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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 269

Santa Monica Daily Press

TRACKING REPEAT OFFENDERS
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE GETTING IT DONE ISSUE

All-time high score for school district

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Test scores just keep going up.

The California Department of Education on Tuesday released results of the 2009 Academic Performance Index (API), which rates achievement based on two state assessments, showing that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District improved its scores by 5 points.

The API is based on results of the California High School Exit Examination and the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program, rating schools on a scale of 200 to 1,000 with the target set at 800, which all in the SMMUSD with the exception of Olympic High School — 772 — reached.

The improvement brings the district to its all time high of 835.

"Our district mission is to increase achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap," Superintendent Tim Cuneo said.

Students in minority subgroups also saw their scores improve, the biggest gains belong to African-Americans whose points increased by 28. Latino and economically disadvantaged students improved their API by six points each. The scores for the three subgroups however remain below 800.

Students with disabilities also improved their API by 16 points, reaching a score of 622.

"The 2009 API report speaks to the professionalism and commitment of our classroom teachers, school administrators, support staff and district staff," Cuneo said. "Based on these results, we will be moving forward with a strategic plan to focus on specific programs and projects that will yield continued gains for all students, and effectively close the pernicious achievement gaps that remain."



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BIG GAINERS: **Students participate in Milus Blagojevic's math class at Santa Monica High School on Tuesday afternoon. Students across the district showed gains on standardized tests.**

Most schools also saw improvement this year, including McKinley Elementary and Point Dume Marine Science School in Malibu, which saw gains of 34 and 35 points, respectively, bringing the latter's score to 944 — the highest in the district.

The biggest drop occurred at Juan Cabrillo Elementary, which saw its scores go down by 37 points to 824. The school had improved its score just a year prior by 21 points.

Barry Yates, the principal at Juan Cabrillo, said that the school has hired a former teacher to work as a reading specialist in grades three to five to help support students' literacy development. The school will also introduce a before-school tutorial program.

SEE SCORES PAGE 11

Road to creating a Shangri-landmark

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN It represented hope and recovery following one of the worst economic catastrophes in U.S. history, an optimistic signal of wealth in the years to come, packaged in a modernistic building boasting ocean views.

More than 69 years after the Hotel Shangri-La opened its doors on the corner of Ocean and Arizona avenues, the one-time home of World War II soldiers is on track to become the next historic landmark in Santa Monica.

The Landmarks Commission on Monday directed its staff to file an application nominating the hotel for landmark status. A public hearing is expected to be held for either the commission's Oct. 12 or Nov. 9 meetings.

The seven-story building reopened in December of 2008 after undergoing extensive renovations, expanding the number of guestrooms from 54 to 71. All that remains from the original 1939 structure — aside from the walls and windows — is the original glass brick entryway. The goal was to restore the hotel back to its original form, including installing a replica of the original terrazzo floors and bringing back the old elevator floor indicators in which an arrow — not a digital screen — would inform passengers of the location of the car.

Construction was officially completed in June.

"We feel that the Hotel Shangri-La is iconic and has served the community well over many decades," Tehmina Adaya, the owner and CEO of the hotel, said. "We are very excited to start the process of landmarking."

The Adaya family has owned the hotel since 1983.

Tulsa-Santa Monica Corp./F.A. Gillespie & Sons developed what was then known as the Shangri-La Apartment Hotel in 1939 at the cost of $400,000 with hopes of "bringing to Santa Monica people of wealth and distinction from every part of the globe," according to an article in the Evening Outlook in 1940.

It was designed by Beverly Hills based-architect William E. Foster in the streamline-

SEE LANDMARK PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009

Overcoming mental illness
Santa Monica Public Library Main Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Tom Wootton, author of the new book "Bipolar in Order," will be giving a presentation about living an extraordinary life with bipolar disorder and depression, offering his perspective on the treatment of mental conditions. This talk is free and open to the public. Call (310)889-7200 for more information.

Calling all book worms
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Join this free book group for a discussion of Bliss Broyard's "One Drop."
Call (310)829-7081 for more information.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 4th St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come out for free dance lessons, followed by dancing on a 3,000-square-foot floor. Waltz, fox-trot, swing, hustle and more. No partner necessary. Admission fee: $10.
Call (310)487-0911 for more information.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009

All about the opera
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Enjoy presentations about five upcoming operas and a behind the scenes peek before heading out to see them. This Thursday, Wagner's Siegfried is discussed. This program series is free and all ages are welcome. Space is limited and based on arrival.
For more information, visit www.smpl.org or call (310) 458-8600.

Laugh your socks off
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon
Come every Thursday for a form of body-mind exercise for all ages and fitness levels. The class is led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader. The price is $10 per person. Visit www.kimselbert.com or call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

What's new?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Come to the library for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Cost is free.
Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Friday, Sept. 18, 2009

Post-American?
18th Street Arts Center
1639 18th St., 11 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
The 18th Street Arts Center continues its 2009 season with the exhibition Post-American L.A. curated by Pilar Tompkins for the main gallery and project room. The exhibition features artists that question the scope and impact of American predominance; from the international stage to municipal politics. Artists include Carolina Caycedo, Sandra de la Loza, Hugo Hopping, Ashley Hunt, Vincent Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Adrian Paci, Vincent Ramos and Chen Shaoxiong.
Call (310) 453-3711 for more information.

Movies on the pier
Santa Monica Pier, West Pier parking deck
7 p.m.
Brand X and Verizon Wireless present movies on the pier every Friday through Oct. 2. Gates open at 7 p.m., movies start after dusk. Free popcorn and bottled water are available when you visit the Verizon Wireless tent while supplies last. This Friday, "Hairspray" is playing. Admission is free. Call (310) 458-8900 for more information.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Couple ordered to stand trial in USC hit-and-run

A husband and wife have been ordered to stand trial in a hit-and-run crash that killed a University of Southern California student and seriously injured another.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge determined Tuesday that there is sufficient evidence for Claudia Cabrera, 30, and Josue Luna, 33, to face trial.

Police say Cabrera was driving and Luna the passenger when their car ran a red light and hit 18-year-old Adrianna Bachan and her friend Marcus Garfinkle around 3 a.m. on March 29. Bachan was killed and Garfinkle badly injured.

Police say Cabrera stopped only so Luna could pull Garfinkle off the hood of the car and dump him on the ground before fleeing.

Trial is set for Sept. 29.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRWINDALE
Wildfire 91 percent contained

The largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history is 91 percent contained and crews remain on track to have it surrounded by the weekend.

Fire spokesman Tom DeBellis said Tuesday the nearly 251-square-mile fire northeast of Los Angeles hasn't grown but about 100 homes within its boundaries remain threatened. Crews expect to declare it fully contained on Saturday night.

The fire in the Angeles National Forest was caused by arson on Aug. 26. It destroyed 89 homes and caused the deaths of two firefighters.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday announced that the Small Business Administration has declared Los Angeles County a disaster area as a result of the fire, ensuring that low interest federal loans are available for residents and business owners affected by the blaze.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Sheriff's deputy kills unarmed man during chase

A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy shot and killed an unarmed man he feared was reaching for a gun in the Athens area south of downtown Los Angeles, officials said.

Lt. Dave Dolson said Derek Collins, 36, was shot Monday night as he fled from two deputies.

The deputies thought Collins and a friend matched the description of armed robbery suspects, Dolson said. When they approached, Collins ran toward a relative's backyard and was shot at the gate.

One of the deputies fired several shots when Collins reached into his waistband, Dolson said. No weapon was found.

Collins was the father of a 16-month-old boy and a 12-year-old girl and was planning to attend barber school.

His family members said they were outraged by the shooting and called for the deputy who shot him to be charged with murder.

"It's pathetic how they did this. It's senseless," said Collins' mother, Bernastein Huckaby. "They took my son away from me. I just want justice for my son."

The other man was interviewed and released.

The sheriff's department of internal affairs, the county office of independent review, the district attorney and homicide investigators will review the incident.

The two deputies have been placed on leave. Their names were not released, Dolson said.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Ex-school official gets prison for molestation

A former assistant principal has been sentenced to eight years in prison for molesting four girls at two Los Angeles schools.

A Superior Court judge on Tuesday also ordered 40-year-old Steve Thomas Rooney to pay $5,000 in fines and restitution.

Rooney pleaded no contest in August to four counts, including a lewd act on a child under 14.

Prosecutors say two Markham Middle School students were molested between January and March 2008, and two others were students at Foshay Learning Center when the molestions began.

Rooney worked as a teacher and later dean of students at Foshay, and as an assistant principal at Markham.

He was fired by the school district after an investigation.

His attorney Dmitry Gorin says Rooney is remorseful.

AP

New database targets prescription drug addicts

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Prescription drug addicts who visit multiple doctors to feed their habits are being targeted by a new database for doctors and law enforcement in California.

Attorney General Jerry Brown unveiled a secure Web site Tuesday that tracks prescription drug use, saying doctors will be able to log on to see what other prescriptions their patients may be taking. Law enforcement will also track the site's data to spot trends in drug abuse.

The Web site is an upgrade to the state's previous system, which required doctors and pharmacists to request information by fax, mail or phone, and wait days for a response.

A $1.1 million federal grant and additional state resources were used to get the new site up and running.

"We have so much (drugs) moving on the streets and we have so much moving in doctors' suites, and we have to attack both," Brown said.

Web site users will have instant access to prescriptions filled for schedule II, III and IV drugs — including powerful painkillers like morphine, hydro-codone and codeine.

Brown said few doctors have signed up for the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System's new Web site, "but we expect thousands to sign up."

He said 38 states have some sort of prescription drug monitoring system in place. Of those, 25 have internet-based systems. California is the 26th and largest state to operate a Web-based database.

The attorney general's office receives more than 60,000 requests annually for such information.

Prescription drug abuse is costly for the state and health insurers. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates 20 percent to 30 percent of California's drug abusers primarily use prescription drugs.

In 2008, the state attorney general's office targeted the California's top 50 doctor-shoppers, who visited multiple doctors to collect prescriptions for large quantities of drugs. As a result, dozens of arrests were made, including a 53-year-old man who visited 183 doctors and 47 pharmacies to get a variety of painkillers.

California's strapped budget could benefit if the database is successful in stopping illegal access to prescription drugs, according to Dr. David Kloth, an anesthesiologist and board member of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians. Many painkiller prescriptions are funded by taxpayer dollars through public health insurance programs like Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program.

"If you took the dollars that were wasted on diverted and abused medicines in this country, it would come to billions of dollars a year," Kloth said.

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

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looking for the light

Editor:

Being able to sleep should (if it isn't all ready) be an "inalienable" right. Any person or organization who would deprive a person of that, homeless or otherwise, by threats of intimidation, jail or citation, is arguably being "unconstitutional." It's how they torture POWs. A person who hasn't had sleep or food/water can appear to be insane as many of our homeless people do walking the streets of Santa Monica. How many Santa Monicans or Americans take this right for granted? The ACLU understands this, which is why there is a lawsuit against the city of Santa Monica at this point.

Bill Bauer ("My Write," Sept. 7) is so hopelessly clinging to inaccurate stereotypes that all homeless people are drunks, drug-addled, depraved criminals and even murderers, that he would trivialize the misfortunes of those named in the ACLU's lawsuit (and use Lily Burke's murder to get his narrow-minded point across). The fact is one of the people in the ACLU's lawsuit is a man who was employed and had a job and pleaded with the SMPD not to take him to jail because he would lose that job, but for whatever reason the SMPD chose to take him to jail. As I have recently become employed I pray that fate doesn't fall upon me because I am eager to get off the streets and be a working member of society once again.

For someone who (so rabidly at times) contributes for the Santa Monica Daily Press he fails even to read the publication he contributes for to read about homeless success stories as Brianna Karp and Matt Barnes who provide inspiration and hope for those of us who are on the streets looking for that light at the end of the tunnel.

Robert Sianez
Santa Monica

Right on, Steve

Editor:

Steve Breen's Sept. 2 column "ObamaCare flatlining" was right on target. As a retired physician who has previously worked for the National Health Service in England, I totally agree with his comments. If you think health care is expensive now, wait until it is free! We all know that ObamaCare means rationing and death panels as seen in Canada and England. Why doesn't Congress agree to accept the same mediocre health care that they want to force onto us?

I enjoy reading Steve Breen's columns. They offer a refreshing alternative in Santa Monica. Please allow him to keep up the good work!

Dr. Stephen R. Shapiro
Santa Monica

Going elsewhere

Editor:

To add to Bill Bauer's point about people driving to other shopping areas because of the parking in Santa Monica ("Downtown parking fixes may make things worse," Sept. 14), I already drive to the Westside Pavilion and Century City mall to avoid paying the fees for Downtown Santa Monica parking. Neither mall charges for a normal shopping trip after 5 p.m. So even though I am a Santa Monica resident who enjoys Third Street, I rarely go there and end up spending my money in the city of Los Angeles.

Dan Kolhoff
Santa Monica

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Going Postal

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

In service of man

SEPT. 11 CAME AND WENT THIS PAST WEEK with a meager whimper of real notice. Flags were flourished at half-mast while puerile politicians hid behind perfunctory homilies of gas-baggery who wish to put a happy faced Band-Aid on that blistering memory of atavistic brutality against America on that sunny late-summer morning.

"The National Day of Service and Remembrance" is the fashionable liberal moniker for 9/11 these days. The Community-Organizer-in-Chief wants us to devolve from the negative vibe of our anger, pain and mourning and invest our positive energies towards "community service" like picking up litter, recycling light bulbs and whitewashing our memories.

Quite frankly, folks, screw that.

I want to vent my anger on the jihadi scumbags that killed my countrymen. I want to feel my pain as I helplessly watched hapless people diving out of office windows to escape a raging inferno. I want to mourn the cops, firefighters and military personnel who saved as many people as they could before they themselves perished during that "man-caused disaster." I want to honor and mourn the souls of Flight 93 for having the courage to selflessly ditch that plane into the dirt in order to save others at their own ultimate peril.

Sept. 11? I will never forgive. I will never forget.

Furthermore, I would like to honor George W. Bush for his service to his country in the wake of 9/11. Please notice there hasn't been a successful act of terror on American soil since. Pontificating pro-terrorist belly-achers, however, from the tin-foil hat brigade continue to bloviate about those missing "seven minutes" of Bush's alleged inaction while al-Qaida was busy crashing passenger planes into office buildings.

First of all, my answer to this reality-challenged Truther musing is this: Clairvoyance is not considered a Constitutional requirement for the presidency and secondly, what did Bill Clinton do during the seven years of al-Qaida attacks on Americans starting with the first World Trade Center bombing (1993), the truck bombing of marines at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia (1996), three U.S. embassy bombings (1998) and the attack on the USS Cole (2000)?

Well, folks, he was too busy playing "hide the Cohiba" with his hefty hussy in the Oval Office! Slick Willy obviously preferred girls with low-standards and low self-esteem over defending American lives either here or abroad.

To be furthermore unfair and judgmental about the nature of "service," allow me to inflict upon you as to what my own peculiar notions of "service" entail. First of all, citizen, you are not a unique "snowflake" and nobody, I mean nobody, owes you anything, not even life itself. Doubt me? Then please explain why we've had 49.5 million other "snowflakes" aborted in this country in the name of "choice." If you were born after 1973, please call your mother right now and thank her for her "choice."

She did you a "service."

Secondly, "there ain't no such thing as a free lunch!" Free lunch services such as Section-8 housing, welfare, food stamps, medical care, etc., are not "free." Ask any taxpayer as they are the ones that have to pay for these services that some allegedly get for "free."

Show gratitude.

Is it an inconvenient truth that these "free" services should be readily acquired from your own family? Unless, of course, you are a complete and utter dirt bag who has had a well-rehearsed excuse for every mishap in your misanthropic life ("My teeth itch, my hair hurts, etc."). To alleviate this self-inflicted malady, please check out the Santa Monica Civic. Dr. Wayne Dyer is hosting a seminar, "Excuses Be Gone" on Sept. 20.

Thirdly, If you want to be of "service" and serve your community, please stop standing out in front of Whole Foods market with some pretentious petition pimping "Save the ADHD Gay Nuclear Whales" or some other effluvia. Name any Amnesty International petition that has ever stopped a suicide bomber from going ballistic on a school bus.

If you want to stop Afghani women from getting their ears and fingers lopped off by the Taliban for simply voting at election time then signing a fluffy petition is pithy ego-massage. Try joining the military and engage in some "direct action" to effect some real change in the world otherwise you are just another mouthy ACLU wuss with an overdeveloped sense of self-importance and good reading skills.

You could even be president some day.

My lovely wife, Lisa, wants her Afghani sisters to have the same liberties that she enjoys. To that end, she goes to boot camp this October to serve in the United States Army.

STEVE BREEN has always been at America's service and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life
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Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Running off at the mouth

BY NOW, I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson and his outburst during our president's address to a joint session of Congress last week. When he screamed, "You lie!" in the otherwise silent House chamber, Wilson brought the insanity of this summer's town meetings on health care reform into the most hallowed hall of our great republic and simultaneously became the most famous heckler in America. It's not the ideal way for a Republican member of Congress to become a household name, but it's better than Idaho Sen. Larry Craig and his "wide stance" in a Minneapolis airport men's room.

In the past week, any of a number of my fellow columnists have taken on this subject; decrying the death of civility while comparing Joe Wilson's behavior to Serena Williams' profanity-laced tirade directed at a U.S. Open referee or Kanye West's interrupting Taylor Swift's Video Music Awards acceptance speech.

For me, those comparisons miss the mark because unlike those two black entertainers, Joe Wilson belongs to a demographic (middle-aged southern white guys who are members of Congress) known for good manners. A much better example to look to is that of former professional golfer Fuzzy Zoeller and the comments he made about then soon-to-be-first-time-Masters-champion Tiger Woods at Augusta National Golf Club one Sunday back in 1997.

At the time, Zoeller was a popular, well-liked PGA tour pro who had been the 1979 Masters champion. Woods was on his way to his first major championship with a 12-stroke margin of victory over a field that really didn't challenge him that weekend. Tiger had not yet come to dominate professional golf, but it was generally accepted that it was just a matter of time before he would. In other words, a young, untested black guy was coming into this venerable bastion of southern whiteness and was poised to take it over (sound familiar?). Needless to say, not everybody was comfortable with the idea.

That's when Zoeller, who had finished his round of golf and had begun enjoying some rounds of cocktails, made 18 seconds of commentary that will haunt him for the rest of his life. Speaking to a TV reporter, he said, "That little boy is driving well and he's putting well. He's doing everything it takes to win. So, you know what you guys do when he gets in here? You pat him on the back and say congratulations and enjoy it and tell him not to serve fried chicken (at the champions dinner) next year … or collard greens or whatever the hell they serve." Then Zoeller sauntered off to refresh his mint julep or whatever the hell they drink.

In the days and weeks that followed, the community of PGA tour professionals (at least the ones who would comment publicly) unanimously condemned Fuzzy's comments, though most defended him as a good guy. More importantly, Zoeller's main sponsor, Kmart, canceled his endorsement deal saying, "Regardless of the context, (the comments) are contrary to Kmart's long-standing policies that insure our words and deeds are without bias." For his part, Fuzzy Zoeller dropped out of a tournament he had played in for more than 20 consecutive years because the controversy was a distraction from the business of playing golf.

Compare that response to Joe Wilson's Republican colleagues and the real problem begins to emerge. Initially, they tried the "moral equivalence" argument by saying that Democrats had hissed and booed President Bush when he addressed a joint session and no apologies were made. Now they're saying Wilson's calling White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel to apologize to President Obama is enough contrition and that he doesn't need to make an additional apology from the House floor. I say if Fuzzy Zoeller had enough respect for a PGA golf course not to tee it up while he was the center of controversy, Joe Wilson should have the same respect for the House chamber and should only enter it in order to apologize to that august body for his unprecedented breach of decorum. Emboldened by this lack of leadership in his party, Joe Wilson has flatly refused to make such an apology.

Throughout the last seven days, the chronicles of South Carolina Joe have actually made me more hopeful, not less hopeful, for the future of our government because despite the fact that 25 percent of the people surveyed in a recent Gallup poll approve of Wilson's behavior (with 6 percent claiming to be "thrilled" about it), almost 70 percent disapprove. And even though Wilson has raised some $700,000 in campaign contributions in the last week, his likely opponent has doubled that total and raised almost $1.5 million, showing that the people of South Carolina are voting with their dollars over a year before they cast their ballots, and sending their soon-to-be-ex-congressman the message that the House Republican "leadership" doesn't have the courage to send: you were wrong.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who would love to see a Zoeller/Woods/Wilson/Obama foursome play a round at Congressional Country Club. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Paying to park

The City Council has agreed to increase the fees for parking at Downtown structures. The maximum daily rate will increase from $7 to $9. A monthly pass will go from $82.50 to $121.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think that the increases are overdue or has the council gone too far?

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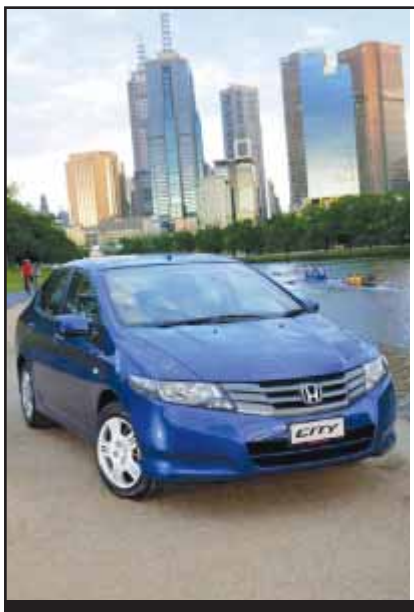


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duffme: 44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie: 30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989: 15, female, Naperville, IL
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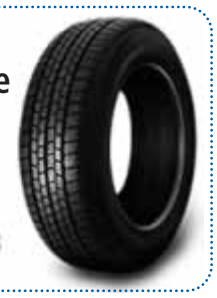
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ECONOMY

Increased retail sales give analysts optimism

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Hopes for an economic recovery drew support Tuesday from retail sales figures that topped expectations. But weak results from two major stores sent a more sobering message: Americans probably aren't ready to spend in force again.

Auto sales soared in August, partly because of Cash for Clunkers government rebates. Even apart from autos, sales gains came in ahead of what analysts were looking for.

But lackluster sales reports from Best Buy and Kroger signaled that shoppers remain wary. And with the job market still weak, wages flat and credit tight, economists warned that the August gains could be short-lived.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday that while the recession is probably over, at least technically, "it's still going to feel like a very weak economy for some time."

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 2.7 percent last month after falling 0.2 percent in July. That's the largest gain since January 2006 and easily beat analysts' expectations.

While the figures were welcome, "we need more data to see if this is sustainable or just noise," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a research note. "The income and credit constraints on consumers remain intense."

Auto sales were up 10.6 percent, the biggest gain in almost eight years, mainly because of the recently ended clunkers program. Gas station sales increased 5.1 percent, as prices at the pump rose.

Excluding those two categories, sales rose 0.6 percent, the most in six months.

"That's a pretty good rate — if it was sustained," said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. financial economist at IHS Global Insight.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of the nation's economy. Analysts note that Americans are saving more even as their incomes stay flat. If they don't consistently spend more, the economic recovery could weaken next year.

Retail sales last month were helped by tax holidays in several large states, including California, Texas and Florida. In addition, school openings were delayed in some places because of budget constraints. Both factors probably pushed some back-to-school sales from July into August — thereby boosting last month's retail sales numbers, Bethune said.

With government incentives no longer available, auto sales will probably fall in coming months. Bethune called it "the hangover from Cash for Clunkers." He expects consumer spending to rise 2.5 percent this quarter, then slip later this year.

The recession has cut so deeply that even as retail sales show signs of life, they remain substantially below levels of a year ago.

Kroger Co., the nation's largest grocery chain, said most shoppers are buying only what they need for the week — or just their next meal — and show signs of running out of money by the end of the month. They're also trading down even among store brands, increasingly choosing the cheapest option.

Store traffic is up slightly at Best Buy Co. Inc., but it, too, said shoppers are spending less. The company raised its conservative sales and earnings expectations but said the weak economy would keep a lid on spending.

Even though it was helped by the bankruptcy of Circuit City, Best Buy's U.S. sales at stores open at least 14 months, a key indicator, still fell 3.1 percent.

"Consumers are nervous, and are looking at every purchase with equal importance, from the large-ticket items to what they're eating for lunch or dinner," said Doug Conn, managing director of New York-based Hexagon Securities.

A report from the Labor Department, meanwhile, signaled that the still-weak economy is keeping inflation in check. Wholesale prices rose 1.7 percent in August, more than double what economists expected, after slipping 0.9 percent in July. Both months were skewed by volatile energy prices.

Excluding energy and food costs, what economists call core inflation, as measured by the Producer Price Index, posted a more modest 0.2 percent increase, close to what was expected.

Wall Street rose in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones industrial average traded for a time over 9,700 and closed up 57 points at 9,683, a new high for the year.

Unemployment — and anxiety among those who still have jobs but whose wages are flat — has been a drag on spending. The jobless rate, now at a 26-year high of 9.7 percent, is expected to hit 10 percent by the end of this year. The Fed chief said Tuesday that the economy is probably growing now, but not enough to keep the jobless rate from climbing.

Though many analysts have been encouraged by signs U.S. home prices are stabilizing, others aren't sure the market has hit bottom. Deutsche Bank analyst Karen Weaver predicted Tuesday that national home prices won't stop sliding until next summer and will probably fall another 10.5 percent from this summer's levels. Bigger declines are expected in some cities, like New York, Salt Lake City, Fort Lauderdale and Baltimore.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Tuesday in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" that a sustained economic rebound depends on a strengthening job market.

"I would say there's no recovery yet," Geithner said Tuesday. "We define recovery ... as people back to work, people able to get a job again, businesses investing again ... and we're not at that point."

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TRANSPORTATION

White House unveils fuel economy rules

JULIE PACE & KEN THOMAS
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON With global talks on climate change looming, the Obama administration sought to gain momentum Tuesday by unveiling its plan to require better gas mileage for cars and trucks and the first-ever rules on vehicle greenhouse gas emissions.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson released the proposed regulations at the White House, the follow-up to President Barack Obama's announcement in May that the government regulations would link emissions and fuel economy standards.

"This action will give our auto companies some long-overdue clarity, stability and predictability," Obama said Tuesday during a visit to a General Motors plant in Lordstown, Ohio.

"This marks a significant advance in our work to protect health and the environment and move our nation to a sustainable economy in the future," Jackson said.

The new standards call for the auto industry's fleet of new vehicles to average 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016.

The proposal will cover vehicle model years 2012 through 2016, allowing auto companies to comply at once with all federal requirements as well as standards pushed by California and about a dozen other states.

The administration estimated the requirements would cost up to $1,300 per new vehicle by 2016 — but that it would take just three years to pay off that investment and that the standards would save more than $3,000 over the life of the vehicle through better gas mileage.

Jackson said the new standards will have the effect of taking 42 million cars off the road.

The proposal is expected to increase vehicle fuel efficiency by about 5 percent annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 950 million metric tons. The plan would also conserve 1.8 billion barrels of oil, Jackson said.

Administration officials noted that the new standards are four years ahead of a 2007 law that would have required the auto industry to meet a 35 mpg average in 2020.

The proposed rules are expected to provide automakers some flexibility in meeting the requirements in exchange for building advanced vehicles. Some luxury automakers and foreign manufacturers who sell a limited number of vehicles in the United States could meet a less-stringent standard in the early years of the regulations.

The agencies must finalize the proposal by March 30 to give automakers enough planning time for the regulations to take effect in the 2012 model year.

Tuesday's announcement could provide the Obama administration momentum on climate change in advance of a series of high-level talks on a new international agreement to curb heat-trapping gases and a speech by the President next week on global warming at a special U.N. summit.

TRANSACTION

Adobe to buy Omniture

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Adobe Systems Inc. said Tuesday it will buy Web analytic software company Omniture Inc. for about $1.8 billion, giving the maker of content-creation software a way to let marketers measure the effectiveness of such content.

San Jose, Calif.-based Adobe, which makes Flash, Acrobat and Photoshop software, said it will buy Omniture for $21.50 per share in cash, a premium of 24 percent to Omniture's closing stock price Tuesday. Omniture shares jumped nearly 26 percent in extended trading.

The announcement came as Adobe said it earned $136 million, or 26 cents per share, in the fiscal third quarter that ended in August, down 29 percent from the same time a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items, Adobe earned 35 cents per share, a penny above what analysts polled by Thomson Reuters were expecting.

Revenue fell 21 percent to $697.5 million, inching past analyst expectations of $686.2 million.

The recession has slowed demand for Creative Suite 4, the most recent version of the software package that brings in the bulk of the company's revenue. But analysts say this will likely mean more pent-up demand for Creative Suite 5 when it launches.

For the current quarter, Adobe forecast earnings of 23 cents to 29 cents per share and adjusted earnings of 33 cents to 39 cents per share. The latter compares with analyst expectations of 37 cents per share.

Adobe expects sales of $690 million to $740 million for the quarter, bracketing Wall Street's estimates of $719.2 million.

Omniture, based in Orem, Utah, offers a variety of Web traffic analysis and other products for companies to improve their marketing over the Internet. Its customers include Apple Inc., Time Warner Inc. and Walt Disney Co.

The acquisition would marry Omniture's services for figuring how to best deliver messages with Flash and other Adobe tools for creating Web sites and ads. Omniture services could then be used to monitor how effective the messages are.

"Adobe's Creative Suite products and Flash platform help customers create and deliver engaging experiences. The addition of Omniture's online marketing suite will help customers measure, analyze and optimize the impact and value of those experiences," said Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen in a conference call with analysts.

Trip Chowdhry, an analyst with Global Equities Research, said the deal would allow Adobe to create new streams of revenue even as its existing businesses face a decline. The recession and the corresponding decline in technology spending has hurt Adobe's profit and revenue, as many companies have put off upgrading costly software packages.

Though he called the deal "very timely," Chowdhry believes Adobe is overpaying.

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Change comes to birthplace of '60s hippie movement

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO First, came a moratorium on head shops. Then, neighbors turned out in force to support a new development that includes an upscale grocery store. And the local street fair banned open containers of alcohol.

There are signs of new times at the intersection of Haight and Ashbury streets, the neighborhood that was the epicenter of the hippie movement during the Summer of Love in 1967.

"It isn't drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll anymore," says longtime resident and neighborhood organizer Ted Loewenberg. "It's a different neighborhood."

Drugs and music have not disappeared entirely from the Haight, and judging by the baby strollers to be seen rolling along the sidewalks, sex has not gone out of style, either.

Still, you know this is not your father's Haight-Ashbury when one of the burning issues of the day involves whether a Whole Foods should move into the neighborhood.

"Haight-Ashbury is a wonderful, iconic place that wrestles with its past, present and future," says San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who lives in and represents the neighborhood.

A walk through the Haight illustrates his point.

Here are lovingly restored Victorian mansions, glorious with details accented with gold paint. Steps away is the slumbering form of a homeless man stretched out near the front steps of a public library. And, a "Tiny Tots" diaper-service van zipping up the street spells out the latest trend of the Haight — families.

On the main thoroughfare of Haight Street, wisps of the past are brought to life in gusts of patchouli oil wafting out of vintage clothing stores and vibrantly detailed murals painted on storefronts.

Interspersed along the street are more modern accents: bustling small grocers, upscale coffee shops and new retailers.

One of the newer stores on Haight St. is The Booksmith, an independent bookstore operated by husband-and-wife team Praveen Madan and Christin Evans.

More than two-thirds of Booksmith customers are locals who like browsing shelves that carry a wide range of titles. Naturally, there is a robust "counterculture" section. The rest come from all over the world, drawn by the lure of 1967, when thousands of young people came to San Francisco, with and without flowers in their hair.

It was not a long-lived moment. By fall, residents held a "death of the hippie" funeral.

But the legend proved hard to kill.

"The narrative of what happened in the '60s is so powerful people still come from all over the world, they come in here and want to know where the hippies are," says Madan. "Well, the hippies have been gone for 40 years."

On a recent sunny morning, 18-year-old Jacob Rivers sits at the intersection of Haight and Ashbury streets, trying to interest tourists in his geometrically detailed drawings.

Tanned and towheaded, he hails from a suburb of Minneapolis, drawn by something that happened years before his birth.

"We studied this stuff," he says. "It's a beautiful place. It's crazy to think of the legends that went down here, you know. Jerry Garcia. Jefferson Airplane. It's a cool place to be."

These days, there are fights, often at the city Planning Commission, over what to preserve and what to change to make the neighborhood more liveable.

Take the proposal to bring in a Whole Foods Market as part of a mixed-use housing development on the site of a closed food store.

The Haight Ashbury Improvement Association supported the development. The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, a group that traditionally has packed a powerful political punch, did not.

Calvin Welch of the council says he does not oppose a Whole Foods store per se, although he would prefer to see local grocers at the site. But he said the project as a whole, including the housing, was out of scale with the neighborhood and would have generated too much traffic.

The supporters, Welch said, are "emotionally, intellectually at war with the very nature of this neighborhood. They bring a certain suburban sensibility that everything should look like them, talk like them and be like them."

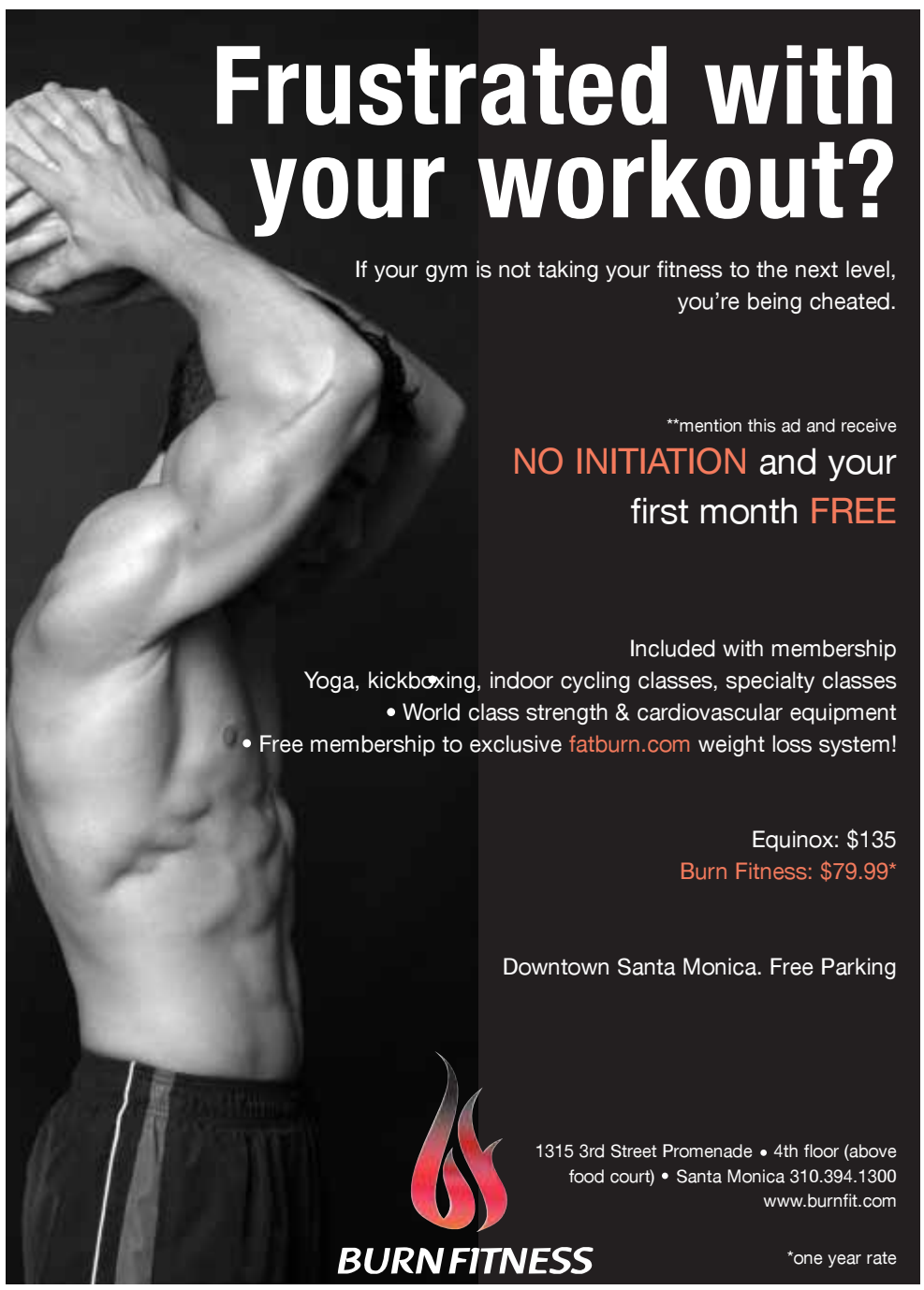
But Loewenberg, president of HAIA, says, "Nobody wants to have suburbia here. We just need to have a little bit more balance."

The project won approval from planning officials after supporters showed up at a key meeting with more than 100 people.

Since then, the proposed development has stalled due to the flagging economy but plans for a Whole Foods store are still alive, pending lease negotiations and city approvals.

Historian Joel Kotkin, author of "The City: A Global History," and a former resident of San Francisco, sees the fight over the heart of the Haight as quintessentially San Franciscan.

"San Francisco, in a weird way is the most conservative place in America," he says. "People went there for a particular ambiance and, even though it really is not what it was, they are desperate to hold on to it."



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Schwarzenegger to sign order boosting clean power

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

RANCHO CORDOVA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday is expected to sign an executive order giving California the nation's most aggressive alternative energy standards, requiring utilities to get a third of their power from renewable sources by 2020.

The order comes three days after state lawmakers passed legislation mandating the same goal but in a way the governor's office says is too restrictive.

Schwarzenegger opposes the Democratic bills in part because they would limit how much wind, solar and geothermal energy utilities could import from other states. His office also said the bills would impose too many regulatory hurdles.

A spokesman says Schwarzenegger will veto them.

The executive order, to be signed in a Sacramento suburb, will give California the nation's most aggressive standards for renewable energy. Hawaii has a 40 percent requirement but allows a longer timeframe, giving its utilities until 2030 to meet the standard.

Supporters of the Democratic legislation said an executive order may not have the force of law, as the bills would have if they had been signed by the governor.

"An executive order does not provide any lasting assurances because it could be overturned by a future governor, invalidated by a court challenge or rendered completely meaningless by the implementing agency," said Matt Freedman, an attorney with the consumer watchdog group The Utility Reform Network.

Supporters of the Republican governor's executive order say the state agencies that oversee utilities can begin writing regulations immediately to carry out the goal. California Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols told reporters Monday her board could develop a rule by next summer, in the middle of Schwarzenegger's final year in office.

"I think any new governor is likely to want to continue that program," she said.

Democrats, consumer advocates and environmental groups want limits on the amount of renewable power that could be imported from other states.

The legislation by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and Assemblyman Paul Krekorian, D-Los Angeles, would allow utilities to import renewable energy generated outside California as long as the power came from a plant that connects to California's electricity grid.

Utilities also could buy a limited number of credits from producers of alternative energy in other states as a way to promote the development of clean power, even though that power would not reach California markets.

The Schwarzenegger administration said the Democratic bills would reduce utilities' ability to exchange renewable power with other states in the West. For example, California already imports hydroelectric power from the Northwest and exports solar power to Nevada when it's needed most. The Democratic bill reduces utilities' flexibility in the market, the administration says.

"The restrictions on the way the electricity for renewables is set to be delivered are just unreasonable and produces ways of actually making it even more difficult to deliver to California," said Yakout Mansour, president and chief executive officer of the California Independent System Operator, which manages the state's power grid.

California already has one of the nation's most aggressive standards mandating use of renewable energy. Investor-owned utilities are required to generate at least 20 percent of their power from renewable sources by next year, but few are expected to meet that goal.

Utilities also will have difficulty complying with the standard in Schwarzenegger's executive order, primarily because the system for transmitting electricity from where it's produced to where it's needed is insufficient, said Nancy Ryan, a deputy executive director for policy at the California Public Utilities Commission.

Toyota orders dealers to check for mismatched mats

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Toyota said Tuesday it will order all dealers to inspect their cars for mismatched floor mats after a mat was suspected of snagging a gas pedal on a runaway Lexus, ending with a fiery crash that killed four family members in San Diego County.

Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc. planned to issue an order Wednesday to about 1,400 Toyota and Lexus dealers nationwide to make sure each of their new, used and loaner vehicles had the proper floor mats and that the mats were properly secured, said Brian Lyons, a spokesman for the Torrance-based company.

Customers who are concerned should also make sure they have the proper mats.

"If there's any doubt in their mind about the security and shape of their mat, go ahead and visit the dealer" to have them checked, Lyons said.

California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Saylor, 45, and three others were killed Aug. 28 on State Route 125 in Santee, a town near San Diego. The runaway car was doing more than 120 mph when it hit a sport utility vehicle, launched off an embankment, rolled several times and burst into flames.

The SUV driver was treated for moderate injuries.

In addition to Saylor, who was a 19-year CHP veteran, the crash killed his wife, Cleofe, 45; their daughter, Mahala, 13; and Saylor's brother-in-law, Chris Lastrella, 38.

Lastrella made a 911 call about a minute before the crash to say the vehicle had no brakes and the accelerator was stuck.

The call ends with someone telling people in the car to hold on and pray, followed by a woman's scream.

Investigators with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have determined that a rubber all-weather floor mat found in the wreckage was a couple of inches longer than the mat that belonged in the vehicle.

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HISTORIC LOCATION? **The Hotel Shangri-La, which opened its doors more than 60 years ago, is being considered for landmark status by City Hall's Landmark Commission.**

Commission to consider landmarking Shangri-La

FROM **LANDMARK** PAGE 1

moderne style, a style that came into being following the art deco period of the early 1930s, considered both an economic and stylistic response to the effects of the Great Depression, PCR Services Corp. said in a report to the Landmarks Commission about the Shangri-La.

"A new style was needed to express optimism and a bright look toward the future," the city consultant said in the report.

The architectural style can be seen in structures such as City Hall, the old J.C. Penney in Downtown and the Merle Norman Building on Main Street. The style of apartment-hotels is even more rare with few remaining in the state.

The hotel for several years served as rehabilitation station for the United States Army Air Forces before returning to its previous state in 1948.

It has been an attraction for celebrities over the years, including Tom Cruise, Elizabeth Taylor and former President Bill Clinton. The hotel has also been featured in a number of films, including "White Men Can't Jump," "The Net," as well as in several episodes of "Beverly Hills 90210."

The commission will look at several factors when it considers the hotel for landmark status, including its relevance as an example of a streamline-moderne building. Commissioner Nina Fresco said that there is also interest in the interior elements of the lobby and whether there are any remaining original materials that could be included in the designation.

The property must meet one of six criteria to be landmarked, including having artistic significance and association with a historic person.

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>
> **Tehmina Adaya**
> owner of Hotel Shangri-La

"This building we felt has the possibility of having artistic qualities in the very form of the architecture and we want the consultants to study that and give us the results of that research," Fresco said.

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API scores improve in district

FROM SCORES PAGE 1

"Teachers and students have returned to school excited and enthusiastic," he said. "We're off to a great start and we expect great results."

> **OUR DISTRICT MISSION IS TO INCREASE ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP."**
>
> **Tim Cuneo**
> Superintendent

Aiming to continue the progress, SMMUSD officials have looked at aligning the district curriculum with state standards, making sure it's rigorous so that students are well prepared for exams, Maureen Bradford, the director of assessment, research and evaluation, said.

The district last year introduced a new math curriculum in elementary through high school, a move that is reflected in the scores, Bradford said. A new English language arts program has also been adopted for this year and a fresh curriculum for the elementary and high schools is expected in 2010-11.

"Our teachers are really improving their instructional delivery, making sure that they have different ways of reaching different kinds of learners," Bradford said.

The district also met nearly all of its Adequate Yearly Progress targets under the No Child Left Behind Act. Schools that receive Title 1 funding must meet all criteria or face sanctions under the federal Program Improvement. All Title 1 schools in the district met the AYP targets in 2009, Bradford said.

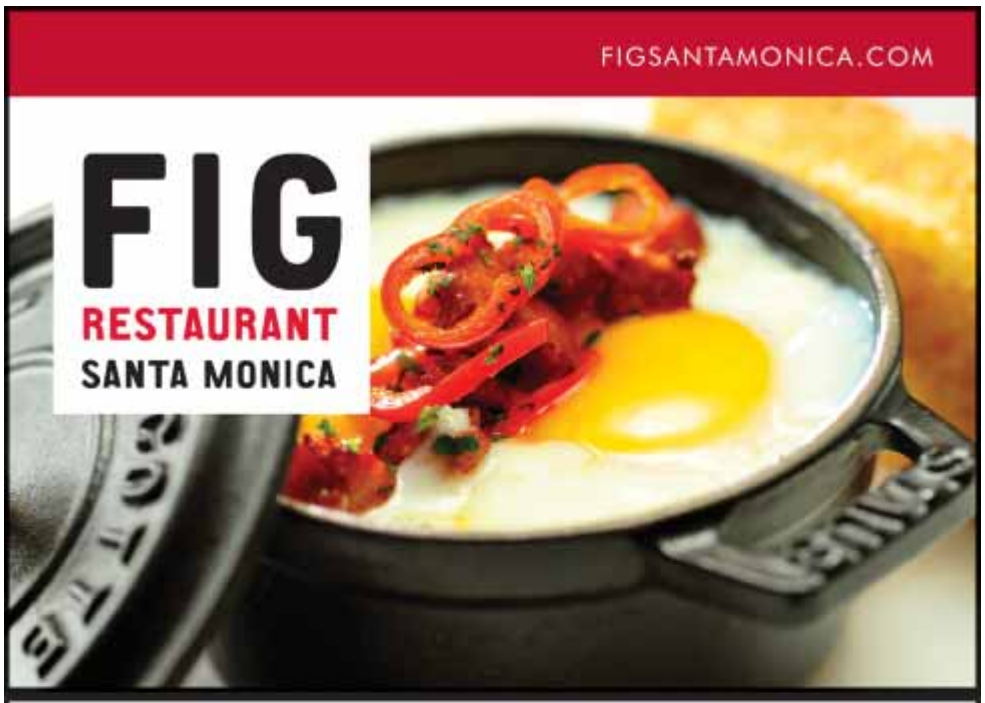
API scores statewide also saw improvement, jumping by 14 points to 755. Minority subgroups also saw similar gains.

"It's modest improvement, incremental improvement, but we're no longer seeing a widening of the achievement gap which … we had seen for 30 years," state Superintendent Jack O'Connell said. "Even with this modest narrowing of the achievement gap, white and Asian students continue to have significantly higher API scores.

"That's a clear indication the achievement gap continues to exist and continues to leave far too many African-American and Hispanic students behind."

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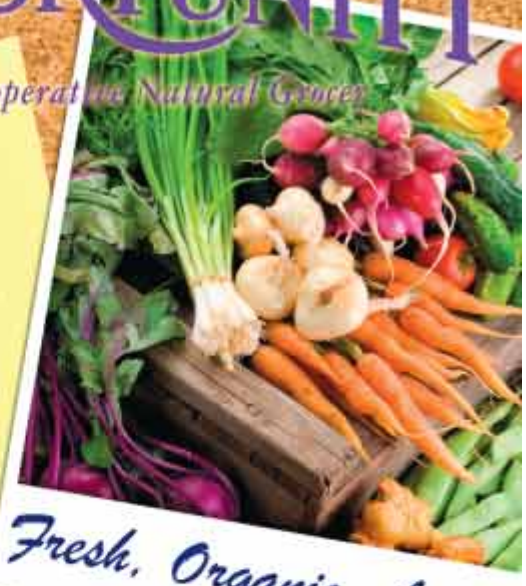
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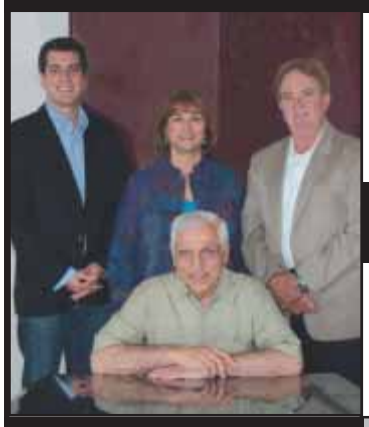
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Police find 'person of interest' in Yale slaying

RAY HENRY & SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press Writers

NEW HAVEN, Conn. Police investigating the slaying of a Yale graduate student zeroed in on a "person of interest" Tuesday after keeping tabs on an ever-tightening circle of people connected to the medical lab where her body was found stuffed behind a wall.

Authorities on the case have been tightlipped almost since the minute 24-year-old Annie Le was reported missing Sept. 8, just a few days before her wedding day. Police say they have ruled out her fiancee, a Columbia University graduate student, but they have provided little additional information — other than to deny reports that a suspect was in custody.

On Tuesday, investigators descended in large numbers on the home of a Yale animal research technician who lives in an apartment in Middletown, about 20 miles from the New Haven campus. Le worked for a Yale laboratory that conducted experiments on mice, and investigators found her body stuffed in the basement wall of a facility that housed research animals.

It was unclear whether the technician was the "person of interest," and whether police were giving the same attention to any others who had access to the lab where Le worked. Detectives have questioned more than 150 people, many of them believed to be connected to the busy medical research building where Le was a rising star.

Officials had promised Tuesday to release an autopsy report that would shed light on exactly how Le died. But then prosecutors blocked release of the results out of concern that it could hinder the investigation.

Investigators usually have reasons for keeping information secret during a criminal probe, said David Zlotnick, a former federal prosecutor who now teaches law at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Secrecy helps police confront possible suspects with little-known evidence about a crime and makes it harder them to fabricate a cover story.

"Having that information secret or private helps the investigators know, first of all, what buttons to push on the person, and it makes sure they haven't tainted the investigation," Zlotnick said.

Le's body was found Sunday, the day she would have been married on New York's Long Island. Her remains had been crammed into a wall recess where utilities and cables run between floors.

The Le family issued a statement Tuesday through a family friend, the Rev. Dennis Smith, that thanked friends and the Yale community for their support during their grieving. The family also asked for privacy.

"The entire Yale community as well as our extended families and friends have been very supportive, helpful and caring," said Smith, speaking for the family. "Our loss would have been immeasurably more difficult to cope with without their support."

Police now have a "person of interest," according to a state official with firsthand knowledge of the investigation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Authorities do not believe Le was killed by a fellow student, and they have sought to assure frightened students that Le was targeted by her killer — meaning that others were not in danger.

Even as investigators and reporters swarmed outside the Middletown apartment complex, police denied they were doing so. A man answering the door Tuesday said the technician was not at home and closed the door.

The secrecy surrounding the case has bred confusion in some quarters, and officials have repeatedly denied media reports.

"You guys made up the fact that we had somebody in custody, the media in general," New Haven police spokesman Joe Avery told reporters outside the police department Tuesday.

The lack of information has also led to some measure of fear at Yale, which last dealt with a homicide in 1998 — the sensational and still-unsolved stabbing death of 21-year-old Suzanne Jovin about 2 miles from campus.

Yale President Richard Levin was more forthcoming to Yale medical students, telling them Monday that police have narrowed the number of potential suspects to a small pool because building security systems recorded who entered the building and what times they entered.

Several news organizations have reported that police were interviewing a possible suspect who failed a polygraph test and had defensive wounds on his body. At least one reported Tuesday that it was the lab technician in Middletown.

Along the way, various media have reported that Le was stabbed, that police found her bloody clothes and that a professor was a prime suspect — virtually all claims unconfirmed by police or met by flat denials.

New Haven police said they would restrict information even more in coming days after an NBC producer was injured Tuesday as reporters outside the police department pushed to surround a spokesman during a briefing.

The building where Le's body is accessible to Yale personnel with identification cards. Some 75 video surveillance cameras monitor all doorways.

Her body was found in the basement, which houses rodents, mostly mice, used for scientific testing by multiple Yale researchers, Alpern said.

"That this horrible tragedy happened at all is incomprehensible," said Le's roommate, Natalie Powers. "That it happened to her, I think is infinitely more so. It seems completely senseless."

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Rare killing stirs remorse among Vermont villagers

JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press Writer

WOODSTOCK, Vt. Some coins here, a couple of lottery tickets there, a wallet stolen from a parked car, some food taken from a vacant house.

When a rash of break-ins and burglaries hit earlier this year, lots of people here figured it was probably just Charles "Punky" Haynes, stealing to keep body and soul together.

Some of the thefts went unreported, or blamed on Haynes, a 51-year-old vagabond with a name for sleeping off alcohol binges under a covered bridge, or in unoccupied vacation homes.

He was homeless, but harmless. So everyone thought.

That was before 79-year-old Raynetta Woodward was found dead in her trailer — beaten with a hammer as she made biscuits one afternoon — and DNA evidence pointed to Haynes.

Now, he's charged in her death and his arrest has some thinking the killing could've been prevented — if folks had reported the earlier thefts, or if police investigating them had been able to find and arrest Haynes as the culprit.

"I think there's a lot of remorse," said Roberta Hutt, 64, Haynes' former landlord. "I'm sure we're all feeling a little bit of guilt."

Haynes, of Bridgewater, has pleaded not guilty and is being held on $250,000 bail. His lawyer, Kevin Griffin, didn't return calls seeking comment for this article. Haynes, who is at Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, is not allowed to receive telephone calls.

Murder is rare in Woodstock, a picturesque town of 3,133 people whose tony boutiques, historic inns and restored architecture draws upscale visitors from Boston, New York City and points south. The last murder happened in 1986.

"It's a quiet New England village," says Police Chief Byron Kelly.

Here, even petty crimes are news. And the break-ins — mostly in neighboring Bridgewater — in the months before Woodward's killing unnerved people.

"Typically, what was being taken in the burglaries — a majority of which were unoccupied and unlocked — were food, small amounts of money — basically, just things somebody would take to get them through their daily existence," said Capt. David Covell, chief criminal investigator for the Vermont State police.

"In some of these cases, other than what was consistent with his M.O., there wasn't anything definitive to link him to these burglaries. Troopers would say 'Well, we suspect it's Charlie Haynes, who's lived in this area his whole life.' He's a longtime Bridgewater resident and this is typically what he did," Covell said.

Haynes' name kept popping up. A June 22 forum on the crime wave drew about 30 people to the Bridgewater Grange hall, where Vermont State Police Trooper Eric Hudson appealed for help from residents, some of whom said they either suspected Haynes in the thefts or had actually caught him in the act but never reported it.

"Everyone was saying 'We know it's Punky,'" said Phil Camp, publisher of the Vermont Standard, a local weekly that covered the forum. At least two victims came forward and signed complaints. Now, police were ready to arrest Haynes — if only they could find him.

"The pattern seemed to be that Mr. Haynes, since he was living hand-to-mouth, would resurface in very brief intervals and then go back into the woods," said Covell. "It wasn't as easy as going to a known address, or someplace where someone works, or to the house of someone they were friends with."

Haynes had had scrapes with the law, but nothing major — and nothing violent: a petty conviction in 1980, a marijuana conviction in 1984, and a 1996 conviction for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

He knew Woodward and had done work for her, weed-whacking outside the trailer she lived in, on unpaved Curtis Hollow Road, according to police.

"He's very quiet," said Hutt, who rented a room to him for 18 months and kicked him out, she said, because he was stealing. "He's not a violent person at all. We all have had a hard time picturing this. He wouldn't have hurt her. I know he wouldn't."

A white-haired great-grandmother and avid seamstress, Woodward was known for her feisty attitude and her beautiful quilts.

Police say that on July 1, she was preparing to bake biscuits for her brother-in-law — who lives next door — when she was attacked. The in-law, Lawrence Woodward got curious about why it was taking so long and walked next door, finding the biscuit dough on the table, blood on the kitchen floor and Woodward under a pile of blankets.

She'd been struck in the head. A bloody hammer was nearby.

A former roommate of Haynes' told police that Haynes had called him after the killing, sounding nervous, according to a police affidavit. Haynes, he said, asked for a ride "to get out of here."

Police found Haynes later that day, in a nearby field. Initially cited for trespassing and burglary, he was later charged with second-degree murder after DNA tests on a blood stain from his pants matched Woodward's.

Police also said Haynes was carrying $470 in cash when he was arrested, an amount missing from Woodward's money belt.

At Haynes' arraignment, Griffin declined to comment on the case. Woodward's relatives, including five sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, also declined to comment, saying they do not want to jeopardize the case against Haynes.

Prosecutor Robert Sand believes that if people had come forward sooner to talk about Haynes' prior activities, things might've turned out differently. But he acknowledges that that's impossible to know.

"One of the things that is evident and unfortunate is that it seems some people knew about his activities, but didn't report them to the police," said Sand. "That's too bad in light of what has unfolded."

Not everyone buys the idea.

"It's really unfair, speaking theoretically, to say that this somehow could've been prevented," said Covell, the criminal investigator.

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OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council — You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. Protect your kid's online life. To get a full list of acronyms or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

121: one to one ADR: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now B4U: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBR: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know CAG: chuckle & grin CIB: crying in disgrace CNP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSE: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DUNNT: don't quote me on this EE: evil grin EMFH: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FF: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOWCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GAL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHO: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IMC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMXSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you ITSWYM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JOOTR: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LDR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAS: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAWA: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex NSS: message NTF: note to fellow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NFMGI: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJB: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now SAL: span for life SEE: smiling ear to ear SMOOH: shoot hot coffee out of nose SND: stops head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SWERK: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOY: sort of time STR: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYL: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TLLK: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UR: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIIIH: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

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National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Mass. AG favors change in Senate succession law

GLEN JOHNSON
AP Political Writer

BOSTON Massachusetts legislators could vote as early as this week on changing the state's Senate succession law so the governor has free reign to temporarily fill vacancies like the one created last month with the death of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Attorney General Martha Coakley, the most prominent Democrat to declare candidacy in the special election campaign to fill his seat permanently, said Tuesday she supports the idea after previously dodging questions on the topic. The switch is noteworthy because her campaign's finance chairman is Senate President Therese Murray, who has hedged on the change but holds sway over her fellow Democrats in the Legislature's upper chamber.

"I think there are reasons for having two senators (from Massachusetts) in the interim," Coakley said. "We've heard all the great stories about all the constituent work that Sen. Kennedy did. He has a huge case file. His office will be closed down (otherwise)."

Kennedy suggested a temporary appointee in letters to Murray, Gov. Deval Patrick and House Speaker Robert DeLeo shortly before he died of brain cancer on Aug. 25. Replacing him with a Democrat would give the party a 60-vote filibuster proof majority in the Senate as President Barack Obama tries to pass a health care overhaul — Kennedy's top legislative priority.

"I let them know my feeling that I thought that it did not affect the special election, which was one of the issues everybody might have been concerned about," Coakley said.

Republicans have accused the late senator and his fellow Democrats of a power grab. They noted that the Democrats pushed to remove the governor's appointment power in 2004 and create the special election process now in effect.

At the time, the governor was Mitt Romney, and Democrats feared he would appoint a fellow Republican if Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., won the presidency.

Meanwhile, the Joint Committee on Election Laws began polling members of the House to determine if they would support letting the governor fill a seat during the five-month special election campaign.

Operation Rescue facing money woes

ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA, Kan. Operation Rescue, one of the nation's highest-profile groups in the anti-abortion movement, has told its supporters it is facing a "major financial crisis" and is very close to shutting down unless emergency help arrives soon.

The group's president, Troy Newman, blamed the economic downturn for its money woes in a desperate plea e-mailed Monday night to donors. But the Wichita-based organization has also been under attack from both fringe anti-abortion militants and abortion rights supporters since the May 31 shooting death of Dr. George Tiller.

"We're now so broke (as the saying goes), we can't even pay attention," Newman wrote.

Newman told The Associated Press in an interview after the mailing that the group has only four paid employees left, compared to nine a year ago. The group typically has an annual budget of $600,000, but donations this year have been down 30 to 40 percent. Newman, who earns $60,000 annually, said he hasn't been paid in two months.

"You put a need in front of people and say, 'Here is where we are at,'" Newman said. "I have always seen people respond faithfully."

Scott Roeder, 51, of Kansas City, Mo., faces charges of murder and aggravated assault in the slaying of Tiller as the Wichita abortion provider ushered at a Sunday morning church service.

Tiller's killing has also been a public relations nightmare for the group — despite its public condemnation of the slaying — since the name and phone number of the group's senior policy adviser was found in Roeder's car when he was arrested. A television crew zoomed in on the scrawled note inside the car in images that made their way to the Internet.

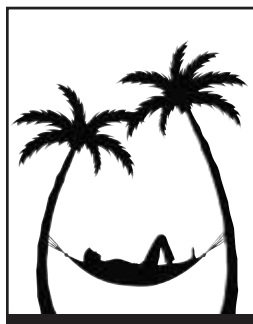
"You see, this summer has been brutal for Operation Rescue," Newman wrote. "Not only did George Tiller's death throw everybody in the pro-life movement for a loop (and especially us), but the economic crisis our nation is suffering has brought our financial support to nearly a halt."

Newman told AP that the decline in the group's donations actually began last year, and he insisted there was no correlation between the drop and Tiller's shooting.

The Internal Revenue Service revoked Operation Rescue's tax-exempt status in 2006 for prohibited political activity during the 2004 election. That means donations to the group are no longer deductible on taxes. Newman has said the IRS revocation did not affect donations.

Meanwhile, other groups in the abortion fray have not noticed a similar decline in contributions. Mary Kay Culp, executive director of the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life, said Tuesday that she has not noticed such a drop.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Ohio State's Tressel catches fire from critics

RUSTY MILLER
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio With a growing chorus of fans questioning his playcalling and others doubting his ability to win a big game, Jim Tressel was asked if his honeymoon as Ohio State's head coach was over.

"You felt like it's been a nine-year honeymoon?" he repeated on Tuesday. "You must not have liked your honeymoon."

For the first time in his tenure in Columbus, Tressel is catching fire from all directions in the wake of Saturday night's 18-15 loss to No. 3 Southern California.

It was the 11th-ranked Buckeyes' sixth consecutive loss to a top-10 team since late in the 2006 season.

Letters to the sports editor of the local newspaper, bloggers, Web sites, columnists, radio talk shows and TV analysts have all criticized Tressel's conservative approach to the game and his handling of the team.

Tressel, who admits that he makes most of the play calls even though Jim Bollman has the title of offensive coordinator, disdained going for a touchdown in favor of an easy field goal on fourth-and-goal at the USC 1 early in the second quarter. He also favored punting on fourth-and-1 at the USC 45 in the third quarter.

With around 8 minutes left in the game and Ohio State gripping a 15-10 lead, the Buckeyes drove to a first down at the USC 35. After a run gained three yards, quarterback Terrelle Pryor threw an incompletion and then was sacked for a four-yard loss that meant kicker Aaron Pettrey would have a 53-yard attempt on fourth-and-11 at the USC 36. Tressel elected to punt again.

That punt led to the Trojans taking control for an impressive 86-yard drive that won the game.

Tressel said he had no desire to give up calling plays and will not change his offensive philosophy, which basically is built on playing for field position, avoiding turnovers at all cost and relying on defense and special teams to win the game.

The vitriol Tressel has faced after the game is unlike any he has encountered in his eight-plus years at the helm. His first Ohio State team went 7-5 in 2001 but beat Michigan, earning him genius status with the Buckeyes' frequently fickle fans.

Since then, he led the Buckeyes to a surprising national championship in 2002 and has dominated the series with the archrival Wolverines, winning seven of eight meetings.

No wonder the Buckeyes faithful wore T-shirts that said, "In Tressel We Trust."

But landslide losses in the 2006 and 2007 national title games to Florida and LSU, and subsequent defeats in high-profile games to USC, Penn State, Texas and again to USC have caused the critics to come after the guy in the sweater vest.

Bob Hunter, a columnist for The Columbus Dispatch, wrote in Tuesday's editions that angry Ohio State fans may want a new coach but no one talks about who that might be. He also brought up the subject of buying out Tressel's contract, which would pay Tressel more than $12 million through January 2013. Tongue in cheek, Hunter proposed those wanting to get rid of Tressel might want to circulate petitions to build a casino or two on campus so the coach and his biggest boosters, athletic director Gene Smith and Ohio State president Gordon Gee, all could be fired. With the Buckeyes (1-1) preparing to play Toledo at Cleveland Browns Stadium on Saturday, the glow of that 2002 national championship game seems light years away.

Tressel said he has received critical e-mails, but said the fans' poison makes him feel sorry for them.



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70°

Swell Forecast

Today looks smaller, about waist high most everywhere. Some wind swell may linger around west facing breaks for some pluses at times.

Long Range Synopsis

It looks like some of the Gulf NW will arrive, increasing more on Friday.

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 **September 8, 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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, simplehuman, 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
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	F	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	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	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	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 Ballona Creek mouth	B	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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NCAA FOOTBALL

Tennessee interim president talks about academic goals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. The University of Tennessee's interim president has told a newspaper he talked to Lane Kiffin "early on" about the university having more than an athletic reputation, and he also said the Vols didn't just lose Saturday to a better UCLA football team.

The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports that in a Monday meeting with its editors, interim president Jan Simek said "Lane comes from the Pac-10, which is in many respects the epitome of great academic institutions playing great athletics, as this past weekend showed on several different levels, including to us. When we lost to UCLA, we lost to a better academic institution, too."

Simek said he believes Kiffin has heard his message that "while athletics is clearly an important part of that tradition, academics is central to what we do."

Simek said he has spoken to Kiffin since he was introduced in December as the youngest coach in major college football about the university having a very deep, prideful tradition and believes Kiffin "has heard the message."

"Since our conversation he has been exactly the kind of coach we want to have," Simek said.

Simek said he watched UCLA defeat the Vols 19-15 at Knoxville on Saturday.

In one highly publicized instance, Kiffin on the morning after signing day violated Southeastern Conference rules by accusing Florida coach Urban Meyer of violating recruiting rules. He was forced to apologize to the Gators coach and Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley.

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1441 Third Street Promenade

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
4:30, 7:00, 9:45

Taking Woodstock (R) 1hr 50min
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 45min
2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10

Halloween II (2009) (R) 1hr 41min
2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20

Shorts (PG) 1hr 29min
1:45

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

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min
2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05

Gamer (R) 1hr 35min
12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

9 (PG-13) 1hr 19min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

September Issue (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20

Whiteout (R) 1hr 46min
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

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

Extract (R) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 10min
4:10, 9:50

In the Loop (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30, 7:10

Headless Woman (La mujer sin cabeza) (NR) 1hr 27min
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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

The Final Destination 3D (R) 1hr 22min
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 9:10

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50

All About Steve (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

Sorority Row (R) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All by Myself (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

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

Chill out, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Can there be such a thing as too many options? You get to weigh the pros and cons today. Confusion could surround a key goal or meeting. Don't lose your pace at this moment. Someone demonstrates his or her creativity. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You come from a basic point of view. You might want to pull back and relax. How you see a situation could change radically. A boss or someone you look up to adds to the confusion. Look beyond the obvious and willingly let go of rigid ideas. Tonight: Midweek break.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ When making calls, remember that others could have some heavy issues. As you are working out a problem, you'll see another solution. Find an expert or someone who helps you look past the obvious. Let others see your feelings. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be careful with your finances. You could go overboard and not be able say no to a purchase. Don't add to the confusion; try to stay simple and direct. You could be startled by what a partner offers if you are open. Tonight: Hang out with your friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Move early in the day. You'll discover that many people respond in a big way. Allow more creativity and excitement to come from a merging of minds. You put someone on a pedestal, partially because he or she inspires you. Tonight: Honor your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Maintain a low profile today. Gather information and allow greater give-and-take. Listen to your inner voice. You don't want to act immediately, but you might like getting more facts and information. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the early hours for key issues and important matters. At this point, you'll draw more support and response. Later today, you might want to slow down and gather more information. Your observations remain key as well. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others look to you for leadership and direction. You might want to try another approach or handle a project in a different way. Others like your resourcefulness, and one person lets you know how much he or she admires your abilities. Tonight: Find your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Let others communicate their bottom lines. You have the ability to read between the lines and see the true motives of others. Your appreciation and acknowledgment can help understanding. Take a stand and be willing to lead others to get the desired results. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Know when to lie back and say less. Gather information rather than take action, which is your strength for now. Later today, you will render a very different opinion after reassessing the facts and gaining understanding. Tonight: Brainstorm with those in the know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and get down to the basics of a situation by encouraging more free-flowing talk. You see people differently from many. You eye a person whom you can share some of your ideals and inspired ideas with. Tonight: Talk with a pal over dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Dive into work and understand what is going on. Read between the lines and understand what is happening with a co-worker. Share more of your inner thoughts. You will gain and grow through the process of others understanding you better too. Tonight: Out and about.

Happy birthday

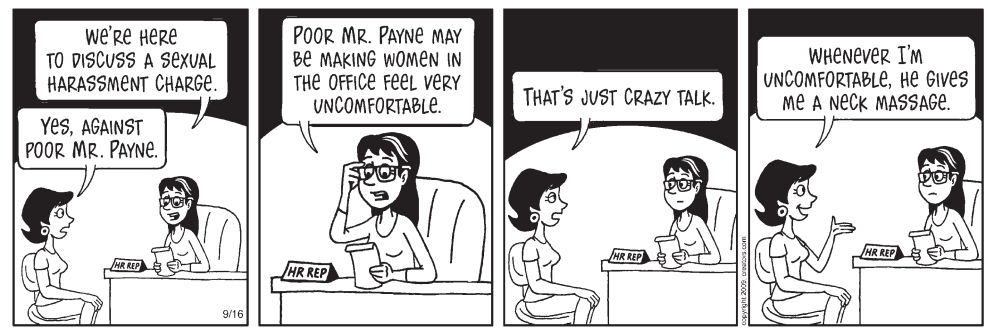
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, note the forces behind the scene. In the process of learning what is going on with others, you also will learn what is going on with you. Remember, you observe and choose the questions, therefore your mental slant will factor in. Be willing to hold up a mirror. If you are single, check out any love interest before you dive into a relationship. You might gravitate toward people who are emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you will benefit from a lot of downtime together, without worldly concerns. Let the romance sizzle again. A fellow VIRGO understands you quite well.

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 ★★★

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

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

5	1	2	9	6	3	4	8	7
4	3	9	1	7	8	5	6	2
7	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	3
3	5	1	7	9	4	8	2	6
2	4	8	5	3	6	9	7	1
9	6	7	8	2	1	3	4	5
1	9	4	6	5	2	7	3	8
6	7	5	3	8	9	2	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	6	5	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 This answer has two
7 Swindle
11 Bored by routine
12 Casual top
13 Ross' TV sister
14 Miseries
15 He loved Roxane
17 "Art of the Fugue" composer
20 Make fresh
23 Mil. address part
24 Joplin field
26 Gal of song
27 GI entertainer
28 Meditative school
29 Robert Downey Jr. movie
31 Conclude
32 Take it off
33 Whirlpool
34 Be adamant
37 Disconcert
39 African expanse
43 "— Around"
44 How Rome wasn't built
45 Murder mystery find
46 Capitol group

DOWN

1 Energy
2 Lennon's love
3 Pale
4 Writer Segal
5 Ethel's pal
6 Flag feature
7 Small piano
8 Settled in
9 Completely
10 Yr. parts
16 Inert gas
17 Starting point
18 Isolated
19 Like some formerly black-and-white films
21 Correct text
22 Peter Pan's friend
24 Rear ends
25 Simile center
30 Right angle measure
33 Patriot Allen
35 Goddess with cow horns
36 Rational
37 Little lie
38 In the past
40 Oklahoma city
41 Scoundrel
42 Yeoman's "yes"

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

9-16

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 16 27 48 49 54
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $38M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 24 30 41 47
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: $29M

Fantasy 5: 15 25 30 34 36

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1.46.30

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

■ **Animals Gone Wild:** (1) In July, scuba divers around San Diego were forced out of the water by the estimated 1 million human-sized Humboldt squid that infested the area. Usually deepwater dwellers, they swarmed near the shore for several weeks, flashing their "razor-sharp beaks and toothy tentacles," according to a KABC-TV report. (2) In June, in Ana Lee Spray's garage in Riverside County, Calif., a full-grown mountain lion was cornered and held at bay for 45 minutes by Spray's three Chihuahuas, yapping at it relentlessly. Eventually, animal control officers arrived and removed the grateful lion.

■ **Agile Athletes:** (1) Chicago Cubs' pitcher Ryan Dempster missed a month with a broken toe suffered in July when he tripped on a railing while leaving the dugout to celebrate a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers. (2) Kansas City Royals' Jose Guillen missed over a month after tearing a ligament in his knee while leaning over to put on a shin guard before his turn to bat in a July game. (3) Appalachian State quarterback Armanti Edwards, a three-time All-American, was to miss the first month of the season after injuring his foot in August while mowing his lawn.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1976 Shavarsh Karapetyan saves 20 people from the trolleybus that had fallen into Erevan reservoir.

1978 An earthquake hits the city of Tabas, Iran measuring 7.5-7.9 on the Richter scale killing about 25,000 people.

1981 Sugar Ray Leonard beats Thomas Hearns in their first of two epic boxing bouts.

1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon.

1987 The Montreal Protocol is signed to protect the ozone layer from depletion.

1991 The trial of Panamanian "strongman" Manuel Noriega begins in the United States.

2005 Camorra boss Paolo Di Lauro is arrested in Naples.

WORD UP!

lucubration \loo-kyoo-BRAY-shun; loo-kuh-\ , noun: 1. The act of studying by candlelight; nocturnal study; meditation.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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drytechsystem.com 1-818-576-0388

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2478 Corinth Ave. $1575 front unit 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, ceiling fan, onsite laundry, small gated front yard 2 parking spaces, 20 lb. pet OK w/ deposit $300 off move-in (888)414-7778

501 N. Venice 1+1, #25 $1225/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA near Marina. $1050/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. units 3 1+1 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1100/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1395/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $995 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 $925 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

SM 1228 Berkeley St.2 available unit Single $1195/mo, 1 month FREE OAC furnished $1295 1 month FREE OAC. Newly remodeled units, new appliances, new wood floors, private enclosed garage pets OK (310)278-8999

TRI-LEVEL TOWNHOUSE in Culver City. 4044 Jackson Ave. 3 bdrm/2.5bath, $2495. non-smokers. Stove, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, carpet, hardwood floors, fireplace, balcony, garage, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate #D 1+1 upper stove, fridge, blinds, wood/tile floors, carport parking no pets $1195/mo $750 off move-in special (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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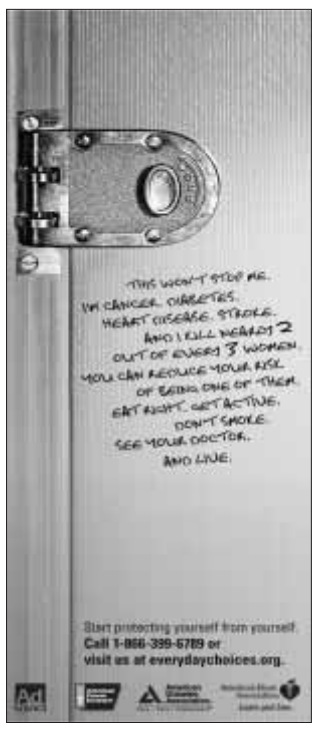
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Date of Filing Application: AUGUST 27, 2009
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: UMAMI BURGER SANTA MONICA LLC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 500 BROADWAY AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401-2406
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 – ON-SALE BEER AND WINE – EATING PLACE
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control LOS ANGELES.
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1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

I Will Provide You With This Information At The Beginning of Each Month...Hope You Find It Helpful!

First Eight Months of 2008 compared to First Eight Months of 2009

Santa Monica Single Family Homes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	7	13	86%
Average Days on the Market	98	49	-50%
Lowest Price	$1,487,000	$875,000	-41%
Median Price	$2,350,000	$1,615,000	-31%
Highest Price	$4,200,000	$3,683,000	-12%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$861	$876	2%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	94%	-4%

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	48	30	-38%
Average Days on the Market	52	77	48%
Lowest Price	$1,575,000	$1,400,000	-11%
Median Price	$2,920,325	$2,325,000	-20%
Highest Price	$4,475,000	$4,500,000	1%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$907	$814	-10%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	92%	-5%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	17	15	-12%
Average Days on the Market	56	82	46%
Lowest Price	$400,000	$1,027,125	157%
Median Price	$2,011,000	$1,500,000	-25%
Highest Price	$3,000,000	$2,800,000	-7%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$829	$684	-17%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	94%	-3%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	7	2	-71%
Average Days on the Market	38	134	253%
Lowest Price	$699,000	$659,500	-6%
Median Price	$940,000	$699,250	-26%
Highest Price	$1,250,000	$739,000	-41%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$515	$758	47%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98%	93%	-5%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	22	17	-23%
Average Days on the Market	58	74	28%
Lowest Price	$780,000	$675,000	-13%
Median Price	$1,120,000	$920,000	-18%
Highest Price	$2,520,000	$1,875,000	-26%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$664	$579	-13%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	93%	93%	0%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	12	11	-8%
Average Days on the Market	166	58	-65%
Lowest Price	$615,000	$750,000	22%
Median Price	$1,025,000	$1,175,000	15%
Highest Price	$2,225,000	$2,775,000	25%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$892	$768	-14%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	93%	97%	4%

Santa Monica Condo's & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	1	3	200%
Average Days on the Market	230	51	-78%
Lowest Price	$1,150,000	$1,014,000	-12%
Median Price	$1,150,000	$1,475,000	28%
Highest Price	$1,150,000	$5,100,000	343%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$824	$1,304	58%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	93%	-3%

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	25	12	-52%
Average Days on the Market	70	102	46%
Lowest Price	$465,000	$630,000	35%
Median Price	$1,295,000	$1,225,000	-5%
Highest Price	$5,800,000	$3,175,000	-45%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$921	$891	-3%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	90%	91%	1%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	79	88	11%
Average Days on the Market	58	52	-10%
Lowest Price	$399,000	$280,000	-30%
Median Price	$747,500	$703,625	-6%
Highest Price	$4,170,000	$1,799,000	-57%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$642	$571	-11%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	97%	0%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	60	56	-7%
Average Days on the Market	85	84	-1%
Lowest Price	$330,000	$156,126	-53%
Median Price	$610,000	$547,500	-10%
Highest Price	$1,040,000	$945,000	-9%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$522	$452	-13%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	96%	0%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	22	12	-45%
Average Days on the Market	69	58	-16%
Lowest Price	$345,000	$445,000	29%
Median Price	$752,500	$564,000	-25%
Highest Price	$1,199,000	$975,000	-19%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$481	$401	-17%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	98%	1%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 8-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 8-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	35	37	6%
Average Days on the Market	108	53	-51%
Lowest Price	$375,000	$280,000	-25%
Median Price	$675,000	$740,000	10%
Highest Price	$1,750,000	$1,200,000	-31%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$707	$617	-13%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	97%	0%

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