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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 275



SMOKE ONE FOR LIBERTY
SEE PAGE 5

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE TREE LOVING ISSUE

Trees get a lot of love on Tree Hugging Day

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK Marcy Miller rested her head gently on the California palm tree, tears welling in her eyes as she embraced the trunk, memories of her now deceased father, once a worker in a lumber yard, flooding back.

"I have hugged trees before but it did not have the same impact," she said.

The environmentalist drove to Santa Monica from Redondo Beach on Tuesday for the inaugural Tree Hugging Day, gathering at Palisades Park with about two dozen other locals in front of the Children's Tree of Life for a group hug.

The event was organized by local peace activists Jerry and Marissa Rubin, the former cofounded and led the Santa Monica Treesavers, which famously made national headlines last year for its campaign to save 54 ficus trees in Downtown Santa Monica from being destroyed or relocated as part of a city-backed streetscape project.

That movement kicked off in the spring of 2007 when a group of tree activists rallied against the plan to remove 23 structurally deficient trees from Second and Fourth streets, nominating the group of ficuses for landmark designation and filing a lawsuit. Rubin even chained himself to one of the trees and was subsequently arrested. The 23 trees were eventually destroyed when the court ruled in City Hall's favor in May 2008.

Rubin, who resigned from the Treesavers earlier this year, said the event has nothing to do with the battle with City Hall.

"This seems like it would be a positive way to show caring and appreciation for the trees as a community," he said. "I'm tired of people that use the word 'tree hugger' in a disparaging way to demean an environmentalist."

Regardless of the past, City Hall has endorsed Tree Hugging Day, issuing a commendation in which Mayor Ken Genser urged the community to join the Rubins by

SEE **TREES** PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

COME TOGETHER: **People gather around the Children's Tree of Life to give it a hug during Tree Hugging Day at Palisades Park on Tuesday.**

Businesses coming back to Montana

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVENUE There's a resurgence taking place at one of the high-end shopping districts on the Westside where the lease signs are disappearing from the windows and the credit cards are reappearing.

Following a challenging year during which more than 30 businesses — or 15 percent of the total merchants on Montana Avenue — left due to a combination of high rents and slow patronage, there's some life coming back to the street of high-end boutiques and mom and pop shops.

Approximately 15 commercial leases have been signed since the summer, bringing in a new maternity store, a clothing boutique, restaurant and children's art studio.

The list also includes returning business owners who are making another go at Montana Avenue, such as Rachel Ashwell, who opened a new furniture store in the same space where she started Shabby Chic more than 20 years ago. The new store, Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic Couture, opened on Sept. 12.

Chuck Dembo, a partner with real estate firm Dembo & Associates, said there's momentum building on the street.

"I think it's a result of things getting better overall," Dembo, whose firm signed six leases recently, said. "We're not dropping like we were at the beginning of the year."

He estimates that the vacancies have dropped down to about 10.

"We're still not out of the woods," he said. "We're not back to where we were, but we're on the right track."

Amy Bright and Natasha Koudsi chose Montana Avenue to open their first clothing boutique — 2 Chix Maternity and Baby in the 1400 block — in August despite hearing about the increasing vacancies, believing that businesses would come back.

"We felt that if we were one of the first to come in when the economy was on the decline, then maybe others would follow suit," Bright said. "It seems as though it's been happening."

The women for the past five years operated their clothing business on the Internet from an office in West Los Angeles and decided to expand it to a retail store earlier this year. They chose Montana feeling that

SEE **MONTANA** PAGE 10


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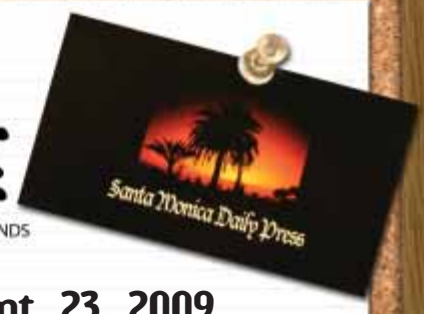


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009

Ballroom by the bay

Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Free dance lessons, followed by dancing on a 3,000-square-foot floor. Waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle and more — no partner necessary. Admission fee: $10. Call (310)487-0911 for more information.

LeTip Business Referral Club

Best Western Hotel meeting rooms
Santa Monica Boulevard and 19th Street, 7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Business owners and professionals meet each Wednesday morning to share tips or referrals to help one another grow their businesses. 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. First visit is free. Call (310)920-9649 for more information.

Big Blue new

Big Blue Bus Maintenance Facility
Seventh Street and Colorado Avenue, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Join Big Blue Bus for its grand opening of the new, state-of-the-art maintenance facility. Even highlights include self-guided tours, a large display of vintage BBB photos, a 3-D presentation on how the facility was built, a ribbon cutting with city officials and equipment demonstrations. The 66,000-square-foot facility features 600 photovoltaic roof-mounted panels, recycled steel and concrete, and an illuminated art wall that can simulate movement along its glass skin. For information, call (310) 451-5444 or visit www.bigbluebus.com.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009

Laughter club

Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon
Laugh your socks off every Thursday in this form of body-mind exercise for all ages and fitness levels. Certified laughter yoga leader Kim Selbert leads the class. Cost is $10. Visit www.kimselbert.com or call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

What's new this week?

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

Friday, Sept. 25, 2009

Movies and more

1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Join WISE and Healthy Aging for their twice monthly showing of an entertaining and thought-provoking film. A lively discussion follows the movie led by peer counselor Bert Dragin, who has produced, written and directed three motion pictures. The cost is $3 per person, and covers the film, popcorn and discussion. Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373 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.





BREAKING GROUND

Photo courtesy City of Malibu

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (center), State Sen. Fran Pavley and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley join city officials from Malibu for the groundbreaking of Legacy Park, the centerpiece of Malibu's $50 million commitment to clean water. The park will transform 15 acres in the heart of Malibu into a central park that will capture more than 2 million gallons per day of stormwater and urban runoff that reaches the ocean.

Cops tackle dangerous gang

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A notorious street gang accused of terrorizing a neighborhood for years, killing a sheriff's deputy and murdering residents was the target of a coordinated assault by hundreds of law enforcement officials Tuesday.

About 1,100 local police working with nearly 300 federal agents carried out a string of pre-dawn raids seeking key members of the Avenues street gang, a long-standing group that claims as its territory a swath of northeast Los Angeles.

A federal indictment detailing criminal activity spanning more than a decade named 88 suspects. Forty-six were arrested, 33 were already in custody and nine remained at large, authorities said.

The indictment reads like a laundry list of gang crime: the murder of rivals, prolific drug dealing, weapons violations and money laundering. Prosecutors say the Avenues preyed on community members, with two named suspects accused of attacking a resident in a parking lot then shooting him to death when he tried to call for help.

Another woman was pistol-whipped then shot at but survived to identify an assailant by the Fedora-wearing skull he had tattooed on his chest, Assistant U.S. Attorney Ariel Neuman said.

The gang is also accused of carrying out acts of violence against police officers, culminating in two attacks that rocked the law enforcement community last year.

The first of these, in February 2008, saw Avenues gang members opening fire with handguns and an AK-47 on Los Angeles police officers. Police shot back, killing 20-year-old Daniel Leon and injuring another man.

Then on Aug. 2, 2008, off-duty Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Juan Escalante was shot dead in front of his parents' home in the Cypress Park neighborhood northeast of downtown.

SEE **GANG** PAGE 13

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Getting a boost

Santa Monica College has received a $2.1 million, two-year federal grant for a comprehensive pilot program targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander students with academic need and other low-income students.

The two-year program, whose target is to serve 300 students, will include specialized tutoring, counseling, establishment of an academic library of interest to this population and other special services tailored to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The goal is to help these students complete their Associate of Arts degree and/or transfer to a four-year university within three years.

"This grant will provide SMC a wonderful opportunity to reach students who are struggling academically and need special assistance," said SMC President Dr. Chui L. Tsang. "While this particular population is often seen as high achieving, there are subgroups that are achieving far below average academically. This grant will help ensure their greater success in college."

The U.S. Department of Education grant is given to colleges and universities that qualify as Asian American/Pacific Islander-serving institutions. To qualify, a college must have an enrollment of at least 10 percent of this population, and SMC's enrollment of Asian American/Pacific Islander students is 14 percent. Federal guidelines also allow the college to serve some other low-income students who do not fall into this ethnic category.

The grant is funding the pilot program from Oct. 1 of this year through Sept. 30, 2011.

DAILY PRESS

WESTWOOD

UCLA experts offer tips to protect against the flu

As flu season approaches, medical professionals warn against both seasonal influenza and H1N1, also called swine flu.

"H1N1 is a new virus and people lack immunity to it," said Dr. David Pegues, epidemiologist, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and professor of infectious diseases, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. "We encourage everyone to be extra careful this year in taking precautions to prevent the spread of flu."

H1N1 influenza is the first pandemic since 1968, according to the World Health Organization.

"The H1N1 virus appears to be transmitted in the same way as the seasonal influenza – mostly through coughing and sneezing," said Dr. Zachary Rubin, epidemiologist, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant professor of infectious diseases. "So far, the overall severity of H1N1 regionally has been low, but this could change in the coming months and with the combination of the seasonal flu."

The Centers for Disease Control suggests the following precautionary measures:

1) Cover nose and mouth with tissue when coughing and sneezing. Throw the tissue away immediately.

2) Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

3) Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

4) Avoid close contact with sick or getting sick people.

5) Stay home when sick and limit contact with others to keep the disease at bay. Avoid activities such as travel, shopping and social events. Postpone visiting friends and family members in the hospital until you're feeling better to help protect patients and staff.

6) If necessary, follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.

7) Be aware of developing the following symptoms: fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches and stomach symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

8) If you do contract either disease, stay home and away from others for at least 24 hours after the fever ends.

9) If pregnant, younger than 5, older than 65, have chronic medical conditions or compromised immune systems, seek medical attention immediately.

10) Get an annual seasonal flu shot.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting to the bottom of breaks

Editor:

What do you think about all of the claims that the recent water main breaks are being attributed to the fact that Los Angelenos are being restricted to less watering of their gardens and lawns?

I wonder how the water main breaks haven't happened here in Santa Monica and other communities that have put in place similar measures.

The restrictions were meant to save water, not waste it. What are we doing to mitigate these possibly false claims by the general press? Also, if they are right, how can we stop this problem from occurring in the future?

Nan Dowling
Santa Monica

A poem for you

Editor:

The merry go round horses at the Santa Monica Pier
Do not leap or lurch or break their paces
They do not stumble and smash their ankles
They lean smugly in the groove forever and ever
In the groove of their concrete

And the music which is a planetary blandness
Blows them round the ring 13 rounds for a dollar
The 3 year olds and 4 year olds and 5 year olds
Love to take a trip around the cosmos
On these plastic and predictable ponies
And their older sisters and brothers and parents too
Like it even better to take a ride around the world

Thirteen times full circle for a one-dollar bill
The children love the feel of a horse
An imaginary horse under their haunches
And the music tells them of bland eternity

Life is a ride on the merry-go-round
And the ponies are the mills of the gods
That grind slowly exceeding all fineness
I watched them this morning in the middle of my jog

The mechanical horses and their human riders
Going in a perfect circle in the microcosmic space
And they were still whirling when I left them
At the cool base of the majestic Pacific Ocean

RL Greenfield
Santa Monica

The 14 users currently in the teen chat room.

good2hug:	14, female, Daytona, FL
joey16:	16, male, Hackensack, NJ
robbieW:	38, male, Daytona, FL
b-ball_tommy:	15, male, Pocatello, ID
tu_tu:	16, female, Burlington, VT
duffme:	44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie:	30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989:	15, female, Naperville, IL
harrys_grl:	12, female, Appleton, MN
slugger20:	17, male, Jackson, MS
qtrback21:	26, male, Brooklyn, NY
suzie14:	14, female, Portland, OR
hiphopper:	13, female, Plano, TX
paperboy:	41, male, Beaverton, OR

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting to the bottom of things at Saint John's

I'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSIONS "CRAP FLOWS down hill" and "good cop/bad cop" thousands of times, but I never understood them until last week. Oddly, it was the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System who brought those phrases into focus at the monthly meeting on the progress of the decade-long construction project at Saint John's.

After the August meeting to get "input from the community," I wrote about five people connected to this project — three from Saint John's (CEO Lou Lazatin, Mission & Ethics Vice President LaTisha Starbuck and Marketing & Business Development Director Greg Harrison) and two from the Shane Miller Co. (President Shane Miller and Project Executive Jake Keshishyan). Four of these people attended both that meeting and the one last week, but Lou Lazatin was a no-show. Twice.

I have to recognize the night-and-day difference between the two meetings — at least in terms of the jobs that LaTisha and Greg did. Last month, the only reason anyone even knew a meeting was taking place was because a neighbor made copies of a notice and delivered them door-to-door. This month, anyone who signed in at the previous meeting was sent a notice and an agenda in the mail. Last month's meeting was scheduled at 3 p.m., while this month's was at a more convenient 7 p.m.

Neighbors voiced concerns about delivery trucks and ambulances at the last meeting, now there is a commitment to structured delivery routes and both the fire chief and the EMS director made promises that were very reassuring coming from the top. And the hospital even provided the Administrator On-Call's number to get immediate attention paid to any neighbor's concerns at any time (310-829-5511). That was the "good cop" portion of the program.

Last month, I wondered what an "Owner's Representative" like the Shane Miller Co. does. The hospital says they know how to provide patient care, not how to deal with the general contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and various city, county, and state agencies associated with a real estate development project. That's where people like Shane Miller enter the picture. He's the bad cop. It's his job to say and do the things the hospital won't. One of the most important things Lou Lazatin won't say is that the reconstruction of Saint John's Health Center after the 1994 Northridge earthquake has turned into a real estate development project.

Real estate developers — the deep-pocketed dealmakers with the best lawyers, the most influential politicians and all the time in the world to beat up or wait out the other side — are not to be trusted. In this case, Saint John's hired Harding, Larmore, Mullen, Jakle, Kutcher & Kozal to draft and negotiate its infamous development agreement with the city of Santa Monica (good luck finding it online, by the way — it's like the document doesn't exist), somehow got the votes of every member of the City Council (except Mike Feinstein), and bought itself 17 years of development rights in the heart of Mid-City at one of the worst traffic choke-points in Santa Monica.

Because of the mind-blowing 29,000 new daily car trips in an early environmental impact report, the development agreement committed Saint John's to constructing 422 subterranean parking spaces. Their lawyers will say the language calls for the hospital to make "every reasonable effort" or its "best effort" to construct those parking spaces; but as far as I'm concerned, if the Sisters of Mercy say they're going to do something, that should be the same as a commitment.

When asked why the spaces are nowhere to be found in the construction plans, Shane Miller said the hospital intends to ask for a 10-year deferment — 11 years after promising to deliver those parking spots. If that deferment is granted by our City Council, planning for the construction of the spaces won't begin for another eight years. I asked Shane if that meant that a child born when the development agreement was finalized would have gone through McKinley Elementary, Lincoln Middle, Santa Monica High School and be ready to graduate from Santa Monica College before a single one of those parking spaces had been provided. He said he wasn't going to answer that question.

No meeting would be complete without a blatant lie, and Jake and Shane didn't disappoint. A design flaw makes it all but impossible for the hospital to pump its sewage into the city pipes, so it's drained into trucks and hauled away. For at least eight hours every week while the trucks are being filled, the entire area reeks of sewage (the students at McKinley have recess less than 200 yards away). Jake said the hospital's pumps aren't designed to work with the city system. Shane confirmed they actually are, but the flaw is too expensive to fix. So the goal is to "mitigate" the impact on the neighbors of pumping sewage into trucks twice a week, every week, forever.

Meanwhile, Lou Lazatin's crap flows downhill into our community and onto our kids and she doesn't have the decency to show up and answer for it.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who loves living in Sunset Park more every day. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Going Postal

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

Smoke 'em if you got 'em

I LOVE MY CIGAR! THE PARTAKING OF a fine Honduran panatela approaches near divinity especially while club hunting hope-and-change unicorns with my Tiger Woods 9 iron. The visceral connection between me and my Dominican torpedo is such a quintessential devotional to the empire of the senses that it leads me to celebrate the greatest gift that the Indians ever gave the white man.

OK, we took their land but they gave us lung cancer.

As far as a cigar's health benefits, however, parking a Partagas el Presidente in one's pie-hole didn't seem to have hindered the life expectancies of Mark Twain (74), Fidel Castro (83), Sigmund Freud (83), Winston Churchill (90) or George Burns (100). I mean what would the near-immortal comic book hero Wolverine be without his adamantium claws and a half-chewed stogie pinched in his gritted maw?

I like to think that their longevity had something to do with cigars.

Excuse me, folks, but when you turn the car key on your ObamaMotors Global Warmer, your carbonized footprint is equivalent to 200 packs of cigarettes upon ignition while you slaughter polar bears on your self-absorbed trek to Whole Foods for organic Tuscan kale. So can you please explain to me that while I am imbibing a legally regulated biodegradable vegetable product that I am somehow considered a "criminal" in your preciously myopic world view?

Folks, liberty is not a manicured panoply of interactive functions on your iPhone. After all, you can't fire up a fine Gurkha corona with an iPhone. Liberty, like smoking, is a very messy thing. It's not perfect nor is it meant to be. It's not for welfare weaklings nor affirmative-action crybabies, either. "Self-sufficiency" is the seneschal of liberty. It means bringing your own damn lighter and cutter to the smoke-out. With liberty you are free to move and excel in society with as little governmental encumbrance as possible. Equality just makes you as miserable as everybody else.

Unfortunately, this concept of "self-sufficiency" frightens the living Be-Jesus out of most liberals including the ones who actually believe in Be-Jesus!

But then again, where there's smoke there's friction, yes? And there is a whole lot of smoke and friction going on over at the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). By now, many informed folks have now seen the undercover sting videos from the D.C., Baltimore, San Bernardino, New York City and San Diego offices of ACORN personnel who amply advised a faux pimp and his girlfriend-prostitute on how to circumvent federal law to acquire housing loans to set up a brothel for a baker's dozen of (fictitious) illegal immigrant El Salvadoran girls. ACORN personnel were also videotaped on how to declare the girls as "dependents" under U.S. tax law as well as how to disguise and dispose of the financial proceeds of these underage "performing artists."

Last week, the Senate and House voted to de-fund ACORN from liberally accessing any more federal monies for their skeezy enterprise. The vote was 345-75 in the House. The Senate vote was 83-7. This was the most "post-partisan vote" of any legislation ever enacted under the Obama administration. By comparison, the votes for Bush's "No Child Left Behind Act 2001" was 381-41 in the House while the Senate smoldered in at 87-10.

Three local Congresscritters that voted "no" to de-fund ACORN were Democrats Maxine Waters, Diane Watson and Henry Waxman as well as the full membership of the Congressional Black Caucus and seven members of the Hispanic Caucus. Obviously they feel that child sex slavery and income tax evasion is a growth industry worthy of stimulation in their districts. And where is the conflagration of outrage from the National Organization of Women and Amnesty International who regularly blow smoke about women's rights on Santa Monica street corners?

It is worth noting that our Community-Organizer-in-Chief was just as unaware that ACORN had received so much federal largesse ($52 million dollars since 1993) just as he was unaware that Bill Ayers was a terrorist, Tony Rezko was a crook, Van Jones was a Communist Truther wing-nut and that Jeremiah Wright just plain hates everybody not wearing a dashiki. Further note that our Community-Organizer-in-Chief has also been rather tepid in his condemnation of his former pals and employer.

After all, they did help him get elected as senator and president.

Is it an inconvenient truth that the president is more interested in burning CIA agents at the stake for protecting this country against Islamic jihadis rather than ordering Attorney General Holder to broil and smoke out a self-outed criminal enterprise under the RICO Act?

If this doesn't light your fire for liberty, ladies and gentlemen, then what will?

STEVE BREEN invokes that if smoking is not allowed in heaven then he won't go and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office" He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Thinking of Third Street

The Third Street Promenade recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The outdoor shopping mall helped revitalize Downtown and helped spark a revolution in retail, moving people from boxy, enclosed malls to outdoor shopping centers.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What are your fondest memories of the promenade, and what can be done to improve what has been called Santa Monica's living room?

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WALL STREET

Commodities bounce back

SARA LEPRO & TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK A rebound in commodities drew investors back into the stock market and helped push stocks to new highs for 2009.

Major stock indicators rebounded Tuesday from a drop the day earlier to end at their highest levels in 11 months. The Dow Jones industrials rose 51 points after falling 41 on Monday.

After soaring 50.1 percent since hitting a 12-year low in early March, the Dow stands 170 points below the 10,000 mark — a level the average first crossed in March 1999 and hasn't been above since October.

In an about-face, the dollar weakened against other major currencies. That helped lift lift commodities like oil and gold as well as energy and material stocks. Financial stocks also rose sharply.

The gains came as the Federal Reserve began a two-day meeting on interest rates. Investors are hoping the central bank will provide a clearer indication of when it might raise rates. Analysts also expect the statement the Fed issues at the conclusion of its meeting Wednesday will indicate the economy is improving. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke's said last week that the U.S. recession was "likely over" from a technical standpoint even though troubles like high unemployment remain.

The Fed is widely expected to keep rates at their record low of near zero for the time being. Rock-bottom interest rates have helped fuel the market's nearly seven-month old rally, making cash plentiful and cheap and encouraging investors to buy up riskier assets.

The market appears to be following a well-established pattern where brief dips are met with more buying as investors fear missing a continued rally.

"Reluctantly, investors are continually being dragged into a market that is finding a path of least resistance to the upside," said Art Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co.

The consensus on Wall Street is that the economy is healing despite challenges like unemployment. But investors still have doubts over how strong the recovery will be, and whether the stock market's surge off of 12-year lows in March accurately reflects the still-fragile state of the economy.

"Right now, it's a more orderly market," said Greg Reynholds, senior vice president of asset management at Lenox Advisors. "People are digesting the data, trying to figure out exactly where we're headed."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 51.01, or 0.5 percent, to 9,829.87, its highest close since Oct. 6, when it finished at 9,956.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 7.00, or 0.7 percent, to 1,071.66, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 8.26, or 0.4 percent, to 2,146.30. Both indexes are at 11-month highs.

More than two stocks rose every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.3 billion shares compared with 1.2 billion Monday.

Gold and silver prices rose after three days of drops, while oil prices gained $1.84 to settle at $71.55 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Commodities rose as the U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of foreign currencies, fell 0.8 percent, after earlier hitting a fresh low for the year. The dollar has fallen sharply since early March, making commodities cheaper for foreign investors, as its appeal wanes amid low interest rates and unprecedented government spending designed to stimulate the economy.

Demand for energy and material stocks increased as commodities rose. U.S. Steel Corp. added $2.22, or 4.6 percent, to $50.24, while Chesapeake Energy Corp. jumped $1, or 3.6 percent, to $29.11.

MEDIA

Yahoo hopes to create more buzz

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Yahoo Inc. believes a lot of its good work has been overlooked by investors and the media so it's spending more than $100 million to get the word out to consumers directly.

The money is going toward the Internet company's most expensive marketing campaign since Stanford University graduate students Jerry Yang and David Filo started Yahoo's Web site 15 years ago. Yahoo provided a peek at the 15-month blitz Tuesday in New York.

The ads will run on television, online and other media in the United States and nine other countries where Yahoo hopes to expand on a worldwide audience that is already approaching 600 million.

Despite its extensive reach, Yahoo's brand has been bruised in recent years as its profits sagged and many people turned to Internet search leader Google Inc. and relative newcomers like Facebook Inc. and Twitter Inc. — none of which have spend much money on self-promotion.

Yahoo's financial struggles were magnified last year when Yang and the rest of the Sunnyvale-based company's board spurned a $47.5 billion takeover offer from Microsoft Corp.

The rebuff alienated many Yahoo shareholders, and the missed Microsoft opportunity has remained a recurring theme in the business press because the company's market value now is about 50 percent below Microsoft's last takeover offer in May 2008, before the rivals ultimately agreed on a search partnership nearly two months ago.

Yahoo Chief Executive Carol Bartz, hired eight months ago to steer a turnaround, believes the company has been getting a bum rap — something she hopes to reverse with the new advertising push.

"When you get outside of New York City and Silicon Valley, everybody loves Yahoo," Bartz said Tuesday during a press conference that was webcast. "Why are you (the media) so cynical about us? Be cynical about frigging Google. If you don't love us, leave us alone."

Wall Street's affinity for Google is driven by money.

Google's revenue has been rising in recent years, even during the U.S. recession, largely because it dominates the Internet search market and can thus sell more text-based ads that appear on the side of search results. Yahoo's share of the search market has shrunk in the past few years and, more recently, the recession has made it more difficult to sell the visual ads that have long been its specialty.

Investors have rewarded Google with a market value of nearly $160 billion while Yahoo's hovers around $24 billion.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

ABCs of home buying

THE EXPRESSION "YOU HAVE TO LEARN how to walk before you can run" holds true in many aspects of life. The expression means you have to do step "A" before you can do step "B."

And if you think about it, many things in life have to be done in the correct sequential order or the end result will not reach the desired conclusion.

Over the last few weeks I have been asked questions about the purchase process by friends who are in the middle of a transaction. It is a good idea to review the steps involved so you know what to expect during a residential real estate purchase. The purchase process breaks down into the following steps: purchase contract is executed by a buyer and seller, escrow is opened with deposit funds, inspections are scheduled and completed, financing is attained, recording takes place and escrow closes with a disbursement of funds.

As I have explained in past articles, escrow is a neutral third party that handles a real estate transaction. If you have a lot of money involved, it is a good idea to have a third party handling the transaction so both the buyer and seller are protected. Once you have identified a property you want to purchase you will let your real estate agent know and he or she will draw up a purchase contract.

A purchase contract is a legally binding contract with terms that explain what price the buyer is paying for the property, the length of escrow in days, which title and escrow companies the seller wants to use, etc.

Once a real estate agent or broker presents the offer to the seller's real estate agent, the seller will have "X" amount of time to get back to the buyer for the contract to be valid. Often the contract stipulates between one and three days before a specific time.

The seller now has three options once the purchase contact is presented. They can accept the terms of the buyer's offer, reject the offer or submit a counter offer. If the seller accepts the offer, the buyer and seller open escrow and a deposit of usually 3 percent of the purchase price is placed into escrow.

Once escrow is open, the purchase contract will usually state that inspections need to be completed within a specific allotted time. The time will vary depending on the motivation of the buyer and seller and the current market conditions. In a "hot" market, usually the buyer has between two and three days to complete inspections, while a normal market will allow anywhere from 10 to 14 days for inspections. Inspections of the property range from pests to major systems. There are companies and individuals that only do property inspections. The best way to find a reputable inspector is to speak with your real estate agent.

Usually an offer is not accepted unless the buyer is pre-qualified with financing or can prove they have the funds to close the transaction with cash. Pre-qualified or pre-approved simply means that the buyer has gone to a lender and been pre-approved based on their credit, income, liquidity, etc. However, the buyer still has to go through the financing process, which takes anywhere from 30 to 60 days for residential financing. It is best for a buyer to go directly to a bank for financing as the cost of financing is usually lower; however, using a mortgage broker gives the buyer options just in case the buyer's first lender does not come through with the financing.

Once inspections are complete, the buyer has financing and all terms on the purchase contract are met, the buyer and seller can finish the purchase transaction. This involves the buyer placing the remaining funds into escrow, the lender wiring money into escrow and the seller executing all necessary documents such as the grant deed. Escrow then has all necessary documents recorded. With a residential property there is what is known as a right of recision where the buyer has three days to not accept the funds from the lender and back out of the financing. Once the recision is up, keys are given to the buyer, funds are disbursed to the seller and escrow closes.

Now this was a simple illustration of a residential purchase to explain the process. However, as many people know, things happen in escrow that are unexpected, so both the buyer and seller should be prepared for unforeseen events that take place. In the end, if a buyer is qualified and a seller agrees on a price, these are the basic steps to completing a residential purchase transaction.

MIKE HEAYN is a Commercial Loan Consultant, specializing in Multi-Family Lending. He can be emailed at maheayn@yahoo.com.



Community Presentation

Santa Monica College
Facilities Master Plan 2009 Update

- Incorporates current College facility planning, including projects approved by the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu in the Measure U, Measure S, and Measure AA elections
- Identifies options for SMC campus sites with regard to land use, transportation, and sustainability
- Reduces the planned density and increases the planned open space for the Main campus; and provides for a replacement Physical Education building, a replacement Math and new Science wing building, seismic repair, and improvements for the Pico Boulevard frontage
- Provides for expansion at the Academy campus to accommodate programs in digital arts, media, communication, journalism, and broadcasting, and incorporated parking; and the relocation of the College's radio station
- Provides for long-range development planning at the Olympic Shuttle site
- Provides for program expansion at the Performing Arts campus in music, art, and public programs, related parking, and seismic repair
- Assists the College in preparing students for the jobs of the 21st century and competing in a global economy, including enhancing the teaching facilities of math, science and technology

COMMUNITY MEETING
Wednesday, September 30, 2009 • 7 pm
Bundy Campus Community Room / 3171 S. Bundy Drive / Los Angeles, CA 90066

Additional community meetings will be held October 7 (at SMC's AET Campus) and October 14 (in Business 111 on the Main Campus), 7 pm. The October 14 meeting is also a scoping meeting for purposes of participating in the Notice of Preparation of a Program and Project-Level Environmental Impact Report consultation and CEQA review process.

Project documents and notices available at www.smc.edu/facilities_masterplan

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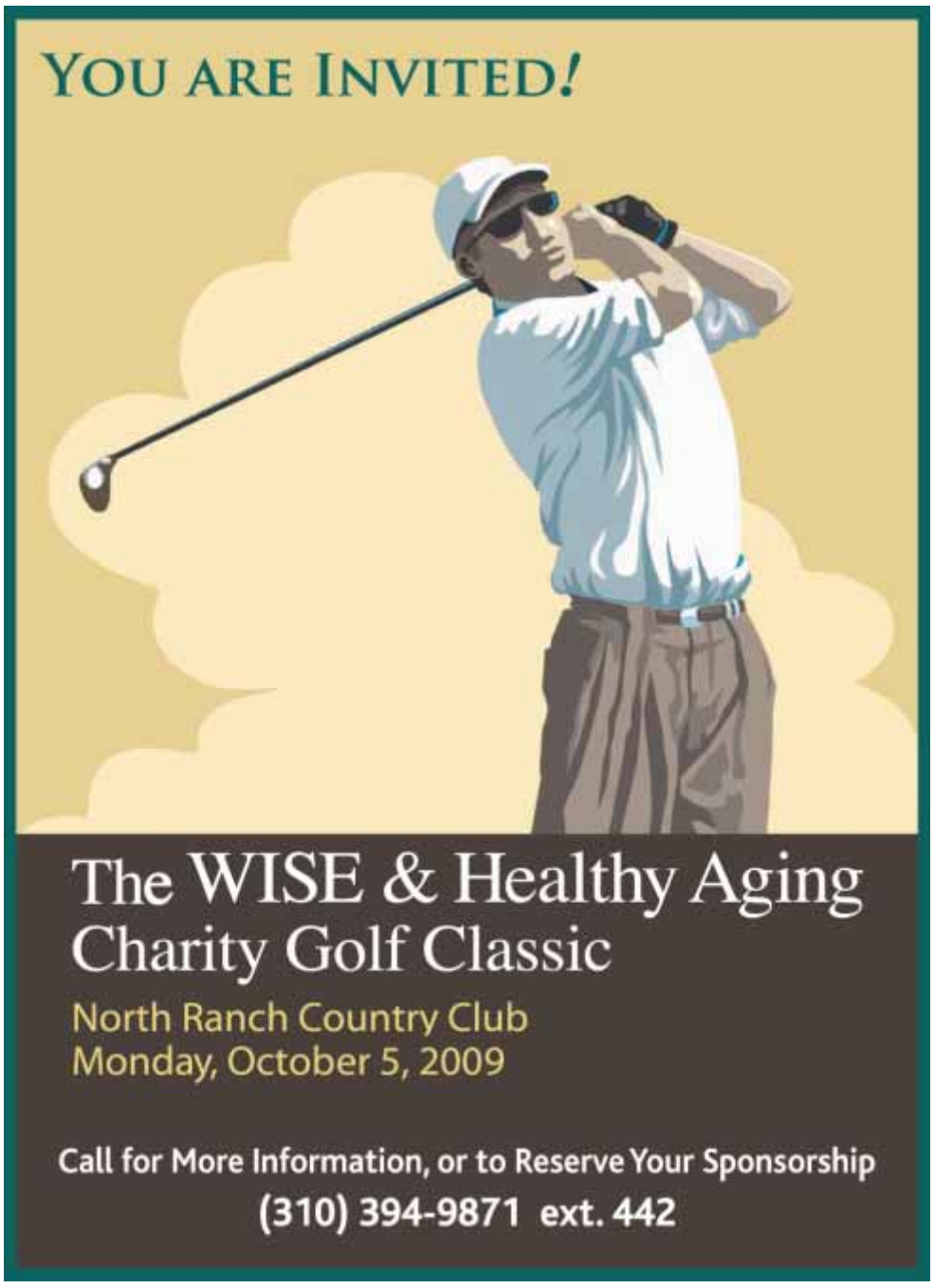
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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2988 – PROVIDE ON-SITE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES AT THE ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 9:30 AM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Oscar Santiago and Monica Diaz at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA. 90405.
- Parking will be provided; late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding. Please refer to the bid packet for further details. The bid packet can be downloaded at:
- http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
- **Submission Deadline is Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8215, or by e-mailing your request to Monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

BID #2985 – PROVIDE ON-SITE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Al Davis at 1620 6th Street Santa Monica, CA. 90401 in the Big Blue Bus Maintenance Training Room
- Parking is not provided; late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding. Please refer to the bid packet for further details. The bid packet can be downloaded at:
- http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
- **Submission Deadline is October 20, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8797, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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Stadiums, hotels on terror alert

DEVLIN BARRETT & TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK The government expanded a terrorism warning from transit systems to U.S. stadiums, hotels and entertainment complexes as investigators searched for more suspects Tuesday in a possible al-Qaida plot to set off hydrogen-peroxide bombs hidden in backpacks.

Police bolstered their presence at high-profile locations. Extra officers with bullet-proof vests, rifles and dogs were assigned to spots such as Grand Central Terminal in New York. Plainclothes officers handed out fliers at a nearby hotel with a warning in large block letters: "If you suspect terrorism, call the NYPD."

The warnings come amid an investigation centering on Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old Denver airport shuttle driver who authorities say received al-Qaida explosives training in Pakistan and was found entering New York City two weeks ago with bomb-making instructions on his computer.

Zazi's arrest in Colorado last week touched off the most intense flurry of government terror warnings and advisories to come to light since President Barack Obama took office.

Though Zazi is charged only with lying to the government, law enforcement officials said he may have been plotting with others to detonate backpack bombs on New York trains in a scheme similar to the attacks on the London subway and Madrid's rail system. Backpacks and cell phones were seized in raids on apartments Zazi visited in New York.

Two law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the investigation told The Associated Press that more than a half-dozen people were being scrutinized in the alleged plot. The FBI said "several individuals in the United States, Pakistan and elsewhere" are being investigated.

"There's a lot more work to be done," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, cautioning that the probe was still in its early stages.

In two bulletins sent to police departments Monday and obtained by the AP, federal counterterrorism officials urged law enforcement and private companies to be vigilant at stadiums, entertainment complexes and hotels.

The bulletin on stadiums noted that an al-Qaida training manual specifically lists "blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality and sin ... and attacking vital economic centers." Counterterrorism officials are also advising police officers to be on the lookout for any possible bomb-making at self-storage facilities, noting that terrorists have used such places to build bombs.

The bulletins came just days after similar warnings about the vulnerability of the nation's mass transit systems and the danger of hydrogen peroxide-based explosives.

In a statement, the FBI and Homeland Security said that while the agencies "have no information regarding the timing, location or target of any planned attack, we believe it is prudent to raise the security awareness of our local law enforcement partners regarding the targets and tactics of previous terrorist activity."

A half-dozen terrorism warnings and alerts have been issued in the past week amid the investigations in New York and Denver. Bulletins — particularly about hotels as possible terrorist targets — are common, and often don't make news. In fact, they are so common that many Americans in the past few years have accused Washington of fear-mongering.

Some Americans were blase about the latest warnings.

"If it happens, it happens," said Lynn Calhoun, an Indianapolis computer programmer who visited Conseco Fieldhouse, the home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers, to buy a ticket for a Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert there in December. "Where are you going to go? What are you going to do? You can't just go and hide out in Canada for a month."

James Orash waited for a commuter train outside Camden Yards, Baltimore's ballpark, with his wife.

"If they're going to hit us, there, that's where they're going to hit us," Orash said, looking at the stadium. "They already took two buildings down once. Eventually, that's what's going to happen. If they hit us next time, it's going to be big."

In the lobby of New York's Grand Hyatt, 81-year-old Barbara Kane's eyes widened when she heard of the warning.

"If something were to happen, what do people do?" said Kane, of Lafayette, Ind. "Do they run? Do they get into a building? Do they stay out in the open?"

"Hold my cross?" she added, fingering her crucifix.

New York's transit agency said it increased the police presence around the city. The vigilance is playing out during a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, with Obama and other leaders from around the world in town. Also, thousands of policy-makers and other visitors are arriving in Pittsburgh for a two-day economic summit of wealthy and developing nations.

New York's Police Department produced a 10-minute videotape it has begun showing at roll call instructing officers to be on the lookout for potential bomb-making ingredients. The video puts special emphasis on hydrogen peroxide — a common ingredient in homemade explosives — as well as cans of acetone and bags of ammonium nitrate.

Stadiums around the country provided few specifics about how they were responding but stressed that they have been vigilant ever since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"We're aware of the memo," said Bob Moore, spokesman for the Kansas City Chiefs, who play at Arrowhead Stadium. "It just underscores the high levels of security we've had and will continue to maintain. We've been in that mode for some time."

In New Jersey, home of Giants Stadium, the state homeland security office said there will be an increased police presence at key locations, random bag searches and greater use of surveillance cameras and undercover operations.

A spokesman for InterContinental Hotels Group, which operates more than 4,300 hotels worldwide, including InterContinental, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express hotels, would not discuss specific security measures.

New wildfires erupt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOORPARK New wildfires threatened homes in Southern California on Tuesday as hot and dry Santa Ana winds turned the region into a tinder box.

A wind-driven blaze in rural hills of Ventura County northwest of Los Angeles quickly grew to 1,500 acres, threatening the northwestern area of the city of Moorpark, said county fire Capt. Ron Oatman.

Evacuations were ordered for scattered ranches and homes. Oatman couldn't provide a specific number but said numerous homes and electrical infrastructure were threatened. One small building was seen ablaze.

"Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel like you're in danger," he said.

Air tankers, helitankers and bulldozers aided 400 firefighters. The weather was hot, with sustained winds of 15 mph to 20 mph and single-digit humidity percentages, Oatman said.

Another fire broke out in Riverside County, 40 miles east of Los Angeles, and burned from the city of Riverside into the city of Norco and toward adjacent Corona before nearing containment at 120 to 150 acres, said Norco Fire Chief Jack Frye. Flames burned near homes, but none were lost despite gusts of up to 45 mph, he said.

Flames were whipped by the region's notorious Santa Ana winds, which blow from the northeast, speeding up and warming as they descend through mountain passes and canyons and push seaward. The air is extremely dry, lowering humidity levels and making brush easier to burn.

Gusts of 30 mph to 40 mph were reported in Southern California's mountains, the National Weather Service said.

The Santa Anas also whipped up clouds of ash north and east of Los Angeles in the vast area of the San Gabriel Mountains burned over by a gigantic wildfire that continues to smolder a month after it began.

The winds caused some increased fire activity on ridgetops in the San Gabriels, but the haze was from blowing ash, not smoke columns, said Carol Underhills, a public information officer for the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire burned across 160,557 acres — 251 square miles — of Angeles National Forest after it was ignited by arson on Aug. 26. At its peak it destroyed 89 homes and caused two firefighter deaths.

The blaze chewed through heavy growth in areas that hadn't burned in decades, leaving a carpet of ash in about a quarter of the 1,000-square-mile forest north and east of Los Angeles.

The fire remained 94 percent surrounded Tuesday, and fire commanders again pushed back the projected date for full containment, this time from Tuesday evening to Thursday morning, due to the weather.

Most of the remaining fire activity in the Angeles forest has been on the north side of Mount Wilson, the antenna-studded peak towering over suburban Pasadena and Sierra Madre, and in the Twin Peaks area on the east side of the fire, Underhills said.

The weather service also issued "red flag" warnings of fire weather conditions in other parts of California due to a combination of low humidity, high temperatures and wind.

Those areas included the hills east of San Francisco Bay and mountains to the north, the northern Sierra and northern Sacramento Valley and a large swath of the state farther north.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Officials target, kill coyotes after attack

Wildlife officials have conducted a coyote hunt in Los Angeles' Griffith Park after a coyote in the area bit a man's foot.

California Department of Fish and Game said Tuesday that trappers killed eight coyotes in a crackdown last week.

State officials ordered the hunt after a coyote bit a man on Sept. 16 while he was lying on the grass in the sprawling park.

Earlier this month, singer Jessica Simpson's dog Daisy was snatched near her parents' home in Encino, about 12 miles west of Griffith Park.

Agency spokesman Kyle Orr says the attack on Simpson's pet did not prompt the coyote hunt. He says coyotes are normally wary of people, but they present a threat to small children and others when humans feed them and they lose fear.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Actual people physically gather to talk Twitter

Twitter is officially the talk of the town as a two-day conference dedicated to the micro-blogging site gets under way at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

Company co-founder Biz Stone opened the conference Tuesday with a 40-minute speech about the origins of Twitter and its goal to make a positive global impact. He cited the site's importance in organizing political protests worldwide.

Pro skater Tony Hawk, attorney Mark Geragos, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, actors Tyrese Gibson and Greg Grunberg and addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky are also set to talk Twitter.

Follow AP entertainment writer Sandy Cohen at twitter.com/apsandy as she tweets from the Twitter conference, which runs through Wednesday.

AP

LOS ANGELES

City Council limits roosters

The chickens have come home to roost for Los Angeles city dwellers who keep roosters.

The City Council on Tuesday passed an ordinance that — with few exceptions — allows only one rooster per property. The law was spurred by complaints over noise, hygiene and concerns over illegal cockfighting.

Janice Hahn says the measure will give residents of her district some peace and quiet.

Neighborhoods from the harbor to the San Fernando Valley are sometimes annoyed by concerts from crowing roosters.

Real estate developer Michael Mekeel says tenants of his Panorama City development have had to turn up their TVs and wear earplugs to mute the noise.

AP

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

LOOKING GOOD: **Clothing boutique Aphrodite is one of the new businesses on Montana Avenue.**

More than a dozen new businesses set up shop on Montana Avenue

FROM **MONTANA** PAGE 1

it's mother-friendly.

"It's really easy to navigate and really a calm environment," Bright said.

> **"WE FELT THAT IF WE WERE ONE OF THE FIRST TO COME IN WHEN THE ECONOMY WAS ON THE DECLINE, THAT MAYBE OTHERS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT."**
>
> **Amy Bright**
> Co-owner, 2 Chix Maternity and Baby

She added that there was a need for a maternity and children's clothing store on Montana after Babystyle went bankrupt.

Business has been strong since the Aug. 20 opening.

"Right now it's been mostly word of mouth and walk in traffic," she said. "It's been wonderful."

Erika Mourelo, the owner of clothing boutique Aphrodite in the 1200 block of Montana, credits the success of her new business to its lower price points, which she said ranges from $20 to $140 for high-end quality.

She worked for eight years on Montana at various boutiques, deciding to open a business with partner Cherisse Morgan, catering to women who are used to luxury but can't afford it because of the recession.

"I saw (stores) closing down everywhere and didn't open earlier in the year," she said. "This time around I thought it was a moment to strike."

Mark Wain, the owner of Caffe Luxxe and chairman of the Montana Avenue Merchants Association, said that landlords are becoming more amenable to their tenants' needs, lowering rent to retain existing leases.

Several tenants have been able to secure rent abatements or decreases. But rent overall has decreased on Montana, going from an average of $7 to $8 a square foot down to $6 currently.

"I really think that the worst is over and we're coming across to the other side," Wain said.

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Local activists kick off inaugural celebration

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

"hugging a tree to express love and appreciation for our urban forest and the benefits it provides to our city and our planet."

The Board of Education with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees have also written letters in support, though there were no planned activities on either campuses.

Rubin even practiced hugging trees in preparation for the event, a feeling that he described as "wonderful."

He set the celebration at the Children's Tree of Life where a New Zealand Christmas tree was planted and dedicated on April 22, 1983. It's also where the Rubins married 26 years ago and renewed their vows on their 25th anniversary.

"It's more than an event, it's a wonderful tree-loving endeavor," Rubin said.

The Rubins read several poems to the crowd that had gathered around the tree, which included several tourists who had unknowingly wandered in, some leaving once they realized the purpose of the event. Others stayed to join the group hug, including a pair of tourists from Japan, who remarked "It's a tree hug, they also have this in Japan."

The group then dispersed, hugging trees all over Palisades Park before returning to talk about their feelings.

Rubin said he has already set the date for the second annual Tree Hugging Day, scheduled for the vernal equinox in 2010.

Absent from the celebration were several key leaders of the Treesavers, including Susan Hartley, who serves on the steering committee with Cosmo Bua, Linda Piera-Avila and Herb Silverstein.

Hartley, who co-founded Treesavers, said she's busy saving trees.

"I don't think we need a Tree Hugging Day," she said. "We have Arbor Day and that's a nationwide event.

"I just think people's efforts would be better spent saving trees."

The group has continued since Rubin resigned in June following a meeting when the Treesavers voted to formalize the organization with a new structure. Rubin said at the time that his decision to leave was not based on the restructuring of the group but rather a desire to work more cooperatively with city officials.

Hartley said the group has been successful in saving the New Zealand Christmas trees from the Big Blue Bus maintenance yard renovation and the Australian bunya bunya tree at Douglas Park. There's another unspecified project in the works, she added.

She said that City Hall's support of Tree Hugging Day points to a giant leap.

"It's a great step in the right direction and we're just hoping that they walk like they're hugging," Hartley said.

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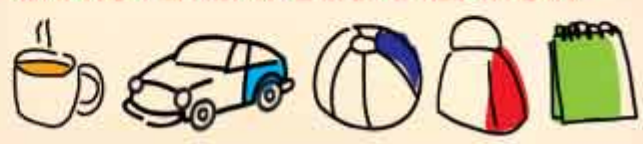


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Legions of cops raid gang hot spots

FROM GANG PAGE 3

Even before the killing, authorities were investigating the Avenues, but Escalante's death increased the urgency of the operation. Earlier this year, police charged three men in his death and a fourth suspect remains at large.

Officers in full body armor were seen at dawn Tuesday at a blocked-off staging area at the Dodger Stadium parking lot, where suspects, almost all of them men with shaved heads, were being processed at a portable booking area as media helicopters hovered overhead.

Most appeared calm as they waited to sign paperwork and be placed in a jail van.

The indictment details several possible motives for Escalante's murder. Carlos Velasquez, one of the men accused of killing the deputy, was allegedly heard in a wire-tapped telephone conversation telling another Avenues gang member that he killed Escalante in retribution for the death of Leon, nicknamed "Clever."

"Clever took one with him," the indictment states Velasquez said.

The 222-page indictment also alleges Avenues members posted inflammatory remarks on Web sites, including "Avenidas don't get chased by the cops. We chase them," and, "Avenidas don't just hurt people. We kill them."

At a news conference, several officials praised the operation and the various agencies that had taken part.

"There are parents today that don't have to run to the bus stop to make sure that their kids don't get jumped because they have an iPod or because they are carrying books or because they have lunch money," Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes said. "This is the daily terror that gangs like Avenues impose."

Members of the largely Hispanic gang would also spray paint racist threats around neighborhoods to intimidate black people, according to prosecutors.

"This indictment attacks a criminal organization that has terrorized a community for generations," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Brunwin, the lead prosecutor in the case.

Tuesday's operation marks an ongoing focus on the Avenues gang, which gets its name from a series of streets running through the area.

In June 2008, another federal indictment took aim at the Drew Street clique of the gang. Prosecutors said Drew Street was the most active and violent clique within the Avenues and it produced significant drug-sale revenues for the Mexican Mafia, a prison-based gang that oversees much of Southern California's street gang activity.

That investigation resulted in the arrest of several of the clique's alleged leaders. Afterward, Mexican Mafia leaders attempted to reorganize the Avenues' presence in northeast Los Angeles by ending the clique rivalries within the gang and naming new Avenue leaders, Tuesday's indictment states.

By midmorning Tuesday, Drew Street and the blocks immediately around it were quiet, with no obvious sign of the earlier police activity.

Johnny Trujillo, 45, said the area had improved in recent months, though he remained intimidated by some boys who he said are disrespectful of the neighborhood and its residents.

"They write on walls, litter, be loud when you try to get to sleep," Trujillo said.

Another local resident, Rosa Mariscal, said the neighborhood is better than in previous years but she worried about gang members being released early from prison because of the state's cash crunch.

"Sometimes I don't feel safe for my children," she said.

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Ex-NY Giant Burress begins prison term

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Former Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress apologized to his family and tearfully kissed his pregnant wife and young son goodbye Tuesday before he was led away to prison to begin serving a two-year sentence on a weapons charge.

Burress, at the time a star receiver with the New York Giants, was at the Latin Quarter nightclub in Manhattan last November when a gun tucked into his waistband slipped down his leg and fired, wounding him in the thigh.

The accidental shooting enraged New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who publicly castigated Burress for carrying his .40-caliber weapon.

Burress arrived in the courtroom Tuesday wearing jeans and a long-sleeved T-shirt, a stark contrast to the dark blue suit he wore last month when he entered his guilty plea.

He was accompanied by his pregnant wife, Tiffany; his 2-year-old son, Elijah; his father, grandmother and stepmother.

Burress told Judge Michael Melkonian before sentencing: "I want to apologize to my family." They did not speak to reporters as they left the courthouse.

With time off for good behavior, Burress likely will serve 20 months. He could be released from prison as early as the spring of 2011 and will be monitored an additional two years after he is freed.

Michael Strahan, a former Giants teammate who is now an NFL television analyst, used his Twitter account to support Burress: "My Thoughts and Prayers are with my man Plaxico and his family today!!!"

Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce, who was with Burress the night of the incident, and former Giants linebacker Kawika Mitchell, now with the Buffalo Bills, re-tweeted the Strahan comment.

The Giants, through spokesman Pat Hanlon, said, "This has been a tragic, sad, disappointing situation from the beginning. Our concern has always been for Plax's welfare, and for his family, and that continues to be our overriding feeling."

Burress hired a consultant to teach him how to use his time in prison productively.

Burress' big moment with the Giants came when he caught the winning touchdown over the previously undefeated New England Patriots in the final minute of the 2008 Super Bowl.

The Giants released Burress in April, but the 32-year-old told ESPN he hopes to resume his NFL career when he completes his sentence.

"When I get out, I'll be 33, not 43," Burress said in an interview broadcast in August. "I'll still be able to run and catch. I'll still have the God-given ability to snag footballs; that's what I love to do. Of course, I want to play again."

Gil Brandt, an analyst on NFL Sirius Radio and the former head of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, said Burress won't be too old for a comeback after he's released.

Burress will be eligible if a team wants him, as the NFL already has announced his suspension will be lifted upon completion of his sentence.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, said previously that Burress was thinking of his family in taking the plea, but Brafman questioned the fairness of the recommended prison sentence.

"This was not an intentional criminal act," Brafman said the day of the plea. "In my judgment, a two-year prison sentence is a very severe punishment."

Burress had been indicted on two counts of weapons possession and one count of reckless endangerment, but under a plea deal reached Aug. 20, he agreed to a single, lesser charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon. The gun was not licensed in New York or in New Jersey, where Burress lived. His license to carry a concealed weapon in Florida had expired in May 2008.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Pac-10 on its head

BY ANDREW BAGNATO
AP College Football Writer

The Pac-10 season kicks into gear this weekend with a duel for first place between ... No. 24 Washington and Stanford?

Meanwhile, bottom-feeders Washington State and Southern California square off in Los Angeles.

It's early, but the 12th-ranked Trojans' stunning 16-13 loss in Seattle last weekend has flipped the Pac-10 upside-down.

"We all, I think, give USC their due credit for being the favorite, but with an early loss like that, and the fact that I think there's a lot of improvement generally in the league from top to bottom, it's going to be very interesting week to week," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said on Tuesday.

On second thought, it may be time to retire the word "stunned" in stories about USC defeats in the Pac-10. If the Trojans are stunned, they haven't been paying attention.

The loss at Washington followed a pattern that began in 2006. USC lost two Pac-10 games that year, and the second one, at UCLA, cost the second-ranked Trojans a shot at the Bowl Championship Series title.

In 2007, No. 2 USC lost to 41-point underdog Stanford, at home. (OK, that was stunning.)

In 2008, the top-rated Trojans lost their conference opener at Oregon State.

In each case, the Trojans managed to bounce back and claim a conference title, but they were denied a shot at the national championship.

Those USC teams had John David Booty and Mark Sanchez at quarterback, and a defense loaded with future NFL draft picks.

This USC team has struggled to move the ball behind two relatively inexperienced quarterbacks — sophomore Aaron Corp and true freshman Matt Barkley, who missed the Washington game with a bruised shoulder. Meanwhile, All-America safety Taylor Mays has a sprained right knee ligament and didn't play against the Huskies.

Add it all up and it appears that the Trojans' record seven-year run of Pac-10 titles could be in jeopardy. The remaining schedule is rugged, with trips to No. 6 California on Oct. 3 and to Oregon on Oct. 31.

"There's this image out there that USC has a reputation for not showing up once a year, when the reality is that the conference is deep," Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott said in a recent telephone interview.

Indeed, USC is 30-1 against the nation, and 15-1 against ranked non-conference teams, since a loss to No. 25 Kansas State in 2002. The lone loss in that span came in the thrilling 2005 BCS title game against Texas and Vince Young.

By contrast, USC is 52-8 in Pac-10 games since 2002.

The conclusion: Pac-10 teams have figured out how to play the Trojans.

Washington coach Steve Sarkisian, who served as an assistant to USC coach Pete Carroll before taking over in Seattle, has been on both sides of a headline-grabbing USC loss.

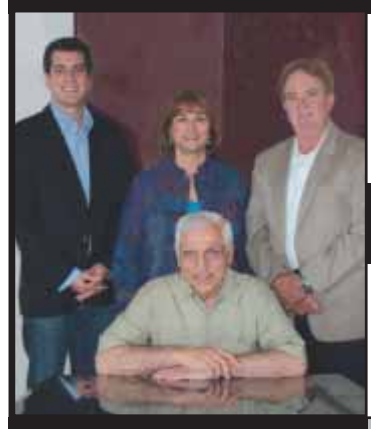
"I think a lot of the kids within this conference that aren't at SC are used to these kids," said Sarkisian said. "They've known these kids (in high school). They're not in awe of them. They just go play."

USC tailback Joe McKnight offered a

SEE USC PAGE 16

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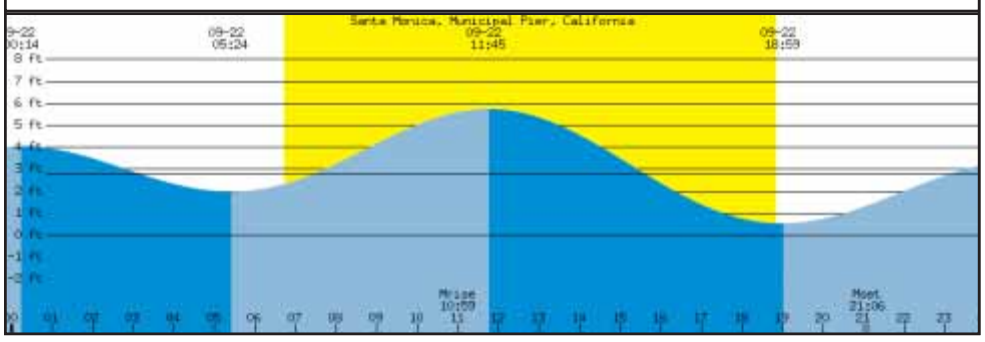
Swell Forecast

South facing breaks are looking smaller, perhaps knee to waist with some pluses at dual exposure spots. Winds should be light and mostly calm in the AM, increasing to 8-13 mph in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

The NW should back down further to waist+ around west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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LOCATION	DRY	WET
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Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	B	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	F	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	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	ns	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	B	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	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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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.

USC loss shakes up Pac-10

FROM USC PAGE 15

similar take after the loss. "Washington wasn't the better team; they just outplayed us," he said. "Clearly, we have superior athletes. But hard work beats athleticism any day."

Sarkisian may have had an edge against USC because he served on Pete Carroll's USC staff for seven seasons — the last two as offensive coordinator — before taking over in Seattle. Sarkisian's departure was a double blow for the Trojans, because he took defensive coordinator Nick Holt with him.

Sarkisian had a good idea about what USC was going to run and how to stop it. Strategy alone won't erase a wide gap in talent, but it can help.

"I do think familiarity in the league is going to make it tough for SC," said Riley, whose Beavers have beaten USC two of the last three years. "Everybody's going to give them a great shot. The beautiful thing is, as good as they are, there are no givens. That's why we play the games."

Carroll pointed to a different link among USC's recent conference losses: carelessness with the football. The Trojans turned the ball over three times inside the Washington 35-yard line on Saturday.

Knocking off the Trojans may be an annual rite in the Pac-10, but it's still a big deal on every campus, especially at Washington, which went 0-12 last year. On Washington's Web site, the athletic department is selling framed photos from last weekend's game, including a picture of the Husky Stadium scoreboard: HUSKIES 16, TROJANS 13.

As the conference season unfolds, the question is whether the Huskies' win was a fluke, or whether it revealed real cracks in the Trojans dynasty.

A year ago, USC rebounded from a 27-21 loss at Oregon State to hammer Oregon, Arizona State and Washington State by a combined 141-10.

USC didn't lose again for 353 days — until last Saturday, at Washington.

Stunning? Nope.

"This league has shown that everybody is capable, everybody is vulnerable, and every week you've got to prepare," said Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh, whose Cardinal knocked off the Trojans in 2007.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 45min
2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00

Whiteout (R) 1hr 46min
2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

Gamer (R) 1 hr 35min
5:00, 10:10

Ponyo (G) 1 hr 40min
1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13), 1 hr 48 min
2:20, 7:30

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

9 (PG-13) 1hr 19min
1:10, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 1 hr 21 min
1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (PG) 1 hr 21 min
1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00

Jennifer's Body (R) 1 hr 42 min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

Love Happens (PG-13) 1 hr 49 min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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

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

Bright Star (PG) 2hr 59min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

It Might Get Loud (PG) 1hr 37min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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

The Baader-Meinhof Complex (R) 2hr 24min
1:30, 4:50, 8:10

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

All About Steve (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

The Informant! (R) 1hr 48min
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

Sorority Row (R) 1hr 40min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

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

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

As the crow flies, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep reaching far beyond and above. Pressure builds in an unprecedented manner. Not everyone understands how exceptional an idea is. Some people appear to be challenged by a way-out concept. Tonight: As the crow flies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Break from your pattern and open up to new ideas that encourage heading in a new direction. If you want, try a new approach. Tonight: Find a brainstorming partner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and understand your limits. If you want to try another approach or do something quite different, now is the perfect time! A discussion with a more conservative associate could surprise you, as this person tosses out an unusually innovative idea. Tonight: Wednesday night off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Carefully put yourself out there. You understand far more than you realize. Fatigue is a strong factor when someone changes his or her plans. You might feel that it could be something else. Don't question too much. Tonight: Do only what you love most.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your insatiable curiosity teamed up with ingenuity will take you to a new level of understanding. Investigate and be open to unusual happenings. You will see a new path when you clear the haze of old thinking. Tonight: Ever so playful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Fun and games have you veering in an unusual direction. Your ability to honor changes could force you to take a new direction with a child or loved one. Investigate options with an eye to more dynamic change. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing despite a need to change directions. Instigate a conversation with an eye to positive change. Touch base with a child or loved one toward the end of the day or during a lunch break. Tonight: Midweek break with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your more possessive side emerges when dealing with finances and communication. Listen to what is being shared. People are rapidly changing their opinions and processing things. Be easy in a disagreement, because it could easily blow over. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Indulge someone who has a better sense of direction than you, or so he or she thinks. You are personality plus and would like to network, and sitting down might be close to impossible. Unexpected personal events could make you prone to misunderstandings. Tonight: As you like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Listen to your inner voice. Your senses encourage a risk. Make sure you can handle the damages if your luck doesn't hold. A phone call or conversation could drop surprising news on you. Tonight: Pay bills first.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be. Watch a tendency to turn a business acquaintance into a friend too quickly. Tonight: Find your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Make sure something happens before it is too late to transform a situation. Pressure builds within a friendship. Meetings carry an element of control and power plays. Your nerves could be frayed. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Happy birthday

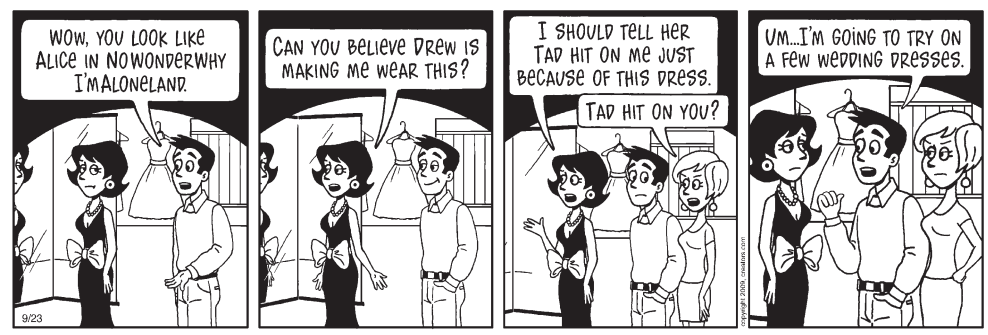
This year, opportunities might head in through others and life's unpredictability. Pressure builds within your home or personal life. Let go of a need to control others, and you'll clear out many problems. Extremes mark feelings, politics and life in general. You might want to do a juggling act, trying to hold on to the status quo. Do let go and trust in your abilities. If you are single, don't count on a bond being long-term until you have been together for a year. Your sweetie will trigger your issues, more than you thought possible. If you are attached, accept and honor your differences. SAGITTARIUS opens up communication.

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

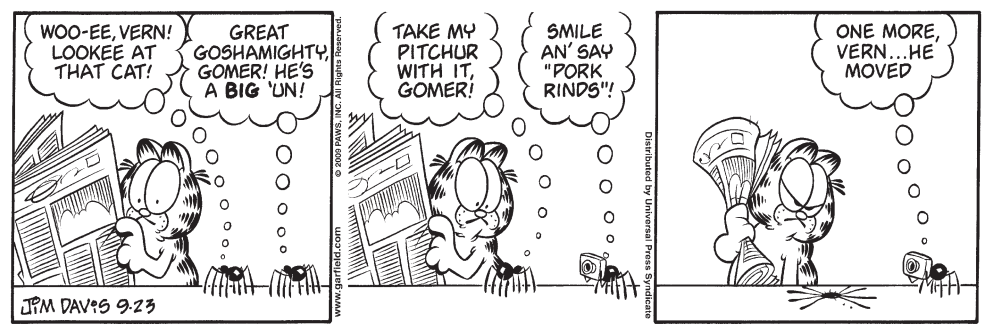
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Nigeria neighbor
6 Small songbird
10 Sports spot
11 Tex-Mex staple
12 Fires
13 Permitted
14 Is inquisitive
15 Dress size
16 Permit
17 Cry of insight
18 — Moines
19 Hitting a three-bagger
22 Barking beast
23 Pearl Harbor setting
26 Insignificant
29 Hogwarts messenger
32 Lummox
33 Brit's brew
34 Sci-fi weapon
36 "Could you repeat that?"
37 "Childe Harold" poet
38 Snapshot
39 1999 hit "— to Know"
40 Circus star
41 Dick Tracy's love
42 Church replies

DOWN

1 Volcanic rock
2 Pencil ends
3 Cravat
4 Printing supplies
5 "Street Dreams" rapper
6 Sharpen
7 Unyielding
8 Delight
9 Frasier's brother
11 Wipe, as a tabletop
15 Letter after upsilon
17 Versatile
20 Touch lightly
21 Guy's date
24 Strike a chord
25 Left on the plate
27 Writer Fleming
28 Crocs' kin
29 Satellite path
30 "The Duke"
31 Old harps
35 Leaves
36 Impact sound
38 Sch. supporters

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

Yesterday's answer

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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				

9-23

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 17 33 44 46
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 3 15 18 22 25

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 7 7
EVENING: 2 5 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:44.49

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Latest Domestic Disturbance Calls: (1) A couple fought with each other using water, mouthwash and powdered whey protein (Bremerton, Wash., July). (2) A wife repeatedly punched her husband and then, as officers arrived, pulled him inside the house by his ear (Niceville, Fla., August). (3) A 78-year-old woman kicked her husband in the groin several times recently because she believes he had an affair 35 years ago (Lynnwood, Wash., May).

■ Unclear on the Concept: San Antonio police chief William McManus announced in August an upgraded training program to teach his officers how to obey the law while off-duty. The department has had to fire 10 officers so far this year for law-breaking, and included in McManus' program is a personal talk to each incoming cadet to stress that police officers must not commit crimes.

■ Geography professor Melanie Patton Renfrew, 54, was convicted in Burbank, Calif., in August of violating a judge's order to stop stalking KNBC-TV weatherman Fritz Coleman. Renfrew had badgered Coleman for two years, via e-mail and telephone calls, about his "error" in terminology, confusing "onshore" winds with "offshore" winds. Coleman, she insisted, needed to apologize. "Offshore" winds blow out to sea; "onshore" winds blow in.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1969 The Chicago Eight trial opens in Chicago.

1972 Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos announces over television and radio the implementation of martial law.

1973 Juan Perón returns to power in Argentina.

1983 Saint Kitts and Nevis joins the United Nations.

1983 Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa becomes the first African boxing world heavyweight champion.

1988 José Canseco of the Oakland Athletics becomes the first member of the 40-40 club.

1992 A large Provisional Irish Republican Army bomb destroys the forensic laboratories in Belfast.

WORD UP!

cognoscente \kon-yuh-SHEN-tee; kog-nuh-; -SEN-\ , noun:
1. A person with special knowledge of a subject; a connoisseur.

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PALMS ADJ/ LaCienga Hghts. $995.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 8am-7pm . Additional info in unit

Santa Monica $1125.00 1 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, gas, paid stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #210 Open daily 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. .

SANTA MONICA $1225.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, stove, refrig, patio, parking 2533 Kansas Ave., #109 Open daily for viewing 8am to 7pm. Additional info in apt Mgr: apt #101

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Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist

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Santa Monica Canyon	$2,447,000	$4,810,000
North of Montana	$3,025,000	$1,449,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,948,500	$919,000
South of Wilshire	$859,000	$680,000
Sunset Park	$1,250,000	$669,250
Ocean Park	$1,462,500	$875,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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