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Volume 9 Issue 253

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

READY FOR 'BAMA
SEE PAGE 3

THE FOR THE KIDS ISSUE



MEET AND TREAT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Roosevelt Elementary School Principal Natalie Burton (right) hands out treats to her new students during the annual 'Popsicles with the Principal Day' on Wednesday afternoon. The event allows future students and their families to meet and great with teachers and other families.

Brownley's bag ban fails

Santa Monica officials vow to pass their own law

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A day after a proposal to bar grocery stores and other retailers from handing out free, single-use plastic bags in California failed to pass the state Senate by a 14-21 vote, local backers of the ban blasted Sacramento lawmakers and said they would move ahead quickly with a local version of the law.

"The oil industry is trying to get the best of us in California and so far they've shown that they've been able to block us at the Legislature, but they can't beat us city by city," said Councilman Terry O'Day.

The Santa Monica City Council is scheduled to take up local bag ban similar to the failed state proposal, authored by Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica), on Oct. 12.

"This Herculean effort with wide-ranging support was not only beaten, but it was beaten badly. And that just shows how dysfunctional Sacramento is right now," said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, which sponsored the statewide bill.

The bill, AB 1998, passed the state Assembly in June but in recent weeks faced fierce lobbying from the American Chemistry Council, which represents the plastics industry.

Gold said the margin of the bill's defeat in the Senate was a testament to the strength of the ACC. A coalition of environmental groups, grocery stores and labor unions had backed the plastic bag ban. Gov. Schwarzenegger also had backed the bill.

SEE BAN PAGE 9

SM 5000 launches athletic endowment

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVE In a move aimed at strengthening local sports programs for years to come, the organizers behind the annual Santa Monica 5000 foot race are joining forces with the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation to launch a new athletics endowment.

Scheduled for Sept. 12, the event, now in its fifth year, will also raise money for its standard beneficiary, Saint John's Health Center.

But when the expected 2,500 to 3,000 participants line up on Ocean Avenue to run either the 10K, 5K or 2.7K youth route, this is the first time they'll be able to take part on behalf of local schools.

Brennan Lindner, the event's director, said the new partnership hopes to raise at least $5,000 to kick off the new endowment. Runners who enter "run4ed" when they register for the race online will direct $10 of the entry fee to the education foundation.

The foundation's director, Linda Gross, said establishing a fund to benefit sports programs at local public schools has been a long-term goal.

"We're just grateful for the opportunity because we have a lot of needs in athletics," she said. "It's the one piece that we don't have an endowment for that we really want to focus on and build."

The partnership grew out of an unsuccessful attempt earlier this year to create a new race, the Santa Monica Half Marathon, to raise funds exclusively for local athletics programs.

Laurence Cohen, the race's would-be organizer, said he was unable to win approval for the event at City Hall.

"I had very high hopes that the inaugural Santa Monica Half Marathon would take place in 2010. [But] after the city's experience with the Los Angeles Marathon I was asked to put the idea on hold," he said.

That doesn't mean he's giving up: "As a marathon runner myself, I have vast experience with persistence and the dream of the Santa Monica Half Marathon remains very much alive in my heart," he said.

Assistant City Manager Elaine Polachek said City Hall worked in good faith with Cohen to find an acceptable route and date

SEE RACE PAGE 8

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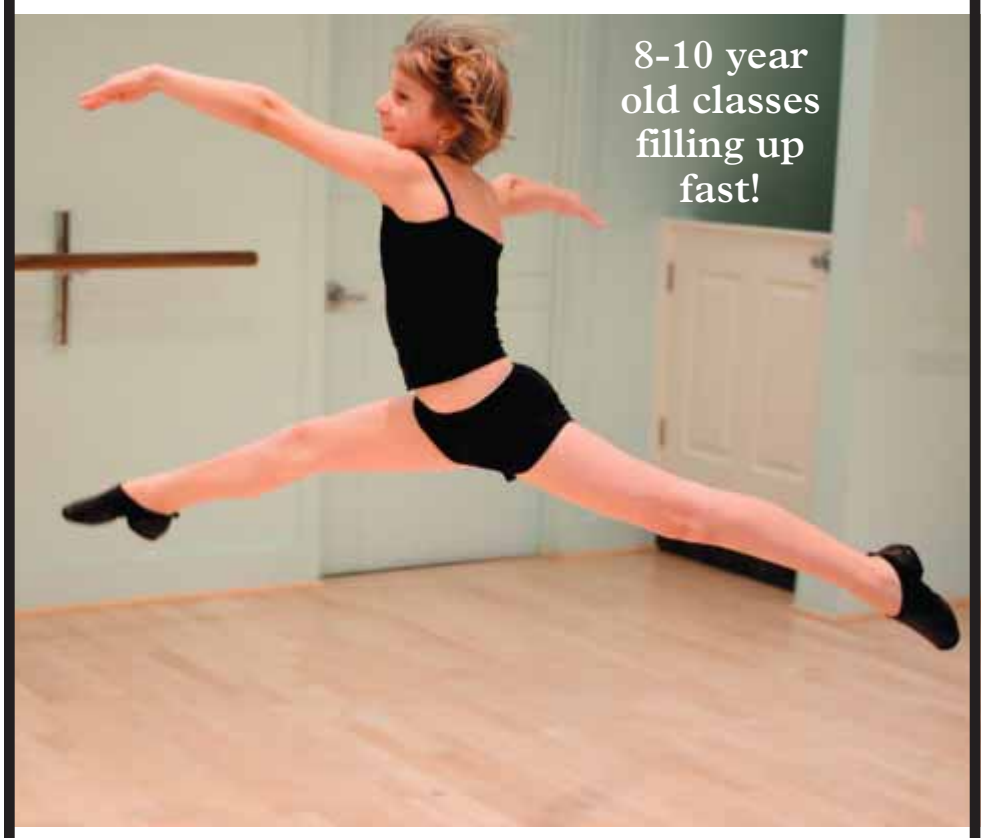
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010

The 'Doctor' is in

Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m.
Dr. John, the funky New Orleans icon, will make the pier the right place at the right time as he closes out the Twilight Dance Series. Eddie Baytos opens this free concert.

Mountains to the Sea

Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, Aug. 26 through Nov. 28
"Mountains to the Sea" art exhibit reflects the land we walk on and the vistas that embrace us, illustrating the diversity of this experience through different artistic lenses and different mediums. After reviewing over 30 proposals from different groups of artists the Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Division offered a three month show to the artist members proposal of the Topanga Canyon Gallery. In addition to the exhibit, several of the artists will also conduct workshops at the beach site. Check the www.AnnenbergBeachHouse.com site for more information.

Friday, Sept. 3, 2010

Art and a ride

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

Historic tour

Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Learn about the rich history of the Beach House from a Santa Monica Conservancy docent. Tours are free, last approximately 30 minutes, and no reservations are required.

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CYBERSPACE

Trees get website

If a tree falls in cyberspace, does it make a sound?

City Hall and the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force are trying to make some noise with a new website dedicated to Santa Monica's trees.

Located at the aptly-named url www.santamonicatrees.com, the site provides a central location for information about caring for and renewing Santa Monica's urban forest. Future versions of the site will feature interactive tree maps and a photo gallery.

"We're very excited about santamonicatrees.com. We envision it as an important tool for educating the public about the urban forest and engaging the community in the update of the Urban Forest Master Plan that's now underway," said Barbara Stinchfield, director of Community & Cultural Services.

Urban forests provide environmental, health and economic benefits to their communities. The ongoing health and renewal of Santa Monica's forest is guided by the Community Forest Management Plan 2000, adopted in 1999. A new long-range urban forest master plan is under development, overseen by a community-based Task Force appointed by the City Council. The Task Force meets at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for Sept. 29.

DAILY PRESS

SMC

Excellent chairs

Santa Monica College journalism professor and student newspaper Corsair advisor Saul Rubin has been named the winner of the newly established SMC Foundation president's circle chair of excellence in communication.

In addition, three professors have been selected for previously established chairs of excellence: Mark Trujillo in fine arts, Garen Baghdasarian in life sciences, and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein in philosophy and social science.

The four professors each receive $5,000 a year for each of the next three years to be used for special projects.

Rubin plans to use his award funds to digitize the issues of the Corsair, which date back to Oct. 1, 1929, about two weeks after the school opened.

"We are in danger of losing a most precious historical treasure: More than 80 years of bound archives of the Corsair newspaper from 1929 to the present," Rubin said in his proposal.



MARKET WATCH

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Led by the Bayside District marketing team, travel writers take a tour of the Downtown Farmers' Market with LaGO Chef Roberto Maggioni (far left) as they explore the Santa Monica lifestyle on Wednesday morning.

Former Samohi lineman makes college debut on Saturday

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAN JOSE For the first time since suiting up for Santa Monica High School, Amar Pal will finally play in a football game that matters.

But the San Jose State offensive lineman won't be taking on the likes of Beverly Hills or Culver City, he'll be lining up against the No. 1 team in the country: Alabama.

After redshirting and missing last season, Pal has been named to the second unit, but has had some practice time with SJU's starters. He said that his coaches haven't told him specifically he may play, but considering how the summer has gone, Pal may see some playing time. Also, being second string means that he's an injury away from being thrust into the biggest game of his life.

"Personally, I'm a little nervous," Pal said. "It will be my first time on the field with the starting unit and all."

He said once he lays a block on an opposing defender things should fall into place.

The game is scheduled for Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala. SJU begins the season unranked.

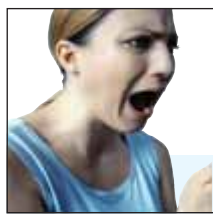
SAMOHI FOOTBALL JUST MISSES RANKINGS

Samohi's football team begins the season unranked in the first California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section football poll, but is among a small group of teams on the cusp of cracking the top 10.

The Vikings are coming off a 4-7 season, which was Head Coach Travis Clark's first year leading the team.

Fellow Ocean League member Culver City is ranked seventh in the Western Division poll.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Seize the moment, Waxman

Editor:

Although AJR 41 is non-binding, it sends a clear message that the state of California believes the federal government should address the critical concerns of Santa Monica Airport neighbors that are delineated within the resolution text. One of the most significant "Resolved" clauses states, "That the entities memorialized above (Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and the members of the California congressional delegation) work together to establish and implement a reasonable minimum distance between aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport and the neighboring communities."

The results of AJR 41 will be entirely up to our federal representatives and agencies. With the FAA Reauthorization Bill in the final stages, I strongly urge Congressman Henry Waxman not to waste this opportunity to add an amendment establishing a reasonable distance between jet blast and homes. Los Angeles bans gas leaf-blowers from use within 500 feet of homes, and yet jets are blasting off as close as 250 feet. For more than 20 years, and an unknown number of cancer cases later, with several unbiased scientific studies showing high levels of pollution from jets at Santa Monica Airport; we are saying enough is enough.

Additionally, I strongly urge Congressman Waxman and/or Congresswoman Harman to consider holding a congressional committee hearing near Santa Monica Airport to discuss safety, noise and air pollution issues. Sen. Barbara Boxer or Sen. Diane Feinstein might also initiate a hearing. The issues are critical, the community is very restless, and procrastination is not acceptable.

Assemblyman Ted Lieu took on our concerns regarding Santa Monica Airport from the start of his term in office. About six years ago Ted offered me as director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution an opportunity to work with him and his staff to sponsor legislation that he could champion at the state level. He has been diligent, tough, smart, and fair in his approach. He started by introducing AB 2501 followed by AB 700 followed by AJR 37 and now AJR 41. It's a complex problem with no simple solution. It's like untying a difficult twisted knot.

AJR 41 is a necessary incremental step that gives credence to issues that call for the federal government's attention. Ted Lieu has guided the legislature through the process of polishing California's position. All Santa Monica Airport impacted neighbors should be very grateful. Over the last six years, letters from CRAAP members and other neighborhood groups and councils as well as environmental groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club were sent supporting Ted Lieu's legislation. AJR 41 has the added support of state Sen. Fran Pavley as the resolution's co-author as well as the Coalition for Clean Air's support.

Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl has been to the Los Angeles City Council, what Ted Lieu has been to the California Legislature. Without their aggressive efforts and the ongoing commitment of my wife Joan and me, we would not have advanced the ball as far as we have. The issues addressed by AJR 41 are clear, credible, and not to be treated in a partisan fashion. The final vote in the California Assembly was 57 in favor and 16 opposed, picking up 9 Republican votes as well as the one Democrat who originally voted no. Progress is being made.

Martin Rubin
Director
Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Terrible 2s are just the beginning

DESPITE WHAT COUNTLESS OTHERS BEFORE me insisted to the contrary, when I was pregnant I postulated that any kid born to me would be the exception to all the classic pratfalls of childhood, like nose picking, an unhealthy obsession with belly-button lint, and adolescence.

However, as if on cue on her second birthday last month, my daughter put the final nail in the coffin of my theory and buried it 7 feet underground (the extra foot for emphasis) as she became a professional 2 year old.

At around 6 o'clock that evening I opened the refrigerator and scanned its contents, musing out loud, "What should I make you for dinner?" It was at that moment that she spied the leftover cake from her birthday party.

"Cake?" she squeaked.

"No, silly girl," I chuckled. "We don't eat cake for dinner."

"Cake! Din din! Cake! Din din! CAAAAAAKE!" she howled.

She spent the next 10 minutes sprawled out on the kitchen floor weeping in front of the refrigerator, tears spurting down her cheeks and snot shooting from her nose with all the force of a BP oil well.

While I know from personal experience that a piece of cake can legitimately evoke a great deal of passion and emotion, hers certainly wasn't the reaction I expected from a child who has historically opted for peas over French fries and bananas (yes, several of them) over chocolate pudding.

As it turns out, that was just the first in what is becoming a long line of food-related tantrums. A few days after that my dad and I took her out for an ice cream cone, and about 11 minutes, nine licks and 23 shirt stains later, it accidentally dropped to the ground. Instead of getting her a new one, we kind of shrugged and told her it was all gone.

For what seemed like an eternity afterward, she wailed, "Eye crim cahn," so we attempted to buy her silence with an ice cream bar from my parents' freezer when we got back to their house. While devouring it, however, she continued crying, "Eye crim CAHN." Apparently the Popsicle stick failed as an acceptable substitute for a wafer cone.

As her ability to communicate verbally expands exponentially, many of her outbursts seem to be linked to her inability to express herself even more clearly. Unfortunately for her, when we figure out what she's trying to say, it doesn't necessarily result in a satisfaction guarantee.

"Watch tee bee?" she often asks, now that she's figured out how.

"No TV right now," we usually tell her, particularly if she's already coming off a Barney marathon.

"Watch tee bee! Watch tee bee! WATCH TEE BEE!" she'll sob, shaking the remote at the direction of the television as if it'll understand intuitively what she's after and turn on and to Sprout, despite the crucial fact that none of the correct buttons are being pressed.

The people who live next door and those in neighboring towns are now keenly aware and equally distressed when there's an active moratorium on television in our home. We're looking into buying new eardrums in bulk to see if that'll take the sting out of the inevitable "your daughter is responsible for my acute hearing loss" class-action lawsuit.

We were clicking through pictures of her favorite subject (herself) on my computer on an airplane last week when the pilot instructed all passengers to power down their electronic devices in preparation for landing. Feral cats and certifiable lunatics are capable of more grace and dignity than my daughter showed at that moment.

"Pictures baby! Pictures baby! PICTURES BABY!" she screeched as she wiggled out of her seat belt, kicking, hissing and shrieking for a full 20 minutes.

The women in the row behind us were sympathetic, telling me in soothing tones, "This is worse for you than anyone else."

The people sitting in the row ahead of us appeared to disagree, turning around frequently to shoot daggers from their eyes, shake their heads and cluck their tongues. It probably didn't help that when I swung out of the way when my enraged daughter tried to pull my hair, she succeed instead in grabbing what there was of it on the head of the man in front of me.

That kind of wrath isn't limited to airplanes and photos.

"Drop bunny!" she's been bawling lately when she throws her plush toy on the floor of the car.

"Drop BUNNY wabbit! Drop bunny WABBIT!" she'll then scream so as to clear up any confusion in case I might have mistakenly thought she was referring to an old-fashioned television antennae or a soft-core porn model instead of her stuffed white one with whiskers and droopy ears.

When I risk crashing into the median by turning around to retrieve it, she'll grab it from me, cling to it, bite its nose and laugh through her tears like she's reuniting with her long lost lover in a Nicholas Sparks novel. Until she throws it down again.

Every time I've thought she's been transitioning out of a particularly unpleasant phase, those same parents who predicted it in the first place seem to take an evil joy in letting me know that as bad as that one was, it's only about to get worse. Three is the new 2; 4 is the new 3. So much to look forward to.

But at least I take a secret delight in knowing that as challenging as my kid can be, theirs always seem worse. Just like I always knew it would be.

More at meredithcarroll.com.



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Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How to exploit your greatest weakness

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I have been on several job interviews lately. I want to go on the record and say that I hate the "what are your weaknesses" question. It seems like every interviewer I have met with has asked me this question in some way or another, and every time I am at a loss as to what I should say. I have talked with others and several friends have suggested talking about things that could be viewed as a positive by the employer. For instance, I have been told to tell them I'm an over-achiever or have overly high standards for my work. It seems like these are over-used cliché examples. Do you have any helpful tips to answer this question?

Signed,
Curious Interviewee

DEAR CURIOUS,

This common interview question tends to stump a lot of people. Interviews can be a stressful experience, especially if in the back of your mind you're thinking about how you are going to handle the "weakness" question. Many individuals (some say 70-75 percent) try to answer this question by disguising a strength as a weakness. We have all heard the classic answer, "I'm a perfectionist." Well that answer is simply not going to cut it in today's job market! One of the first things that will put a potential candidate in the "no" pile is providing a canned or rehearsed answer.

Start by really considering why the employer is asking this question. While some may have pulled it out of the 101 interview questions handbook, many more are asking it for real reasons. The most common reason an employer would ask this question is because they want to evaluate the risks of hiring you. However, keep in mind that they are likely evaluating you beyond the actual words or content of your answer but rather how you handle yourself under pressure. So, if they are looking to see how you're going to handle the question, preparing for that situation is going to help you stand out as an A+ interviewee.

To prepare for your answer reflect on the question they are asking. You should be honest about yourself, your strengths and your weaknesses. Finding something that is true to you will help you to establish a connection with the employer. Sharing an honest weakness will also help evaluate whether you are a good fit for the company and if the position would be a good fit for you. For example, if you are really a big picture person and you have a tough time managing minute details, having that data analysis job is probably not going to be a great fit for you in the long run.

While I want you to be honest with the interviewer, this is also not a time to reveal a major weakness. Be careful not to reveal anything that would make them question your professionalism or indicate that you might become a problem employee in the future. You also want to be careful not to discuss weaknesses that relate to the direct responsibilities of the position. Again, if your weaknesses are direct responsibilities of the position, you probably want to re-think the fit with your personal strengths and skills.

So now we see that it's important to find something in the middle, share something that is true for you but not too big. Confessing to a minor weakness will allow you to answer the question without shooting yourself in the foot. For example, if you are applying for a collaborative team position, you might share that you sometimes have difficulty confronting others. However, you do not want to leave your answer hanging on a weakness. You need to tell the employer how you are working on that weakness. Take your answer to the next level.

"In the past it has been difficult for me to speak in front of large groups, so I recently enrolled in a public speaking course to better develop my presentation skills."

As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect. But, you cannot just rehearse in your head, you need to say it aloud, ideally practicing with a friend. See how it feels and sounds to take ownership over your minor weaknesses and to talk about how you're working to fix it. I am confident that with some thorough reflection and practice you will do great. But if worse comes to worse, you can use a humorous approach as a last resort: your greatest weakness could be chocolate, red wine, or gossip magazines!

KATRINA DAVY is a Santa Monica-based professional career counselor who holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters! Visit us online at www.newshrink.com.

The Q Line

Ticket to ride

The Big Blue Bus increased its fares this week for the first time in years. Some feel the new rates may hurt some of the transit system's most vulnerable riders, including the elderly and disabled.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the fare increase will deter you from riding the BBB, or is the increase long overdue?

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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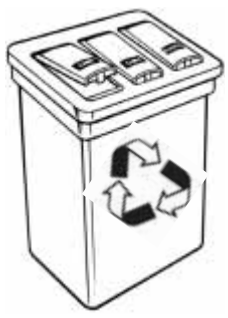


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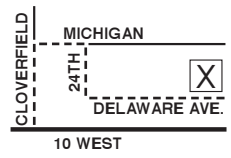


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Play Time
Cynthia Citron
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Hollinger's magnum 'Opus' a treat

IT TAKES A SUPER-SAVVY CONDUCTOR to lead a group of four extraordinary non-musicians (plus one actual violin virtuoso) through the intricate movements of a play about a string quartet, and Simon Levy is that man. Levy, longtime producing director and dramaturg of the Fountain Theatre, has done his usual fine-tuned job as director of Michael Hollinger's exquisite play "Opus" in its Los Angeles premiere.

"Opus" is the story of the unraveling of a highly successful string ensemble on the night that they play the White House. Although they pride themselves on running like a democracy (they even make musical decisions by vote), the group is often pulled in opposite directions by the fulminations of Elliot (Christian Lebano), a hotheaded taskmaster, and the lyrical emotionalism of Dorian (Daniel Blinkoff), an obsessive perfectionist. The fact that these two are semi-closeted lovers only adds to the dissension. The other two players, Alan (Cooper Thornton) and Carl (Gregory Giles), are strong personalities in their own right, struggle to maintain harmony in the group.

Into this musical maelstrom comes Grace (Jia Doughman) to audition to replace one of the members of the quartet. A violinist and actress in real life, Doughman brings a sweet innocence to the role and a welcome dollop of sober sanity.

Ironically, both playwright Hollinger and director Levy come to this play with strong musical backgrounds of their own. Hollinger acquired a Bachelor of Music in viola performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music before switching to theater and earning a Master's Degree from Villanova University, where he is currently a member of the theater department faculty. Levy attended City College and San Francisco State as a music major, playing alto sax as a jazz musician before getting his degrees in theater, with an emphasis on directing.

In addition to Levy, however, the play also owes its impeccable timing to two violinists from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Roy Tanabe and Larry Sonderling, who served as musical advisors. As the quartet rehearses their proposed work for the White House performance, Beethoven's "Opus 131: String Quartet No. 14" in c-sharp minor, they are so attuned to the pre-recorded music that you would almost swear they were actually playing. Their body movements and bowing are beautiful to see, and it's only the absence of fingering that convinces you that as musicians they are really fine actors.

The gorgeous music also fills the time during the brief blackouts as the actors change costumes, making it an integral and delicious background to the moments of non-action.

Intense as these characters are, they also display a quirky sense of humor. (For example, Allen accuses Elliot of being "pathologically punctual" and Elliot explains to Grace that "job satisfaction among musicians is lower than that of dentists," and "the suicide rate is higher." And one of them, explaining their elite musical training at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute, notes that they "only played music by arrogant composers.")

While Frederica Nascimento's unobtrusive but attractive stage design and A. Jeffrey Schoenberg's costume design add a certain panache to the proceedings, the two men who keep the play on a visual and aural high are lighting designer Ken Booth and sound designer Peter Bayne. Booth spotlights each performer on a totally black stage as he thinks aloud, and Bayne's timing in starting and stopping the music in sync with the performers is absolutely crucial to the credibility of the play.

"Opus" is not one of those plays that ruminates on the meaning of art and its role in society. It is, instead, an altogether absorbing study of very real and very human individuals as they cope with their lives and prepare for the most important performance of their careers.

A performance to which we, along with the president, can only shout "Bravo!"

"Opus" will run Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Sept. 26th at The Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Ave., in Los Angeles. In addition, Call (323) 663-1525 for reservations.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Amazon may offer subscription TV, movies

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Amazon.com Inc. is talking with major media companies about offering unlimited views of older TV shows and movies online, as it struggles to stay relevant to consumers flocking to Apple Inc.'s iTunes a la carte store and Netflix Inc.'s all-you-can-eat subscription plan.

Amazon has approached several companies, including Viacom Inc., Time Warner Inc., and Sony Corp., three people familiar with the matter said Tuesday. They requested anonymity because the talks are ongoing.

The talks are at an early stage and focus on offering TV shows and movies that have already been available on home video, according to one person.

Amazon intends to link the service to its Amazon Prime membership, a $79 per year plan that gives customers discounted shipping costs. But some media companies are averse to having their offerings potentially perceived as freebies, another person said.

A spokesman for Amazon, which is based in Seattle, said the company would not speculate on future business deals.

News of the talks emerged in The Wall Street Journal, a day before Apple is expected to announce a new TV offering and a revamped iTunes. An Apple spokesman also declined to comment.

Apple has also been talking with several media companies and is nearing a deal to offer recently aired TV shows from The Walt Disney Co.'s ABC and News Corp.'s Fox for 99 cents. The shows could be downloaded but would expire 48 hours after purchase. They are intended for fans who want to catch up on shows even on airplanes or other places without wireless Internet service.

Apple is also expected to cut the price of its Apple TV device. Pre-empting the move, Roku Inc., whose set-top box allows Netflix subscribers to watch older movies and TV shows, cut the prices of its basic high-definition device by $30 to $69.99 on Monday.

Many companies are trying to bolster their online offerings but media companies are being careful not to upend lucrative existing businesses.

Whitman criticizes Legislature, Schwarzenegger for budget delay

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

FOLSOM Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman on Wednesday laid blame for California's budget impasse squarely on the shoulders of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders.

She also said lawmakers should not be paid or allowed to travel at taxpayer expense whenever the budget is late.

California remains without a spending plan even as it begins the third month of its fiscal year. The lack of a state budget already is beginning to have an effect, including forcing the state to defer payments to schools and counties while leaving some community health clinics struggling to pay their bills and community college students unable to get CalGrants.

Whitman said Schwarzenegger, a fellow Republican, should have been holding daily meetings with all four legislative leaders starting last December to close the state's $19 billion deficit.

"What we are suffering from is a tremendous lack of leadership in Sacramento," she said during a campaign stop at a high-tech firm in the Sacramento suburb of Folsom. "The 'Big Five' would have been in the governor's office, under my leadership, every day. I would have chained them to the desk to get this done."

The "Big 5" is a reference to private meetings between the governor and the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Assembly and Senate.

Lawmakers failed to make headway on the budget Tuesday, the last day of their regular session, even though they debated competing Democratic and Republican proposals. Both failed, in part because the parties remain far apart on how to solve the deficit.

Lawmakers already have cut spending by tens of billions of dollars in recent years as the recession has sent far less tax revenue to California's coffers than it needs to cover spending commitments.

Democrats want a combination of spending cuts, new taxes and fees, and a delay of corporate tax breaks granted last year. Republicans have refused to accept any tax or fee increases.

Schwarzenegger, meanwhile, has introduced yet another dynamic that is contributing to the stalemate: He has said he will not sign any budget unless lawmakers agree to long-term tax, budgeting and pension reforms, the kind of major policy changes that have eluded the governor for seven years.

After Tuesday's budget proposals failed in the Legislature, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said a budget agreement may not be reached until the election in November. That almost certainly would mean that state contractors would be issued IOUs instead of checks.

"It's about leadership, it's about focus, it's about starting early," Whitman said in response to a reporter's question about the lack of a budget. "It's about framing the tough choices that we're going to have to make."

Her Democratic opponent, Attorney General Jerry Brown, has said that if he is elected governor he will begin negotiating the budget with legislative leaders immediately after the November election.

Whitman, the billionaire former eBay chief executive, acknowledged the Legislature is an independent branch of government that does not have to follow the governor's direction. Assembly Speaker John Perez, D-Los Angeles, for example, has said he opposes the private, "Big 5" negotiations.

Whitman also advocated an incentive for pressing lawmakers to get a budget passed on time: She would favor a law that prohibits lawmakers from fundraising or receiving their salaries, expenses or reimbursement for trips home until the state has a budget.

At his own budget-related news conference later, Schwarzenegger declined to respond to Whitman's statement about a lack of leadership, saying he will not comment about remarks from political candidates. In the past, he has blamed lawmakers for failing to act on the budget proposals he submitted in January and May.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Study: State has 23 percent of illegal immigrants

A new study says nearly a quarter of the nation's illegal immigrants live in California, despite a nearly 4 percent drop in the state's illegal population.

A Pew Hispanic Center report released Wednesday estimates California had 2.55 million illegal immigrants in 2009, a 3.8 decrease from the year before. The state accounts for 23 percent of illegal immigrants in the United States.

The study also says illegal immigrants now comprise 6.9 percent of California's population — the highest percentage in the country. California trails only Nevada with illegal labor comprising 9.3 percent of its work force.

Overall, the number of illegal immigrants in the United States has dropped for the first time in 20 years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS

Sept. 2 celebrated as ode to '90210'

OMG, it's like one of those freaky Mayan calendar things or something.

But, yes, it's true: Thursday Sept. 2, 2010, is being celebrated as "90210 Day." It's the one day this century that the date will line up perfectly with the famous California zip code.

For fans of the 1990s teen drama "Beverly Hills, 90210," this is an occasion for celebration in nostalgia for a show widely regarded as cheesy, but nevertheless beloved.

"Beverly Hills, 90210," aired from 1990-2000 and followed a group of teenagers in wealthy SoCal families. Its main characters — Brandon Walsh (Jason Priestley), Brenda Walsh (Shannen Doherty) and Dylan McKay (Luke Perry) — became enmeshed in increasingly outlandish soap opera plots.

The event Thursday isn't inspiring any parades, but the CW network has altered its schedule. It changed things around to make sure an episode of the current incarnation of the show, simply "90210," will air.

A group on Facebook formed last year is calling it "International Beverly Hills 90210 Day." Celebrations have been organized in places such as the Paley Center for Media in Los Angeles, which will screen old episodes. The town of Beverly Hills, itself, is throwing a party hosted by Larry King.

Sports and pop culture writer Bill Simmons, known as "the Sportsguy" on ESPN.com where he writes, is hosting a podcast devoted to "Beverly Hills, 90210." Last week in his podcast, "The B.S. Report," Simmons announced that he will hold a special Thursday and give out "90210 Awards" such as "biggest plot stretch ever."

"We're diving so deep into this," he said. "It's almost like we're performing surgery on the show."

The columnist did, though, say that after the Thursday podcast he would retire references to the show in his writing — which are frequent.

"The show premiered 20 years ago; it's heyday was 15 years ago. I don't want to be that guy who's referencing things that happened 38 years ago," Simmons said.

"Much like when (Michael) Jordan walked away from basketball and Jim Brown walked away from football, I'm walking away from '90210.'"

AP

LOS ANGELES

Pest makes first U.S. appearance

Federal agriculture inspectors at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have found a destructive pest in a shipment of pineapples that's never been seen before in the United States.

The U.S. Customers and Border Protection said Wednesday that the variety of leafhopper found late last month from Costa Rica can cause severe damage to such crops as grapes, potatoes, soybeans and corn.

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION TO CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

The City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs provides grants to Santa Monica schools and nonprofits to cover the cost of transportation to and from cultural activities. Funds are provided by the County Prop A Local Return program. To be eligible, all trips must be accessible to the public and all destinations accessible to the disabled. Grantees may use a private bus, SMMUSD bus, Big Blue Bus or other public transport.

Applications are now available for trips between Sep 2010 and Jun 2011. Deadline for submission: 5 pm, Monday Nov 22, 2010. To apply, contact Santa Monica Cultural Affairs at 310.458.8350, or nathan.birnbaum@smgov.net





RACE
FROM PAGE 1

for the event but was unable to reach an agreement.

"The real issue was that our fire and police staff could not support the race routes as proposed by the event producer for safety reasons," she said.

There's also a requirement to keep at least a two-month window between major races and other events that involve street closures, like parades, she said.

"There's no hesitancy on staff's part. We just need to be able to come up with something together."

For more information about the Santa Monica 5000, go to www.santamonica5000.com

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Linda Gross,
Executive director of the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

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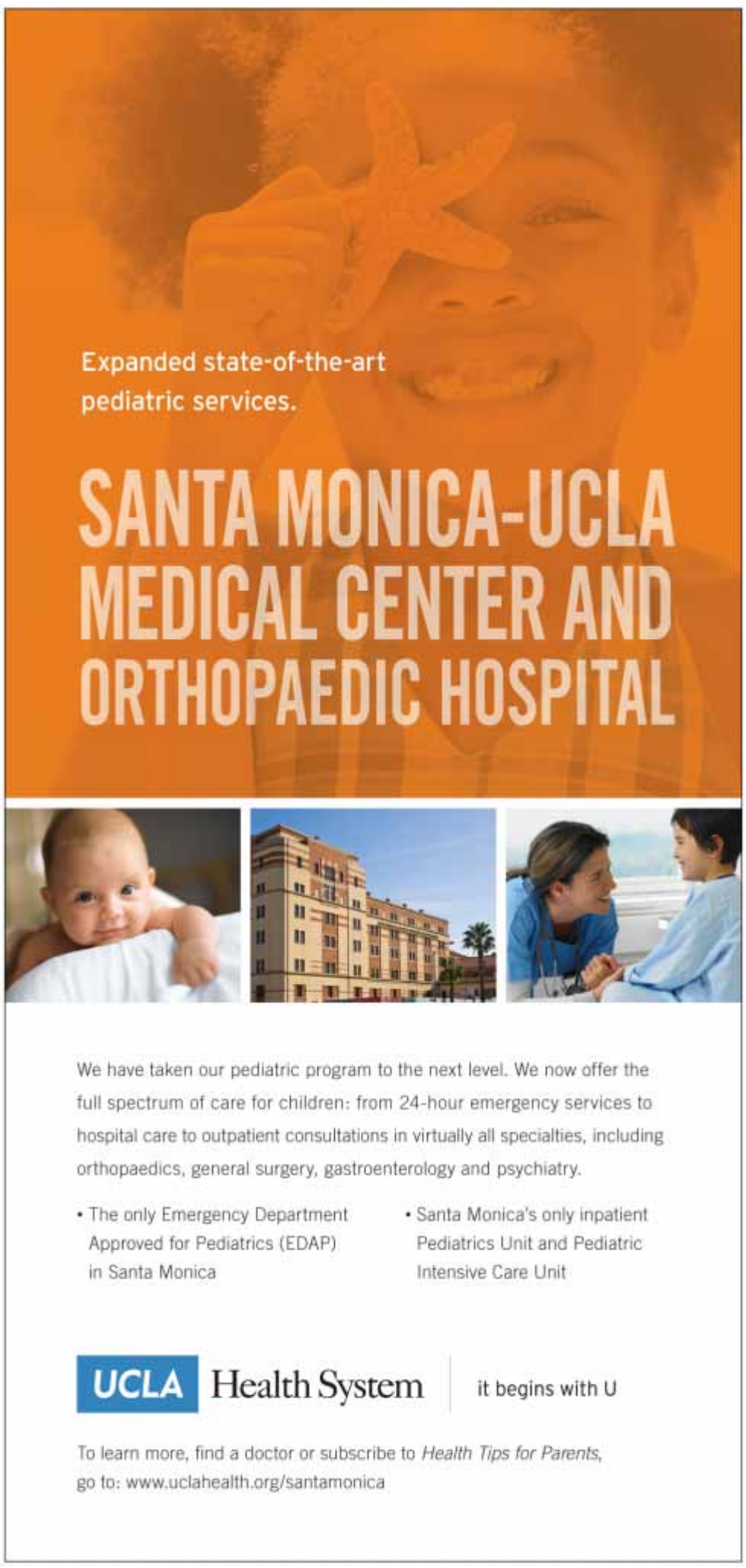
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BAN
FROM PAGE 1

Nine democrats voted against AB 1998.

"Frankly, it was an embarrassing night for the state of California," Gold said.

In a statement, the ACC applauded the lawmakers' decision.

"We congratulate Senate members for discarding a costly bill that provides no real solutions to California's litter problem and would have further jeopardized California's already strained economy," said Tim Shestek, the ACC's senior director of state affairs.

In a radio interview with Patt Morrison on KPCC on Wednesday, Brownley said the bill would have created green jobs and been "a real opportunity for consumers to make a very significant, cost-free contribution to California's economy and California's environment."

She blamed the bill's failure on the plastic industry's influence.

"At the end of the day, the American Chemistry Council won," she said.

The bill would have banned California grocery stores from giving out free plastic bags beginning in 2012 and would have rolled out the ban to smaller retailers a year later. Under AB 1998, stores could have sold paper bags made out of at least 40 percent recycled material at cost.

Republicans and some Democrats opposed it, saying it would add an extra burden on consumers and businesses at a time when many already are struggling financially.

The Senate took final action at the very end of the legislative session, reflecting how

> **"FRANKLY, IT WAS AN EMBARRASSING NIGHT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA."**
>
> **Mark Gold,**
> President of Heal the Bay

difficult it had been to muster support. The bill received just 14 votes in the Senate, seven short of the majority it needed.

Sen. Lois Wolk, D-Davis, was one of the Democrats who voted against the bill. She said the state instead should offer incentives for reducing the use of plastic bags before imposing a statewide mandate.

Brownley had amended her bill in the days leading up to the Senate vote in an ultimately futile attempt to gain more support.

Most significantly, she removed a provision that would have imposed a 5-cent fee for customers who forget to bring their own bag and need to buy a recycled paper one. The proceeds would have gone entirely to the retailer.

Under the revised bill, retailers would have been allowed to charge only what it costs them to buy paper bags. Stores would have been required to provide free bags to shoppers who rely on government assistance.

A state law that took effect in 2007 already requires supermarkets and other large retailers to provide plastic bag recycling bins.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

THE LIFE OF A DISCARDED BAG: **A used plastic bag is left on the ground by a shopper in front of Ralphs on Olympic Boulevard on Tuesday afternoon.**

China and India have plastic bag bans, and U.S. cities like San Francisco, Malibu and Palo Alto have passed their own laws barring free single-use plastic bags.

Local officials said they expect to soon add Santa Monica to the list.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he's pushing to bring the issue to the council as soon as possible, perhaps this month.

"I'm doing this in support of Julia Brownley, whose efforts on AB 1998 were heroic, and because we've waited too long already to take action while plastic bags continue to litter the landscape and kill marine life," he said.

City Hall has completed an environmental review of the proposed ban and is circulating the study for public comment.

"We feel like we've fulfilled our legal obligations, but we anticipate that given what's at stake financially we'll get sued [by the plastics industry] anyway," City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said.

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Hurricane Earl forces Island evacuations

MIKE BAKER
Associated Press Writer

NAGS HEAD, N.C. Hurricane Earl steamed toward the Eastern Seaboard on Wednesday as communities from North Carolina to New England kept a close eye on the forecast, worried that even a slight shift in the storm's predicted offshore track could put millions of people in the most densely populated part of the country in harm's way.

Vacationers along North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks took advantage of the typical picture-perfect day just before a hurricane arrives to pack their cars and flee inland, cutting short their summer just before Labor Day weekend.

The governors of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland declared a state of emergency, sea turtle nests on one beach were scooped up and moved to safety, and the crew of the Navy's USS Cole rushed to get home to Norfolk, Va., on Wednesday ahead of the bad weather. The destroyer was supposed to return later this week from a seven-month assignment fighting piracy off Somalia.

Farther up the East Coast, emergency officials urged people to have disaster plans and supplies ready and weighed whether to order evacuations as they watched the latest maps from the National Hurricane Center — namely, the "cone of uncertainty" showing the broad path the storm could take.

Earl was expected to reach the North Carolina coast late Thursday and wheel to the northeast, staying offshore while making its way up the Eastern Seaboard. But forecasters said it could move in closer, perhaps coming ashore in North Carolina, crossing New York's Long Island and passing over the Boston metropolitan area and Cape Cod.

That could make the difference between modestly wet and blustery weather on the one hand, and dangerous storm surge, heavy rain and hurricane-force winds on the other.

"Everyone is poised and ready to pull the trigger if Earl turns west, but our hope is that this thing goes out to sea and we're all golfing this weekend," said Peter Judge, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Earl was a powerful Category 4 hurricane centered more than 680 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., with winds of 135 mph.

The only evacuations ordered were on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands, part of the Outer Banks. Just a light breeze was stirring and there wasn't a cloud in the sky along the Outer Banks — a ribbon of barrier islands a dozen miles or more off the mainland, connected to the rest of the world by a couple of bridges and a ferry. Along the lone highway, hundreds of cars backed up at one of the bridges.

Brittany Grippaldi and her family took advantage of the good weather to pack up their Ford Explorer in Hatteras and head home to New Jersey.

"It's sad because reality hasn't really set in because it is so beautiful out. It's like, 'Oh, I don't want to leave this,' but it's like the calm before the storm," said Grippaldi, who hoped to beat the traffic.

Chuck Costas also wasn't taking any chances, interrupting his two-week vacation to move inland from the cottage he rented on Nags Head on the Outer Banks. Large waves already crashing ashore uncomfortably close to the home.

Study: Fewer illegal immigrants in U.S.

HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The number of illegal immigrants living in the U.S. has dropped for the first time in two decades — decreasing by 8 percent since 2007, a new study finds. The reasons range from the sour economy to Mexican violence and increased U.S. enforcement that has made it harder to sneak across the border.

Much of the decline comes from a sharp drop-off in illegal immigrants from the Caribbean, Central America and South America attempting to cross the southern border of the U.S., according to the Pew Hispanic Center, which based its report on an analysis of 2009 census data.

The findings come amid bitter debate over Arizona's strict new immigration law, which was passed earlier this year but is on hold for now as it is challenged in federal court. The Obama administration contends the state law usurps federal authority and promotes racial profiling, while Arizona leaders say states are justified to step in if federal enforcement falls substantially short.

The study released Wednesday estimates that 11.1 million illegal immigrants lived in the U.S. in 2009. That represents a decrease of roughly 1 million, or 8 percent, from a peak of 12 million in 2007.

The study puts the number of illegal immigrants down to about where it was in 2005. They still make up roughly 4 percent of the U.S. population.

The Homeland Security Department's own estimate of illegal immigrants is slightly lower, at 10.8 million. The government uses a different census survey that makes some year-to-year comparisons difficult.

An increase in unauthorized immigrants leaving the U.S., by deportation or for economic reasons, may have played a factor in the falling number.

In recent years, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has deported an increasing number of illegal immigrants, reaching a high last year of more than 389,000 people, according to government figures.

States in the Southeast and Southwest saw some of the biggest declines in the number of illegal immigrants from 2008 to 2009, including Florida, Nevada and Virginia. Arizona saw a decrease, but it was too small to be statistically significant.

It's hard to figure out how much of the decline to attribute to the bad economy and how much to federal immigration enforcement, said Jeffrey Passel, a senior demographer at Pew who co-wrote the analysis.

"They're certainly acting together," he said. Passel said illegal immigrants now find it more expensive and dangerous to cross into the U.S. and also have less incentive to do so given the languishing job market in construction and other low-wage industries.

The Pew analysis found the sharpest decline — 22 percent — among illegal immigrants from Latin American countries other than Mexico. This may reflect a lesser-known aspect of the immigration debate that broke into the news again last week when the bodies of 72 Central and South American migrants were found in a cartel stronghold in northern Mexico: Thousands of non-Mexicans go missing on their way to the United States, falling victim to demands that they pay impossible ransoms to criminal gangs that control access to the U.S. border.

"While people are arguing the government is not stopping illegal immigration, our data suggests the flow of undocumented immigrants sneaking into the country has dropped dramatically," Passel said.

Police kill gunman at network headquarters

SARAH BRUMFIELD
Associated Press Writer

SILVER SPRING, Md. Police shot and killed a man upset with the Discovery Channel network's programming who took two employees and a security officer hostage at the company's headquarters Wednesday, officials said. All three hostages escaped safely.

Police spent several hours negotiating with the gunman, who was upset about the network's programming, after he burst into the suburban Washington building about 1 p.m. waving a handgun and with canisters strapped to his body.

Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger said one explosive device detonated on the gunman's body when they shot him, and they were working to determine whether two boxes and two backpacks he also had with him were explosives. The 1,900 people who work in the building were able to get out safely.

Manger said officers were monitoring Lee on building security cameras and tactical officers moved in when they saw him pull out the handgun and point it at one of the hostages.

A law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing said authorities had identified James J. Lee as the likely suspect.

A different official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason, said Lee previously protested outside the building, where he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct in February 2008, according to court records.

Police reports indicate he paid homeless people to join his protest and carry signs outside the building. He gave one individual $1,000 for what he considered a prize winning essay.

At one point, a crowd of more than 100 people gathered around Lee, 43, who referred to money as "just trash" and began throwing fistfuls of it into the air.

At the trial, The Gazette of Montgomery County reported, he said he began working to save the planet after being laid off from his job in San Diego. He said he was inspired by "Ishmael," a novel by environmentalist Daniel Quinn and by former Vice President Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

A lengthy posting which could be seen Wednesday on a website registered to Lee expressed anger against the Discovery Channel and said it promoted overpopulation.

He said it and its affiliates should stop "encouraging the birth of any more parasitic human infants." Instead, he said, the network should air "programs encouraging human sterilization and infertility."

"NO MORE BABIES! Population growth is a real crisis," he wrote.

He also railed against "programs promoting War" and said solutions should be found for global warming and automotive and factory pollution.

"I want Discovery Communications to broadcast on their channels to the world their new program lineup and I want proof they are doing so," he wrote. "I want the new shows started by asking the public for inventive solution ideas to save the planet and the remaining wildlife on it."

Discovery Communications Inc. operates cable and satellite networks in the U.S., including The Discovery Channel, TLC and Animal Planet. Discovery shows include "Cash Cab" and "Man vs. Wild," and TLC airs "American Chopper" and "Kate Plus Eight."

Animal Planet also airs the controversial series "Whale Wars," about attempts by environmentalists to disrupt the Japanese whaling industry.

After Lee's arrest, a magistrate ordered a doctor's evaluation, but court records do not immediately indicate the result. Lee was convicted by a jury and served two weeks in jail. He was also ordered to stay 500 feet away from Discovery headquarters.

Adam Dolan, a sales director in Discovery's education division, told The Associated Press by phone that he was heading to lunch with a co-worker when he heard there was a situation in the building.

He was told to go back up to the top floor, lock the door and turn off the lights. Eventually the workers were herded down a stairwell and told to go home.

"Everyone was very scared, but at the same time ... I think people were calm and collected and responded as one would expect in this situation," said Dolan, 28.

When he got to the bottom floor, he saw shattered glass near the company's daycare and suspected it was broken to get the children out. He later got an e-mail that all the children were safe and had been taken to a McDonald's.

Dolan said the company has unarmed security guards who won't let anyone into the building without a badge.

Melissa Shepard, 32, of Peterborough, N.H., a consultant who works there during the week, said she was on the third floor in a large room with several other workers when someone announced over a loudspeaker that there was a situation in the lobby and people should stay at their desks.

After some time, they were told to move to the other end of the building. She said she was among a dozen workers who huddled into an office, shut the door and turned off the lights.

Then she said someone knocked on the door and told them to leave the building. She said there was some confusion as they were told to go to an upper floor or down the stairs.

"Finally, I screamed, 'tell us where we need to go...I just want to get out of there,'" she said. "I was shaking...I was like what do we do what do we do?'"

Authorities descended on the area, and people were being kept away from the main drag of the downtown area where the building is located amid restaurants and shops. Traffic was jammed.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

Swell Forecast

Looks somewhat small, about knee to waist high most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see some SSE energy come ashore from Easter Island, about chest high max for breaks able to pull in a 170° angle. Elsewhere, knee to waist is the call.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **August 25, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / ns

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

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay 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

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.

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MLB COLUMN

Dodgers are still a mess

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Divorces can be such ugly affairs.

Take the one Frank and Jamie McCourt are going through right now in a Los Angeles courtroom. Just a few days into their trial, there have already been tales of tears and fears as they battle for control of what turns out to be one highly leveraged baseball team.

There's a lot at stake there, namely the future of what used to be a proud franchise. Once portrayed as the saviors of the Dodgers, the McCourts are now being exposed by their own lawyers as a dysfunctional couple with dreams of grandeur.

Thankfully, the child was spared all of this. Little Manny was sent off to spend the rest of the summer in Chicago, where uncle Ozzie promised to protect him from nasty things people were saying about him at home.

"You treat Manny with respect and he's fine," Ozzie Guillen said, somehow resisting the urge to playfully rub the dreadlocked head of his newest charge.

Ah, respect. Such a magical concept that Manny Ramirez can talk about it in English and Spanish.

Give Manny some and there's an outside chance he may respond by leading you to a World Series. Don't give him any, and there's a very good chance he's going to leave you with a broken heart and a busted wallet.

The White Sox obviously hope they're getting the good Manny, not the one who apparently was so disrespected by manager Joe Torre that he got himself ejected after only one pitch in what turned out to be his last at bat with the Dodgers. And maybe they did, at least for the month or so that he has to make his case for conning his new team into giving him a new contract.

Ozzie and Co. certainly aren't risking much, essentially renting Ramirez for the rest of the season. The Dodgers did the same thing two years ago and he responded by hitting .396 with 17 home runs in 53 games to carry his new team to the National League championship series.

Indeed, Ramirez almost had the chance to be a hero in his first two games with the White Sox. He was in the on deck circle Tuesday night when A.J. Pierzynski hit the game-winning three-run home run, and was there again Wednesday when Paul Konerko did the same thing in Cleveland.

But White Sox fans shouldn't start sporting fake dreadlocks at the ballpark just yet. Because the reality is that Manny simply isn't Manny anymore.

One look at this year's numbers certainly seem to indicate that. Ramirez was on the disabled list three times, missed 58 games, and had a meager eight home runs to show for his $20 million paycheck.

He's finishing like many players of the steroid era, breaking down frequently as he ages, swinging late on fast balls, and hitting balls to the warning track that used to easily carry the fence. He's pretty much been that way ever since he was suspended for 50 games last year for using a fertility drug that masks steroid use, and there is no real reason to believe going to Chicago will change that.

But the White Sox remember the big home runs and the clutch hits. They're desperate for a bat that will help them catch the Minnesota Twins and hoping that the pairing with Guillen will somehow rejuvenate Ramirez.

Best of all, the deal didn't cost them anything other than some salary. With the McCourts burning through cash with expensive lawyers, the Dodgers were equally desperate to dump Ramirez and the $3.8 million left on his contract.

In court on Wednesday, Frank McCourt was on the stand, trying to explain that he really never meant for his wife to have any ownership of the Dodgers despite the fact he was married to her and she was the team's chief executive officer.

Just a few miles from the courthouse the Dodgers were going through the motions in an afternoon game at home. The former Mannywood section now advertises an insurance company and there wasn't a set of dreadlocks in sight among the few fans still interested enough to show up.

While Torre insists the Dodgers haven't given up on the season, it's clear that by dumping Ramirez they have indeed. Soon Torre likely will be gone, too, if only because the team that brought him to the West Coast with so much fanfare is not about to pay the going rate for a manager of his stature.

Torre may be happy to get out, and not just because one of his teams will miss the postseason for the first time in 15 years. Even working all those years for George Steinbrenner couldn't prepare him for the mess that is the Dodgers today.

Manny being Manny was bad enough.

But for the Dodgers the McCourts being the McCourts is turning out to be even worse.





MOVIE TIMES

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

Live and Let Die (NR) 2hr 1min
The Man with the Golden Gun (NR) 2hr 5min
7:30pm

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:00pm, 3:05pm, 6:10pm, 9:20pm

Nancy McPhee Returns (PG) 1hr 49min
1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:10pm

The Kids Are All Right (R) 1hr 44min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

The American (R) 1hr 45min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:05pm, 10:10pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:05pm

The Switch (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Takers (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:25pm

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Avatar in Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hr 30 min
11:00am, 2:30pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Cairo Time (NR) 1hr 43min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

Get Low (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

The Concert (Le concert) (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:40pm, 4:20pmm 7:10pm, 9:50pm

The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm

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

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:05pm, 2:30pm, 5:05pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

The Expendables (R) 1hr 43min
2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:00pm

The Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Vampires Suck (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

The Last Exorcism (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:30pm, 2:50pm, 5:15pm, 7:40pm 10:05pm

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

Tonight, finally relax Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You come from a solid place, with good intentions. Those around you sense your integrity. You discover alternatives in a discussion with a friend. Be happy that you are not the only person with good ideas. Two minds work better than one. Tonight: Return calls. Clear your desk. Catch up on a friend's news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Realize what is going on behind the scenes. Dealing with a boss can be challenging because he or she is vague or spacey. Right now, you have a tendency to do a Vulcan mind meld with those you find on another plane. Tonight: Treat yourself and a special friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are all smiles, and others respond to your energy. In fact, where you had difficulty before seems easy. Follow through on what up till now has been a dream. Your mind works overtime, but you are right-on. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ A partner or associate relates on a one-on-one level. You are centered and direct in a conversation. Someone shares a confidential matter. Honor this person's trust. Resist letting another person know that you see his or her true motives. Tonight: Get some extra R and R when you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Don't delay a decision. Once it's made, zero in on what you want. Someone close, perhaps an associate or neighbor, realizes where you are coming from. Success comes from a meeting with a group of supporters. Tonight: Going for what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might be reticent to take a stand. Curb a tendency to make decisions or judgments without others' feedback and/or acknowledgment. Inspiration comes from a new element in your daily life. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ To many people, you seem mentally impulsive and direct. Others don't understand how well thought out your actions are. Sometimes sharing more of the process eliminates some of the flak. You cannot expect others to go from 1 to 5. It took us a while to get there, too. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Your instincts will guide you with a partner. This person is lighter and more spontaneous. However, he or she also needs and wants your participation. The timing might be such that a discussion finally brings agreement. Tonight: Go with a quirky idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Obviously, you cannot control others, but you can let go of trying. Relationships will flourish in both the professional and personal realms of your life if you do. Everyone feels better with this give-and-take. Honor your feelings. Tonight: Be light and easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Emphasize completion rather than working on several different projects. A boss or superior lets you know how much he or she appreciates your efforts. You wonder if you have enough get-up-and-go to accomplish your goals. Remember, you are the Goat, the one who climbs uphill. Tonight: Finally, relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your sense of direction comes from an inner knowing that is difficult to explain. Creativity mixes with intellect, taking away the word "impossible." Don't delay acting on what is important. The time is now. Tonight: Get into the spirit of fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You are coming from a secure place and know what your priorities are. Communicating them to someone is another issue. A partner might be more receptive than in the past. Tonight: Happy at home.

Happy birthday

This year, you plunge ahead and experience new ideas. Often, you find others to be abrupt or unpredictable. Make that OK, as you won't be able to change others, and you have never really been able to. You can choose your reaction. Often, you are so much in your head that others need to nearly break in. Curb a tendency to spend and/or be indulgent. If you are single, you meet people with ease, but proceed with care. Relationships have a wild, unpredictable tone. If you are attached, enjoy your partner's quirkiness rather than criticize it. GEMINI is demanding.

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

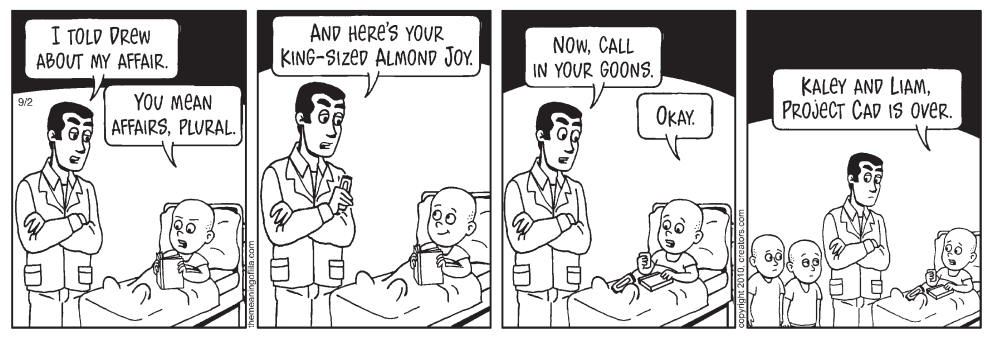
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



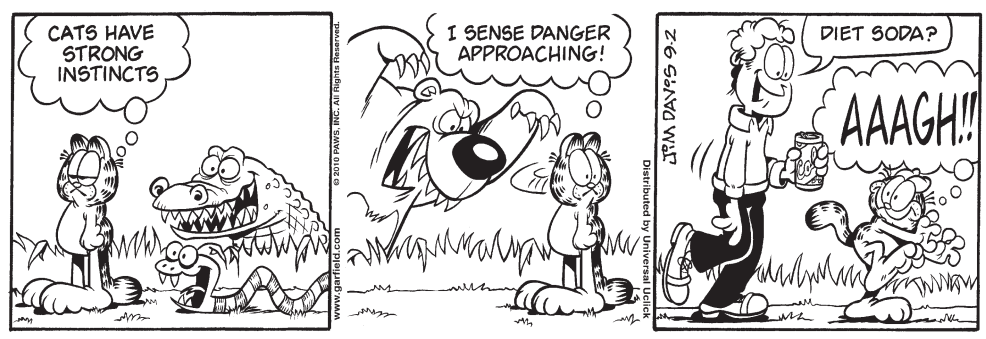
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



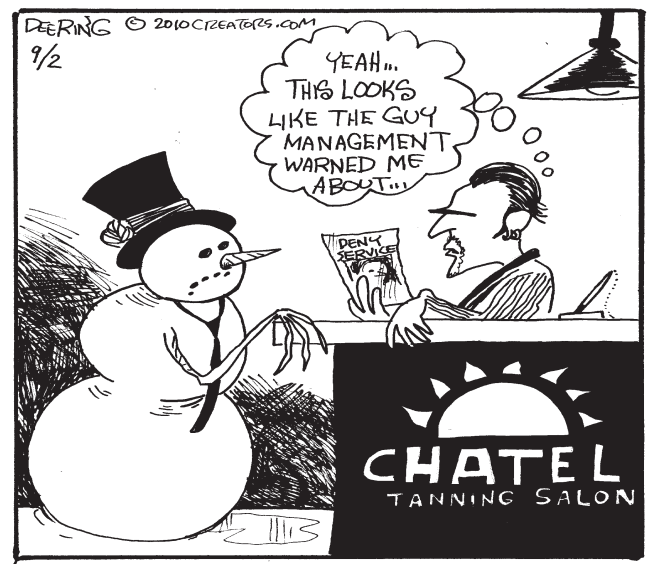
Garfield

By Jim Davis



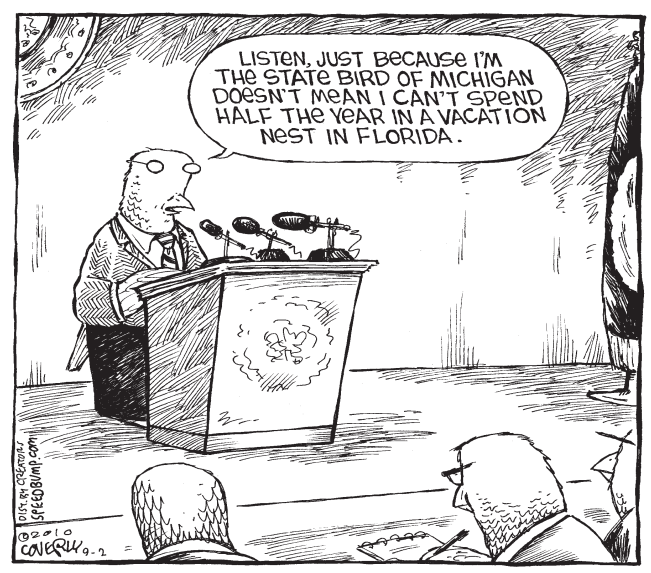
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Procrastination is a problem when it comes to doing my disaster plan. As a business owner I have a lot to do. It's not like **a disaster** is going to happen tomorrow. Besides, we have that new business pitch. I've been **waiting** for this **to** happen for a while now. I'll get the disaster plan finished eventually. Nothing to worry about, it'll **happen.**

Whether natural or man-made, at least one in four businesses affected by a disaster never reopen. Though emergencies are unpredictable, when you have a plan in place you can adapt, recover and stay in control.

It's never too late to protect your business until it is.

Make a plan.

READY.GOV

Ad Council
Ready Business

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 ★★★

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

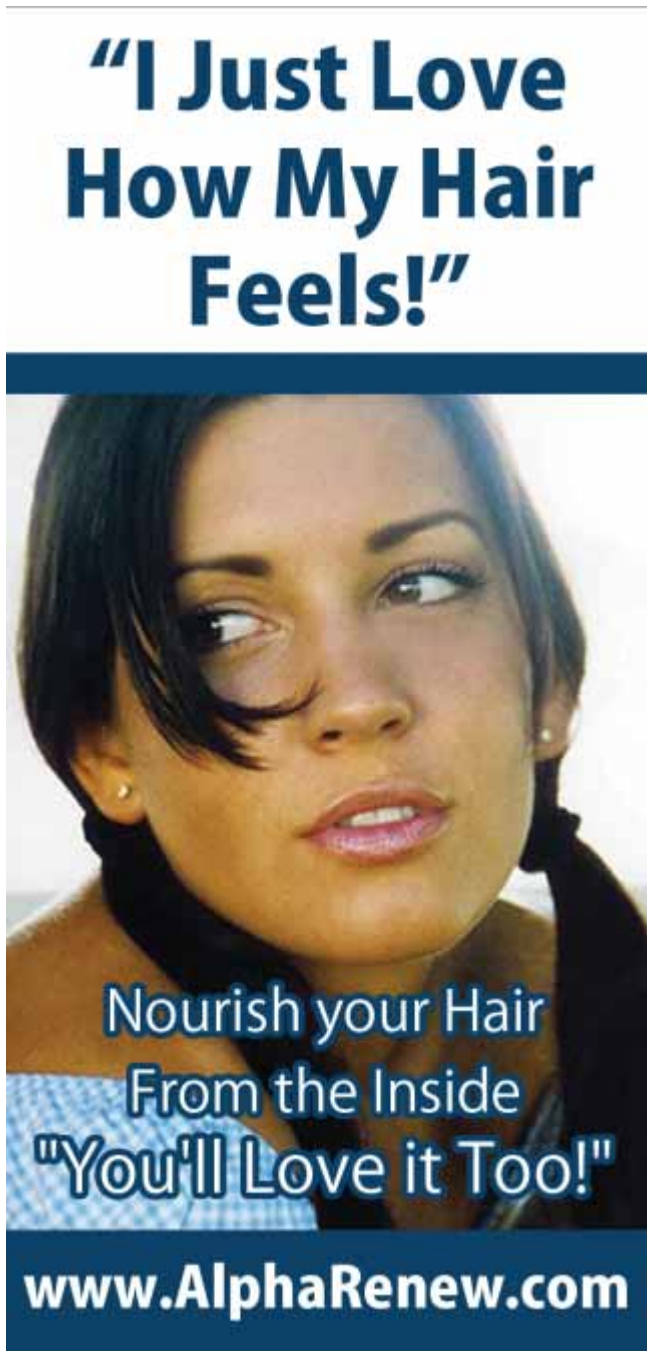
King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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





MYSTERY PHOTO

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *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*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Foal's mother
5 To-dos
11 Sign of trouble
12 "Ah, Wilderness!" author
13 Diplomatic skill
14 With grace
15 "The Mikado," for one
17 For each
18 Poet Breton
22 Modify
24 Beer mug
25 Architect I.M.
26 Atlantic catch
27 Methuselah's father
30 Aids in crime
32 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
33 Unruly do
34 Let in
38 Pulp source
41 Bike part
42 Jumper's cord
43 Theater box
44 Devour
45 Baseballer Slaughter

DOWN

1 Sleuth played by Lorre
2 "Do I need to draw you —?"
3 Post-wedding party
4 Main dish
5 Layout choice
6 Quarterback Johnny
7 Trig function
8 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
9 Wing
10 Crafty
16 Goof up
19 Guile
20 Mob action
21 Finishes
22 Made fun of
23 Late-night name
28 Modify
29 Baseballer Gil
30 Paris pal
31 Soda buy
35 Convene
36 Therefore
37 Bad grades
38 Kimono sash
39 Baseball score
40 Director Lee

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

9-2

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
10 20 29 47 48
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
11 20 36 39 41
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
3 7 10 15 17

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 4 4 7
EVENING: 7 8 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:46.94

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

■ News of the Weird has been among those taunting the Scottish over the years for their culinary devotion to haggis (sheep's stomach, boiled, with liver, heart or lung, accompanied by oatmeal, suet, onions and various "spices"), but the Edinburgh chocolatier Nadia Ellingham recently answered -- with "haggis chocolates," which are thankfully meat-free but contain the familiar haggis spices.

■ More Bad Multitaskers: Driver Bryan Parslow, 19, injured himself and three passengers when he crashed into a tree near Wheatland, N.Y., in May. He was playing "hold your breath" with the others and passed out. And in July, Lora Hunt, 49, was sentenced to 18 months in jail in the crash that killed a woman on a motorcycle in Lake County, Ill., in 2009. Hunt was so preoccupied painting her nails (polish was splashed all over the car's interior) that she never even moved to apply the brakes before the collision. On the other hand, Amanda McBride, 29, is such an excellent multitasker that she was able to drive herself to the hospital in Bemidji, Minn., in May while giving birth. (Her husband was in the front seat but, seizure-prone, he does not drive.) The child emerged just as Amanda pulled into the hospital parking lot. "(H)e just slid out," she said. "It really wasn't bad at all."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1901 Vice President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt utters the famous phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" at the Minnesota State Fair.

1925 The U.S. Zeppelin the USS Shenandoah crashes, killing 14.

1935 Labor Day Hurricane of 1935: a large hurricane hits the Florida Keys killing 423.

1939 World War II: Following the start of the invasion of Poland the previous day, the Free City of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) is annexed by Nazi Germany.

1945 World War II: Combat ends in the Pacific Theater: the Instrument of Surrender of Japan is signed by Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and accepted aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

WORD UP!

anacoluthia
\ an-uh-kuh-LOO-thee-uh \ , noun; 1. Lack of grammatical sequence or coherence, esp. in a sentence.

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What kind of double speak do our elected officials use to aver to support the constitution, give full faith and credit to other states and then vote to boycott a state to placate a noisy minority that does not like the laws of that state? John Legreid

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Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,862,500	$809,000
South of Wilshire	$799,000	$619,000
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$529,000
Ocean Park	$1,402,000	$899,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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