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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 282

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

MAN DIES WORKING ON FREEWAY
SEE PAGE 3

THE LOOKING UP ISSUE

Malibu school board candidates awash in cash

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A hot race for three open spots on the school board got a little more fuel last week when three challengers from Malibu put $10,000 each into their own campaigns.

The joint committee for Karen Farrer, Seth Jacobson and Craig Foster has $30,500 to spend, according to recent financial filings. Each candidate is responsible for $10,000.

The remaining $500 is from a single teacher in Malibu.

That's a sizable chunk of change in a race in which the leading fundraiser amongst the incumbents is Jose Escarce with $8,325, and the Malibuites don't intend to stop there.

The candidates will further pad that lead with two fundraisers scheduled, which they anticipate will bring in between $5,000 and $10,000 each, as well as other contributions not listed on the disclosures that came in after the filing deadline, Jacobson said.

"We loaned money to our campaign to jumpstart the effort and to be competitive with (Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights) which we

SEE ELECTION PAGE 11



BIG BLUE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A pair of tourists from Japan gaze out over the Pacific Ocean from the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday. Parts of the Los Angeles area experienced showers on Thursday. Temperatures are expected to reach the upper 60s in Santa Monica today.

More West Nile infected birds found in Santa Monica

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Three more dead birds infected with West Nile virus have turned up in Santa Monica, bringing the total to eight in what is considered the worst year for the disease on record.

The new birds were found in the 90402 and 90404 area codes, where several of the other birds were found.

Although mosquitoes get the most attention during West Nile season, it's actually birds, particularly the American crow, that carry the disease. When mosquitoes feed on those birds, they become infected and can then transmit the illness to people.

Less than 1 percent of people exposed to the virus get serious symptoms, and only around 20 percent of those infected show any symptoms at all.

They can include fever, headaches or body aches that last a few days. In extreme cases, people can get a high fever, stupor, coma, convulsions, paralysis and even die.

In California alone, 258 people have come up with the virus compared to only 113 by the same time last year, and 10 people have died.

Over the same time period, approximately 650 more mosquito samples turned up and 1,000 more dead birds have been found.

Nationally, 4,249 cases have been reported and 168 deaths as of Oct. 9. That's considerably more than the 712 cases and 43 deaths reported in all of 2011, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

It also makes this one of the most active years for the virus since it first appeared in

SEE WEST NILE PAGE 11

City officials puzzled by credit rating review

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Moody's Investor Service announced Tuesday that it would be reviewing Santa Monica's gold-plated credit rating over concerns that six of its bonds reflected a higher level of certainty than they deserved.

Those six are lease-revenue bonds, a type of financial instrument which was used to pay for the Public Safety Facility, Main Library, Downtown Parking Structure, Civic Center Parking Structure and Parking Structure 6.

Of those, only Parking Structure 6 has yet

SEE RATING PAGE 9

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Oct. 12, 2012

Pods of laughter
Sheraton Delfina Hotel
530 Pico Blvd., 10 a.m. — 11 p.m.
The Los Angeles Podcast Festival gathered some of the biggest names in comedy podcasting for a three-day extravaganza. In addition to live podcasts and a huge standup show, there will be a lounge to hang out in and meet your favorite podcaster, enjoy a party or two and listen to panels about podcasting hosted by experts from both sides of the curtain. The festival ends on Sunday. For more information, visit lapodfest.com.

Dig the pier's porch
Santa Monica Pier
6 p.m.
Unwind on the front porch of Santa Monica for music and a free movie. Each Friday night through Oct. 19 the pier will host free flicks and a DJ spinning records. This week's movie is the documentary "Exit Through the Gift Shop." For more information, visit santamonicapier.org/frontporchcinema.

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012

Music for the kiddies
Santa Monica Pier
9 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Saturday is the latest installment of the pier's Wake Up With the Waves children's concert series. Every Saturday through Oct. 27 will feature a free show. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

Digging for treasures
Barker Hangar
3021 Airport Ave. #203,
11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
The 17th annual Los Angeles Antiques, Art + Design Show features its most influential host committee to date, which includes leaders from the worlds of entertainment, culture, the arts and design, as well as the premier list of more than 60 international vendors exhibiting at the show. The show also takes place on Sunday from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
For more information, visit losangelesantiqueshow.com.

Want a dog?
Animal Kingdom
300 Pico Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Death Row Dogs Rescue holds adoptions every Saturday in front of the store, weather permitting.
For more information, call (818) 232-0775.

Wild, wild night
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 8 p.m.
Wild Up is a contemporary classical music collective — a group of Los Angeles-based musicians committed to creating visceral, thought-provoking concerts. For this special evening, Wild Up has created a program of politically-inspired music by American composers. Works range from Bernstein and Sousa to Merle Haggard and John Lennon. They will also premiere a new composition inspired by the famous Jimi Hendrix performances of the national anthem. Cost: $25. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

The king and his men
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
"All the King's Men" is the story of the rise and fall of a political titan in the South during the 1930s. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 1947, and in 1949, the film adaptation became Best Picture. More recently in 2006, it became a hit film starring Jude Law and Sean Penn. The production runs through Sunday.
For more information, visit morgan-wixson.org.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OCEAN AVE

Over $80K raised for schools

Public school athletics got a serious boost over the weekend as participants in the seventh annual Santa Monica 5000 5K/10K races raised almost $84,000 for various schools and their sports teams, officials with the event announced Thursday.

Generic Events, which produces the Santa Monica 5000, donated a portion of registration fees to the Santa Monica Education Foundation and individual schools and sports teams, depending on how runners wanted their fees spent. Some students ran to help their individual teams while others directed money to their kids' schools.

The races, which took place on Oct. 7 along Main Street and Ocean Avenue, involved over 2,500 runners. Ben Bruce (14 minutes, 25 seconds) of Flagstaff, Ariz. held off Montebello's Luis Ibarra to take the men's 5K while Tanya Zeferjah (16 minutes, 54 seconds) won the women's contest. First-place finishers received a prize of $300 each.

Bruce followed the 5K win with a second place finish in the 10K, behind UCLA coach Forest Braden (30 minutes, 50 seconds). Cheryl Smith of Laguna Beach (37 minutes, 56 seconds) finished first in the female 10K. Braden and Smith received $300 for their efforts, organizers of the race said.

"The Education Foundation is so excited by the success of the Santa Monica 5000," said Rachel Faulkner, program and events director of the Ed Foundation, which was founded in 1982 to help ensure equitable education for all students in local public schools and is in charge of fundraising for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"Over 1,300 participants from SMMUSD schools collectively raised almost $84,000 for school athletic programs," she added. "It was an incredible community event that celebrated athletics in our schools. We are grateful for our partnership with Generic Events for making this fundraising event possible for our school district."

Full results and more at www.santamonica5000.com.

– KEVIN HERRERA

CITY HALL

Gould named regional VP

City Manager Rod Gould has been appointed to a three-year term as West Coast Regional Vice President of the International City/County Management Association, it was announced this week.

The association's mission is to create excellence in local governance by promoting professional management worldwide and increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers (i.e., city, town, and county managers), assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world. The organization's 9,000 members from 26 countries also include educators, students, and other local government employees.

As one of 18 vice presidents, three of whom are elected from the organization's West Coast region (which includes Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington), Gould will represent ICMA to state associations of local government management and maintain relationships among other affiliated organizations.

Gould began his public service career as a VISTA volunteer from 1979 to 1980. He entered local government as assistant to the city manager in Walnut Creek, Calif., in 1986. He became Walnut Creek's assistant city manager in 1988, a post he held until 1991. He went on to hold the position of city manager of Monrovia, Calif. (1991-1996); San Rafael, Calif. (1996-2005); and Poway, Calif. (2006-2010); and was appointed Santa Monica city manager in 2010.

Gould earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1979 from Yale University and a master of public administration in 1985 from Harvard University.

– KH



PERSONAL TOUCH

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Actress Bethany Joy Lenz (left) helps Kenny Thomas, 8, open his Joyjar on Thursday at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Lenz was at the hospital to hand out Joyjars, which are filled with toys and activities for patients to enjoy at bedside. Joyjars were created by the Jessie Rees Foundation to help terminally ill children.

Ruling means L.A. priest files could be released

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles could turn over two dozen priest personnel files to a plaintiff's attorney within days after the California Supreme Court declined to review a lower court ruling ordering the release.

The lower court ruling applies to only 25 of the priests who were included in a record-breaking, $660 million settlement between more than 500 alleged sex abuse victims and the archdiocese in 2007. The papers are also subject to a protective order, meaning they will only be turned over to the plaintiff's attorney, and not the public.

The 2007 settlement included a commitment to

SEE **PRIEST** PAGE 9

405 freeway construction worker crushed by beam

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A freeway construction worker was crushed to death by a 3,000-pound steel beam early Thursday after it fell while he and others were unloading it from a big rig.

The accident happened just before 2:30 a.m. on the Santa Monica Boulevard off-ramp of Interstate 405, California Highway Patrol Sgt. Joe Zizi said.

The off-ramp is part of a 10-mile freeway widening project. The work forced two weekend closures that became known as Carmageddon I and II.

The off-ramp was closed at the time of the accident. The planned 6 a.m. reopening was delayed while the worker's death was investigated by the CHP, the coroner and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

The victim was a middle-aged Hispanic man but his name was being withheld until relatives could be notified, Zizi said. No one else was hurt.

Ten or 15 co-workers witnessed the accident and the city of Los Angeles sent a crisis team to help them deal with it, Zizi said.

The beam is one used to support the side of a freeway, Zizi said. He didn't know what caused the accident.

"They were offloading from a semi-truck onto a closed construction site. Cal-OSHA will determine how it fell," he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Get it right

Editor:

In response to Mike Kirwan ("Smokers hurting us all," Letters to the Editor, Oct. 9):

Mr. Kirwan, I'm sure you would put yourself into the category of what we consider to be "the thinking man." Let us briefly go over your logic. You say we have the right to breathe. Agreed. But, does a next-door neighbor smoking on their back porch take away your right to breathe? I had the recent experience of walking down Lincoln Boulevard during rush-hour traffic. Cars and trucks, bumper to bumper, idling, accelerating, spewing mountains of carbon monoxide into the atmosphere, when suddenly I saw a lady, in disgust, pull out a kerchief and cover her mouth as a lone smoker walked by. She yelled at him and said he was killing her! Now, Mr. Kirwan, what's wrong with this scenario?

I believe it is the same thing that is wrong with your logic. I'm an Oregonian, 60 miles out of Eugene, in the country, and believe me, we do have clean, fresh air. I spend half my time down here in this beautiful weather. There is one problem though. I have this reoccurring condition. I have a hard time taking a full breath every time I come down here. I get a mild cough every single time. Granted, it's better than back in the 1970s when I came down here for college, but there are still air quality issues here in this fair city. I can tell, my lungs tell me so every time I come down and spend any length of time. Furthermore, it is not because there are more smokers here in Santa Monica.

Mr. Kirwan, I would have a lot more interest in your "right to breathe" campaign if you directed it toward the real problem; automobiles and the poisons they deposit into the atmosphere. I will join you in a campaign to make it illegal to drive any motor vehicle other than electric. Let's put all of those citizens in jail who would deny us the right to breathe. Forget the fines. Federal offense! Hard time for those who deny us the right to breathe. You with me?

Oh, and just a note. Why, Mr. Kirwan, are you not concerned about the citizen who guzzles a bottle of booze? I know you aren't consuming it yourself, but haven't you heard of the occasional intoxicated citizen murdering your neighbors while driving down these beloved streets intoxicated? You might also consider the "right to live" as a worthy campaign. I'd be with you on both counts.

Robert M. Rose
Santa Monica/Oregon

Not pleased with parking meters

Editor:

Apart from the steeper parking costs around town, considerable civic goodwill has been lost with the greedy new parking meters. It's no longer possible to put a quarter in the meter for a stranger whose meter is about to expire or wait for a driver to get in position to take one's still full meter.

At a time when every job counts, there is still confusion on the part of citizenry and tourists regarding the parking structure payment machines with regularly stalled exit lines as proof.

I often wonder when in one of these lines how many times over the salary of a permanent employee at the exit would pay for itself in easing everyone out rather than the reality of stalled lines, lost time, inhaled fumes and frustration?

Mary Kay Gordon
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Too big to jail?

WHAT DO THE ATTACKS ON SEPT. 11, 2001, the disastrous Iraq war, corruption on Wall Street and within the banking industry, and the crash of 2008 all have in common? They all were horrific events which caused unbearable loss in life and treasure and for which no one was held accountable. Who was fired after 9/11? Comedian Bill Maher. (He lost his late-night ABC "Politically Incorrect" show when he said the 9/11 terrorists were "not cowards.")

What was the unacceptable excuse after 137 inspections revealed there were no WMDs? Or when the Iraq war was exposed as perhaps the worst foreign policy blunder in American history? "Uh, we had bad intel."

Former L.A. County Deputy District Attorney Vincent Bugliosi, who prosecuted the Manson family, spent his entire adult life holding people accountable. In 2008, I even thought he was coming after me.

Famed defense attorney and Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz paid Bugliosi the ultimate compliment. "If I were innocent there's no prosecutor I'd rather have than Vince. And if I were guilty, there's none I'd fear more." Bugliosi is brilliant, thorough and as relentless as a pit bull, all of which I'd learn from personal experience.

For those unfamiliar, Bugliosi was the most famous prosecutor in America. Of 106 felony cases, Bugliosi won 105. (Which, of course, makes me curious about the one that got away.) But it was Bugliosi's 1971 conviction of the Manson family for the Tate-LaBianca murders which made him a household name. His book, "Helter Skelter," which documented the murders and the trial, sold 7 million hard-cover copies, still a publishing history record.

But, in 2008, it was the title of Bugliosi's latest book that caught my eye, "The Prosecution of George W. Bush For Murder." (Bugliosi jokingly apologized for it being "a little bit ambiguous.")

Albeit controversial, Bugliosi's well-researched book contends that by taking the country to war in Iraq under knowingly false pretenses, President Bush committed the most serious crime in U.S. history. He further theorizes that, under the felony murder rule, Bush is responsible for the deaths of over 4,000 American GIs and 100,000 innocent Iraqis.

I ordered the book and on July 18, 2008, I wrote my review. Overnight I received a slew of e-mails. Some accused me of being unpatriotic and one even called me "a Commie," which seemed so dated, but then again Romney's top foreign policy advisor recently referred to Russia as the Soviet Union.

Another memorable e-mail suggested that if I didn't "love America" I ought to leave it, or at least leave Santa Monica. I e-mailed back that if he had a villa in the south of France I'd consider it. I'm still waiting.

A week after the review, Bugliosi called the office looking for me. Maybe I was still shell-shocked, but I was worried that he didn't care for the review either. Reluctantly, I took his number. As I was dialing the man who put Manson on death row, I was a bit uneasy. I certainly didn't expect what was to follow.

Bugliosi couldn't have been more cordial. "No other mainstream paper in America reviewed my book" he said and thanked me for my courage. Courage? A few minutes earlier I had been afraid to dial his phone number.

He described how his book had essentially been blacklisted, even though he has been No. 1 on the NY Times hard-cover best-seller list with three different books. Some media outlets wouldn't even let him buy advertising space. And yet, through word of mouth, the book sold 130,000 copies in the first three months.

Based on the book, Bugliosi told me he was putting together a documentary. It's taken over four years, but it's done. Having seen it, I can say it was worth the wait.

"The Prosecution of an American President" is a compelling film, narrated by Bugliosi, which is a must-see if you were for the war or against it. On camera Dershowitz expresses concerns about a president being held legally liable for actions while in office. It seems to me that's exactly what we want.

Others suggest that we need to "move on" from the past. But if we don't hold those accountable now, without question there will be future wars fought on the basis of lies. In Vietnam there was the Gulf of Tonkin incident which escalated that horrific war on a false premise. (Orchestrated by LBJ, a Democrat as it happens.)

In Iraq it was WMDs, "a mushroom cloud smoking gun" and that we could be attacked in 45 minutes. While two-thirds of America now views the Iraq war as a mistake, Romney's advocating increased defense spending. (But PBS and Big Bird have to go.) Willard says that militarily we "need to be more aggressive." Uh, oh. Can a war with Iran be far off?

When "The Prosecution of an American President" comes to Santa Monica, I urge everyone to see it, especially those who were pro Iraq war. Afterwards, if you feel compelled to write me angry e-mails, fair enough. But if you still want me to leave Santa Monica, don't forget the villa in the south of France.

To find out more about "The Prosecution of an American President," go to www.prosecution2012.com. **JACK** can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.





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Over half of California schools hit academic score

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES More than half of California's schools met the statewide academic achievement goal in 2012, the highest number ever, the education department announced Thursday.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said 53 percent of schools met or surpassed the Academic Performance Index target score of 800 this year, a 4 percentage point increase from last year.

The score, which is considered the single key achievement indicator for the state's public schools, has been steadily rising over the past decade. A decade ago, only 20 percent of schools met the target score.

"We've set a high bar for schools, and they have more than met the challenge, despite the enormous obstacles that years of budget cuts have put in their way," Torlakson said.

The performance index is calculated using a composite of results from different state standardized tests. Scoring ranges from 200 to 1,000.

Gains were seen across all educational levels.

Middle schools saw the biggest jump, increasing scores by 14 points to 792, while high schools advanced by 11 points to 752. Elementary schools remained ahead, growing by seven points to 815.

Experts noted that although the gains are laudable as education has suffered huge funding cuts in recent years, the steady rise in results also indicates that teachers are getting better at teaching to test content and pupils are getting better at test-taking.

"It doesn't necessarily mean they're learning more," said John Rogers, associate professor of education at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Students also boosted their individual academic performance index scores in 2012, increasing them an average 10 points to 788.

Black students saw the biggest gain — 14 points to 710. Latino students added 11 points to 740.

Asian students increased their scores by seven points to 905, while white students added eight points to hit 853.

The long standing "achievement gap" is a result of the difference in the quality of education at schools attended by predominantly black and Latino students as compared to those attended by white and Asian populations, Rogers noted.

"The achievement gap persists in large part because opportunity gaps exist," he said.

The state's largest school district, Los Angeles Unified, said its districtwide score increased by 16 points to 745, with one school, Burbank Middle School, recording a 100-point gain.

Jordan High School in Watts, recently taken over by the nonprofit Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, was the district high school with the biggest increase of 93 points.

Superintendent John Deasy said the gain is notable given the layoffs of 10,000 employees, a shortened school year and larger class sizes due to state funding cuts over the last five years.

The Q Line

Putting out the fire

The City Council recently banned smoking for new tenants of condos and apartments and on the same day approved a moratorium stopping medical marijuana dispensaries from operating within city limits.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Did the smoking ban go far enough or should smoking be disallowed in all condos and apartments? Also, do you think they did the right thing by temporarily stopping pot shops and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.













STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

State must say how it will ease prison crowding

A federal three-judge panel has given California corrections officials until January to say how they will reduce the state's inmate population to comply with an order upheld last year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The state must reduce its prison population by 33,000, to a maximum of 110,000 inmates, by next June.

Corrections officials say they cannot meet that goal if they follow through on their plan to retrieve inmates who are housed in private prisons in other states. They want to do that to save money.

Bringing back those prisoners would put the state 3,000 inmates over the court-imposed cap.

The judges said last month that they would not adjust the inmate cap. On Thursday, they told corrections officials to develop a plan to meet the June deadline.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA ANA

Police expert: Officer used excessive force

A police expert has testified that a former Southern California police officer used excessive force in a confrontation with a mentally ill homeless man who died five days later from his injuries.

The Orange County Register reported Thursday that former Kansas City, Mo., police chief Joseph McNamara told a grand jury then-Fullerton officers Joseph Wolfe and Manuel Ramos coerced and threatened Kelly Thomas during the July 2011 confrontation.

The testimony came during last month's proceedings to indict Wolfe on involuntary manslaughter and excessive force charges.

Ramos and former police Cpl. Jay Cicinelli were charged in Thomas' death last year.

Police questioned Thomas while investigating a report someone was trying car doors at a transit hub. The encounter escalated, with officers pinning Thomas to the ground.

AP

SAN FRANCISO

Judge suspends hearings into pipeline blast

Two California judges granted a request Thursday to temporarily suspend public hearings into a deadly natural gas pipeline explosion and instead hold closed-door negotiations on how much the pipeline's owner should pay in fines.

Victims of the deadly San Bruno gas pipeline blast urged California regulators earlier in the day to continue the public investigative process to determine the amount of fines collected from Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Later, administrative law judges Mark Wetzell and Amy Yip-Kikugawa approved the California Public Utilities Commission safety division's request to put the hearings on hold until Nov. 1 to give the parties time to try to broker a settlement.

The Sept. 9, 2010, explosion killed eight people, injured others and destroyed dozens of homes.

Relatives who lost loved ones as well as San Bruno officials urged the commission to continue open hearings at its regular Thursday meeting.

"By closing the door to the hearing ... it basically opens the grave of my daughter and all the other eight victims," said Rene Morales, whose daughter, Jessica, died in the explosion.

PG&E could face hundreds of millions of dollars in possible fines.

The commission's president, Michael Peevey, said holding private negotiations could bring about a settlement much sooner.

AP

LOS ANGELES

U.S. video game sales fall 24 percent in September

U.S. retail sales of new video-game hardware, software and accessories fell 24 percent in September.

The falloff marked the 10th-consecutive month of declining sales as the gaming world holds off buying ahead of the release of Nintendo's Wii U console next month

Research firm NPD Group said Thursday that sales fell to $848 million from $1.11 billion a year earlier.

Sales of video games themselves, excluding PC titles, fell 18 percent to $497.4 million.

The September decline was less severe, however, than the 28 percent drop forecast by Cowen & Co. analyst Doug Creutz.

Including PC games, software sales fell 14 percent to $547.3 million. That was also better than the 23 percent decline Creutz forecast. The analyst said he expected the sales declines to moderate somewhat in the final quarter of the year due to new releases and Nintendo's Wii U, which is due out Nov. 18.

September sales of hardware such as the Xbox 360 fell 39 percent to $210.9 million, and accessories sales fell 11 percent to $139.9 million.

The best-selling title of the month was Electronic Arts Inc.'s "Madden NFL 13," followed by Take 2 Interactive Software Inc.'s, "Borderlands 2" and EA's "FIFA Soccer 13."

AP



Where have 'Today' show viewers gone?

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK Susan Wurtzel owns a "Today" show T-shirt and a mug. When the stay-at-home mom and her family visited New York from their home in Germantown, Md., they joined the crowd of fans outside the NBC morning show's Rockefeller Center studio.

Now, after more than 20 years as a regular "Today" viewer, Wurtzel tunes to CBS most mornings.

Multiply such defections and you have the chief reason for television's changing fortunes in morning news, where ABC's "Good Morning America" has ended NBC's epic 17-year winning streak on "Today." ABC is growing — "GMA" has 110,000 more viewers each day this year than last — but not as much as NBC is slipping (437,000 viewers a day since last year).

Wurtzel, 57, left last spring because of "Today" co-host Ann Curry.

"Ann's interview style was like chalk on a board to me," she said. "She leaned toward her interviewee and whispered her questions like someone had died. The more serious the interview, the quieter she got. When she replaced Meredith (Vieira), I tried to adjust and accept, but she just didn't work for me. Katie (Couric) and Meredith were relatable, empathetic and funny. Ann just seemed out of place."

Executives at NBC were quietly reaching the same conclusion and moved to replace Curry with Savannah Guthrie.

Then came June 28, 2012, Curry's last day as co-host. She cried in bewilderment at her perceived failure at losing the job she had sought for years, as her uncomfortable co-workers and a nation looked on.

Suddenly, a problem for NBC became a BIG problem. Even people who didn't particularly like Curry loathed the way she was dispatched. Except for two weeks during the Olympics, "Today" hasn't sniffed first place in the ratings since. During the first six months of 2012, "Today" averaged just under 5.2 million viewers each weekday. Since July 2, the audience has dropped to 4.59 million, according to Nielsen, the company that measures TV audiences. Without the two weeks of the London Olympics, the average is 4.3 million. That's a stunning drop, even accounting for typical lower viewership in the summer.

An informal survey of three dozen viewers who have left or are considering leaving "Today" turned up various explanations, including a feeling that the show had leaned too far in the direction of lighter, pop culture fare. The Curry dismissal was clearly a tipping point, however.

William Runge, a manager at an educational cable network who lives in suburban Winston-Salem, N.C., likened the treatment of Curry to "a public flogging."

"The PR machine at NBC spent an enormous amount of time and effort convincing me that the 'Today' show team was actually part of my family, 'America's First Family,'" said Runge, 46, citing the show's advertising slogan. "Guess what? They were right. These did feel like family members. So this is how you are going to treat a member of your family?

"You can debate for hours whether Ms. Curry was right for the role," he said. "That's not the point. She was doing her job and was barely 11 months into it when they canned her in the most humiliating way possible."

The move was "heart-wrenching," said Isabelle Langelier, a 40-year-old manager at a drug company from Montreal. "It made me feel sick for her. And it made me turn the channel, probably permanently."

"While I thought Ann Curry's interviews were a little hokey at times, she is clearly the most genuine person in TV news," said Sarah Rosenthal, 53, a graduate student and mother of three from West Chester, Pa. "After her unceremonious dumping, I turned it off. I have nothing against Savannah, and adore Natalie Morales, but there is just a different tone to the show."

Even worse for NBC, a significant number of viewers appear to blame co-host Matt Lauer for the move. The network has consistently denied tabloid reports that Lauer was unhappy with Curry. "Today" Executive Producer Jim Bell said late last month that Lauer was being treated unfairly. Firing Curry was Bell's decision, he said.

Some awkward public moments haven't helped. When Curry reappeared on "Today" during the London Olympics to introduce a story she had done, Lauer twice remarked that it was good to see her again. Curry didn't return the sentiment to the man she worked with for 15 years.

Two years ago, Lauer's positive "Q" score was 23 — meaning 23 percent of people who knew him considered Lauer one of their favorite broadcasters, according to Marketing Evaluations Inc., a company that measures public sentiment toward well-known personalities. Now his positive score is 14. At the same time, "Good Morning America" co-host Robin Roberts' positive "Q" score jumped from 20 to 27.

COMMERCE OUTREACH

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- Measure BB and how it has positively impacted the Santa Monica-Malibu communities

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



These cops don't like donuts

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, OCT. 7, AT 2:17 A.M.,
Officers on patrol along the 3000 block of Main Street in an unmarked car saw a black BMW doing donuts in the street (three complete circles at a high rate of speed). Officers flipped on their emergency lights and gave pursuit as the driver of the BMW fled westbound on Marine Street. The driver made it all the way to Dudley Court in Venice before crashing. All three passengers fled. Two were apprehended after a short foot pursuit. The driver and registered owner avoided arrest. No word if he was eventually captured. The two suspects in custody were booked for resisting arrest. They were identified as Dario Puentes, 21, of Culver City; and Sean Dudevoir, 22, of Los Angeles. Bail was set at $10,000 each.

SUNDAY, OCT. 7, AT 6:45 P.M.,
Officers responded to a traffic collision in which a driver crashed into two parked cars at the corner of 19th Street and California Avenue. When officers arrived, they made contact with the driver and immediately smelled alcohol on her breath. The driver allegedly told officers that she was drinking before the crash. Officers conducted a field sobriety test on the driver and determined that she was under the influence of alcohol. She was placed under arrest for DUI and booked. She was identified as Chloe Lorraine Blevins, 22, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $15,000.

SATURDAY, OCT. 6, AT 7 P.M.,
Officers were on patrol in the 1900 block of Alley 13 when they saw a gray Mercedes parked along the alley with a man standing outside the driver's side window. Officers recognized the female driver from prior drug arrests and the man as a Santa Monica gang member. As officers got closer to the car, they said they saw what appeared to be a hand-to-hand drug transaction. As officers got out of their car, they said they saw the driver move her hands toward the center console as if she was trying to hide something. Officers detained her until a K9 could be called out. The dog sniffed the outside of the car and got a hit. Officers searched the car and found several pills and heroin inside, police said. Officers took the suspect into custody and searched the area where she was standing during the search. There they said they found a small baggie containing methamphetamines. The suspect was eventually booked for the transportation and possession of a controlled substance, and a suspended license. She was identified as Elizabeth Diaz, 42. Her bail was set at $30,000.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5, AT 6 P.M.,
Officers were on patrol on the 1500 block of Palisades Park when they stopped a pedestrian to issue a citation for some minor crime when they were approached by the manager of The Lobster restaurant. The manager told police that he was having an issue with a homeless man who had been asked to leave the restaurant but was now trying to get back in. After officers finished with the pedestrian, they noticed that the manager was now fighting with the suspect, who was trying to enter through the front doors. Officers made contact with the suspect, who allegedly tried to fight them. Officers took the suspect to the ground and after a short struggle, they placed him in handcuffs. The suspect was booked for assault, battery and resisting arrest. He was identified as Michael Kazan, 51, a transient. Bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, OCT. 4, AT 7:13 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1600 block of Fifth Street regarding a report of a suspect trying to gain entry into a secure commercial building. When officers arrived, they made contact with a witness who told them that the suspect was trying to open a lock box affixed to the side of the building that possesses keys to get inside. Officers checked the building and found the suspect trying to hide along the south side of the building. As officers approached, the suspect climbed a fence and took off running westbound. He went into a subterranean garage and trapped himself inside. Officers closed in on him. The suspect allegedly took a fighting stance and proceeded to swing his fists at the officers. The suspect was struck with a baton and taken to the ground. He was eventually handcuffed and arrested for burglary and resisting arrest. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment to his leg and then booked at the Santa Monica Jail. He was identified as Jason Vasquez, 34, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, OCT. 2, AT 9:20 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue – Sears – regarding a shoplifter in custody. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said that they saw the suspect enter the store and grab several items off the racks and try to remove security censors. He then went into a dressing room and left moments later without any clothes. He then allegedly took some cologne and left the store without offering to pay for it. He was confronted by security and detained. The stolen items were recovered. The suspect allegedly told police that he stole the stuff because he was cold and smelled. The suspect was identified as Daniel Gieg, 25, of Venice. His bail was set at $20,000.

news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

PRIEST
FROM PAGE 3

release the files of all molesting priests, but victims are still waiting five years later and accuse the archdiocese of stalling by tying up the documents in a legal battle.

A number of priests have filed individual objections to the release of their confidential files, which could include medical and psychological information, internal correspondence, police reports and other evidence showing what church leaders knew about molesting priests and when they knew it.

In the current case, plaintiff attorney Anthony DeMarco requested the confidential files of 25 priests accused of sexual abuse as part of the discovery in a separate and ongoing clergy abuse lawsuit.

A lower court ruled earlier this year that DeMarco could have access to the files, but attorneys for the archdiocese and individual priests appealed to the state's high court.

The decision Wednesday by the California Supreme Court not to review the lower court's ruling means the files should be released to DeMarco immediately, he said. A hearing is set for Friday on the issue.

J. Michael Hennigan, an archdiocese attorney, said a Los Angeles Superior Court judge is expected to issue an order within several weeks that will make the rest of the priest files public. The archdiocese expects to release those documents within three months after redacting the documents, he said.

"When you see these files, you'll understand that this is tricky," Hennigan said. "It's a big job."

RATING
FROM PAGE 1

to be completed.

A downgrade would likely result in higher future borrowing costs.

The review was prompted by a general weakness seen in California cities, which has manifested in bankruptcies and other fiscal emergencies, said Dave Jacobson, a spokesperson for Moody's.

The agency took a look at roughly 90 cities that it rates and, of those, chose 30 to examine more closely for a potential downgrade.

"What we announced yesterday was the culmination of that," Jacobson said.

The announcement, which city officials received a day before the general public, took City Hall by surprise because, unlike many California cities, Santa Monica doesn't have drastic budget deficits and is nowhere near bankruptcy.

As it happens, Santa Monica is a victim of its own success.

Lease-revenue bonds are usually marked two grades below a city's general obligation bond rating by industry standards. Santa Monica's, however, was only one grade off.

It was that high rating that flagged the city for review, despite the fact that all three of the main credit agencies — Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings — had reaffirmed its triple-A rating just six months ago.

"What we're doing is reviewing whether that differential is accurate anymore with the stress that a lot of California is under," Jacobson said.

Another area of concern is that the bonds represent competition for money out of the city's General Fund along with payroll obligations, pensions, health care and other costs of doing business.

Cities across the state have seen weakened general funds in the past few years, particularly because of weak property taxes, which got a double whammy from the bursting of the housing bubble and the ongoing yoke of Proposition 13, a measure passed by voters in 1978 that capped property taxes at low levels.

The state's "hands-off" approach to recent municipal bankruptcies also concerned Moody's, Jacobson said.

In fact, Santa Monica has been fighting to keep the state slightly more hands off than it's been so far.

City Hall announced that it would run a $100,000 deficit until a change in law at the state level caused a grab of redevelopment funds.

Despite that, officials and the City Council have improved the city's reserves and kept pressure off of the General Fund by renegotiating contracts to get employees to contribute to the cost of their health care and pensions and paying down unfunded pension liabilities to the tune of $20 million.

"We're perplexed, but I guess Moody's review is understandable," said Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, director of the Finance Department.

In a report issued in May, Moody's reaffirmed Santa Monica's triple-A rating, attributing it to a diverse tax base and "exceptionally strong" financial operations with "sizeable (sic) reserves."

It did note, however, that Santa Monica faced some challenges because of tax revenue dependent on the tourism industry and that its residents were less wealthy than most cities with similarly high ratings.

Santa Monica was recently rated Los Angeles County's third most valuable city, and showed a 4.6 percent growth in property values over the previous year.

Much of that bump came from increased sales and development including residential construction, remodels and tenant improvements.

All in all, the review has less to do with Santa Monica than the fiscal state of California as a whole, said City Manager Rod Gould.

"I think Moody's is making an overall statement about their concern about California cities in general," he said.

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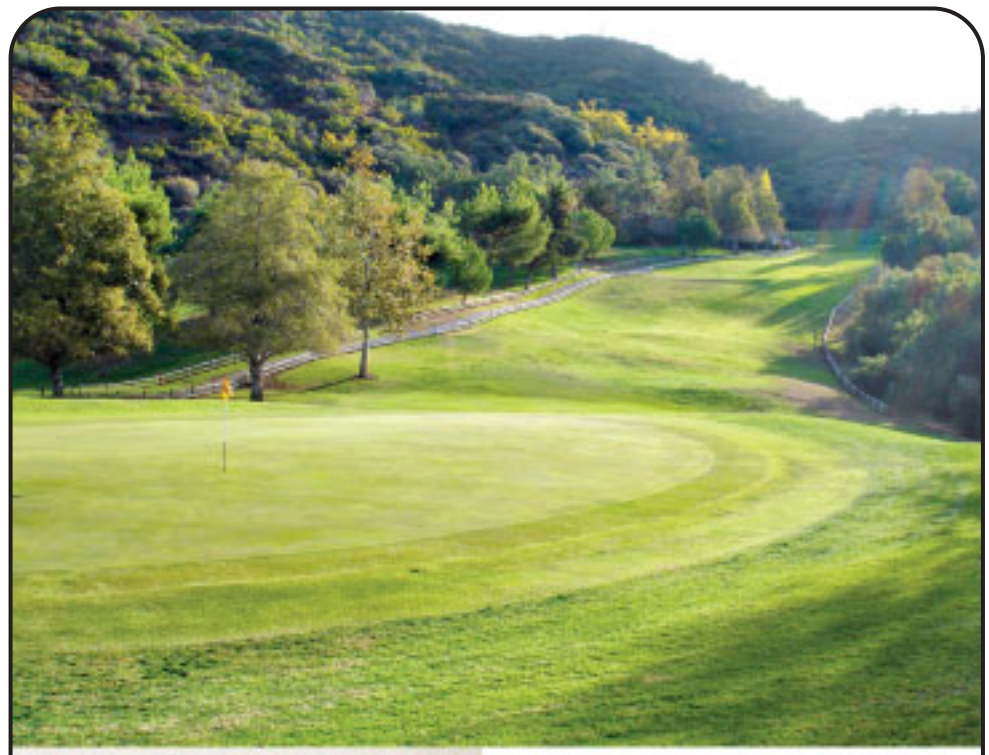
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Gov. Brown's tax initiative hit from both sides

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. After returning to the governor's office, Jerry Brown criticized a political culture he said lacked a common purpose and warned of a "war of all against all" unless the sniping camps learned to compromise and fix California's persistent budget problems.

Those efforts failed, and now the Democratic governor finds himself fighting his own political battle as he tries to persuade voters to pass a $6 billion tax increase on the November ballot that he says is crucial for closing the state's deficit.

With the election just a month away, Brown's initiative to boost the statewide sales tax by a quarter-cent and income taxes for those earning $250,000 a year or more is in jeopardy, primarily due to a wealthy brother and sister who are at opposite ends of the political spectrum, and Brown's own missteps.

The political slugfest is bad news for Brown's Proposition 30 and a competing tax initiative from Molly Munger, a liberal-leaning Los Angeles civil rights attorney who is the daughter of a billionaire executive for Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

She has spent $34 million so far in support of Proposition 38, which would raise about $10 billion a year through a broadly based income tax increase and send the revenue directly to school districts, bypassing the Legislature.

Her brother, Stanford physicist Charles Munger Jr., is a conservative who has poured more than $20 million of his fortune into a committee aimed at defeating Brown's ballot initiative and supporting a separate initiative targeting public employee unions.

The attacks from both Mungers have so angered Brown's Democratic allies that they issued a statement saying they would become known as "the millionaires who destroyed California's schools and universities."

California initiative campaigns are often exercises in excessive spending, but this fight is unusual because much of it is taking place between Democratically aligned interests seeking to accomplish essentially the same thing — restoring funding to California schools after years of budget cuts.

Teachers unions back Brown's initiative and the state PTA is aligned with Molly Munger.

The public sniping is erupting just as vote-by-mail ballots are being sent to California's 17 million registered voters.

"When California voters are in doubt, when they're confused about initiatives, they tend to vote no. What this direct hit by Munger on Prop. 30 can do is confuse voters. Perhaps both 30 and 38 go down," said Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a senior fellow at the University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development.

Brown's tax initiative already faced an uphill struggle after a summer of unfavorable headlines and major spending decisions, including revelations that the state parks department was hiding $54 million and the Legislature had given out pay raises to staffers at a time of deep budget cuts.

Brown also approved plans for a $68 billion high-speed rail system with waning public support and promoted a $24 billion water tunnel project that has strong opposition in Northern California.

California also has one of the nation's highest unemployment rate and, recently, its highest gasoline prices.

The state budget Brown signed into law relies on the tax revenue that Proposition 30 will generate if voters approve it. Without it, Brown has warned California schools and colleges face $6 billion in automatic spending cuts.

Brown has also been largely absent from public view, despite saying that passing Proposition 30 is his top priority. His last public campaign event was Aug. 30. He did hold some separate gubernatorial events in September.

"He's got to explain it to people, because it's his measure. He needs to be out there explaining it," said Mark Baldassare, president of the Public Policy Institute of California.

The most recent public opinion polls have shown Proposition 30 with a slim majority of support before the attack ads began.

Molly Munger argues that taxpayers should be bailing out classrooms, not the state budget.

Her initiative was written so the tax revenue raised would avoid the Legislature and go directly to schools. In TV ads that began airing in September, her campaign has promoted its alternative to "Sacramento politicians," but polls show it has yet to persuade a majority of likely voters.

Brown's campaign waited until October to begin advertising on TV, then essentially adopted Proposition 38's tag line, saying "Sacramento politicians can't touch" the money. That claim is directly at odds with the independent legislative analysis of his initiative, statements the governor made this summer and his own description when he announced he had reach a compromise to put the initiative on the ballot.

"It's the tax program that balances the budget," he told The Associated Press in March. Brown declined to be interviewed about his initiative by the AP for this story.

Munger said she felt compelled to act after years of politicians failing to adequately fund California schools. She said her polling shows voters support more school spending, as long as the money doesn't go through the Legislature.

"It does seem to be a climate out there that is quite favorable for a message that the money will go directly to the schools and will skip Sacramento," Munger said in an interview last month.

Frustrated that Brown had co-opted her message, Munger began airing an attack ad this week that said, "Don't be misled by the politicians" showing a Proposition 30 sign crashing to the ground.



WEST NILE
FROM PAGE 1

the United States in 1999.

Still, said Norma Arceo, a spokesperson for the California Department of Public Health, officials hesitate to call the season "unusual" because they expect the number of cases to vary from year to year.

However, the number of reports may decline as the weather gets cooler.

"The level of (West Nile Virus) activity is influenced by a number of factors, including the weather and the number of types of mosquitoes and birds in the area," she said.

Even as weather conditions change, people should stay vigilant to protect themselves from exposure.

Because West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, people should avoid being outside during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active and should wear insect repellents with DEET, picaradin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus, which are the longest lasting and most effective.

The Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District recommends draining any standing pools of water which attract mosquitoes and ensure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep the bugs out.

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ELECTION
FROM PAGE 1

anticipate will spend at least $100,000 on its slate of candidates," Jacobson said.

In 2008, SMRR spent $88,282.35 through October for its candidates in a range of electoral contests including the Santa Monica City Council and the Board of Education. The group Community for Excellent Public Schools, which is also backing the three incumbents, spent $9,050 in 2008.

In comparison to their northern neighbors, Ben Allen and Maria Leon-Vazquez brought in $1,250 and $3,185 respectively. The remainder of Allen's cash-on-hand came from his triumphant 2008 contest.

Allen's contributions come largely from a UCLA professor and three other community members, while Leon-Vazquez has a wider range of contributors from the Santa Monica College and resident communities.

Her numbers are lagging from 2008, in which she raised a total of $14,463.62 by the end of the year.

Escarce, on the other hand, is "on pace" to match his performance from past years. That is important because donations are the only way to get a candidate's message out on their own terms — it's illegal for them to coordinate with independent expenditure committees like SMRR.

"I think the main goal is really to get our message out," Escarce said. "I think we have an extremely positive message with a proven record of financial accountability and improving achievement in the district."

He has support from names within the education world including fellow members of the Board of Education and representatives from local parent groups.

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NYC, rabbis clash over circumcision ritual

DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK A group of rabbis is clashing with New York City health officials over the safety of an ancient circumcision ritual.

Three rabbis and three Jewish groups asked a federal court Thursday to block enforcement of a new regulation requiring written parental consent for a rite called "metzitzah b'peh," in Hebrew, which city health experts said can spread infection and has killed two children since 2004.

During the ritual, the person performing the circumcision attempts to cleanse the wound by sucking blood from the cut and spitting it aside.

The saliva contact puts the infant at increased risk of getting herpes simplex, a virus that is carried harmlessly by a large majority of adults but that can be deadly in newborns.

New York City's Health Department said it has documented 11 cases of the infection since 2000 among children believed to have undergone the ritual. Ten required hospitalization. Two developed brain damage. Two died.

The deaths prompted some doctors to call for the practice to be banned entirely, but the city's Board of Health adopted a compromise approach instead last month. Under the new rule, mohelim performing the circumcision would be required inform parents that the city believed the procedure was dangerous and have them sign a consent form.

No one would collect the forms, and the mohelim would be required to keep them for a year before destroying them.

In their lawsuit filed Thursday, rabbis Samuel Blum, Ahron Leiman and Shloime Eichenstein said the city had exaggerated the potential for harm and infringed on their religious freedom.

If the regulation were to take effect, rabbis "will be forced to serve as the Department's mouthpiece for dispensing opinion and 'advice' that directly undermines the required religious ritual that these mohelim regularly perform, in violation of their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religious exercise," the suit said.

The lawsuit, joined by the Central Rabbinical Congress of the USA and Canada, Agudath Israel of America and the International Bris Association, also argued that the city's safety studies were flawed and that the procedure, when performed properly, was "very safe." It said compelling the rabbis to warn against the procedure was unconstitutional.

In a statement responding to the suit, the city's health commissioner, Dr. Thomas Farley, called the regulation "lawful, appropriate and necessary."

"The city's highest obligation is to protect its children; therefore, it is important that parents know the risks associated with the practice," he said.

Concerns about the safety of metzitzah b'peh go back to at least the mid-19th century, when most Jews abandoned or modified the rite because of concerns about its role in spreading disease. Today, most Reform, Conservative and modern Orthodox mohels use gauze, or a sterile tube, to pull blood from the wound.

The ritual is still practiced widely, however, in New York City's large population of ultra-Orthodox Jews. After the regulation was adopted in September, some rabbis vowed to ignore it, saying the government had no business regulating a religious practice.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: **Adoption of Development Fee Increases**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Revise and/or establish permit fees charged by the Planning and Community Development Department for cost recovery relating to staff time for various project-related services.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, October 23, 2012 at 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: PCD Fees - October 23, 2012 City Council Meeting
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information, please refer to the staff report for the October 23, 2012 meeting on the City's web site at http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas. You may contact the City Clerk at (310) 458-8211 for alternate availability of the City Council agenda packet, or to make an appointment to review the fee study.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 2, 3, 9 and Rapid 3 serve City Hall.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública sobre la adopción de aumento de cobro al desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

Fewer U.S. layoffs no longer suggest strong hiring

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Declining applications for unemployment benefits have typically pointed to stronger hiring.

Not so much anymore.

Since the U.S. recession officially ended in June 2009, fewer layoffs have meant fewer people seeking unemployment aid. On Thursday, for example, the government said first-time applications for benefits hit a 4?-year low.

Yet job growth remains sluggish. That was evident last week in the government's jobs report for September. A survey of employers showed that they added a modest 114,000 jobs last month.

And the unemployment rate, based on a separate survey of households, did sink in August to 7.8 percent from 8.1 percent.

If fewer people are being laid off, why aren't employers hiring more?

Blame the slow pace of the U.S. economy, damage from Europe's economic crisis and fear that tax increases and spending cuts could trigger another U.S. recession next year.

Many companies have said they lack confidence that the U.S. economy will strengthen enough in coming months to justify hiring now.

"The relationship between claims and jobs has been less strong during this recovery than in past post-war recoveries," said Drew Matus, an economist at UBS. "There's a hiring problem out there, as opposed to a layoff problem."

Even last week's sharp drop in people seeking unemployment benefits came with a cautionary note.

Applications fell 30,000 to 339,000, the fewest since February 2008. And the four-week average, a less volatile gauge, reached a six-month low. But economists noted that much of last week's drop was due to seasonal volatility in the data.

A Labor Department spokesman said one large state accounted for much of the drop in applications for unemployment aid. The spokesman didn't identify the state, but several economists speculated that it was California.

The long-term trend in applications for unemployment benefits has been steadily down, though it has leveled off since spring.

When the economic recovery officially began in June 2009, an average of roughly 600,000 people were filing first-time claims for benefits each week. For nearly a year, that figure has remained consistently below 400,000.

But the decline hasn't correlated with robust job growth, as it did in past economic recoveries. Many economists say they're not ready to predict a strengthening job market.

"We're going to wait for some corroborating data," said Dan Greenhaus, chief market strategist at BTIG LLC.

The number of people who continue to receive unemployment benefits has fallen. Slightly more than 5 million Americans received benefits in the week that ended Sept. 22, the latest period for which figures are available. That's down about 44,000 from the previous week.

But some people who no longer receive aid have likely used up all the benefits available to them.

The 114,000 jobs employers added in September are roughly enough to keep pace with population growth. They aren't enough, though, to provide work for the more than 12 million unemployed Americans.

And most of the job increases last month came from those who had to settle for part-time work: In September, 582,000 more people than in August said they were working part-time but wanted full-time jobs.

The economy did gain an average of 146,000 jobs a month in the July-September quarter — more than twice the monthly pace in the April-June quarter.

Still, another government report this week added to signs that hiring will likely remain modest: Employers advertised slightly fewer open jobs in August than in July. It was the second straight monthly drop. And the number of posted openings was the fewest since April.

A major problem is the U.S. economy isn't growing fast enough to generate significant hiring. Economic growth slowed to a tepid annual rate of 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter. That was down from a 2 percent annual rate in the previous quarter.

And most economists foresee growth staying at or below 2 percent in the second half of the year.





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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: October 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

ARB 11-346, 1621 Franklin Street: Residential
ARB 12-327, 3435 Ocean Park Boulevard: Commercial
ARB 12-350, 418 Wilshire Boulevard: Restaurant
ARB 12-352, 2800 Wilshire Boulevard: Grocery
ARB 12-355, 2525 Colorado Avenue: Office
ARB 12-370, 410 19th Street: Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planning-comm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail laura.beck@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid #3, 7, & 9 serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.



Republican groups turning focus to House races

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON A late spending splurge by outside political groups helped Republicans take over the House two years ago. The floodgates are opening again, but this time Democrats say they're better prepared.

So far in 2012, Democratic groups have generally been able to keep pace with the competition. Outside groups have spent about $60 million trying to help GOP candidates since June 1 and about $49 million trying to help out Democratic candidates, according the Sunlight Foundation.

But some of the Republican support groups are just getting started. Beginning Saturday, Crossroads GPS, one of the deep-pocketed groups co-founded by Karl Rove, is launching a three-week, $8.1 million broadcast campaign in 11 House districts in New York to Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Nevada, Indiana and California, according to Nate Hodson, the group's spokesman.

The Chamber of Commerce launched an $8 million ad campaign last week on behalf of 20 GOP candidates in close House races in California, New York and Illinois. It also weighed in for two Democratic incumbents. Until then, the chamber had focused most of its spending on Senate races.

American Action Network and the Congressional Leadership Fund, two Republican support groups led by former Sen. Norm Coleman, have spent about $3.1 million so far on House races. This week they said they will spend at least $13.5 million more during the campaign's final month.

After focusing on the presidential and Senate races the past four months, Crossroads groups also are beginning to pour more resources into House races to assist Republican candidates.

Crossroads GPS dumped $716,000 in New York in late September for ads aimed at defeating Democratic Rep. Tim Bishop and re-electing Republican Rep. Chris Gibson. A spokesman said this week the groups were planning to spend tens of millions of dollars more over the next four weeks to "protect the majority in the U.S. House and promote a conservative agenda."

A Democratic official who tracks media buys said Thursday that Crossroads GPS has purchased nearly $7 million worth of broadcast and cable ads to run later this month in eight House races.

Americans for Tax Reform has purchased nearly $6 million in broadcast and cable ads in six House races, the official said on condition of anonymity. The group, led by Grover Norquist, had invested only $500,000 on one House race, in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District with the aim of defeating Rep. Mark Critz. Americans for Tax Reform presses lawmakers to sign a pledge promising not to increase income taxes. The organization did not return calls seeking comment.

Dan Conston, a spokesman for the American Action Network and Congressional Leadership Fund, said the late surge in spending by the Coleman groups is by design because many voters don't pay attention to political ads until late in the campaign.

"With a political environment this competitive, we're pleased at having spent some resources early but having the lion's share for the final weeks when hard-to-reach undecided voters tune in," Conston said.

Democratic officials say they're not surprised by the recent ad buys and announcements. They've been bracing for a late surge in outside spending after it proved so effective in helping the GOP win control of the House in 2010, when 87 GOP freshmen were elected.

"We've been expecting this all along," said Andy Stone, spokesman for the House Majority Pac, the leading Democratic super PAC in this year's races.

Stone said that the House Majority PAC prepared for the finals weeks by reserving about $20 million worth of television ad time in keys races early in the summer, locking in lower rates than those offered to current buyers.

"As a result, we're getting a better rate, a better deal than the Republicans are," Stone said.

Still, it remains an uphill task for Democrats to win back a net 25 seats to regain control of the House.

Stone pointed to California's 7th Congressional District as an example of how Democratic groups are better prepared to deal with a late surge in outside spending. The race features a rematch between Republican Rep. Dan Lungren and Democratic candidate Ami Bera.

In 2010, American Crossroads spent $682,000 on ads opposing Bera during the final two weeks of the campaign. That represented more than 80 percent of the outside spending that occurred in the entire race.



Experts: Global warming means more Antarctic ice

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

The ice goes on seemingly forever in a white pancake-flat landscape, stretching farther than ever before. And yet in this confounding region of the world, that spreading ice may be a cockeyed signal of man-made climate change, scientists say.

This is Antarctica, the polar opposite of the Arctic.

While the North Pole has been losing sea ice over the years, the water nearest the South Pole has been gaining it. Antarctic sea ice hit a record 7.51 million square miles in September. That happened just days after reports of the biggest loss of Arctic sea ice on record.

Climate change skeptics have seized on the Antarctic ice to argue that the globe isn't warming and that scientists are ignoring the southern continent because it's not convenient. But scientists say the skeptics are misinterpreting what's happening and why.

Shifts in wind patterns and the giant ozone hole over the Antarctic this time of year — both related to human activity — are probably behind the increase in ice, experts say. This subtle growth in winter sea ice since scientists began measuring it in 1979 was initially surprising, they say, but makes sense the more it is studied.

"A warming world can have complex and sometimes surprising consequences," researcher Ted Maksym said this week from an Australian research vessel surrounded by Antarctic sea ice. He is with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

Many experts agree. Ted Scambos of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Colorado adds: "It sounds counterintuitive, but the Antarctic is part of the warming as well."

And on a third continent, David Vaughan of the British Antarctic Survey says that yes, what's happening in Antarctica bears the fingerprints of man-made climate change.

"Scientifically the change is nowhere near as substantial as what we see in the Arctic," says NASA chief scientist Waleed Abdalati, an ice expert. "But that doesn't mean we shouldn't be paying attention to it and shouldn't be talking about it."

Sea ice is always melting near one pole while growing around the other. But the overall trend year to year is dramatically less ice in the Arctic and slightly more in the Antarctic.

It's most noticeable in September, when northern ice is at its lowest and southern ice at its highest. For over 30 years, the Arctic in September has been losing an average of 5.7 square miles of sea ice for every square mile gained in Antarctica.

Loss of sea ice in the Arctic can affect people in the Northern Hemisphere, causing such things as a higher risk of extreme weather in the U.S. through changes to the jet stream, scientists say. Antarctica's weather peculiarities, on the other hand, don't have much effect on civilization.

At well past midnight in Antarctica, where it's about 3 degrees, Maksym describes in a rare ship-to-shore telephone call from the R.V. Aurora Australis what this extra ice means in terms of climate change. And what it's like to be out studying it for two months, with the nearest city 1,500 miles away.

"It's only you and the penguins," he says. "It's really a strikingly beautiful and stark landscape. Sometimes it's even an eerie kind of landscape."

While the Arctic is open ocean encircled by land, the Antarctic — about 1.5 times the size of the U.S. — is land circled by ocean, leaving more room for sea ice to spread. That geography makes a dramatic difference in the two polar climates.

The Arctic ice responds more directly to warmth. In the Antarctic, the main driver is wind, Maksym and other scientists say. Changes in the strength and motion of winds are now pushing the ice farther north, extending its reach.

Those changes in wind are tied in a complicated way to climate change from greenhouse gases, Maksym and Scambos say. Climate change has created essentially a wall of wind that keeps cool weather bottled up in Antarctica, NASA's Abdalati says.

And the wind works in combination with the ozone hole, the huge gap in Earth's protective ozone layer that usually appears over the South Pole. It's bigger than North America.

It's caused by man-made pollutants chlorine and bromine, which are different from the fossil fuel emissions that cause global warming. The hole makes Antarctica even cooler this time of year because the ozone layer usually absorbs solar radiation, working like a blanket to keep the Earth warm.

And that cooling effect makes the winds near the ground stronger and steadier, pushing the ice outward, Scambos says.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE AMC THEATER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PROJECT

OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given on the completion and availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed AMC Theater Project (proposed project) located at 1318-1320 4th Street in the City of Santa Monica.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would involve the demolition of an existing 344 space public parking structure (City-owned Parking Structure 3) and development of an approximately 70,000 foot theater (AMC 12) with 12 auditoriums. The project is designed to include approximately 2,167 theater seats, 2,500 square feet of retail tenant space, and 2,250 square feet of interior restaurant/lounge space that would be open to the public, but is primarily intended to serve movie patrons. The proposed new theater building would be up to 56 feet tall. As part of the project, the applicant proposes to reduce a total of approximately 1,597 existing theater seats in the other three AMC-operated venues in the Downtown to achieve a not-to-exceed net increase of 570 seats. This would be accomplished by a combination of modifications to the existing theaters resulting in fewer seats and/or closing one or more of the existing theaters to achieve the required seat count reduction.

Based on the current schedule of the project, it is projected that there would be no overlap in the period of time when Parking Structure 3 and Parking Structure 6 are out of service. Parking Structure 6 would be completed prior to the beginning of Parking Structure 3 demolition. The Interim Downtown Parking Program establishes additional measures to address the loss of parking from demolition of Parking Structure 3 that would occur under the proposed project. Under this plan, up to 104 interim parking spaces would continue to be provided at the corner of 5th Street and Arizona Avenue. These spaces would be available seven days a week until future development at this City-owned site occurs. In addition, up to 250 monthly parkers would be relocated from nearby Parking Structure 5 to either the Main Library Parking Structure or the Civic Center Parking Structure (50 to 50 split), thereby freeing up general public parking spaces at Parking Structure 5.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR analyzed potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project including: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Construction Effects, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Effects, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Neighborhood Effects, Noise, Shadows, and Transportation/Traffic.

The Draft EIR determined that implementation of the proposed project will result in the following significant and unavoidable impacts:

Transportation and Traffic

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: In accordance with CEQA, a minimum 45-day public review period will be provided for all interested persons to submit comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. **The comment period will start on October 10, 2012 and end at 5:30 p.m. on November 26, 2012.** Written comments should be sent to:

Roxanne Tanemori, Senior Planner
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Email: Roxanne.tanemori@smgov.net

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Draft EIR and background materials may be viewed online at http://www01.smgov.net/planning/planningcomm/environmentalreports.html or in person at the following locations:

City Planning Division Public Counter
Room 111
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Office of the City Clerk
Room 102
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Main Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Fairview Branch
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
CITY PLANNING DIVISION
1685 MAIN STREET, ROOM 212
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

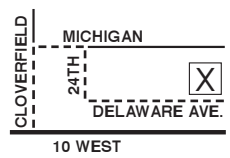


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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 68.2°

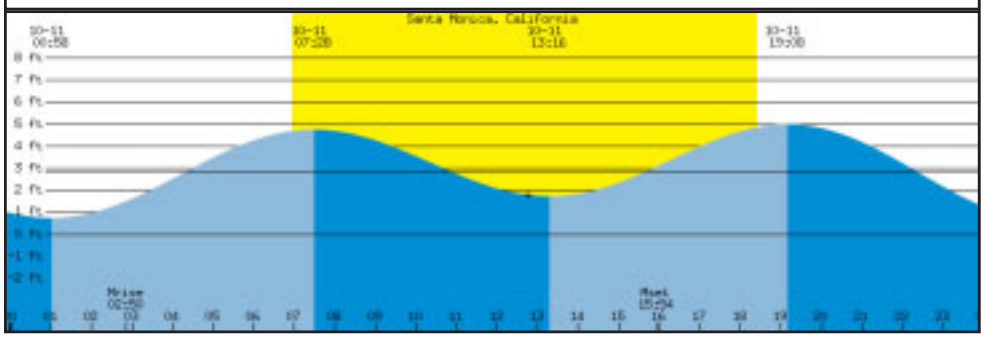
Swell Forecast

Chest high at west facing breaks, waist high at south facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a slight increase in NW swell to chest+ at west facing breaks, but knee to waist high at south facing spots.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **October 3, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LiquiGUY, SMM

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alias creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 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.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17300 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW 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.	C	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MLB

Giants end Reds' season with 6-4 win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI The Cincinnati Reds gave up a lot to get Mat Latos, hoping he'd push them to the next level.

Given his chance Thursday to do just that, he was gone in the fifth inning.

Buster Posey's grand slam capped San Francisco's six-run burst against Latos, propelling the San Francisco past the Reds 6-4 Thursday in the clinching Game 5 of their best-of-five NL division series.

"I'm not making excuses," Latos said. "This game's 100 percent on me."

Ahead 2-0 in the series, the NL Central champion Reds lost the final three games at home. Cincinnati won 97 games during the regular season and took two more in the playoffs at San Francisco, but that 100th victory proved to be elusive.

Acquired in the offseason from San Diego for pitcher Edinson Volquez and three former high draft picks, Latos matched his career high in wins while going 14-4 this year. He then turned in four innings of one-run relief in Cincinnati's 5-2 win at San Francisco in Game 1 after ace Johnny Cueto was injured in the first inning.

The duel between Latos and Matt Cain in the final game was scoreless when the Giants erupted for all of their runs in the fifth. Latos was charged with each of them.

Gregor Blanco led off with a single and scored on Brandon Crawford's triple into the right-field corner. One out later, Crawford scored when drawn-in rookie shortstop Zack Cozart couldn't handle Angel Pagan's chopper behind the mound for an error.

Marco Scutaro walked, and Pablo Sandoval singled to load the bases, setting up Posey's 434-foot slam off the facade of the second deck, right above Latos's name on a narrow scoreboard.

The hit left the Reds in a hole that was nearly impossible to climb out of, Reds first baseman Joey Votto said.

"Buster Posey's swing was a series-changer," said Votto, who had two hits. "That made it very difficult to come back. You know they're going to throw the kitchen sink at us."

That was it for Latos, who gave up seven hits and six runs — five earned — with one walk and four strikeouts. Latos seemed to be distracted by a couple of calls he didn't get from plate umpire Tom Hallion while walking Scutaro, but that wasn't the pitcher's only problem, manager Dusty Baker said

"What kind of got the inning going was — I don't know if it was a ball or strike call that he lost on Marco Scutaro," Baker said. "Then, after that, they started finding holes. That was a big hit that (Sandoval) got barely inside the shortstop. Then he had two strikes big time on a dangerous hitter who he had gotten out in Buster Posey. Plus, Buster's hit into 19 double plays, and we were hoping to get another double play at that time, but the pitch wasn't where he wanted it to be, and it wasn't a double-play pitch."

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Text Amendment 12-003**
APPLICANT: Romana Pier, LLC
LOCATION: Santa Monica Pier, RVC – Residential Visitor Commercial District

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Amendment to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.08.12.060 to permit roof top structures that constitute a third story used exclusively in conjunction with roof deck restaurant dining on the Santa Monica Pier in the RVC – Residential Visitor Commercial District.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012, AT 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: 12TA003
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Lily Yegazu, Associate Planner, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at lily.yegazu@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7 and #9 service the City Hall and Civic Center.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

The Nickel Ride (PG) 1hr 39 min
The Other (PG) 1hr 48min
7:30pm
Discussion between films with screenwriter Eric Roth.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Here Comes the Boom (PG) 1hr 45min
1:15pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
6:00pm, 9:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:45pm, 3:55pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
12:30pm, 3:15pm

Least Among Saints (R) 1hr 45min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Frankenweenie in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Here Comes the Boom (PG) 1hr 45min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 10:55pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:20pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
11:35am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:25am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

House I Live In (NR) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 1hr 25min
1:10pm, 3:25pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Just 45 Minutes from Broadway (R) 1hr 48min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Master (R) 2hrs 30min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Frankenweenie (PG) 1hr 27min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:05pm, 6:40pm, 9:15pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
11:25am, 2:15pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Sinister (R) 1hr 50min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:05am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 11:10pm

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

Say 'yes' tonight, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Communication is active, which presents you with many possibilities. Schedule a lengthy lunch with someone of interest, as you have much to share with this person. Tonight: Out with a couple of friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your creativity soars. Though some ideas might seem a little off-the-wall, you'll share them with someone who is open and willing to tell you his or her thoughts. You'll hear from an individual who might be pivotal in the near future. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Be aware that you might be left to your own devices. Invite a friend to join you, or consider making other plans. The pressure you feel to always seem upbeat could become troublesome. Share your feelings more often. Tonight: Let your wild child out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Express feelings you normally hold back. Be direct with a family member. Your ability to share can only enhance the present situation. Do not worry about what is happening; you will land on your feet. Tonight: Out and about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others gravitate toward you. You could have mixed feelings about taking a risk with a recent expenditure. A loved one might like to pitch in and help you. Consider whether you can deal with the negative ramifications, then decide. Tonight: TGIF with the gang.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ The Moon in Virgo highlights you, whether you're dealing with a powerful figure in your life or just being yourself at work or at home. Others find your willingness to be vulnerable appealing. Tonight: Lead the gang into the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might not be comfortable with recent events. You could misinterpret what someone says and take away a different meaning than was intended. You smile, and others are drawn in. Tonight: Do a quick vanishing act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Picture yourself carrying Aladdin's lamp and being granted three wishes. What would they be? You currently are in the position of manifesting an important desire. Tonight: A lot to smile about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Eyes tend to follow you. Are you being admired? Talked about or envied? Be aware that others are more observant than you initially thought, especially a boss. You might want to move forward with a project. Tonight: Go where you want to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You want feedback from someone at a distance. Unless you ask, it might not be forthcoming. How you see a situation could change dramatically after detaching and/or once you let other perspectives in. Do not hold back with a friend; share your feelings. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Rethink an important relationship in your life. How you handle a personal matter could change. You might not be ready to make a grand announcement just yet, but you will soon enough. Tonight: Your mood is contagious.

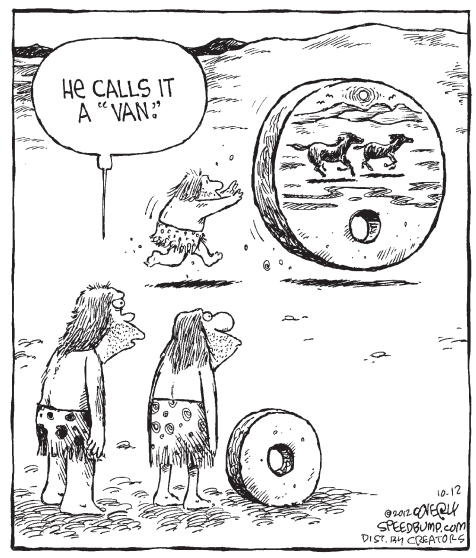
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be unusually tense, as someone makes certain demands of you. Listen to a friend or loved one's feedback, and express your feelings. Do not be intimidated -- stand up for yourself. Your confidence could stop this person in his or her tracks. Tonight: Say "yes."

Happy birthday

Is there such a thing as too much good? You will be able to answer that question this year. You often will feel overwhelmed. You might not know which way to go or what choices to make. Stay as level as possible, and be sure to express your authenticity and kindness. By centering yourself, you will make good decisions. If you are single, check out a potential sweetie with care. This person might be withdrawn or emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you will benefit from being more vulnerable and open with each other. You will experience more warmth as a result. VIRGO makes an excellent healer for you.

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

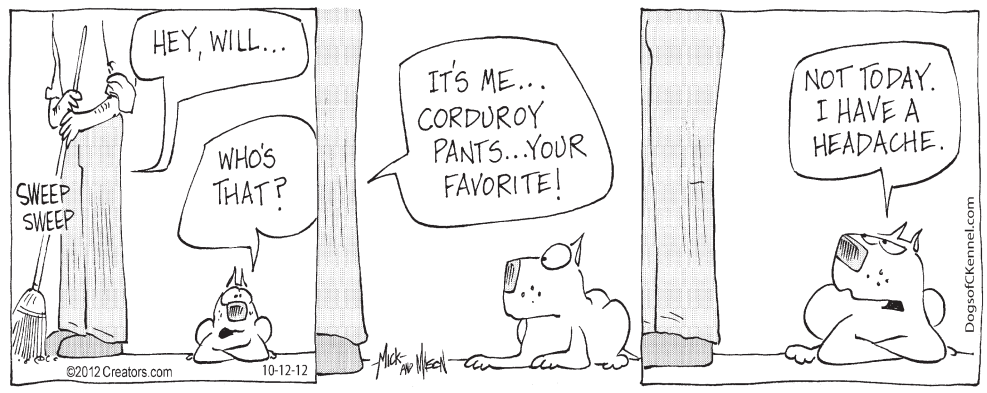
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



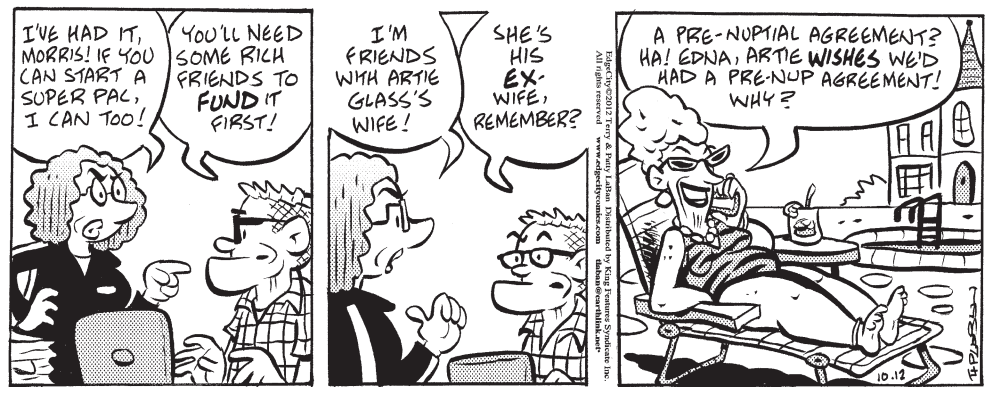
Strange Brew
By John Deering



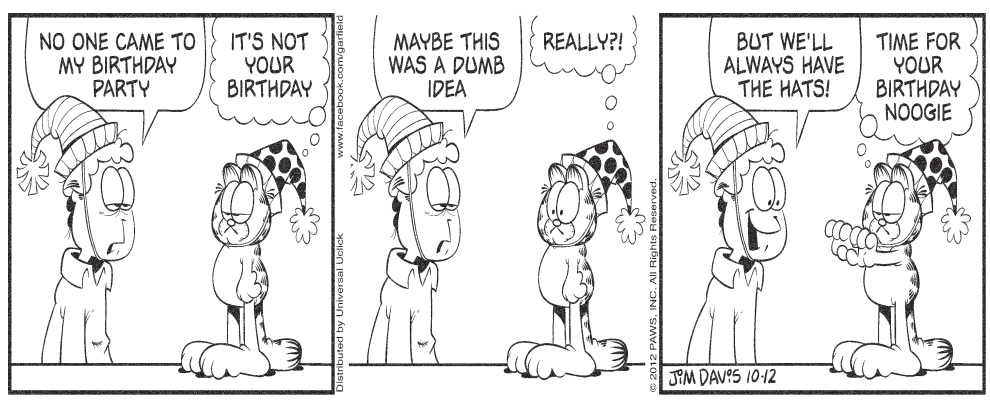
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



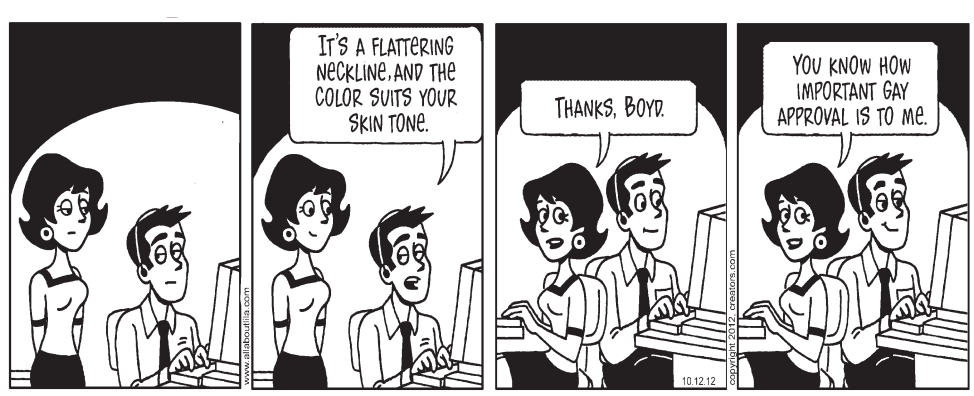
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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 ★★★★

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com*. Hint: It's not the mural at Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

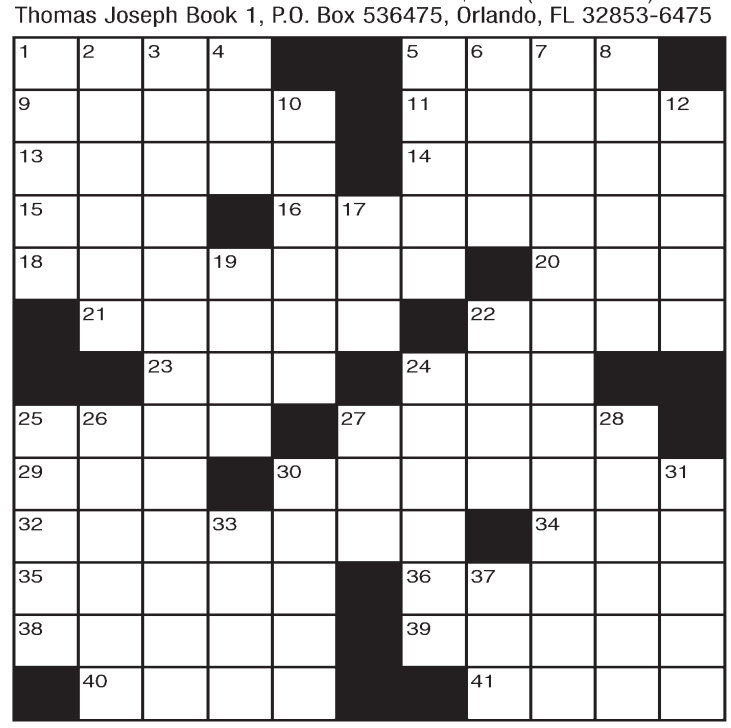
ACROSS
1 Rotund president
5 Big apartment
9 Rap-sheet info
11 Poppy product
13 Store worker
14 Designer Geoffrey
15 Gusher flow
16 Anne's home
18 Calms down
20 Racket
21 Happy's friend
22 Type-setting choice
23 Flowed into
24 Dict. info
25 Throws in
27 Intrepid
29 Remote
30 Glaze, e.g.
32 Major Leagues, in slang
34 Army address
35 Gladden
36 Writer Pirandello
38 Singer LeAnn
39 Jazz dance
40 Pharaoh symbols
41 Literary collections

DOWN
1 Folded-over snacks
2 In cahoots
3 Kevin Costner film
4 Mariner
5 Rock's Los —
6 Frank
7 All that one can see
8 Select on the radio dial
10 Enjoyed the rink
12 Intended
17 "Oy —!"
19 Imitates
22 Accom-plishment
24 Speaks like a South-erner
25 Chasing
26 Showy flower
27 Heckler's cry
28 Puzzle
30 Mating game
31 Film set workers
33 Plan part
37 Acting legend Hagen

S	P	A	T	■	■	S	P	O	R	T
M	A	D	E	A	■	T	O	P	E	R
U	P	E	N	D	■	A	M	P	L	E
S	U	E	■	H	A	R	P	O	O	N
H	A	R	V	E	Y	■	■	S	A	D
■	■	■	A	R	E	S	■	E	D	S
■	S	A	N	E	■	E	N	D	S	■
S	U	V	■	D	O	D	O	■	■	■
A	G	E	■	■	H	A	R	L	E	M
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	■	E	R	A
A	R	R	A	Y	■	E	D	G	A	R
R	E	E	S	E	■	D	O	U	S	E
A	D	D	E	D	■	■	A	P	E	S

Yesterday's answer

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



10-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/9
6 15 16 22 37
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $53M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/10
21 35 40 44 47
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/11
5 9 10 13 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/11
MIDDAY: 3 9 5
EVENING: 2 9 2

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 10/11
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:43.50

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

■ Canadian artist Taras Polataiko's two-week-long live re-creation of "Sleeping Beauty" was featured through early September at Ukraine's National Art Museum in Kiev, with an unexpected outcome. Five women had been chosen to fall asleep daily and, by signed contract, to agree to marry the first man who awakened them with a single kiss (thus to witness "the birth of love," according to Polataiko). Only one awoke during the exhibit, but since that payoff kiss was applied by a female gallery-goer, the contract could not be fulfilled in that Ukraine forbids same-sex marriage.

■ Francesco Piserchia, 36, filed a $17 million lawsuit in August against Bergen County, N.J., police, and individual officers, for being shot following a wild, high-speed car chase through residential neighborhoods in 2010. Although Piserchia and an associate had nearly hit a squad car and were fleeing on foot after their car crashed, they claim the police had no reason to shoot at them because, just moments before the shots, the men had decided to surrender. (In a separate matter, two officers involved were indicted by a grand jury in August for tampering with evidence in the case.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1970 - Vietnam War: US President Richard Nixon announces that the United States will withdraw 40,000 more troops before Christmas

1979 - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, the first of five books in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy comedy science fiction series by Douglas Adams is published.

1979 - The lowest recorded non-tornadic atmospheric pressure, 87.0 kPa (870 mbar or 25.69 inHg), occurred in the Western Pacific during Typhoon Tip.

WORD UP!

litotes \ LAHY-tuh-teez \ , noun;
1. Understatement, especially that in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its contrary, as in "not bad at all."

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Obituaries



MAX INFINITY Petrakos
aka Baxter Daniels
He was born 1/4/1999 -6/2/2012

There will be a funeral for him
10/13/12
At: Hollywood Forever
6000 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles, CA
11 am
an open mic will be avaliable
to any one who wishes to
share a poem or a few words

A Reception / Celebration of his life
Will Follow the Funeral and Take Place
at Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd
at 1 pm
All are welcome

Max Petrakos / Baxter Daniels
was a writer, director, poet,
and stand up comic
He directed short films and won awards
for his animation

He performed at Velvet Gorilla Cabaret
Coffee Cartel, Rapp Saloon and various
other venues in Santa Monica and
Los Angeles.

As well as filming many local poets
and performers for his website
internationalwordbank.org

He was working on his first novel
and his first feature film when
he was killed by a drunk driver
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