



OIL PRICES FALLING
SEE PAGE 8

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GONE GLOBAL ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

CENTER STAGE: Kendall Lewis (right) performs 'Welcome to the '60s,' a song from the musical 'Hair Spray,' on Monday at Santa Monica College.

SMC brings Broadway to China

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Darren Giglio's first trip out of the United States next month will be like living a dream.

It's not just that he will finally get to see another part of the world or experience the culture of a different country, but he will

get to do what he loves most on foreign soil.

Giglio is one of 18 Santa Monica College theater students who will travel to Shandong University of the Arts in China where they will perform a newly-written musical as part of the school's 50th anniversary.

"To do this through a performance is like a dream," Giglio, a junior at SMC, said.

"It's a really great opportunity to not only perform there but to share a part of our culture with them."

The university invited the college to help celebrate its half-century mark in April after a delegation of SMC officials, including President Dr. Chui Tsang and Academic

SEE SMC PAGE 10

Bill lifting tax cap remains in limbo

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO In local public transit advocacy circles, all eyes are on the political battle brewing in the state Capitol over the California budget, but it is not just because of state finances.

Potentially affected in the tug-of-war

between Democratic lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are several hundred bills awaiting his signature of approval, including one that could determine the legitimacy of a countywide half-cent sales tax increase if approved by voters in November.

At issue in Los Angeles County is AB 2321, which would lift the existing sales tax

cap, allowing officials to put an increase into effect if Measure R, which would raise \$40 billion over the next 30 years for Metropolitan Transportation Authority projects, receives the necessary two-thirds votes in November.

Though passed on Aug. 31, the bill, which

SEE BILL PAGE 12

No sweat

Running unopposed, Mechur removed from ballot; will be appointed in December

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL When voters study their ballots in November, they might notice the absence of one familiar name.

Board of Education member Ralph Mechur, who was vying to finish the remaining two years of Emily Bloomfield's seat, was informed last week by the L.A. County Clerk that his name would be removed from the ballot because he was running unopposed.

The omission comes in accordance with the California Education Code, which states that if there are as many candidates as open seats, their names will not appear on the ballot and will instead be automatically appointed by the board.

The county notified City Clerk Maria Stewart last week, who in turn contacted the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"This is the first time we've had this since I've been here," Stewart, who has been with the office for 13 years, said.

Mechur is expected to be appointed to the seat in December when the elected members are sworn in, according to Sarah Wahrenbrock, the assistant to the superintendent.

County Clerk spokeswoman Marcia Ventura said that Mechur will receive a certificate stating that he will serve on the board by appointment.

About six school districts in the Los Angeles and Orange County area also saw canceled contests because of an insufficient number of candidates. Those who did qualify for the ballot will similarly be appointed.

Mechur seemed to have mixed feelings about his short-lived campaign.

"The nice thing is I don't have to raise money to run a campaign," Mechur said. "Even though I was running unopposed, it was important to let voters know about me and my positions."

"On the other hand, I think people who aren't familiar with the schools might just find out someday that there is someone they

SEE BOARD PAGE 12

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Join members of the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon where guests connect and hear from a rotating panel of speakers. The club has been serving the needs of the community and its children since 1922. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Heal your body

1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Come for free energy Pranic Healing for asthma, arthritis, cancer, addictions, depression, and phobias with Master Choa Kok Sui at the Kathmandu Boutique. The no-touch, painless, and effective healing art helps the body to repair itself. This healing treatment is offered as a service to the community, and all are welcome with no appointments necessary. For more information, call (310) 396-4036.

Getting the 411

1715 Olympic Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Meet representatives from 50 independent elementary schools in the L.A. area at an information fair held at Crossroads Elementary School. Just in time for the upcoming admissions season, this is an excellent opportunity for parents of prospective students entering kindergarten in Sept. 2009. Call (310) 828-1196 for more information.

Life like its golden

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Join the discussion of Doris Lessing's "The Golden Notebook" at the Montana Avenue Branch Library.

For your support

2200 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Neuro-Endocrine Tumor Center's Pituitary Patient Support Group is held bi-monthly at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, in Santa Monica. Our speakers are medical experts and we address an array of pituitary hormonal topics. Our meetings are free and we welcome anyone affected by a pituitary tumor and/or hormonal disorder, friends and family. For more information, please visit online at www.neuro-endo.org or contact group facilitator, Sharmyn McGraw at pituitarybuddy@hotmail.com or by phone (949) 515-9595.

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad — politics, the economy, society, and culture. Discussion moderator Jack Nordhaus is a former college history professor. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Pool games

1410 Third Street Promenade, 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.

You are invited to chalk up your cue and participate in a doubles pool tournament and fundraising event. The evening is complete with food, music, entertainment, silent auction, a trick-shots demonstration, and friendly competition at the pool table. All of the proceeds will go to improving the lives of inner-city youth. Tournament tickets are \$325. General attendee tickets are \$175. For more information, go to www.getacuechallenge.org

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.



Treesavers endorse their own

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Activists opposed to City Hall's plan to chop down 23 ficus trees and remove seven others on Second and Fourth streets have endorsed four residents involved in the effort, one of whom was recently arrested for chaining himself to a tree that was slated for replanting.

Santa Monica Treesavers, which boasts more than 100 informal members, are backing peace activist Jerry Rubin, vice chair of the Airport Commission Susan Hartley, Herbert Silverstein and Linda Piera-Avila for the four open seats on the City Council. All



are members of the Treesavers. Rubin and Hartley co-founded the group.

The endorsement did not come as a surprise to those following the group given that members have been vocal in their desire to remove all council incumbents because of their decision to back the tree removal and streetscape improvement plan.

The election is Nov. 4.

"I certainly hope that people get out to the candidates forums and that everyone, including us [Treesavers] are asked the hard questions," said Rubin, who is temporarily prohibited from visiting Fourth Street in Downtown after being arrested earlier this month for protesting the ficus removal.

Treesavers does not plan to raise or spend

money on any candidates, Rubin said. Individual members are allowed to donate up to \$250 to each candidate under the city's strict campaign contribution law.

The endorsements were made on Sept. 15 — marking 50 days until the election — at a Treesavers meeting in Palisades Park as the group sat around a tree near the historic St. Monica statue.

It is a goal of the Treesavers to establish a tree commission recognized by City Hall, with members appointed by the City Council.

news@smdp.com



ARTISTIC LICENSE

Artists John Cornejo, 19, (left) and Franky Vasquez, 19, (right) paint a mural titled, 'Hanuman,' on Sunset Avenue in Venice on Friday. The mural of Hanuman — The Monkey God — was inspired by Santa Monica Police officer and yoga instructor Erik Milosovich, who works with at-risk youth. The monkey-like god is a central character in one of the most revered books of the ancient Vedic literature of India. In the story of the Ramayana, Hanuman becomes a supernatural hero and uses his powers to battle evil armies of the demonic Ravana.

Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz.com

Nonprofit moves out of town

BY CHRISTINA WALKER

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN X PRIZE Foundation will no longer be calling Santa Monica home.

Citing the need for more space, the nonprofit, which specializes in rewarding novel and forward thinking achievements that benefit humanity, will be relocating to Playa Vista at the end of the month.

"We loved our time here in Santa Monica," said Sarah Evans, spokesperson for X PRIZE. "We just need more space for our growing company. We're at maximum capacity."

Many of the staff at X PRIZE live in Santa Monica and Evans acknowledges that it's a great place to live and work. However, the company was unable expand in its present location off of Fourth Street near Santa Monica Boulevard and went in search of new headquarters.

X PRIZE Foundation was established in 1995 for the purpose of using money as the motivation for great invention. The company was modeled after past cash rewards that

SEE X PRIZE PAGE 11



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Major gripes

Editor:

When our new, multi-million dollar Main Library finally opened, I thought we were in for a pleasant experience. Let's take stock of a few things, shall we?

Within weeks of the grand re-opening staff was replacing many of the new wooden chairs with new wooden chairs. It seems the original chairs were defective and flimsy (my dismay was met by a rude comment from a staff member).

Naturally, as Santa Monica considers itself a progressive green city, we must have a green library. Let me define green library: Warm water from drinking fountains, large puddles of urine constantly collecting on the floors of the men's restrooms due to the flush-less urinals (staff cleans the restrooms many times a day, so they are certainly not the problem – third-world mentality wrapped in Al Gore theology is).

I've yet to see a single conservative guest author come to the library for lectures and book signings. Yet, we have had dozens of left-wing, Bush-hating authors hold court, some twice. Even those freaky, weird UFO-worshiping Raelians get to come and pitch their snake oil, but God forbid if a Republican author should be asked to discuss his or her book and common sense.

The wireless is awful, actually, it's worse than awful. I have a new laptop with all the latest bells and whistles. It works absolutely perfect at any other library or city wi-fi. Only at the Main Library can a fellow hit "SEND" and lose his e-mails to another dimension (maybe the Raelians got them on the mother ship).

Only at our new, state-of-the-art library can it take as much as 10 minutes to connect to the city agreement page. Only here occurs the never-ending battle to figure out why the hell the connection drops and Google keeps muscling in when I hit "SEARCH" from my Yahoo. Only here does the city and library wi-fi drop out completely and without warning, only to be replaced by some bizarre-looking city employee password-protected page, thus shutting off public access until the next day.

Don't even get me started on those new microfilm machines, which a NASA scientist can't figure out. The old machines are great! Easy and quick, archaic, and yet many times more reliable than the new ones. Less is more, people.

Well, I could add more gripes, but I must get this letter to the Pony Express rider, much more faster and efficient than ... well, you know.

James Zeruk, Jr.

Santa Monica

Smaller class sizes a must

Editor:

It's that time of year. Back to school and back to overcrowded classes in Santa Monica. My beautiful, 9-year-old daughter sits in the largest fourth grade classroom in the entire school district with a total of 33 students and one amazing teacher at Franklin Elementary School. How does one expect fourth graders to learn in such loud, overcrowded classrooms? This only makes sense if the intent is to prepare her for science classes of 36 students at Lincoln Middle School. I do not agree with this "Iron Man" marathon approach to educating young children – survival of few with many children being left behind. This is an unacceptable education policy in a city like Santa Monica. Spend district funds on eliminating overcrowding in the classroom first, before all else.

Dr. Lisette Bauersachs

Santa Monica



Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The dogs of war

SEPT. 11, 2001 WAS A BRUTAL DAY FOR me. That same morning I had bitterly separated from my wife of 17 years. I then retreated to my new apartment with all the mayhem and confusion that a marital breakup entails.

Then I turned on my roommate's TV.

Watching the horror show of the Twin Towers collapse paralleled my own personal travails, a world collapsing in the rubble of shattered glass and ravaged lives yet I realized that this event was larger in scope than my pithy marital despair. Concerns to the whereabouts of my children, family friends and many of my shipmates from my Navy days moved to the forefront of my attention.

Fast forward to present day.

I recently inquired of my old Aircrew "spook" buddies, civilian and active duty, as to their experiences on that day. Even though we have been separated by decades and distance, we all still pass the milestones of our lives over a closed Yahoo Web site pertinent only to a "band of brothers" [and a few sisters, too] that shared a common bond amongst a unique "clubhouse" of the American military.

Rob Vena was in traffic on his way to work into NYC and watched the towers smolder. He had many clients there. Joey Allen, assigned to recruiter duty, was challenged by a 65-year-old former veteran to a foot race to re-enlist when he was told he was "too old" for active duty.

Our biggest concern was for Dan Gollan. Dan was posted to the Pentagon. We later found out that Dan had just left his office to go to a briefing on the other side of the building just minutes before a hijacked airliner slammed into his office window!

Pete Brookes [author, feature foreign policy columnist for NY Post, television personality, former deputy assistant secretary of defense and senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation] had chosen an overseas United Airline flight over American Airlines Flight 77 that was scheduled to leave a half an hour earlier that same day.

American Airlines Flight 77 was the airframe that crashed through Dan Gollan's office window.

Pete Brookes and Dan Gollan must eat four leaf clovers for breakfast!

Now let me get this straight, Patriot Day, in the consciousness of any reasonably sentient biped, should be a time of reflection and remembrance.

Can someone please explain to me why the hyperventilating hyenas of the media, led by Keith "the Doberman" Olbermann, possess the mendacity of hype to use Patriot Day as a springboard to rabidly splatter their self-serving liberalista distemper? Even the presidential candidates had set down their muddled electoral cudgels to lay wreaths in

honor of the dead.

Olbermann was much better suited being Dan Patrick's ESPN cabana boy and yuck monkey. Maybe Olbermann has been hanging out with Obama's hate-pastor as of late.

Locally, with a paucity of imagination, SMDP columnist Jack "Laughing Matters" Neworth, has found a surfeit of comfort in eliciting a similar "mini-Me" copycat identity within Olbermann's rancid rancor.

Bush can't find bin Laden?

Google in "Mansoor Ijaz" and read his Dec. 5, 2001 piece in the L.A. Times. Is it an inconvenient truth that Horn-Dog-in-Chief Bill Clinton let Osama bin Laden skip town in 1996 during another lost liberal 3 a.m. moment? There would have been no 9/11 had Wild Bill not been otherwise Googling his intern at the time.

McCain voted 90 percent with Bush?

Despite his alleged support of a filibuster against its passage, Turncoat Obama happily voted alongside Dubya to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to protect Obama's telecom lobby buddies from prosecution after they made a cool collective \$14 million "investment" to his campaign.

Obama cheerfully voted for Dubya's pork swaddled 2008 Farm Bill in direct contradiction to his erstwhile denouncements. Jack should go shopping for another shade of lipstick for that pig. Obama's looking like "four more years of Bush" every day.

I can't wait to hear Obama say, "Drill, baby, DRILL!"

Obama has voted 97 percent of the time in goose step with a Democrat controlled Congress whose current job approval rating is 17 percent.

Dubya's approval rate is 36 percent.

As an aside to the origins of Trig Palin's name; it is from Old Norse meaning "brave victory" and not in reference to advanced mathematics. In true Democratopian fascism, even special needs children are not spared the prurient castigations of lazy, ill-intentioned and unctuous elitist gasbags masquerading as "informed."

The "Olbermann-Neworth Syndrome" has all the charming queasiness of going to a Patriot Day memorial service, cradling a Dodger dog and a Budweiser in hand, and then trying to score a hook up with one of the widows. Think "Wedding Crashers: The 9/11 Sequel."

If you want to participate in "post partisan politics," however, look to Ground Zero. We were all Americans that day. It was no laughing matter.

STEVE BREEN is a former U.S. Navy Aircrewman, a flag waving patriot and still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taking comfort in community

WHAT A WEEK. SINCE OUR LAST conversation about the Republican convention, the news has basically been all bad. It was seven days of disaster; from man's inhumanity to man in the form of terrorism, to catastrophic events like hurricanes, to accidental tragedies like train derailments, to economic calamities like widespread corporate greed.

The events of the week have conspired to make petty distinctions and divisions between people essentially meaningless and unite us all in misery. Out of all this sadness, however, I've been comforted by the fact that I live in Santa Monica, because I know in my heart that if disaster strikes here, I'll be all right.

I don't like talking about the events of Sept. 11, 2001 because most people don't understand what happened that day. Most people still refer to the "attacks of 9/11" as though it was a military strike against the United States by another country. It wasn't. It was 19 guys with plastic knives and a love of death who found a weakness in airport security, hijacked four airplanes, and crashed them.

People all over the world were saying "we're all Americans" and people all over America were saying "we're all New Yorkers." But the well-meaning people of France were no more American than the well-meaning people of Kansas were New Yorkers.

I, on the other hand, actually was a New Yorker at the time, living in a building near Downtown Brooklyn with a clear view of the towers from my roof. I can tell you that when the first plane hit, we thought it was an accident, but when the second plane hit, we thought it was Armageddon. And I don't know if it was the fact that there was a sense of relief every time we got on and off the subway safely or the fact that the smell of smoke permeated lower Manhattan for a good six months, but in the aftermath of the horror of that day, New Yorkers were united by a sense of community that defiantly declared, "we are New York City and we will live on."

The same way disaster can focus peoples' attention on our similarities more than our differences, it can also serve to make government more responsive to the needs of the governed.

I considered the pathetically negligent response to Hurricane Katrina to be nothing less than a national embarrassment. In fact, I almost moved to Italy afterward because I didn't want to live in a country whose government would let thousands of its own

people drown in the streets of one of its major cities while millions more watched on television.

But the way the federal, state, and local government responded to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike went a long way toward restoring my faith.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was way out in front of Gustav, showing that he seems to have learned some of the lessons taught (the hard way) by Katrina, and it seemed like the full spectrum of preparedness and response was utilized when it came to Ike.

The only thing that made me happier than seeing the federal, state, and local governments involved in a coordinated effort to help the people of Texas was the fact that my brother (not biological, but "friend" doesn't do him justice) in Houston was safe and dry when it was all over.

But it was the train wreck in Chatsworth that brought everything back home for me. It reminded me that accidents do happen and can happen anywhere at any time, it made me think about earthquakes and the San Andreas Fault, and it really brought home the fact that the biggest, baddest, most destructive thing on the planet (the Pacific Ocean) is less than a half-mile from where I sleep every night.

It's absolutely terrifying to think of what could happen if an underwater earthquake led to a tsunami like the one that hit southeast Asia in 2004.

But like I said, the bright spot in all the dark sadness of the past week is the fact that I live in Santa Monica.

If disaster strikes here, we're lucky enough to be blessed with the best health care professionals in fully-equipped state-of-the-art trauma centers, hospitals with hundreds and hundreds of beds, an amazing local Red Cross ready to provide "cot care" for hundreds more at dozens of school gyms and cafeterias, and incredible first responders on par with the NYPD's "Rescue 1" unit. Not to mention our greatest asset — our people.

We know we've got something special here in this town and we know we all have to do whatever we can to keep it that way. I know that if disaster strikes here, we will care for each other because we are SaMo and SaMo is us.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who will never live anywhere else (except maybe Italy). He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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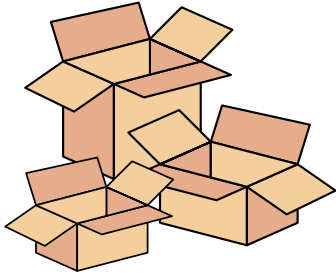
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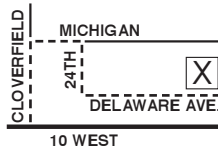
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The Q-Line

Safe communities

The Santa Monica Police Department recently created a new community policing program that aims to improve communication between Neighborhood Resource Officers and the city's various neighborhoods.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you feel the program has made a difference? Have you come to know who your Neighborhood Resource Officer is?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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GETTING PERSONAL

It's the end of the world as we know it

JUST A WEEK AGO, THE WORLD'S LARGEST Hadron Collider (appropriately dubbed "LHC") came on line. For those of you who aren't sci-fi buffs, rocket scientists or following the latest trends in particle physics allow me to explain. The LHC is an atom smasher nestled in a 17-mile long underground facility, a good 300 feet below the French-Swiss border ... and it's got some folks worried that its use may just trigger the end of the world.

The European Nuclear Research Centre ("CERN") – and yes, I know what you're thinking, it doesn't bode well when scientists in charge of fissionable materials can't line up the letters of their acronym; nothing conveys discomfort quite like a dyslexic astrophysicist; and yes, I realize the letters truly do follow the acronym if you spell it out in its native French, but then that begs an even more important question ... do we really want the French in charge of a "doomsday device"? – is running it.

CERN has this idea they're going to replicate conditions moments after the Big Bang in hopes of discovering elusive dark matter, an element called "Higgs-Boson" which is responsible for giving every particle its mass and weight.

At first glance, this may seem like a routine experiment, just a bunch of nerds playing with a \$4 billion project, colliding particles at temperatures 100,000 times hotter than the center of the sun. The problem: there is a slight risk of forming a black hole. I'm going to assume everyone reading this knows what a black hole is, if not, I refer you to my love life for the past eight years.

There is a 10 percent chance this device could cause a stationary microscopic black hole, which could, according to German critic of the project, Professor Otto E. Rossler, "Swallow up the earth in about four years." That would put the demise of our planet at year 2012, mysteriously ... the same time the Mayan Calendar ends (for those of you end-of-the-world theorists/nutjobs out there, please feel free to add this factoid to your growing list).

Other opponents predict, instant annihilation. Any way you slice it; it's an unpleasant thought. The machine was turned on last Wednesday, however the actual experiment, the one that may "kill us all" will not take place for a few more weeks perhaps a month. So there's time yet for another beer, the opportunity to tell off your boss, or have that affair you've been hankering for.

Scientists at CERN seem confident that if a microscopic black hole is formed it will quickly dissipate. They base their study on Stephen Hawking's theory that suggests rapid decay of a black hole through a thermal process. But remember, this confidence assumes Hawking's theory of evaporation is correct. And, at present, "There is no empirical evidence to prove such a theory," says Walter L. Wagner, former nuclear safety officer on his Web site LHCDefense.com (devoted to informing the public and preventing global disaster).

What's troublesome: no one seems to have a fallback plan for impending doom. Shouldn't we be able to destroy a micro-

scopic black hole if we indeed intend to create one? I mean, wouldn't that be the logical, scientific approach? Would you create Frankenstein if you knew you couldn't torch him when things got a bit out of control?

The answer here is, we can't. We're not advanced enough in the fields of science and technology to know how. Stabilizing a black hole, according to Analog: Science Fiction and Fact, means we'd have to, "Surround it with a medium that was even hotter than it was, so that it absorbed more radiation than it emitted."

AT FIRST GLANCE, THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A ROUTINE EXPERIMENT, JUST A BUNCH OF NERDS PLAYING WITH A \$4 BILLION PROJECT, COLLIDING PARTICLES AT TEMPERATURES 100,000 TIMES HOTTER THAN THE CENTER OF THE SUN. THE PROBLEM: THERE IS A SLIGHT RISK OF FORMING A BLACK HOLE.

No such medium could be sustained. Even the interior of the sun would be a billion times too cool to do the job." So basically, if a black hole is formed, there's no way to turn it off, no way to shut it down, that's it, game over for earth.

And even though several skeptical groups are lobbying against turning on the doomsday device such as the Citizens Against the Large Hadron Collider, the Powers That Be do not seem to be willing to err toward caution, so a month to several years from now, we may be all twisted into spaghetti strands, swept into the dark abyss of a monstrous void.

The upside: I won't have to look for a permanent job, worry about paying off my credit card debt, finding Mr. Right, or finishing next week's film review ... no such luck.

I think folks, for better or worse, the world as we know it ... is here to stay. And while there are more than several ex-beaus I'd love to see turned into noodle soup of eternity, I have my doubts this will actually happen. But if it does, there is one thing to smile about – given CERN's location – the French will bite the big one first.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com



Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pay yourself first

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO avoid it, sometimes it seems like your day-to-day living expenses just eat away at your entire paycheck. Before you know it, the money in your paycheck seems to vanish, and you don't even know where it went.

And while you're focused on just making ends meet, putting money away for the future may be the last thing on your mind. Even so, you need to remember that taking care of your longer-term financial goals is just as important as meeting your current needs.

Ever since the days of putting pennies in a piggybank, you've likely received plenty of advice on the value of saving your money. But when mom and dad aren't taking care of the necessities any more, and you have your own bills to pay, it's easy to lose track and forget to save. As a reminder of just how important it is to put part of your income aside — and to do it sooner, rather than later — take a look at an example of just how the numbers shake out.

For this example we'll use two investors: one who starts early and lets her savings grow, and another who waits until later to begin.

Let's say the early investor puts away \$5,000 per year for five years, and then allows that investment to grow for 15 years without putting in another penny.

The late investor, on the other hand, waits for 10 years before he even begins his savings plan. He then invests \$5,000 a year for 10 years, putting his total investment at \$50,000 — exactly twice as much as the early investor.

Assuming an 8 percent average annual rate of return on their investments, if we jump ahead now to 20 years from the time our two investors started, the difference in their accounts is substantial.

Our early investor would have accumulated a total of roughly \$100,493 in her account by this time. Keep in mind she hasn't put a penny of her own money in for the last 15 years.

Meanwhile, the late investor's account has grown to only \$78,227, and he has been contributing each year for the past 10 years. That means that our early investor only put in half as much of her own money, and came out well over \$20,000 ahead.

Now, this example is only meant to illustrate the advantages of saving regularly and starting early. This does not reflect the performance of any specific investment, nor does it take into account the eventual effects of taxes. It does, however, make the point very clear — by delaying 10 years in getting started, the late investor loses out on the benefits of compounding interest over a

REGARDLESS OF WHICH METHOD YOU CHOOSE — OR EVEN IF YOU DECIDE ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT INVESTMENT STRATEGY — PUTTING ASIDE MONEY NOW WILL HELP YOU PREPARE TO REACH YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS THAT LIE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD.

longer period of time.

Disciplined investment habits aren't always easy to come by, but there are several things you can do to improve your savings routine.

One of the easiest ways to establish a savings plan is by taking advantage of the convenience of electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may be familiar with this type of service if you currently receive or make electronic deposits to your bank account. This service is also available from other financial services firms, and paying yourself first by using an EFT system can help you get in the habit of saving.

Direct deposit allows you the opportunity to deposit all or part of your paycheck to the account of your choice, so you could choose to set aside a certain portion to go directly to a savings account as opposed to your checking account.

Another way to take advantage of EFT is to set up an automatic monthly deposit. This is a simple, disciplined way to add to your account, authorizing a specific amount to be transferred from one of your accounts to another (i.e. from checking to a savings or investment account).

Regardless of which method you choose — or even if you decide on a completely different investment strategy — putting aside money now will help you prepare to reach your financial goals that lie further down the road.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

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- 2 Preparedness Supplies.** This includes a battery-operated radio, a flashlight with extra batteries and a first aid kit. Pack a first aid handbook, and make sure your first aid kit is stocked, especially with bandages and disinfectants.
- 3 Training.** Get trained! Enroll in a class to learn first aid, CPR or learn to become a disaster volunteer. Participate in the Disaster Training Program offered by the Santa Monica Fire Department.
- 4 Money.** Have cash. (ATMs and credit cards won't work if power is out)
- 5 Clothing and Bedding.** Provide a change of clothing for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves. Have a sleeping bag, blankets, pad or air mattress to sleep on.
- 6 Special needs.** Medications; eyeglasses, or contact lenses and solution; identification cards; birth certificate; passports; etc.; sanitary supplies; baby needs; pet supplies (pet carrier, plastic bags, vaccination information)
- 7 Contact information.** A current list of family phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including someone out of the area who may be easier to reach if local phone lines are out of service. Try text messaging instead of a phone call.

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ECONOMY

World oil prices sink below \$92

BY STEVENSON JACOBS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Oil prices extended their retreat Tuesday, shedding \$10 a barrel in a violent, two-day slide as tumult on Wall Street dims hopes for a swift economic recovery and signals another drop in U.S. energy demand.

Crude, which shot up near \$150 a barrel only two months ago, is now down 8 percent for the year.

Meanwhile, gas prices edged higher at the pump, topping \$3.85 a gallon amid the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. However, given crude's continuing slide, retail gas was expected to turn lower within a few weeks.

As uncertainty grips Wall Street, evidence mounted that U.S. consumers and businesses were bracing for a protracted economic downturn that should guarantee more of the money-saving energy conservation measures of the past year: Americans will cut back on driving, airlines will keep fewer planes in the air and U.S. manufacturers will be shipping fewer products. That in turn was expected to keep crude prices down.

"The economic slowdown is completely unavoidable now and people will be driving less, trucking less and buying less," said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla.-

based trading firms Liberty Trading Group and OptionSellers.com. "Energy consumption will fall dramatically."

Light, sweet crude for October delivery fell \$4.56 to settle at \$91.15 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after earlier dipping to \$90.51, its lowest level since Feb. 8. On Monday, prices closed below \$100 for the first time in six months, shedding more than \$5 and wiping out all of oil's gains for the year.

Crude has fallen about \$55 — or 37 percent — since shooting above \$147 on July 11.

In London, November Brent crude fell \$5.02 to settle at \$89.22 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange, after earlier dipping to \$88.90.

Oil's steep correction comes as traders were riveted by rapidly unfolding events on Wall Street. Fears rose Tuesday about the health of insurance giant American International Group Inc. after several ratings agencies reduced their ratings on the company. That amplified worries of more turmoil after Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy and Merrill Lynch & Co. was bought by Bank of America Corp. in a rush sale intended to save the troubled company.



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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Weighing the considerable amount of options

THE OTHER DAY I WENT TO A LARGE electronics store looking for a new cell phone. While searching, I became lost in the amazing amount of features offered. Nowadays you can watch TV, listen to music, browse the Internet and text.

After 20 minutes of playing with one phone, I stepped back and asked the sales person how the phone sounded when I talked on it.

To my bewilderment, the sales person said they did not know since it was not a heavily used feature.

What!? When did talking to someone on a cell phone become a secondary feature? I must have missed the memo that the cell phone companies sent out.

Just as cell phones have become devices where calling someone is not the most important feature, loans have become instruments where paying them down is not the first priority.

Gone are the days of easy financing, now you need to show all documentation — which is a good thing — to get a loan. The bottom line is that people should not get loans they cannot afford.

However, not too long ago, loans existed where you did not have to pay down the principal, just the interest — known as interest only loans.

I am a big fan of interest only loans for investment properties where you are pur-

chasing a cash flow, but interest only loans should be given to sophisticated investors, not novice homeowners.

Sophisticated investors tend to understand the ramifications of not paying down principal and the underlining risk associated with it.

Another type of loan that was popular in its heyday was the negative amortizing loan. To this day, this loan product dumbfounds me for new homeowners. The idea is the borrower pays a minimum amount each month.

That minimum amount is significantly smaller than the actual fully amortizing payment. For example, say a fully amortizing payment is \$2,000, the negative amortizing payment may be \$550. The difference in principal and interest is added to the principal balance.

That means \$1,450 is added to the principal balance each month using the example above. The thought was that a borrower could refinance into a new loan after a couple years or sell the property at a profit and not worry about the accrued amount added to the principal balance.

The problem is real estate does not always increase in value and you cannot always refinance out of a property, as many borrowers are finding out in this challenging real estate market.

Many lenders, particularly banks, are

returning to the basic loan programs that work, underwriting loans for borrowers that make sense to them. Many banks are becoming conservative with stricter credit criteria. The most popular loans are the 30-year fixed loans for borrowers and the fixed hybrid loans.

The 30-year fixed loan was the banks' bread and butter loan for many years. Forty years ago, borrowers did not refinance their homes to take money out.

A loan was placed on a home and paid down monthly until paid in full. In this day and age of creative financing, you seldom hear of a borrower keeping a loan for 30 years.

Of course, there are good arguments for changing financing; the most prevalent argument is a lower interest rate. It is true over time, a lower interest rate can save you tens of thousands of dollars, but every time you refinance you are starting the clock over again.

Many people do not stay in their first home longer than five years, so lending institutions figured out a way to give people financing that works for them.

Many banks have what are known as fixed hybrid loans. A fixed hybrid loan is fixed for the first few years, usually up to 10 years, then becomes or rolls to an adjustable loan.

The most common fixed loans are the 3-,

5-, 7- and 10-year fixed products. These loans usually have lower fixed rates than the 30-year fixed loans.

If you are moving out of a property after five years, it makes little sense to get a 30-year fixed loan and pay more money in interest.

The most important factor to remember when you are attaining financing is to make sure you can comfortably make the monthly payment.

After determining if the payment works for you, figure out how long you are going to own the property. Most loan officers and mortgage brokers will help you get the best financing to suit your needs, but ultimately it is your responsibility to get a loan that works for you.

Take the time and write out a budget, make sure you ask all questions and understand all the answers before you sign any loan documents.

It is tougher to get financing today than it was a year ago, but if you go into the process armed with knowledge and work with a good loan officer or mortgage broker, you can find yourself with the best financing to suit your needs.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

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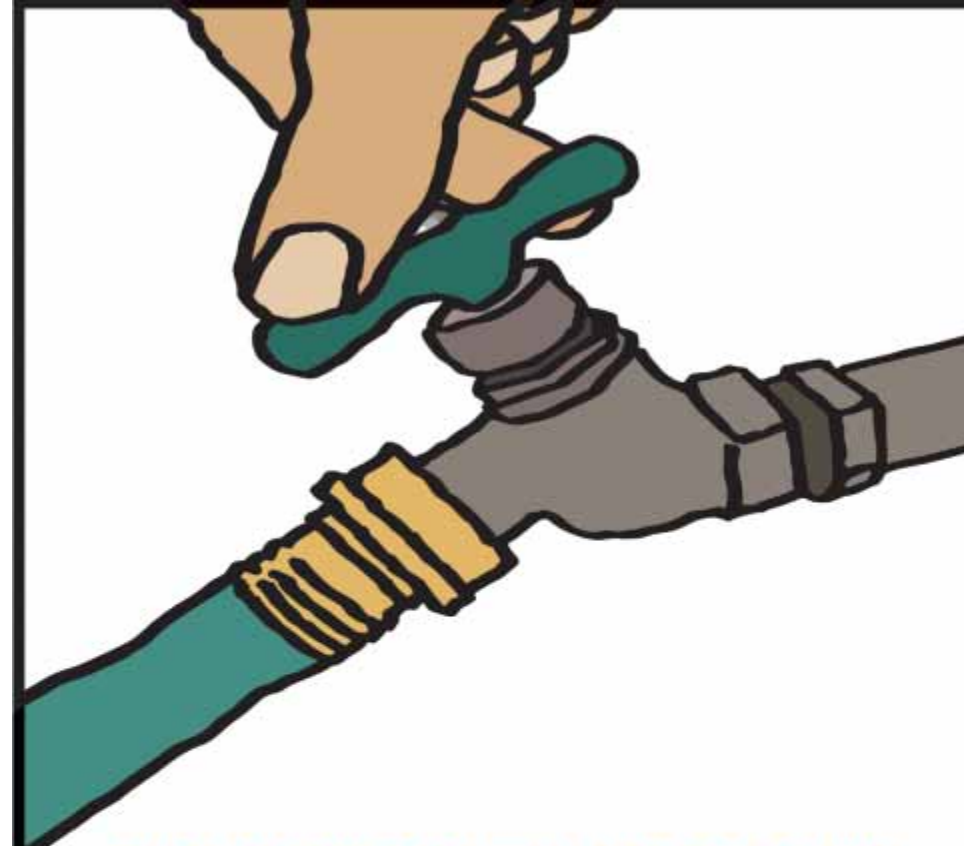
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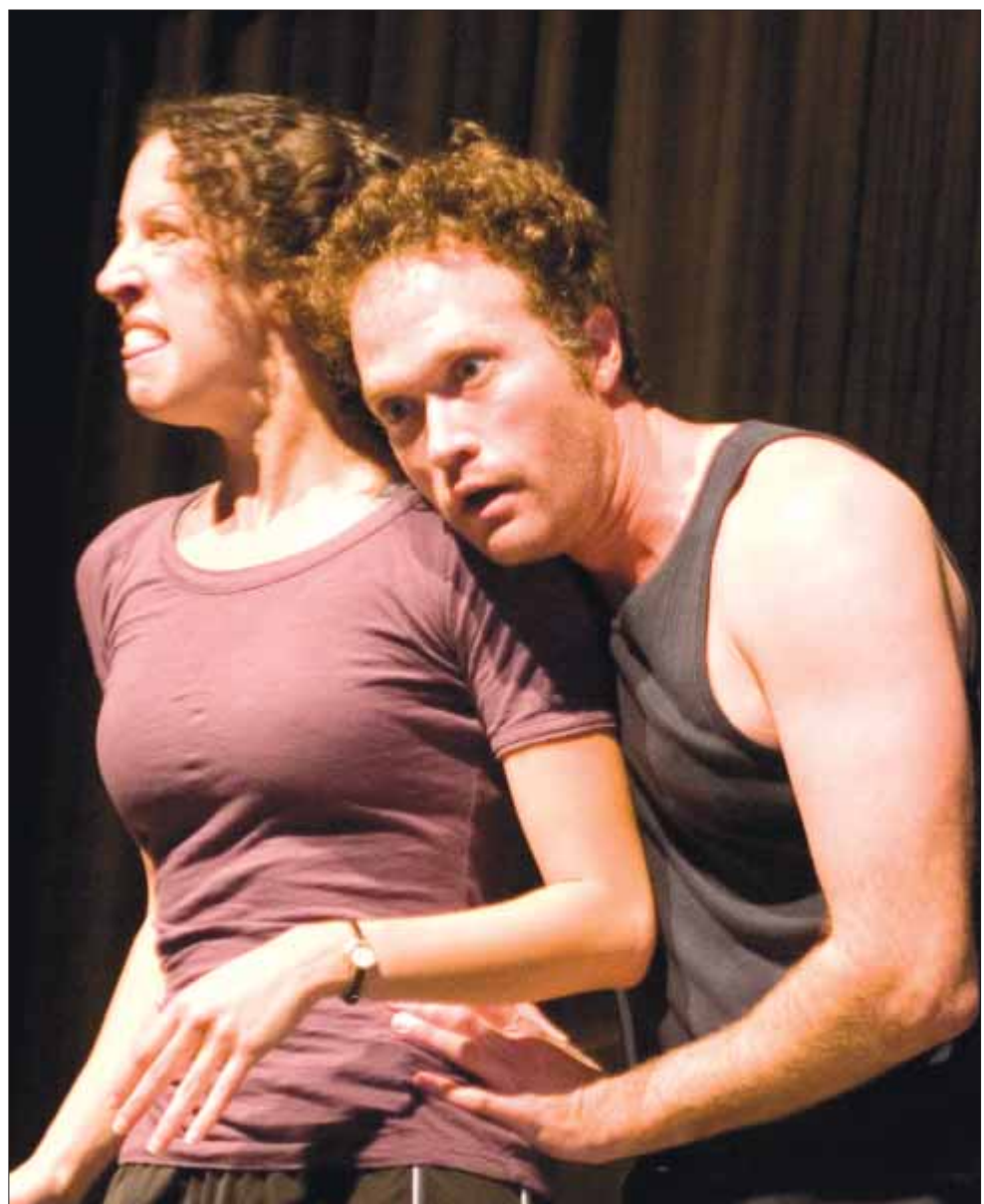
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The fact is, years of record dry conditions and the state's fragile water supply and delivery system are affecting our supply. Even rain won't wash away the need for all of us to use less water.

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A message from the Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County's Water Agencies

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

GETTING IT RIGHT: Geoffery Going (right) and Shaina Zalma (left) sing 'The Song That Goes Like This' from Monty Python's 'Spamalot' during a rehearsal Monday at Santa Monica College.

Production to include mix of Broadway hits

FROM SMC PAGE 1

Affairs Vice President Jeff Shimizu, visited several months before.

The school, which is located just south of Beijing, asked the college to send a contingent of art students for a performance, prompting those in the Theater Arts Department to begin brainstorming different types of shows. What they ended up with was a show in which they combine songs from more than 25 American musicals.

The 90-minute long show, titled "American Reflections: Broadway in Concert" pays tribute to classics such as "West Side Story" and "Sweet Charity."

"We wanted to bring something that was uniquely American," Nancy Grass Hemmert, the faculty leader for the trip, said. "Every culture has a unique addition to the arts and musical theater is a uniquely American tradition."

SEE SMC PAGE 11

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

RISING UP: SMC theater students rehearse 'American Reflections: Broadway in Concert.'

Students set to visit China

FROM SMC PAGE 10

The students auditioned and were selected for the show during the previous academic year. Those who were selected were asked to enroll in a special Chinese culture class in which they learn about the country before their visit.

The contingent also includes two journalism students with the student newspaper Corsair who will document the entire trip.

The university is paying the travel expenses for all the students while SMC will pick up the tab for the visiting faculty.

"We put together some of our very best people who are most appropriate for the show," Perviz Sawoski, the chair of the Theater Arts Department, said. "It's been a daunting yet exciting experience because we put together a huge amount of material."

Sawoski wrote the musical along with colleague Terrin Adair.

They selected famous Broadway shows that their audience in China might've seen, or at least know of.

"We picked stuff that was iconically American," she said. "We're hoping that

because of the translation issue, they're visual enough so people can understand them."

Giglio said the show is enjoyable for the cast because it involves a mixture of ensemble, duets and solos.

"It's kind of geared toward giving everyone an opportunity to shine and show off their talent," he said. "We have a lot of people who are strong singers, strong dancers and a lot of people half and half or both."

SMC officials say the trip plays into the college's global citizenship initiative, which aims to educate students about the greater world around them.

Announced by Tsang last year, the initiative teaches students through classes, study abroad programs and from its own diverse campus, which includes more than 2,700 international students.

"It's really about being a citizen of the world," SMC spokesman Bruce Smith said. "It's being aware that what you do here in the United States has an impact on pollution and global warming in other parts of the world."

melodyh@smdp.com

X PRIZE Foundation moves to West L.A.

FROM X PRIZE PAGE 3

incited great human endeavors such as the Orleig Prize offered by Raymond Orleig in 1919 to the first person to complete a non-stop trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Paris.

X PRIZE's latest contest offers a \$25,000 reward in conjunction with Prize Capital, LLC for a YouTube video that proposes solutions to energy and environmental prob-

lems. This prize is small in comparison to typical X PRIZE rewards. In 2004 X PRIZE awarded \$10 million for the creation and launch of SpaceShipOne, a non-government funded space ship.

Fox Interactive Media and Belkin International are two new neighbors that X PRIZE will join in its new West Los Angeles home.

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Sales tax bill sitting on governor's desk

FROM BILL PAGE 1

was authored by Mike Feuer, D-Los Angeles, was being held because the Republican governor said he would not sign any legislation until the long-standing budget delay ended. The bills were sent to the governor's desk on Tuesday after the legislature passed a \$104 billion budget in an early-morning session. Schwarzenegger announced later that day he would veto the budget.

While those advocating for the measure say they are confident the Republican governor will not turn away the proposed legislation, he did on Tuesday threaten to veto hundreds of bills if the legislature overrides his budget veto.

Schwarzenegger has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the bills. If no action is taken by then, the bills automatically become law.

MTA officials said the governor has indicated he will not veto the bill, though a spokesperson with Schwarzenegger's office

THERE SHOULD BE A GOOD TURNOUT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WITH MORE PROGRESSIVE VOTERS WHO WOULD BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE MEASURE."

Darrell Clarke
Friends 4 Expo Transit

said he has not taken a position.

"We fully expect him to sign it," Marc Littman, spokesman for the MTA, said.

Sales tax revenue is expected to help pay for long-awaited projects like the Exposition Light Rail and Subway to the Sea, both of which will bring rail service to the Westside.

But supporters argue that more important than the revenue itself is what it will mean for future funding for projects, giving the MTA leverage for federal and state

grants.

"That is what we'll have to do, leverage local funds against other sources," said Kimberleigh Richards, the public and legislative affairs director for Southern California Transit Advocates. "This is the best possible source of local funds."

While the governor's approval of the Feuer bill remains certain to many, the fate of the sales tax measure is less certain.

Richards pointed out that the previous

two sales tax measures — Proposition A in 1980 and Proposition C in 1990 — only required a simple majority.

"It's a much more uphill battle to get two-thirds of voters to cast yes," she said.

The measure has received opposition from the Bus Riders Union, which argues that the focus should be spent more on improving and expanding existing bus service. A number of officials have also spoken out against it, including county supervisors Mike Antonovich and Don Knabe. Still, supporters remain optimistic that they will prevail on Nov. 4.

"There should be a good turnout for the presidential election with more progressive voters who would be likely to support the measure," said Darrell Clarke, a Santa Monica resident who heads the Friends 4 Expo Transit group. "But you just don't know."

melodyh@smdp.com

School Board candidate no longer has to run

FROM BOARD PAGE 1

don't know anything about and wonder how they got there."

Though his next two years on the board are automatic, Mechur said he will continue to remain active the next few months, attending political forums and events.

An architect by trade, Mechur was first appointed to the board in August 2007, replacing Bloomfield who vacated her

EVEN THOUGH I WAS RUNNING UNOPPOSED, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO LET VOTERS KNOW ABOUT ME AND MY POSITIONS."

Ralph Mechur
School board member

seat a month prior after her husband accepted a job offer in Washington D.C.

Bloomfield was re-elected in November 2006 and was about three months into

her term when she announced her impending departure.

Mechur is a long-time district volunteer, having worked on the Facilities Master Plan and serving on the Measure BB Advisory Committee.

He received endorsements from several political groups, including Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

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MLB

L.A. Angels, Dodgers eye World Series

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Tom Lasorda can't imagine anything like it. Mike Scioscia likens the possibility to a bit of paradise.

In a place where Disneyland magic takes root and screenwriters trade in celluloid fantasies, these are heady times to be playing baseball in Southern California.

From freeway to freeway, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Angels are on the verge of doing something they've never done before: play each other in the World Series.

"It would be the greatest thing that ever happened," said Lasorda, who guided the Dodgers to two World Series crowns in four appearances during his Hall of Fame career.

"This would be the baseball Mecca for a couple of weeks out here in Southern California, and that would be something special," said Scioscia, who played for Lasorda's title teams in 1981 and '88 and managed the Angels to their only World Series championship six years ago.

Since the Dodgers moved west from Brooklyn in 1958 and the Angels were formed as an expansion team three years later, the teams have made the playoffs in the same season only once, in 2004. Both were eliminated in the first round that October.

The Angels, with strong pitching and the addition of Mark Teixeira to an already tough lineup, were the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this season. They won the AL West for the fourth time in five years.

The Dodgers, boosted by the trade for Manny Ramirez and playing their first season under manager Joe Torre, have taken a solid lead in the NL West.

"I could see a lot of shirts being worn out there with one side 'Dodgers' and one side 'Angels,'" Angels hitting coach Mickey Hatcher said. "I think it would be something really big, especially with Mike and myself and a couple other guys who played for the Dodgers in '88 now coaching against the Dodgers.

"It would be a weird situation, but I don't think the rest of the nation would even care."

Lasorda was reticent to talk much about a possible Freeway World Series because the Dodgers haven't yet ensured a postseason berth.

"We haven't done anything until we clinch it," he said. "We're not going to talk about something we don't have. When the season is over and we've been declared the No. 1 team in the National League West, we've done something."

The Angels entering Tuesday's action in the race for the league's best record and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"The Angels have a good ballclub, a heck of a ballclub," Torre said. "I'm still concerned about our well-being."

Scioscia realizes that despite everything his team has accomplished, there's a long way to go before they face the Dodgers, or anyone else, in the World Series.

"That stuff is all going to play itself out," he said. "If it happens to be something that's as special as a Freeway World Series, then that would be great. But our plate's full right now just trying to prepare for whoever we're going to play."

While the Dodgers haven't clinched a postseason berth, they've been at their best recently, having won 12 of 13 games in one stretch to go from 4 1/2 games behind the Arizona Diamondbacks to 4 1/2 games ahead.

"We've been hanging in there and putting ourselves in a position to hopefully win the division," said Dodgers infielder Nomar Garciaparra, who grew up in nearby Whittier.

As for an L.A.-L.A. matchup, "it's way premature," he said.

"Right now, our focus is just trying to get to our goal, which is to get to the playoffs and get to the World Series," Garciaparra said.

The Dodgers haven't done that since 1988, when Orel Hershisier and Kirk Gibson led them past the favored Oakland Athletics in five games. They've made the playoffs only four times since then, going 1-12 in being eliminated in the first round each time.



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Celebrating in September

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8 THURS September 18	Your Sustainable Santa Monica: 2008 Update Find out how we are doing, where we are heading, and where you fit in. Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 PM	
9 FRI September 19	Santa Monica Pier "Drive-In" Screening of Open Season Join us for Open Season, an animated comedy about a couple of lovable critters surviving in Timberline National Park. Santa Monica Pier, 8 PM. Free tickets required.	
10 SAT September 20	Coastal Clean-up Day Participate in the world's largest volunteer day and help clean the Santa Monica Bay. Beach just south of the Pier, 9 AM - 12 PM	
11 SUN September 21	Westside Permaculture Festival Enjoy a community potluck, cob building workshop and a permaculture design class. Sustainable Works, 1744 Pearl St., 12 PM - 5 PM	
12 MON September 22	Green Living 101 Learn practical tools to green your home from a residential greening expert. Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 PM - 8:30 PM	
13 TUE September 23	Green Business Certification Mixer An invitation only event for local green businesses. The Ambrose Hotel, 6 PM - 8 PM	
14 WED September 24	Greening Your Home for Parents Parents know that children are our most valuable resource. Learn ways to protect your kids and your home from unnecessary chemical exposure. Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 PM	
15 THURS September 25	Green Building Resource Center Check out the newly updated GBRC at this open house event. Global Green, 2218 Main St., 5 PM - 7 PM	Screening: Power of Community A true story of creating community-based solutions to peak oil. Santa Monica Main Library, 7 PM
16 FRI September 26	AltCar Expo Experience the preeminent expo and conference on alternative transportation. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., 10 AM - 5 PM	
17 SAT September 27	AltCar Expo Enjoy another day of the expo. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium 10 AM. - 5 PM	Pico Art Walk & Car Show Galleries, studios and creative enterprises open their doors. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 10 AM - 5 PM

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 63-67°

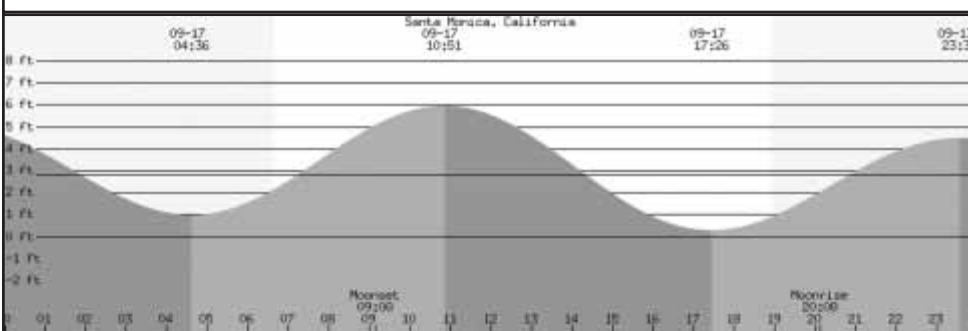
SWELL FORECAST (2-2 FT)

Wednesday the 17th size increases around south facing breaks.

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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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September 9, 2008

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

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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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cienegas Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Hwy Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessean Canyon drain	A+	ns
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chetopaqui)	A	ns
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	B	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildfire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	B	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	B	ns
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selkirk Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	F	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Reno Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Mokile Rd.	D	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	B	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topwell St.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballina Creek mouth	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tareas County Beach	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Deckweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			

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.

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

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



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MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM Wild Boys of the Road (NR) 1hr 08min 7:30 AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade College (R) 1hr 34min 4:30, 6:45, 9:10 Hamlet 2 (R) 1hr 32min 2:10, 4:20, 6:35, 9:00 Death Race (R) 1hr 29min 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25 Surfer, Dude (R) 1hr 28min 2:15, 4:25, 6:30, 9:00 The Women (PG-13) 1hr 54min 1:40, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13) 1hr 54min 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50 You Don't Mess With the Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min 2:05 AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St.	(310) 289-4262 Disaster Movie (PG-13) 1hr 30min 5:40, 7:55, 10:10 Death Race (R) 1hr 29min 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20 Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30 Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50 Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min 12:40, 3:05 Righteous Kill - Digital Presentation (R) 1hr 41min 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys (PG-13) 1hr 51min 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min 12:10, 2:55 The House Bunny (PG-13) 1hr 38min 12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05 Burn After Reading (R) 1hr 37min 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15 LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Elegy (R) 1hr 48min 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55 Anita O'Day: The Life of A Jazz Singer (NR) 1hr 30min 4:00, 9:25 Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15 I.O.U.S.A. (PG) 1hr 25min 1:40, 7:00 MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 12:20, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30 Bangkok Dangerous (R) 1hr 40min 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 Traitor (PG-13) 1hr 50min 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 Babylon A.D. (PG-13) 1hr 30min 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:00 Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
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For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Where is the music, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You could overindulge and push far too much. Finances play a big role in what goes on in the next few days. Instead of getting messed up in a situation, detach, and you will find answers. Tonight: Gather bills.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Work with individuals, avoiding distraction and focusing on what is important. A business partnership or financial agreement could star in importance. Honor your feelings, but express them in a diplomatic manner. Tonight: Where there is music.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You have to handle all that is on your plate. Other people also will tend to drop stuff on your plate, adding to your sense of being overwhelmed. You have a way of handling a boss who inspires you. Tonight: You are full of energy.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Others do whatever they need to do to get what they want. The cost could be that you turn and walk in a new direction. You feel better and more centered than you have in a while. Tonight: Swap news with your best friend.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Keep your own counsel, and do not share all that you know or perceive. Easily, others could misread your words, and a problem might ensue where there needs to be none. News from a distance knocks on your door. Tonight: Take a deep breath.	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Relax with others, knowing that something better is around the corner. How you deal with someone could change radically. Follow your instincts, and you will not be disappointed. Plug your energy into a project you like. Tonight: Join others for dinner.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Do not hesitate to ask for what you want. Others touch base. Meetings and groups of people surround you. Schedule important get-togethers. Use the daytime to the max. Tonight: Vanish while you can.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ When hitting a boulder or even perhaps a pebble, you find a way past it, not obsessing about the stone, but the trail. Use that type of thinking today, and you'll succeed past what you believe possible. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Take a stand, which might be long overdue. Evaluate a statement during the next few days. Your first knee-jerk reaction could be off. Someone you respect wants your attention. Look at the hoops this person will jump through. Tonight: Find your friends.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Basics count. You move past a problem with ease. You do much better if you center on basics rather than trying to see the big picture. Follow your intuition with a partner or someone you know well. Tonight: Use that fabulous imagination.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Try to imagine how others feel, especially if you feel like you have a strong reaction to facts and information. You might want to take a stand or figure out what might be the most effective manner to proceed. Tonight: A must appearance.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Speak to others, and do not stand on ceremony. How you handle a matter could change once you get the big picture. Listen to your instincts. Follow through on an intuitive matter. Tonight: Happy at home.

Happy birthday

You might be overwhelmed by the many opportunities that appear. At the same time, you could be stunned by how many could disappear out of the blue. Be sure of what you want, and remain focused. By detaching, you will make the correct decision. Many of you will be more visible in your community and/or profession. You do make a difference. If you are single, you move to a new level of understanding about what you want. The person you choose to enter your life could be quite exotic. If you are attached, plan a special trip for just the two of you. GEMINI makes a must appearance.

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

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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 ★★ ★

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

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

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

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P0883 11/08

Girls and Sports

9/17

YOUR GIRLFRIEND
IS ABOUT TO
BREAK UP
WITH YOU
IF...

...IT NO LONGER
BOTHERS HER WHEN
YOU'RE LATE

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FEINSTEIN & BORUS

I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE. I GOT STUCK AT WORK, THEN I GOT A FLAT TIRE AND I COULDN'T FIND PARKING...

OH, THAT'S OK

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The Meaning of Lila

9/17

WHO'S THE HUNK IN THE TOO-TIGHT DOCKERS?

THAT'S PATRICK. HE'S NEW IN PRODUCT MANAGEMENT.

WOW!

HIS BUTT MAKES ME GLAD TO BE ALIVE.

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The Other Coast

9-17

NOW, SAKURA, YOU STAY HERE.

IT'S OK, LADY. MY DOG IS REAL FRIENDLY.

MINE ISN'T.

COULD YOU CHECK MY HEINIE? I THINK I GOT A MOSQUITO BITE.

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Garfield

9-18

IS YOUR CHILI SPICY?

NOT REALLY

GAAAH! MY THROAT! MILK! ICE WATER! ALOE VERA!!!

UNLESS YOU'RE A WEENIE

BRING IT ON!

I CAN'T SEE!!!

JOOOON...

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Dog eat Doug

9/17

JUST REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULES OF THE PETTING ZOO AND YOU'LL DO FINE.

ONE: DON'T APPROACH A KID UNLESS YOU'RE SURE THEY ARE NOT INTENT ON TRYING TO REMOVE YOUR HORNS.

TWO: HAM IT UP FOR THE ADULTS, THEY HAVE ACCESS TO TREATS.

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Arson

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

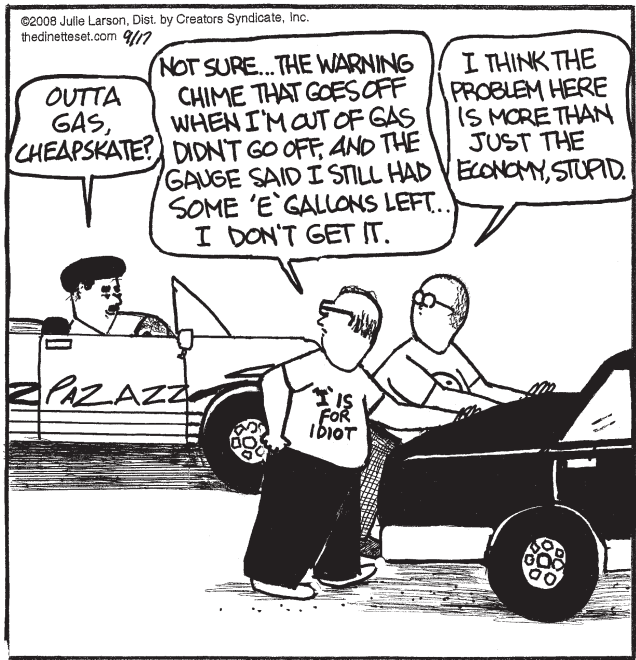
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

By Adrian Raeside

By Jim Davis

By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



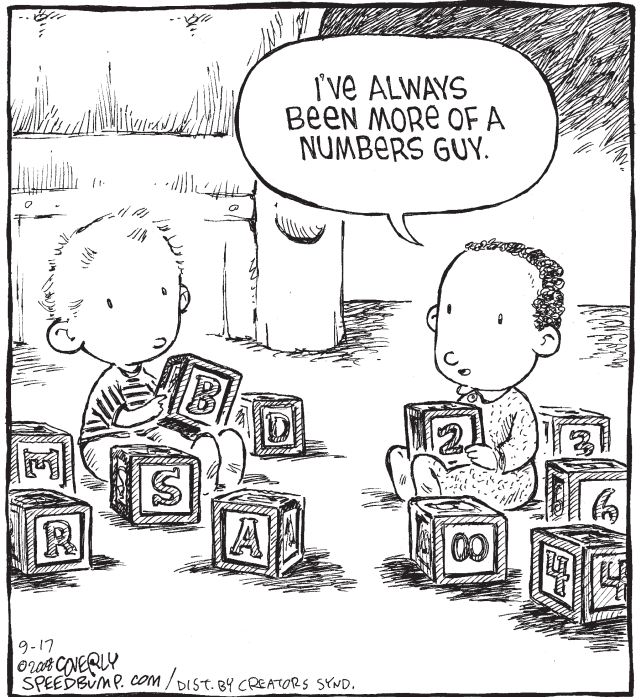
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



MYSTERY PHOTO

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 Small beard
- 7 Shoe part
- 11 Spain's fleet
- 12 Satanic
- 13 Entities
- 14 Vichy-soise veggie
- 15 Yellow-stone sight
- 17 Pale
- 20 Yellow shade
- 23 1040 filer's asst.
- 24 End of an old riddle
- 26 Brood watcher
- 27 Diving bird
- 28 Photographer Goldin
- 29 Car parts
- 31 Musician's job
- 32 Gem
- 33 Norwegian city
- 34 College in Poughkeepsie
- 37 Dance lesson part
- 39 Tooth coating

- 43 Cork's country
- 44 Whole
- 45 Sunset spot
- 46 Called for

DOWN

- 1 Yak it up
- 2 Vein
- 3 François's friend
- 4 Piquant
- 5 Border
- 6 Relaxed
- 7 Exclusive
- 8 Sticks out
- 9 Prevaricate
- 10 Caribou's kin
- 16 Enjoys the tub

- 17 Aspirin targets
- 18 Used up
- 19 Spree after-maths
- 21 Some messages
- 22 Fab Four drummer
- 24 Diminishes
- 25 Color
- 30 Sulky

- 33 Make speeches
- 35 Glimpsed
- 36 Diary writer
- 37 Fix
- 38 Hitch
- 40 Central
- 41 Before, to bards
- 42 Went ahead

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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					

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	1 12 14 25 35 Meganumber: 38 Jackpot: \$15M
Super LOTTO	6 13 19 21 41 Meganumber: 16 Jackpot: \$25M
Fantasy 5	1 9 19 21 34
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 9 2 9 EVENING: 0 5 8
DAILY DERBY	1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1:48.86

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

■ Paul Baldwin, 48, was ordered held on \$10,000 bail in Portsmouth, N.H., in May after his arrest for stealing a can of beer, which seems expensive except that it was Baldwin's 152nd arrest. When a judge asked if he wanted a lawyer appointed for him, Baldwin said, "I don't need a lawyer. I've been in this court more than you have."

■ Crimes From All Over: (1) A gentle armed robber was being sought in July in Poplar Bluff, Mo.; he took \$25 from a man at gunpoint, but then hugged him before he left. (2) Arrested in Tampa in the span of 23 hours on July 1 and July 2: Mr. Telly Savalas Cheatam (grand theft auto) and Mr. Telly Savalas Wimbley (trespassing).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1787 the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

1862 in the bloodiest battle day in U.S. history, Union forces fought Confederate invaders in the Civil War Battle of Antietam at Sharpsburg, Md.

1920 the American Professional Football Association, a precursor of the National Football League, was formed in Canton, Ohio.

1939 the Soviet Union invaded Poland, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

1944 during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands. (After initial success, the Allies were beaten back by the Germans.)

1947 James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.

1948 the United Nations mediator for Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, was assassinated in Jerusalem by Jewish extremists.

1978 after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

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2 - 5 pm



907 - 12th Street # 4
\$699,000
North of Wilshire
3 + 2 Condo
Open Sunday, September 21st
2 - 5 pm

Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid September 2008

	<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	\$ 3,233,200	\$ 5,730,000
North of Montana	\$ 3,803,538	\$ 2,098,909
Between Wilshire & Montana	\$ 3,926,000	\$ 1,015,621
South of Wilshire	\$ 1,334,500	\$ 703,821
Sunset Park	\$ 1,395,268	\$ 652,545

Statistics Updated Every Monday



Kate Brangfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist

310.395.1133
1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

