said they were pleased with the ruling.

During Monday's arguments, the judge questioned what would happen if the state began sports betting in September, then had it declared illegal by the district court several months later. Individual bettors would have lost hundreds or thousands of dollars on what essentially was an illegal state scheme, he said.

"What happens if you're wrong?" McKee asked Andre Bouchard, an attorney representing the state.

"Caveat emptor," Bouchard replied, citing the Latin admonition of "buyer beware."

'Shake-and-bake' labs sprouting up across U.S.

FROM METH PAGE 14

be in its early stages, and "shake-and-bake" labs have recently been discovered as far north as Indiana and as far east as West Virginia.

States surveyed by the AP also included: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

While many law enforcement agencies are just learning how to spot the new labs, other states are rushing to close loopholes in laws limiting the sale of meth ingredients.

Mississippi Sen. Sid Albritton, said that state's law — modeled after Oklahoma's — forces buyers to show identification and makes stores keep a log of cold medicine sales. But the problem in Mississippi is lack of technology to instantly log purchases in a central database.

"You have to understand going in that drugs are an evolutionary process," said Albritton, a former police detective and narcotics officer. "The day after we pass a law, they are going to look for ways to circumvent that."

Associated Press writers Roxana Hegeman in Wichita, Kan.; Holbrook Mohr in Jackson, Miss.; Tom Parsons in Little Rock, Ark.; Bill Poovey in Chattanooga, Tenn.; Jim Salter in St. Louis; and John Zenor in Montgomery, Ala., contributed to this report.

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Santa Monica Rotary Club
Santa Monica Rotary Club Foundation
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David Schallow & Dalia Hochman
Keith & Cheri Schrupp
Gwen & Frank Schwengel
Allan & Judy Sher
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Shishmanian
Mace Siegel
Jack & Maria Sirotti
Paul Smith
Southern California Edison Company
Helen & Anthony Spaulding
James E. Spear
Spear Pico Property
Ben & Doris Stegall
Ivo & Gordana Steka
Mary Ann Thomas
Betty Miller Tomeo
Terri Trinh
Marc Van Klooster
Helen & Dick Vasak
Michael Walbeck
Bruce Wamsley
Florence Watt
Robert Webster
Marion Weibe
William Werner
John Wetmore
Monica White & Roger Goodman
Jane Whiting
Kathleen Whiting
Linda Whiting
Patricia Whiting
Linn & Dave Wile
Robert Winters
Edward Wiseman
Andrew Worswick
Jean McNeil Wyner
Jeffrey Zangrilli
Zenith Insurance Company
DeWayne Zinkin
Gregory Zissman



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

Swell Forecast

Today has at least head high surf around most south facing breaks, 2 feet overhead at standouts. Winds should be light and variable in the AM and onshore in the afternoon 9-14 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

The southern hemi swell should linger with at least head high surf around most south facing breaks, 2 feet overhead at standouts.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **August 19, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	B	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

ESPN to screen USC-Ohio State game in 3-D

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRISTOL, Conn. ESPN says it will test its ability to televise football games in 3-D with a special screening of the game between No. 4 USC and No. 6 Ohio State at three theaters on Sept. 12.

Tickets will be given away to fans listening to ESPN radio affiliates in Los Angeles, Dallas and Columbus, Ohio, later this week.

The Galen Center on the USC campus in Los Angeles will screen the game in 3-D, as will theaters in Columbus and Hurst, Texas — the lone neutral site for gathering fan reaction. ESPN staff will also watch a screening in Hartford, Conn., near its Bristol headquarters.

The game, starting at 8 p.m. Eastern time, will also be broadcast on ESPN and ESPN HD.

The sports network owned by The Walt Disney Co. said crews will use seven 3-D cameras developed by Vince Pace and director James Cameron, capping off two years of research into how to apply 3-D technology to live game situations.

"The results of this research will enable ESPN to quantify what it takes to produce, transmit and enable the 3-D experience for our fans," said Anthony Bailey, ESPN's vice president of emerging technologies.

It marks the third 3-D test screening of a football game in the U.S. In January, thousands of people in 30 cities nationwide paid about $20 to watch No. 1 Florida and No. 2 Oklahoma in a 3-D airing of the BCS championship game.

That followed the test 3-D screening of a game between the Oakland Raiders and the San Diego Chargers last December. Both previous shoots were handled by Burbank, Calif.-based 3ality Digital LLC.

Child athlete's death revives debate over heart testing

CHERYL WITTENAUER
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS An obese eighth-grader's sudden death during a football conditioning lap has revived discussion about whether testing children's hearts before they engage in sports or strenuous activity is necessary.

Anthony Troupe Jr. collapsed last week on a suburban St. Louis football field before he finished running a lap before practice. The oversized 13-year-old was pronounced dead at a local hospital an hour later.

The boy, known as "Big Ant" for his 6-foot-2-inch, 383-pound body, had a good work ethic and moved as fast and strong as boys less than half his size, coach Lonnie Jordan said.

"He knew he was a big guy, and knew what his job was as offensive guard, and defensive tackle," Jordan said. "He was proud of it."

An autopsy was performed but cause of death won't be available for several weeks pending tissue and toxicological test results, said Dr. Mary Case, St. Louis County medical examiner, adding that the boy's weight and heart are "certainly a consideration."

And, perhaps too, family history.

The boy's father, Anthony James Troupe Sr., collapsed and died at age 45 after working a night shift in April 2007. "He clocked out, and he clocked out," said Anthony's mother, Carol Howard. His death certificate states what roughly translates to high blood pressure and clogged arteries.

Dr. Keith Mankowitz, a professor of medicine at Washington University who specializes in prevention of sudden death in athletes, said 13-year-old boys don't die of morbid obesity.

"He had to have had some underlying heart problem," said Mankowitz, who suspects Anthony and his father had hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the most common genetic heart condition that thickens the heart walls. It's also the most common cause of sudden death in athletes.

The condition may go undetected in routine screening, and would need to be confirmed by a heart specialist referred by a practitioner who grew suspicious of symptoms, a murmur or family history of sudden death, said Mankowitz, who directs an athletes screening program at Washington University.

He believes that every kid who want to play sports should get a good history and physical exam, and that if either uncovers a red flag, the student should be examined by a cardiologist, and receive periodic follow-ups. He said those are American Heart Association recommendations.

Dr. Cam Patterson, cardiology chief at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, agreed that father and son may have shared the heart defect.

In Italy, a national screening program is credited with lowering the incidence of sudden cardiac death among young athletes, he said.

In the U.S., screening is the subject of debate, which centers around cost and the concern over an able athlete being held back because of non-definitive test results, Patterson said. He believes anyone who wants to engage in competitive athletics should have an EKG to detect problems resulting in sudden cardiac death in athletes.

"But do you do an EKG on 5 million kids to find 15 cases?" asks Dr. Robert Eckel, past president of the American Heart Association and professor of medicine at University of Colorado Denver Medical School. "It's a matter of cost and benefit."

On the other hand, he said, "If you're a parent who has lost a child, an EKG should have been done."

Eckel, an endocrinologist with a specialty in preventing heart disease, said that Anthony's extreme size suggests another possible problem such as a tumor producing too much growth hormone.

Most states require students to get physicals before participating in sports, "but will that catch everything? Probably not," said Bruce Whitehead, executive director of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association of middle- and high school athletic directors.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bandslam (PG) 1hr 51min
12:50, 3:30

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard (R) 1hr 29min
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hr 33min
6:15, 9:35

Funny People (R) 2hr 16min
12:05, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45

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

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

G-Force (PG) 1hr 30min
11:50 a.m., 2:05, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10

Post Grad (PG-13) 1hr 29min
11:55 a.m., 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Shorts (PG) 1hr 29min
11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20

X Games 3D: The Movie (PG) 1hr 32min
11:30 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G) 1hr 40min
11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:40 a.m., 12:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
10:50 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15

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

Earth Days (NR) 1hr 40min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Paper Heart (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

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

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:30

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) 1hr 58min
12:40, 3:40, 4:50. 6:40, 9:40

The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 36min
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 7:40, 10:10

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
11:40 a.m., 2:30, 5:20, 8:15

District 9 (Digital Projection) (R) 1hr 53min
1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00

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

Pisces, tonight rock out

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Just when you feel you have a strong line of communication with key people, someone's style changes. You could be slightly more guarded, and you might not really know why. Tonight: Avoid sarcasm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others dominate and share a piece of their mind. Your ability to empathize is enhanced. Avoid conceptual discussions right now, and stick to practical issues. Tonight: Go along with another's request.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Stop dealing with a problem, and toss the issues into the arena. Many people have suggestions. Will they work? You discover that new ideas trigger thoughts. Brainstorm. Tonight: Incorporate some exercise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You suddenly have far more energy and get-up-and-go. You could encounter a problem out of the blue. Your fiery side emerges in the next few weeks. Use exercise as a stress-buster. Tonight: Let in more mischief.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could feel burdened by many different obligations. Express your feelings before they build. Be sensitive to self-destructive tendencies, and certainly to the impact of internalizing your feelings. Tonight: Vanish home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your way of expressing yourself continues to be effective, though it could trigger someone else. The problem will be that reestablishing peace could take a lot of talent. Tonight: Visit with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Remain more expansive and in tune with your needs. Someone might challenge you, or so you feel. You see limits wherever you go. What would it take to get past this type of thinking? Express your humor. Your mind works overtime. Tonight: Share your thoughts with a trusted adviser.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your bright and fun style marks your decisions and actions. Others remain responsive, even if they're challenging. Consider sharing more of your inner thoughts. When you do, communication will become instrumental and fulfilling. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ You don't have to reveal more than you want. Hold your cards close to your chest. Be smart. As a result, people will say and share more. Also, you will have more time to see where someone else is coming from with his or her hard sell. Tonight: Just for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ As you are focused on the whole, not the details, an associate picks apart your thinking and actions. Focus on your goals and refuse to be distracted. This could be an ongoing dialogue for several weeks. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ A must appearance takes a toll on you. Realize your limits and understand what your priorities are. Act as if you are the leader, but continually question your logic and process when making a decision. Tonight: Make plans for a getaway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is going on in your daily life. Detach and get to the bottom of a problem. Avoid sarcasm if possible. Not everyone agrees with your perspective. Just listen. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

Happy birthday

This year, make changes in your daily life and in your communication. Never lose sight of your goals; know where you are heading. People stand up to you, often giving you unappreciated feedback. Accept people as they are. Be overly conscious about your finances, and create a sense of comfort. If you are single, meet new people through your friends. Encounters will make for greater security and confidence. If you're attached, decide on one special mutual goal or wish. Together, make it a reality. SCORPIO has an impact on you.

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

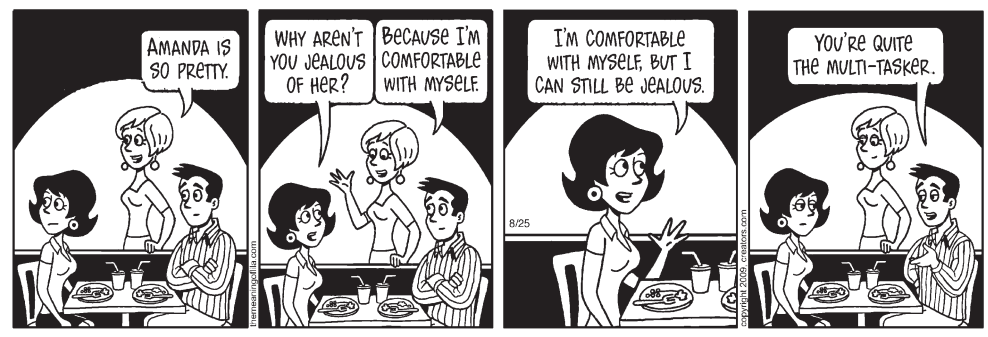
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



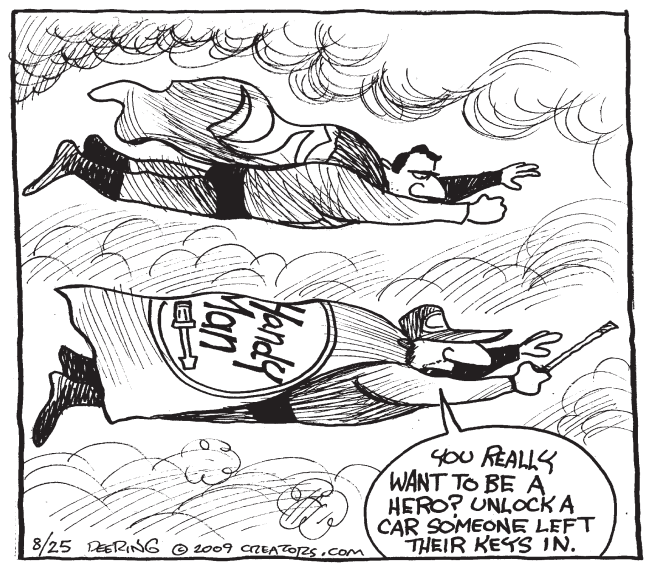
Garfield

By Jim Davis



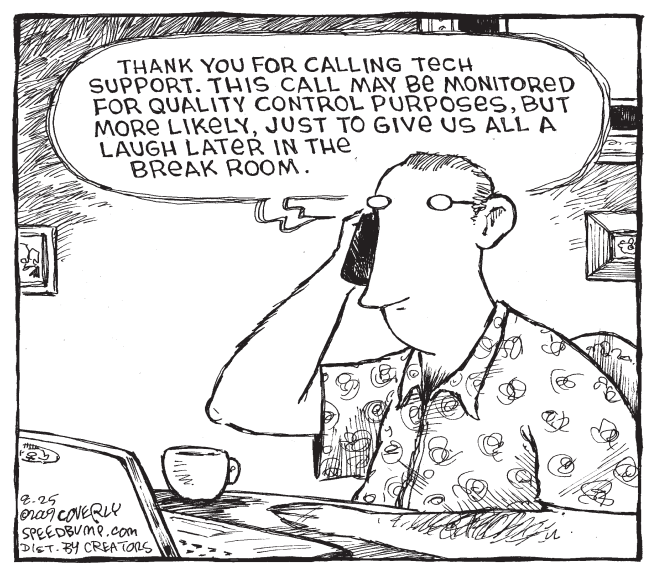
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Unrefined
6 Pursue
11 Museum piece
12 Bolshevik leader
13 Being an eaves-dropper
15 Wilder's "— Town"
16 Paddle's kin
17 Try the slopes
18 Computer system
20 Light metal
21 Building wing
22 Fibula or femur
23 Rich veins
26 Chest contents
27 Corrosive stuff
28 Distress letters
29 "— been swell!"
30 Really remote spot
34 German article
35 Sphere
36 Pot cover
37 Domi-neering
40 Last
41 Rental contract
42 Like some tissue
43 Finishes last

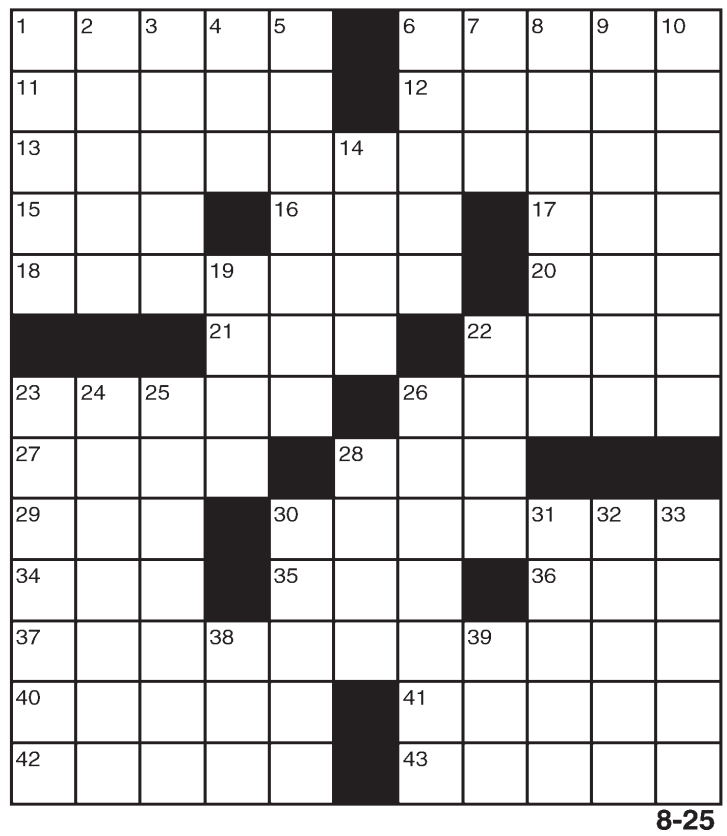
DOWN

1 Sing à la Bing
2 Skit show
3 Vigilant
4 Polite address
5 Fish groups
6 Lewis' partner
7 That lady
8 Jennifer of "Friends"
9 Going under
10 Car parts
14 Justice Warren
19 Garden pest
22 Obama's predeces-sor
23 Fired, in a way
24 Sister of Augustus
25 Opposing opinion
26 Deliber-ately under-estimate
28 Ticked off
30 With dignity
31 Inventor Howe
32 Washer cycle
33 Borders
38 Scoundrel
39 Old auto

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

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



8-25

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 38 44 48 49
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: $252M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 6 16 26 32
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $14M

FANTASY 5: 6 14 19 34 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 9 4
EVENING: 5 8 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:49.83

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

■ It should be well-known by now to News of the Weird readers that a DNA test disproving fatherhood will not necessarily relieve a man of child-support obligations. Frank Hatley's case is especially alarming. He was finally released in July in Cook County, Ga., but only after having spent 13 months in jail because he had missed a few payments for another man's child. Hatley had paid conscientiously, albeit incompletely, from 1987-2000, out of meager wages, and continued (even during periods of unemployment and homelessness) for several years after he learned he was not the father. In 2001, a court absolved him of the duty to make future payments, but the state interpreted that ruling as not affecting the overdue amounts from the past, and in 2008 jailed him.

■ Arrested recently and awaiting trial for murder: Jerry Wayne Damron, Taylorsville, N.C. (July); Edward Wayne Edwards, Louisville, Ky. (August); Anthony Wayne Thomas, Orlando, Fla., (June); Travis Wayne Baczewski, Austin, Texas (July). Indicted recently for murder: Heath Wayne Overstreet, Roanoke, Va. (July); John Wayne Boyer, Nashville, Tenn. (August); David Wayne Hoshaw, Norfolk, Va. (August); Kenneth Wayne Baker, Churchville, Va. (July). Federal appeal of murder conviction denied: Mark Wayne Wiles, Ravenna, Ohio (August). Sentenced for murder: Carl Wayne Bowen, Swansea, Wales (July). And, alas, comes word from Caroline County, Va., that John Wayne Peck, who made this list upon his arrest in 2007 for murder, was found not guilty by a jury (July).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1580 Battle of Alcântara. Spain defeats Portugal.
1609 Galileo Galilei demonstrates his first telescope to Venetian lawmakers.
1758 Seven Years' War: Frederick II of Prussia defeats the Russian army at the Battle of Zorndorf.
1768 James Cook begins his first voyage.
1894 Shibasaburo Kitasato discovers the infectious agent of the bubonic plague.

WORD UP!

flout \FLOWT\ , transitive verb: 1. To treat with contempt and disregard; to show contempt for.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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12309 CULVER Blvd unit 12, 1bdrm/1bath $1025/mo. stove, fridge, carpets, blind, laundry, utilities included, gated parking, intercom entry, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512, jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #102 $895 Single, stove, fridge, blinds, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $1050 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, bamboo & vinyl floors, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland units 2 & 5 $965 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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WLA 1457 Westgate #D 1+1 upper stove, fridge, blinds, wood/tile floors, carport parking no pets $1250/mo (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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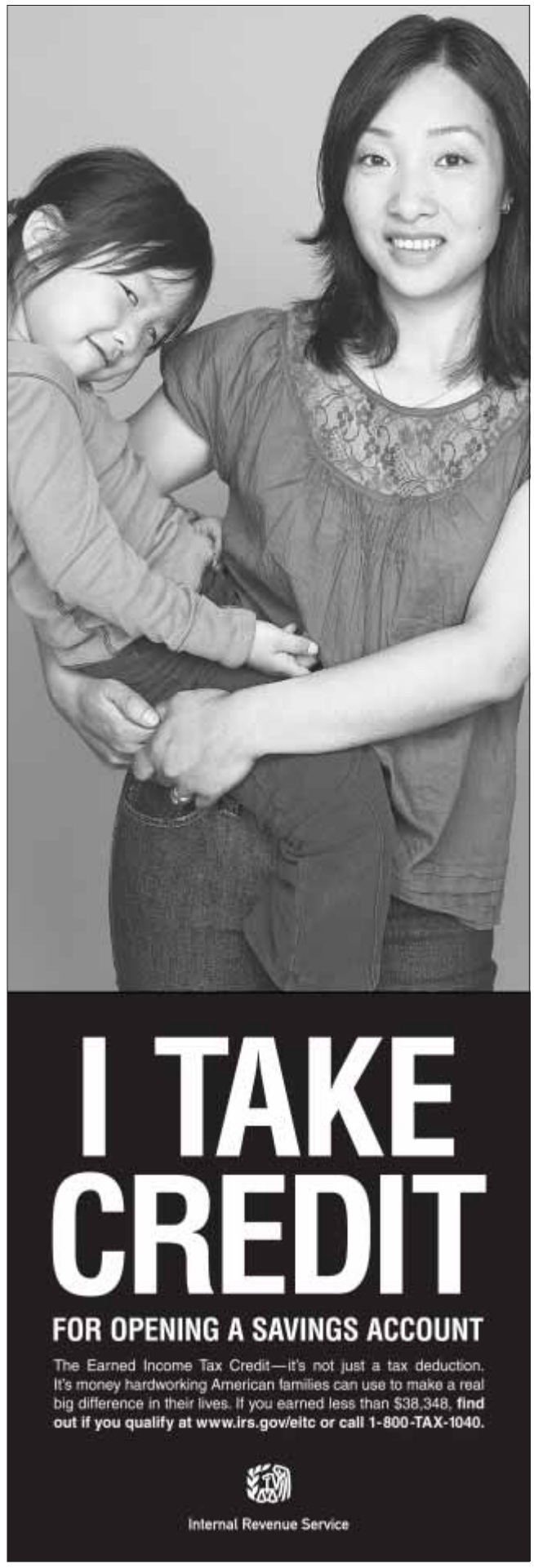
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North of Montana	$2,795,000	$ 1,499,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 1,895,000	$ 992,000
South of Wilshire	$880,000	$680,000
Sunset Park	$1,199,000	$644,250
Ocean Park	$1,598,500	$835,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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