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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 293



Santa Monica Daily Press

TWO TAKES ON PRIZE
SEE PAGES 4&5

We have you covered

THE LITTLE RAINDROPS ISSUE



SAFETY FIRST

Photo courtesy Jonathan Kalan

Christina Selter, 'Pet Safety Lady' and founder of Bark 10-4, puts a pet oxygen mask on Biscuit the dog during a press conference at Santa Monica Fire Station 121. Bark 10-4 is a campaign created to help fire departments across America buy pet oxygen masks. October is National Fire Safety Month.

Homeless get a home in Venice

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE There will be 20 fewer homeless individuals living on the streets after a local nonprofit organization bought an apartment building that will provide housing for the down and out.

The Venice Community Housing Corp. recently acquired the 20-unit apartment building at 15 Horizon Ave. for $3.6 million with plans to move in homeless men and women by the end of next year.

The organization provides affordable housing to very low-income people with a focus on the homeless, providing such shelter to nearly 500 people in 2008.

Known as the Venice Horizon Suites, the building is located on the corner of Speedway, just a block east of the beach. Steve Clare, the executive director, said the organization was in negotiations to buy the Rose Hotel but failed to reach an agreement.

"Quiet fortuitously, this other building came on the market," Clare said. "It's in terrific shape and fully furnished and it was actually a much better building than the one we were looking at previously so we're excited to find it."

The organization will establish a housing waiting list through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and St. Joseph Center, which will provide support services to the clients, including money management to help them keep on top of rent payments and utility bills. Residents of the Horizon building will also have access to St. Joseph Center's food pantry.

Va Lecia Adams, the executive director of St. Joseph Center, said that support services are key to the transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

"Having a supportive person they connect with is essential to stabilizing themselves and planning a path forward," Adams said.

The acquisition was made possible

SEE HOUSING PAGE 11

Stay away from the bay following rains

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM BAY The environmental group Heal the Bay warned Southland residents and visitors Tuesday to avoid going into the water at Los Angeles County beaches for the next 72 hours in response to the area's first significant rainfall after the recent Station Fire and a record period of drought.

The county's 2,800-mile storm drain system is designed to channel rainwater to the ocean to prevent local flooding — resulting in polluted water pouring directly into the Santa Monica and San Pedro bays following rainstorms, said Matthew King of Heal the Bay.

After heavy rains, more than 70 major outfalls spew man-made debris, animal waste, pesticides, automotive fluids and human-gastrointestinal viruses into the marine ecosystem. That pollution poses human health risks, harms marine life and dampens the tourism economy by littering shorelines, King said.

After the recent mountain brush fires in Los Angeles County, including the massive Station Fire in the San Gabriel Mountains, a large amount of pollution will be washed into storm drains during this first flush event, he said. The recent fires scorched vegetation that once helped to filter and stabilize the pollutants.

Debris and toxins that have been accumulating for months on sidewalks, roadways and riverbeds are also being washed into the storm drains.

Exposure to the runoff can cause a variety of illnesses, most frequently stomach flu, King said.

During dry months, Heal the Bay and county health officials urge swimmers to stay 100 yards from flowing storm drains, which have been shown to have elevated levels of known carcinogens and pathogens.

"Our region's waterbodies are likely to see unparalleled pollution levels after this rain event due to the recent brush fires and drought conditions," said Kirsten James, Heal the Bay's director of water quality.

"It is critical that swimmers are aware of this risk and stay out of the water."

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009

Living fearlessly
YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Learn to take charge of your life during this self-help event. The teachings of author Guy Finley will be discussed. For more information, call Danna at (310) 266-9930. Organizers are asking for a $3 donation, but no one will be turned away.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Enjoy a 3000 square foot floor and learn how to waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle, dance the Latins and anything else by request. No partner is required. Parking is available next door. Admission is $10. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

The economics of being a woman
YWCA
2019 14th St., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Come for a five week workshop series designed to help women who are concerned about their finances empower themselves by developing strategies for financial well-being and wealth-building in this tumultuous economy. Investments, portfolios, tax strategies and more will be covered. This is sponsored by Libbie Agran Financial Literacy Center and moderated by Hollis Harman. $45 covers dinner and materials. Call (310) 452-3881 for more information.

'Funny as a Rattlesnake'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Barbara Bragg, Wyoming's untamed daughter, traces her pioneer family back to her great grandfather when Wyoming was still a territory and spins theatrical magic from her father's ghost stories of the old West to a sister who swallows stars. The two performances, Thursday and Sunday, are directed by Debra De Liso. Admission is $20 and includes a 30 minute pre-show reception. Reservations are necessary. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1 for more information.

Taize style
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Experience God anew in the style of Taize with a beautiful candle-lit and meditative service in the chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit at this wonderful relaxing evening service. Taize worship has gained great popularity it originated in France after World War II. Parking is available nearby, cost is free. Call (310) 451-1303 for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009

Time for stories
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11 a.m. — noon
Come hear stories for young readers ages 3-5.
This event takes place each week.

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



Buying benefit

Realtor gives local charities percentage of her profits

BY KRISTIN PAZULSKI
Special to the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA/VENICE With two young children at home and a new business to run, Tami Pardee doesn't have the time to volunteer for local nonprofits like she did in the past.

But not one to give up on helping others, Pardee decided to make a contribution by doing what she does every day — sell real estate.

Pardee, who started her own realty business Pardee Properties in January, has been donating 10 percent of the net proceeds on each sale since the beginning of June to nonprofits like local homeless services provider OPCC. A total of six nonprofits on the Westside have benefited from the program called Giving Back, a fixture of Pardee's company. All six received a portion of the nearly $8,000 raised through real estate sales.

"It's a thing we should all be doing," said Pardee, who feels Giving Back is an obvious extension of her six years as a realtor and her already active nonprofit volunteering, having served as an event planner at the Venice Family Clinic. "Right now these organizations really need the money. And look what we've been able to give in just [a few] months. Think about that."

Donna Miller, associate development director of OPCC, said that receiving a general donation like Pardee's helps because they can use it where they need it most. OPCC has a number of programs that service domestic abuse victims and homeless youth, families and adults. Right now, the center is dealing with an increase in homeless families, and at the same time their government funding for their domestic abuse programming has been cut.

"We are looking to private sources to help compensate for the loss in public funding," Miller said. "Everything helps us to meet the budgetary needs. We cannot take a single funding source for granted."

Pardee, who lives on the border of Venice and Marina del Rey, has volunteered as an event planner with the Venice Family Clinic and a fundraiser for the First Years Preschool in Venice. She has also raised money for multiple sclerosis for the past five years, an important effort in her family as both she and her husband's fathers have MS, an auto-

SEE **PARDEE** PAGE 10



UNITED IN SONG

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Directed by Dominic Gregorio, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles sings the story of Matthew Shepard in the performance 'The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later,' at the Broad Stage on Monday night. Shepard was tortured and murdered near Laramie, Wyo. in 1998. During the trial, witnesses stated that Shepard was targeted because he was gay.

Seeing it through to the end

Governor signs bills authored by local legislators

BY DERRICK OLIVER
Special to the Daily Press

SACRAMENTO A number of bills authored by local state legislators were signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this past Sunday, the bills dealing with a wide variety of topics that ranged from education to Medi-Cal and state infrastructure.

Many of the bills that received the affirmatory signature from the governor were authored by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley and state Sen. Fran Pavley, who represent the city of Santa Monica.

Before bills reach the desk of the governor, they first have to pass through both the state Assembly and the state Senate.

Schwarzenegger had a midnight deadline to act on more than 700 bills awaiting his signature. In an attempt to force legislators to reach an agreement over upgrades to the state's water systems, the governor had threatened to refrain from signing any new bills until a water agreement had been reached.

On Sunday, Schwarzenegger said he was satisfied with progress made by legislators on the water deal and signed 230 bills into law, vetoing 221. Most bills will take effect Jan. 1. During the special 30-day session the governor acted on a total of 202 bills. He signed 478 bills and vetoed 229 bills.

The following are a list of some key bills authored by Brownley, a former Santa Monica-Malibu school board president, and Pavley, who represented Santa Monica in the Assembly before taking over for former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, who was termed out.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BROWNLEY

• AB239 Teacher credentialing: Because of California's lack of well-qualified teachers, especially teachers with math, science and special education credentials, this allows out-of-state teachers and counselors with National Board Certification to become eligible for a credential in California.

SEE **BILLS** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Knowing what's best

Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the article "Homework policy undergoes changes" from the Oct. 3-4 issue. Melody Hanatani provided a very insightful and thought provoking piece about an issue that is at the forefront of many parents' as well as educators' minds: What to do about homework? I am a second grade teacher with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and myself and many of my colleagues struggle with the homework issue. We want to make the work meaningful for our students without making homework drudge work. I am struck by the comments made by our teachers' union vice president, who seemingly feels that teachers are above reproach in regards to homework just because they have an advanced degree and should "know what is best for children." I take offense at this remark because it suggests that teachers should not be held accountable just because they hold an advanced degree. Would we say the same about a doctor? Is he or she infallible because of an advanced medical degree? No, we get second opinions. Teachers should be held to the same high standards. I, as a teacher with a master's degree in education, welcome feedback from parents, students, colleagues and community members in regards to my practices. Their input makes me a better teacher. One thing that the article neglected to mention was what are the consequences for students who do not complete their homework, especially from teachers "who know what's best for children."

Carl Witt, III
Second grade teacher
Will Rogers Learning Community

A tip from the IRS

Editor:

The "Cash for Clunkers" program for new cars may have ended, but the IRS wants to remind taxpayers that many people might overlook another special break available. If you buy a new vehicle this year, there's a special federal tax deduction available that can help you save money, in some cases hundreds of dollars. This tax break will allow people who buy a new vehicle in 2009 to deduct the sales and excise taxes they pay when they file their tax return next year. The tax deduction is available on the 2009 federal tax return even for those who claim the standard deduction.

The deduction is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and applies to taxes paid on up to $49,500 of the purchase price for qualified new cars, light trucks, motorcycles or motor homes. Generally, vehicles weighing 8,500 pounds or less qualify. This means that most new cars and many new trucks will qualify. New motor homes qualify regardless of weight.

Buyers are entitled to a partial deduction if they earn between $125,000 and $135,000 ($250,000 and $260,000 for joint filers). The deduction is eliminated for those who earn over these amounts.

To qualify, the vehicle must be new and purchased in 2009 after Feb. 16 and no later than Dec. 31. There is still time left but the clock is ticking.

More information is available at www.irs.gov/recovery.

Terry L. Lemons
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Going Postal

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

One prize fits all

LAST FRIDAY, AS I WAS GETTING READY for work, my wife was on the Internet and exclaimed, "Barack Obama just won the Nobel Peace Prize!" I told her, in mid-shave, that it was a little late for an April Fools' joke. She replied, "No, really … Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize." She had to call the paramedics as I was paralyzed by the shock-and-guffaw from the comedy of it all.

Folks, Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize is akin to fantasizing that alien cannibal-zombies from outer space have just landed at the Third Street Promenade — until one of them actually jumps out and eats your brain. The zombies, I mean, not the president.

It's not Obama's fault. Even he went, "Huh?" Since his most successful endeavor to date has been "Cash for Clunkers," he was just as flummoxed as the rest of planet Earth that he found himself rubbing resumes with other Peace Prize humanitarians like Henry Kissinger and Yasser Arafat.

Is it just me or did the Oslo gang of five just clown itself and award the Peace Prize like a bunch of high school students, with popularity being more important than substance?

I am confident, however, that White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs will be streetwalking outside of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. wearing fishnet pantyhose and stiletto heels to promiscuously pander this inane booby prize. It's going to be a tough sell, though, no matter how cute he looks in his Daisy Dukes.

And how dare the Nobel Prize patrol embarrass our president when he's doing such a remarkably splendid job all on his own? Sadly, the "Saturday Night Live" skit was vapidly tepid. I was hoping Tina Fey would chirp a Sarah Palin-inspired "you betcha" and bestow a successive slew of accolades upon the president like a Cy Young Award for his pitching arm, a NASCAR trophy cup for his auto bailouts, a Pulitzer Prize for signing his name to the KevorkianCare bill and, lastly, an Emmy for appearing late night with lecherous filth-monkey David Letterman. Unfortunately, Toastmaster's International doesn't have an awards category for speaking Obamatelepromptish.

Give me more cowbell!

Will Wolf "The Jeopardy Bomber" Blitzer fact-check "SNL" for accuracy as "'SNL' is an important factor in how people get information about American politics?" Sorry, folks, but most of us conservatives get our information about American politics by reading things like the Constitution, Guns and Ammo, the Federalist Papers and Popular Mechanics. It's probably why there is such a disjuncture of opinion between red-blooded Americans and the blue-blooded citizens of Prius-world.

Folks, as the most conservative creation to lumber out of Dr. Cheney-stein's laboratory, I will now go against my software programming and say that Bill Clinton is more deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize than Obama. See? I just said something nice about Bill Clinton. I'm over it now. I just feel so dirty though.

Bubba did stop the wholesale slaughter of Muslims in the Bosnian civil war. OK, he did crater around protecting Americans at Mogadishu, the World Trade Center, Riyadh, our embassies and the USS Cole, but at least he kept the Muslims safe. If you're going to make a real-world politick omelet, you've got to break a few egos sometimes.

FOLKS, AS THE MOST CONSERVATIVE CREATION TO LUMBER OUT OF DR. CHENEY-STEIN'S LABORATORY, I WILL NOW GO AGAINST MY SOFTWARE PROGRAMMING AND SAY THAT BILL CLINTON IS MORE DESERVING OF A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE THAN OBAMA.

By comparison, Obama's leadership continually demonstrates that the word "waffle" is both a noun and a verb, so can I understand Obama's discomfiture over the award. It's rumored, however, that Rahm Emmanuel has unleashed an ACORN hit squad to find the nut job who nominated Obama in the first place.

Another more worthy contender? Joe Biden, that's who! Nobody on Team Obama has more Happy Hour-style foreign relations expertise than Joe Biden. Just ask any Hindustani who owns a liquor store or a donut shop. And Joe gets his kicks by having well-deserving folks stand up and take a bow for their own accomplishments. Provided, of course, that you can get up out of your wheelchair first.

Actually, the guy that most liberals would love to see win a Nobel Peace Prize would be the DNC's Chairman Emeritus Che Guevara. His face is on just as many T-shirts as the ever-popular Obama. And popularity seems to be the only criteria it takes these days to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

STEVE BREEN has a lot of "nice wallpaper awards" too and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thank Bush for Obama's Nobel Prize

THIS PAST WEEKEND I DREAMT THAT during President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech former DNC Chairman (and Bill Clinton's best friend) Terry McAuliffe stood up and said, "Barack, I'm happy for you and I'ma [sic] let you finish, but the Clinton Global Initiative had one of the most peaceful years of all time!"

Of course, this could never happen — not that McAuliffe isn't every bit the jackass that Kanye West is — because Oslo City Hall in Norway has much better security than Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Almost universally, the domestic response to President Obama winning the award has been to point out that he hasn't "accomplished enough" to deserve to be in company of people like Mother Teresa and Bishop Desmond Tutu. But that idea not only insults the Nobel committee, it also shows our collective ignorance. The nominations are submitted in February for work done during the preceding year — when Barack was a candidate and still in the U.S. Senate. And say what you will about presidential accomplishments, between February '08 and February '09, no person in the world did more or better work for "fraternity between nations" than Sen. Barack Obama.

Remember that we, as a nation, had taken a very aggressive posture around the world since 2001. Then along came an unlikely anti-war presidential candidate in 2008. While the presumptive nominees of both parties (Sens. Hillary Clinton and John McCain) were still yelling, "Cowboy up," this other candidate was saying, "Tone it down." He was dismissed for saying he would pull out of Iraq, he was mocked for saying he would talk with our enemies, and everyone told him he had to get tougher — until he became the new presumptive nominee and likely next president. That's when he began earning the Nobel Peace Prize.

It started in St. Paul, Minn. in June when he said, "Change is realizing that meeting today's threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy — tough, direct diplomacy where the president of the United States isn't afraid to let any petty dictator know where America stands and what we stand for. We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world."

It continued in front of a quarter-million people in Berlin in July.

"As we speak, cars in Boston and factories in Beijing are melting the ice caps in the Arctic, shrinking coastlines in the Atlantic, and bringing drought to farms from Kansas to Kenya. Poorly secured nuclear material in the former Soviet Union, or secrets from a scientist in Pakistan, could help build a bomb that detonates in Paris. The poppies in Afghanistan become the heroin in Berlin … ."

Then came his inaugural address in January.

"To all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more. Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with the sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint."

Along the way, he met with former and current British Prime Ministers Blair and Brown, German Chancellor Merkel, French President Sarkozy, former Israeli Prime Minister Olmert, Palestinian President Abbas, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Prime Minister Maliki of Iraq, and Afghan President Karzai — and gave all of these world leaders an indication of what they could expect from an Obama administration. After eight years of having a cowboy thumb stuck in their eye, I'm sure it was a relief.

The thing to keep in mind is just how little the rest of the world thought of us before last November. Barack Obama was clearly best qualified to be president, but he wasn't supposed to win. Around the world, nobody thought we would get it right on election day. After all, we re-elected George W. Bush despite clear evidence that his presidency was a disaster. The Nobel committee certainly knew who the right guy for the job was, and in case we the people of the United States had made the mistake of electing President John McCain, these five forward-thinking Norwegians were prepared to offer Barack the ultimate consolation prize.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who thinks Barack's Nobel acceptance speech will be talked about for a long, long time. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

The Q Line

Scared of protection

Despite assurances from health professionals that the FDA approved H1N1 flu vaccine is safe, just like the regular flu vaccine, some in the community are worried about getting vaccinated.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Where do you stand? Will you get the vaccine or play the odds?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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Community Presentation

Santa Monica College

Santa Monica College Facilities Master Plan 2009 Update

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

COMMUNITY & SCOPING MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 • 7 pm

SMC Main Campus, Business Room 111

1900 Pico Boulevard / Santa Monica, CA 90405

This meeting is also a scoping meeting for purposes of participating in the Notice of Preparation of a Program and Project-Level Environmental Impact Report consultation and CEQA review process. Parking is free; however a visitor permit is required, available at the parking kiosk next to the Business Building at 17th and Pico.

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

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks post modest losses

SARA LEPRO & TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Investors grew cautious Tuesday after quarterly sales at Johnson & Johnson fell short of expectations and an influential analyst stirred worries that bank shares are overheated.

Most stocks posted modest losses, a day after major indexes finished at their best levels in a year. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 15 points, though the Nasdaq composite index edged higher.

Stocks could get a bounce Wednesday from Intel Corp., which posted earnings and sales after the closing bell that topped expectations. The leading chipmaker also said business is improving. The stock rose 4 percent in after-hours trading.

The market could also get a lift from comments by CSX Corp. CEO Michael J. Ward, who said the worst of the recession "is likely behind us" as the major rail operator reported quarterly results after the bell. Still looming ahead is the first earnings report from a major bank early Wednesday, JPMorgan Chase & Corp.

J&J was the first in a series of big companies to report quarterly results this week, and a 5 percent drop in sales at the maker of health care products fanned concerns that companies have had to rely on cost-cutting to boost profits, as they did in the first half of the year. Investors are worried that earnings will suffer if sales don't improve.

The market's unease intensified after banking analyst Meredith Whitney lowered her rating on Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to "neutral" from "buy." Goldman's stock had risen 34 percent since Whitney upgraded the stock to "buy" in mid-July. The bank reports results on Thursday.

Health care stocks stumbled after J&J's report and as the Senate Finance committee approved a version of the health care overhaul bill.

There were some pockets of green on trading screens. An agreement by Cisco Systems Inc., which makes computer networking gear, to buy Starent Networks Corp. for $2.9 billion lifted shares of technology companies.

The modest scale of the day's slide suggested that traders are afraid of walking away from a market that has spent little time in reverse since bouncing off 12-year lows seven months ago.

Earnings reports are likely to continue to shape the market's sentiment for the rest of this week.

"The market only makes sense at these levels if earnings can grow at a decent pace," said Jerry Webman, chief economist at OppenheimerFunds Inc. "What we're hearing now is OK, but you don't get long-term earnings growth out of cost cutting."

The Dow fell 14.74, or 0.2 percent, to 9,871.06. On Monday, it came within 69 points of the psychological barrier of 10,000, a level not seen in a year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.00, or 0.3 percent, to 1,073.19, its first loss after six days of gains. The Nasdaq rose 0.75, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,139.89.

Linda Duessel, equity market strategist at Federated Investors, said stocks could drift after the strong rally. "I don't know if we have to pull back so much as take a break," she said.

Investors have sent stocks higher in recent days on hopes that third-quarter earnings reports will signal that the economy is improving.

Goldman Sachs, Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. also report this week. Goldman fell $2.92, or 1.5 percent, to $187.23 after the downgrade.

Howard Ward, portfolio manager for GAMCO Growth Fund in Rye, N.Y., said investors are likely to lock in some profits following a rally that propelled the S&P 500 index up 58.6 percent since March and that future gains will be more modest.

"The market is going to be grinding its way higher from here," he said. "The fire sale is over."

Among stocks, Johnson & Johnson fell $1.52, or 2.4 percent, to $61.01.

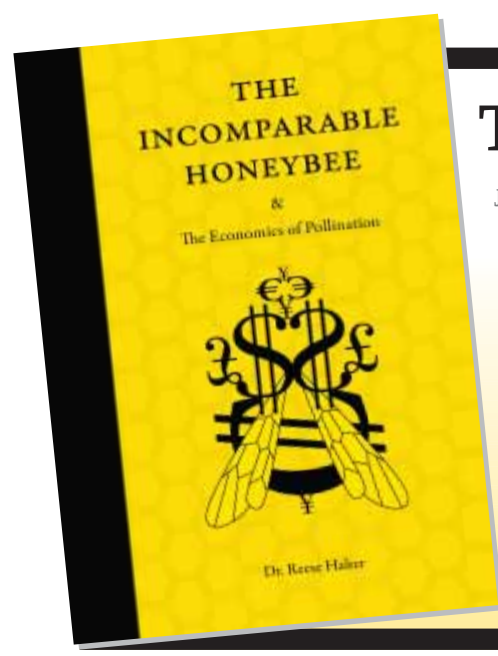
The ICE Futures U.S. dollar index, which measures the dollar against other major currencies, dropped to a 14-month low. Gold subsequently hit a record high $1,069.70 an ounce, while oil rose 88 cents to settle at $74.15 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Bond prices rose, pushing yields down, after steep losses from last week. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.35 percent from 3.38 percent late Friday. Bond markets were closed Monday.

Three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 4.4 billion shares compared with 3.8 billion Monday, when volume was much thinner because of the Columbus Day holiday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 2.11, or 0.3 percent, to 611.70.

Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.1 percent, while Germany's DAX index and France's CAC-40 each fell 1.2 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.6 percent.



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Santa Monica Daily Press

REAL ESTATE

Home prices steady in September

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The median home price in Southern California held steady at $275,000 last month compared with August, as low mortgage rates and other incentives enlivened a normally sleepy season for sales, a tracking firm said Tuesday.

San Diego-based MDA DataQuick said the median price in the six-county region of Southern California was 11 percent lower than the September 2008 median price of $308,000. That's the lowest year-over-year decline since November 2007.

Sales also ticked up 0.2 percent from 21,502 in August to 21,539 September, a month-to-month period that has seen declines averaging 9.5 percent since the firm began collecting data in 1988.

Sales were stimulated by late-closing summer transactions, low mortgage rates and buyers hoping to take advantage of a soon-to-expire tax credit, DataQuick said.

"These were more than just normal, seasonal forces at work in these September sales numbers," DataQuick President John Walsh said.

September's sales rose 5 percent from 20,497 a year earlier, the 15th month in a row with a year-over-year sales gain but the smallest such gain during that time.

Broken down by county, last month's data also showed some of the region's first year-over-year gains in resale house prices since the market's collapse.

Orange County's 4.2 percent year-over-year increase in its resale house median was the first for any month since August 2007; San Diego County's median price rose 1.5 percent from a year ago, the first annual gain since August 2007; and Ventura County's September resale house median rose 2.2 percent, the first year-over-year increase since October 2006.

DataQuick said the region's median price held steady amid an increase in sales activity in higher-priced communities and a decline in sales among foreclosed homes. Foreclosures comprised 40.4 percent of resales last month, down from a high of 56.7 percent in February.

Stuart Gabriel, who directs the Richard S. Ziman Center for Real Estate at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the stable median price and consistent sales increases showed that the market was finding its footing.

But he said the housing recovery remained fragile and could lose momentum if potential buyers' incomes remain stagnant or mortgage interest rates increase.

"No one is looking at those numbers and saying, 'Ah ha, the rocket ship is about to take off again,'" Gabriel said. "We're kind of bumping along the bottom and I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if that continues."

BANKING

Bank of America giving up deal documents

BY IEVA M. AUGSTUMS & STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Bank of America Corp., giving up a months-long fight with regulators, plans to turn over documents revealing legal advice it received on its purchase of Merrill Lynch.

In a turnabout, the bank will waive attorney-client privilege that kept it from telling regulators about recommendations it received from outside attorneys over whether to disclose details to shareholders about Merrill's mounting troubles.

On Tuesday, Bank of America spokesman Larry DiRita said, "Given the pressure in multiple inquiries to provide additional insight, we've decided to waive it in this matter to get the issue behind us."

"We've got nothing to hide and are certain we did everything proper in the context of the Merrill acquisition," he added.

Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America has agreed to waive its attorney-client privilege for investigations by the New York attorney general's office, the Securities and Exchange Commission and a congressional committee, a person familiar with the bank's agreement said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the information wasn't publicly disclosed.

The bank's change of heart, which came almost two weeks after the company announced that CEO Ken Lewis planned to retire by Dec. 31, appeared to be the company's attempt to end the controversy that followed the Merrill deal.

"The last thing you want is customers to think they are less than honest," said Michael W. Robinson, senior vice president of Levick Strategic Communications, a Washington, D.C.-based company that provides crisis management help for corporations. "What is in those documents is important, but not releasing them was far more damaging to the bank."

"They couldn't do it until Lewis said he was going to step down, and they wanted to do it ahead of earnings, and clearly the board wanted to get involved," Robinson said, referring to Bank of America's third-quarter earnings report, to be issued Friday. In September, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo subpoenaed five members of Bank of America's board as part of its investigation into the Merrill acquisition.

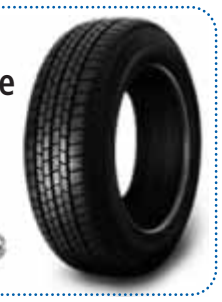
"If you are a board member, you really never want to have a subpoena," Robinson said. "They want to move on."

It is believed that the legal battles that followed the Merrill deal contributed to Lewis' decision to leave.

Cuomo's office is trying to determine whether Bank of America misled shareholders about $3.6 billion in bonuses paid to Merrill employees and the investment bank's mortgage lending losses, as well as whether the company failed to tell shareholders that it considered backing out of the deal before it closed on Jan. 1.

The attorney general's office and a federal judge overseeing the SEC case have questioned whether the bank knowingly hid details about the acquisition from shareholders ahead of a vote to approve the deal.

But in a letter to Cuomo obtained by The Associated Press, Bank of America said that following a "very constructive" meeting Oct. 6 between the bank and the attorney general's office, it "reconsidered its position" with regard to waiving privilege, "in the hope of furthering a resolution." In its letter to the attorney general's office, Bank of America said it will waive privilege with respect to communications about what bonus-related disclosures would be made in, or omitted from, the joint proxy statement issued by Bank of America and Merrill on Nov. 3, 2008, in connection with their merger.

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

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EPA releases Bush-era global warming finding

DINA CAPPIELLO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON A controversial e-mail message buried by the Bush administration because of its conclusions on global warming surfaced Tuesday, nearly two years after it was first sent to the White House and never opened.

The e-mail and the 28-page document attached to it, released Tuesday by the Environmental Protection Agency, show that back in December of 2007 the agency concluded that six gases linked to global warming pose dangers to public welfare, and wanted to take steps to regulate their release from automobiles and the burning of gasoline.

The document specifically cites global warming's effects on air quality, agriculture, forestry, water resources and coastal areas as endangering public welfare.

That finding was rejected by the Bush White House, which strongly opposed using the Clean Air Act to address climate change and stalled on producing a so-called "endangerment finding" that had been ordered by the Supreme Court in 2007.

As a result, the Dec. 5 e-mail sent by the agency to Susan Dudley, who headed the regulatory division at the Office of Management and Budget was never opened, according to Jason Burnett, the former EPA official that wrote it.

The Bush administration, and then EPA administrator Stephen Johnson, also refused to release the document, which is labeled "deliberative, do not distribute" to Democratic lawmakers. The White House instead allowed three senators to review it last summer, when excerpts were released.

The Obama administration in April made a similar determination, but also concluded that greenhouse gases endanger public health. The EPA is currently drafting the first greenhouse gas standards for automobiles, and recently signaled it would attempt to reduce climate-altering pollution from refineries, factories and other large industrial sources.

In response, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Republican lawmakers have criticized the EPA's reasoning and called for a more thorough vetting of the science. An internal review by a dozen federal agencies released in May also raised questions about the EPA's conclusion, saying the agency could have been more balanced and raising questions about the difficulty in linking global warming to health effects.

The agency released the e-mail and documents after receiving requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Adora Andy, a spokeswoman for EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, said Tuesday that the draft shows the science in 2007 was as clear as it is today.

"The conclusions reached then by the EPA scientists should have been made public and should have been considered," she said.

Ed chief: Grants for students

LIBBY QUAID
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON With states jockeying for extra school dollars from the economic stimulus, Education Secretary Arne Duncan reminded them Tuesday the point is to help kids do better.

Cash-strapped states are competing for $5 billion in grants from the economic stimulus for changes the Obama administration wants, such as charter schools and teacher pay based on student performance.

"It's really not about the money — it's about pushing a strong reform agenda that's going to improve student achievement," Duncan said in an interview with The Associated Press.

States can't even apply for the money yet. Still, nine states have changed their laws or made budget decisions to improve their standing. The latest is California, where a bill was signed Sunday allowing student test scores to be used to evaluate teachers.

Duncan said the moves are encouraging. Still, he said states will have to do more than make promises.

"We're going to invest in those states that aren't just talking the talk but that are walking the walk," he said. "If folks are doing this to chase money, it's for the wrong reasons."

Most of the action has been on charter schools, which are publicly funded but operate independently of local school boards.

Charter school restrictions have now been eased in Louisiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Delaware and Indiana, and budget cuts for charter schools were defeated in Ohio, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The administration has also pressured states that prohibit student test scores from being used to evaluate teachers. Those states are Wisconsin, Nevada and, until Sunday, California. Wisconsin lawmakers are considering a change, while Nevada officials seem unlikely to act.

New York has a similar prohibition on using test scores in teacher tenure decisions, but it expires next year.

Many of President Barack Obama's education priorities are controversial, especially among teachers' unions, which make up an influential segment of his Democratic base.

The $5 billion grant fund, part of the stimulus law enacted this year, is seen as Obama's big opportunity to overhaul schools over the next couple of years. Obama wanted to use the stimulus both to help schools ride out the recession and to try to transform the federal government's role in education.

The fund is a fraction of the $100 billion for schools provided by the stimulus. But the $5 billion dwarfs all the discretionary money Duncan's predecessors received combined for their own priorities.

Moreover, the fund has taken on even more importance because in many states, the rest of the stimulus money is being spent to fill budget holes and not on innovations Obama wants.

Duncan pointed out that the administration has even more money to award, another $5 billion, from other grant programs that can be used for similar priorities.

"We want states to start thinking comprehensively about all these potential opportunities to bring scarce dollars where they're pushing a strong reform agenda," he said.

Senate health bill moves ahead

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Fully bipartisan it isn't. But at long last, White House-backed health care legislation has a Republican supporter in Congress.

Historic legislation to expand U.S. health care and control costs won its first Republican supporter Tuesday and cleared a key Senate hurdle, a double-barreled triumph that propelled President Barack Obama's signature issue toward votes this fall in both houses of Congress.

"When history calls, history calls," said Maine Republican Olympia Snowe, whose declaration of support ended weeks of suspense and provided the only drama of a 14-9 vote in the Senate Finance Committee. With her decision, the 62-year-old lawmaker bucked her own leadership on the most high-profile issue of the year in Congress, and gave the drive to remake health care at least a hint of the bipartisanship that Obama seeks.

At the White House, Obama called the events "a critical milestone" toward remaking the nation's health care system. He praised Snowe as well as Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the committee, and declared, "We are going to get this done."

There were fresh challenges. Within minutes of the vote, labor unions and large business organizations both demanded changes in the bill, which was an attempt at a middle-of-the-road measure fashioned by the committee under Baucus' leadership.

Still, nearly nine months after the president pledged in his Inaugural Address to tackle health care, legislation to expand coverage to millions who lack it has now advanced further than President Bill Clinton's ill-fated effort more than a decade ago — or any other attempt in more than a generation.

The next move in the Senate is up to Majority Leader Harry Reid, whose office said the full Senate would begin debate on the issue the week of Oct. 26.

Nominally, Reid must first blend the bill that cleared during the day with a version that passed earlier in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. But in reality, the majority leader — with the participation of the White House — has a virtual free hand in fashioning a measure to wind up gaining the 60 votes needed to overcome a threatened Republican filibuster.

"The bottom line here is we need a final bill, a merged bill, that gets 60 votes," Baucus said. "Our goal is to pass health care reform not just talk about it."

Reid's most politically sensitive decision revolves around proposals for the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry. The Senate bill approved in committee during the day omits the provision, while the one passed earlier includes it and many House Democrats support it as well.

In general, bills moving toward floor votes in both houses would require most Americans to purchase insurance, provide federal subsidies to help those of lower incomes afford coverage and give small businesses help in defraying the cost of coverage for their workers.

The measures would bar insurance companies from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions, and for the first time limit their ability to charge higher premiums on the basis of age or family size. Expanded coverage would be paid for by cutting hundreds of billions of dollars from future Medicare payments to health care providers. Each house also envisions higher taxes — an income tax surcharge on million-dollar wage-earners in the case of the House, and a new excise levy on insurance companies selling high-cost policies in the case of the Senate Finance Committee bill.

Apart from Snowe, Republicans on the committee cited higher taxes, a greater federal role in the insurance industry and other concerns as they lined up to oppose the bill.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said the legislation would place the nation on a "slippery slope to more and more government control of health care."

Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, elicited testimony earlier from the head of the Congressional Budget Committee that a substantial portion of the bill's tax increases would fall on groups Obama has vowed would be protected: individuals making $200,000 or less and couples below $250,000.

Snowe, too, said there were problems with the bill, but on balance, the risks of doing nothing were too great.

"We should also contemplate the decades of inaction that have brought us to this crossroads," she said. "The status quo approach has produced one glaring common denominator, that is that we have a problem that is growing worse, not better."

The vote made the Finance Committee the last of five in Congress to complete its work on health care. It also marked a personal triumph for Baucus, who weathered criticism from fellow Democrats after his attempt at bipartisanship cratered earlier this fall after months of exhaustive effort. In the end, disgruntled liberals on the panel, including Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Ron Wyden of Oregon, went along in hopes the bill eventually would be reshaped more to their liking.

Across the Capitol, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her lieutenants have been at work for weeks trying to blend legislation approved by three House committees. The eventual result is certain to include a government option, but the details of the plan have split the rank-and-file and leaders have spent days struggling with the issue.

One group favors allowing the government to negotiate with doctors, hospitals and other health care providers for fees to be paid to treat patients who have federal insurance policies, an approach that involves higher costs for the government.

The other, lower-cost approach envisions a fixed payment schedule linked to Medicare. Officials say that alternative was quietly sweetened in recent days for the benefit of hospitals, medical device makers and others to put them on an even plane with doctors.

Apart from the details of the emerging bills, there were signs that the political struggle was intensifying.

Several officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said business groups were discussing plans to step up their opposition to legislation. The health insurance industry made clear its own unhappiness on Monday when it released a study by the prominent auditing firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, saying the Finance Committee bill would raise premiums significantly for millions who already have insurance.

The report drew intense criticism from the White House, Democrats in Congress and other advocates of the legislation. By Monday night, the auditing firm appeared to backpedal, issuing a statement acknowledging its report was based only on an analysis of four provisions in the proposed legislation.

Ironically, the insurance industry launched its attack against the version of the legislation that omits the government option — the one provision above all others that insurers oppose.

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UPCOMING COMPOST WORKSHOP

Solid Waste Management will be hosting a compost workshop Saturday, October 17, 2009.

The County of Los Angeles' Smart Gardening Program will conduct the workshop at Virginia Avenue Park, located at 2200 Virginia Avenue from 9:30 a.m. till 11:30 am

Come to the compost workshop and learn how to invigorate your yard, promote food and green waste recycling, and help Solid Waste Management's efforts toward sustainable practices.

Compost containers and worm bins will be available for purchase at the event.

Containers may be purchased daily at Solid Waste Management, located at 2500 Michigan Avenue Solid Waste Management Mon-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Wes Thompson at (310) 458-8546, or www.wes.thompson@smgov.net.



Realtor gives back through sales

FROM **PARDEE** PAGE 3

immune disease that affects the central nervous system.

But between the development of Pardee Properties and the attention needed at home by her two daughters, 6-year-old Taylor and 2-year-old Bailey, she has not had as much time to volunteer. Giving Back was created as a way to do good without sacrificing time with work and family.

"What Tami is doing is unique," said Alison Dockray, the associate development director for Venice Family Clinic. "She made it her personal mission to equate sales with keeping the clinic in mind."

Ansar Stan Muhammad, executive director of Venice 2000, said he wishes more businesses would give time or money to local nonprofits.

"It's always a blessing and an honor when a local business not only recognizes the cause, but are willing to donate and give to that cause," Muhammad said.

Pardee's goal is to raise $70,000 by next June, and eventually work up to donating $200,000 a year.

The nonprofits that receive donations through Giving Back are ultimately chosen by the seller of the property, although Pardee will offer suggestions if requested. When Linda and John Vaughan sold their home in Marina del Rey, Pardee suggested they donate to local schools in Venice, since they moved to the neighborhood, are interested in education and are looking to start a family.

Pardee said she would consider giving to larger, national organizations, but her focus with Giving Back is to support the community her clientele are living in. And, she admits, it also helps support her business, since a strong community is one people want to move to.

IT'S NICE WHEN PEOPLE GIVE, BUT VERY NICE WHEN THEY GIVE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND WE DEFINITELY NEED IT."

Donna Miller
Associate development director of OPCC

OPCC's Miller said she appreciated a community member stepping up to help the center.

"It's nice when people give, but very nice when they give in the local community, and we definitely need it," she said.

So far, Giving Back has given donations to: OPCC, Venice 2000, Venice Family Clinic, Saint Mark School in Venice, Friends of Coeur d'Alene Elementary School, First Years Preschool's Scholarship Trust and Friends of the Venice Library.

But with a goal of donating about $62,000 more in the next nine months, it is likely more organizations will be graced by a visit from Pardee.

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State ponders new strict energy standards for TVs

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California utilities and environmental groups Tuesday urged state energy regulators to ban the most power-hungry televisions from stores as a way to lower electricity demand.

A rule before the California Energy Commission would impose the nation's first energy-efficiency requirements for flat-screen TVs, a mandatory standard that is expected to be copied by other states.

"The goal here is a simple one," Noah Horowitz, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, told commissioners at a hearing Tuesday. "We want to ensure that every TV sold in California is an efficient one."

A vote on the standard could come as early as next month.

Some manufacturers argue a mandatory power standard would hamper innovation, limit consumer choice and hurt California electronics retailers.

Energy commissioners say the rule could play a key role in reducing electricity use as consumers buy larger TVs and put more of them in their homes. It could also help California meet its 2006 global warming law, which calls for the state to cut its greenhouse gases by 25 percent by 2020.

Watching TV accounts for about 10 percent of a home's electricity use and about 2 percent of California's total electricity usage. If left unchecked, the amount of electricity used by TVs is projected to rise by 8 percent a year.

"There is no dispute TVs do consume a large amount of electricity in California," commissioner Julia Levin said.

Under the rule, all TVs sold in California starting in 2013 would have to meet recently strengthened guidelines under the federal Energy Star program. Only one-quarter of the TVs on the market currently meet the standard.

An energy-efficient TV would save a household roughly $30 per year per TV set in electricity costs. If all 35 million TVs watched in the state were replaced with more efficient sets, Californians would save $8.1 billion over 10 years, according to the Energy Commission report.

Doug Johnson, senior director of technology policy at the Consumer Electronics Association, said the commission's cost savings were overly optimistic and relied on data that fails to show the advancements made in TVs in recent years.

He also argued that the standards would leave Californians with TVs that have poorer picture quality and fewer features than those sold elsewhere in the United States.

City of Los Angeles provides grant for homeless housing in Venice

FROM **HOUSING** PAGE 1

through a $750,000 loan by the city of Los Angeles that will be forgivable because of the services that the organization will provide to the homeless, Clare said. Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose district includes Venice, nominated the Venice Community Housing Corp. for the loan through the Channel Gateway Fund, which was created by former City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter.

The remaining funds for acquisition came from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which is a national nonprofit dedicated to helping community groups provide affordable housing and supportive services for homeless people.

Clare said that it will take roughly a year and a half to put together a permanent financing plan. L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has also committed a $250,000 grant to assist.

Rosendahl toured the building several months ago and called it an ideal opportunity for the homeless to "get out of the dark and out of the alley."

Venice has the highest homeless population in Rosendahl's district.

"Many of the homeless have mental health and alcohol and drug dependency and many of the folks are eating out of our garbage cans and sleeping in our alleys and need our help," he said.

He noted that the state of New York has spent $3 billion over the past 10 years to create permanent housing with supportive services. While the Horizon Avenue project is small, those who will get to live there will have a chance to make it out of homelessness, he said.

"We're delighted we're able to kick-start this project," Rosendahl said.

There are currently nine tenants who still live in the building and will be entitled to relocation assistance when they're asked to leave sometime next year. Clare said that he will ask the state permission to lease the remaining units to qualifying formerly homeless individuals and will begin moving them in within a few weeks. If the state denies permission, the organization will continue to market the building to market-rate tenants for short-term leasing.

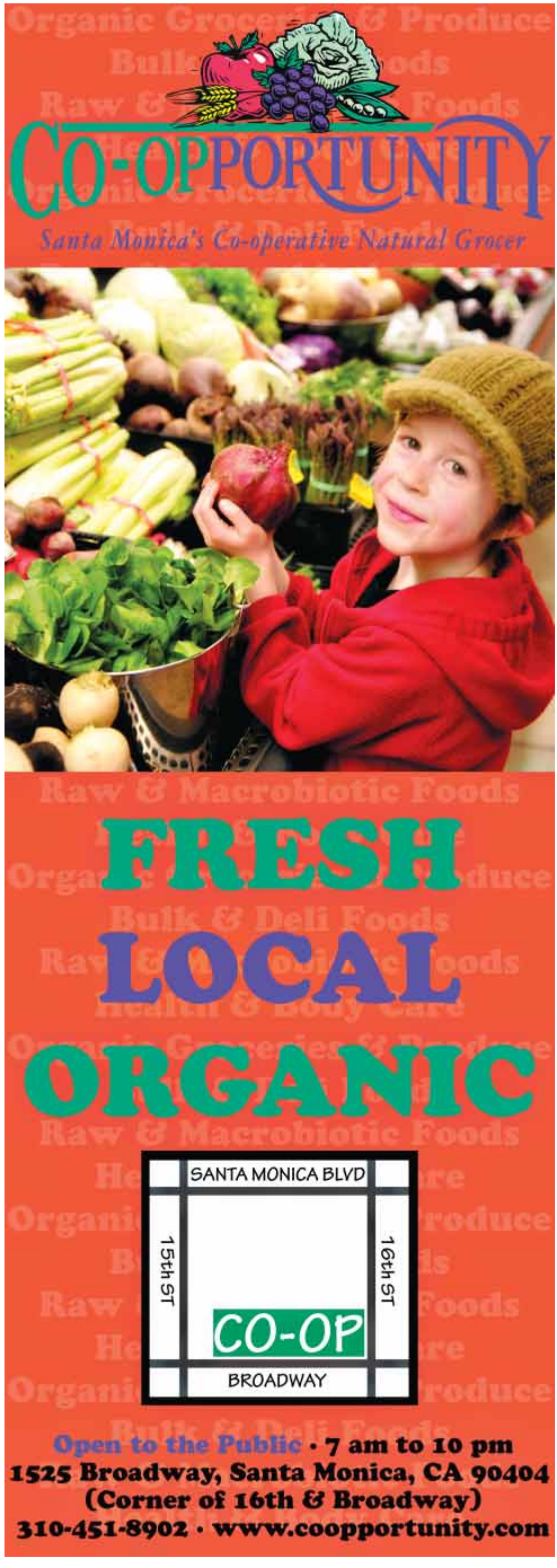
> **"HAVING A SUPPORTIVE PERSON THEY CONNECT WITH IS ESSENTIAL TO STABILIZING THEMSELVES AND PLANNING A PATH FORWARD."**
>
> **Va Lecia Adams**
> executive director, St. Joseph Center

Clare said the building is in good shape and does not need major repair. Several of the units will undergo some refurbishment. All units are already furnished.

He anticipates that most of the people who will eventually rent the units will be able to become permanent tenants, recalling one client from another building who went on to become a homeowner.

"We hope that even our permanent housing is transitional in the sense that people will be able to move in, stay there, get healthy, receive the resources they need to be successful and if able, move on to subsidized housing," Clare said.

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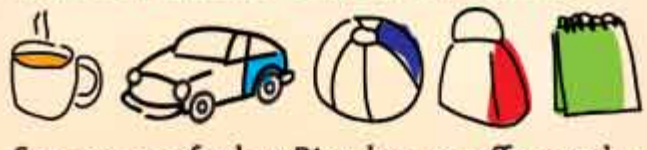


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DRIP DROP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Terrence Dwyer walks in the rain on his way to work along Lincoln Boulevard on Tuesday afternoon. Light showers are expected today throughout the morning, with skies clearing in the evening.

Bills tackle education, storm water and mortgage fraud

FROM **BILLS** PAGE 3

• AB399 Public employee benefit: Contributions from unallocated California Public Employee Retirement System members over 70 can now be put into a non-interest unclaimed funds account to pay the taxes due on these contributions. This bill will prevent back taxes and penalty fees when members withdraw benefits. Furloughs will not have any affect on the retirement benefits of state employees and judges.

• AB 487 Sale of obsolete instructional materials: This allows county offices of education and school districts to sell obsolete instructional materials and use the funds raised toward supplemental and technology-related materials.

• AB 851 Education finance: This is meant to simplify the state's complex school finance system by decreasing costs and increasing transparency. Laws pertaining to education finance that are deemed obsolete will be removed. The numerous branches in which districts receive revenue will be decreased to only two fixed adjustments. However, the amount of funding for each district will not be affected.

• AB 947 Non-resident tuition in community colleges: Out-of-state community college students will now be required to pay the same fee that covers the cost of buildings and student services that in-state students are currently charged.

• AB 1182 Reporting requirements for public post-secondary education: This is expected to make reports from California's public colleges more manageable by revamping 49 of the 115 annual reports that California's public colleges are required to make.

• AB 1269 Medi-Cal eligibility: The Medi-Cal California Working Disabled program allows the disabled to purchase Medi-Cal if their earned income fell 250 percent below the federal poverty line, regardless of any disability income benefits. This expands eligibility to members who are temporarily unemployed. This will also exempt retirement income, so Individuals who work and are over 65 can still qualify provided that their earned income is below the 250 percent federal poverty level.

• SB 532 State highway routes: This makes it possible for the city of Santa Monica to make important infrastructure and urban design alterations that increase highway safety while attracting more pedestrians on Lincoln Boulevard. Dave Cogdill, R-Fresno, is the original author, but it was amended to include the section on Lincoln Boulevard, so Assemblywoman Brownley was added as an author.

SEN. PAVLEY

• SB 197 Domestic violence/conditional exams of witnesses: Domestic violence victims/witnesses will now be allowed to give their testimony ahead of time, outside of court. This would only apply to a victim/witness whose life is in danger or to dismissed cases that were re-filed because the witness was unavailable.

• SB 239 Mortgage fraud: This will make it a felony to commit fraud on a mortgage application.

• SB 448 Habitat enhancement act: This creates a program that encourages private landowners to manage their land in a way that protects endangered or threatened species without any additional restrictions or regulations.

• SB 757 Ban on lead In wheel weights: California will now ban selling and installing lead wheel weights. Used to balance vehicle wheels, lead wheel weights that fall off vehicles have been proven to be a major source of lead pollution in drinking water.

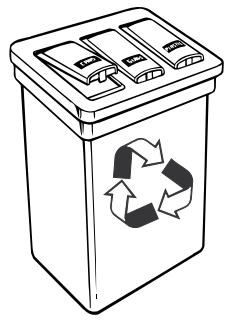
• SB 790 Storm water: In an attempt to find alternative sources of water in California, this bill promotes using stormwater to supply water for open space, landscaping and groundwater recharge.

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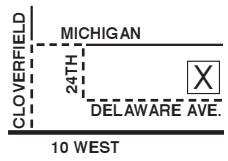
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Public Meeting Notice

The City of Santa Monica will be holding a Public Meeting to update the community on planned improvements for the Resource Recovery Center.

City staff and the consultant team, along with representatives from Southern California Disposal and Allan Company, will make a presentation about the public/private partnership and improvements to the transfer station and recycling facility. You'll hear about the one-stop recycling station for residents, self-haul green waste and recycling facility, improved household hazardous waste repository, canopy covered materials buy-back area, and consolidated transfer station.

Meeting Date & Time:
Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Meeting Location:
Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building
2200 Virginia Avenue
Santa Monica, California 90404

For further information on this project, please contact Michael Collins at (310) 434-2611 or michael.collins@smgov.net.

The Thelma Terry Building is wheelchair accessible. For special accommodations, including translation services, please contact Phil Tong at (310) 458-2205 or phil.tong@smgov.net three working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD (310) 917-6626.

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Russia uses ambiguity to boost its power

DOUGLAS BIRCH
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW As Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton began her first visit to Moscow as the top U.S. diplomat, the Kremlin sent a message to Washington: Russia must still be wooed and won.

It's how post-Soviet Russia has managed to thrive as a world power, despite a shrinking population, a bloated and inefficient military, and an antiquated industrial base.

With its few major assets — energy resources, a seat on the U.N. Security Council and an aging nuclear arsenal — it has parlayed a weak hand into a position of expanding global influence.

Clinton is on a two-day visit to encourage Russia to talk tough on sanctions against Iran if Tehran fails to cooperate on limiting its nuclear program. President Dmitry Medvedev has spoken sympathetically about how sanctions might eventually be needed, saying last month, "in some cases they are inevitable."

But Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov apparently dimmed U.S. hopes Tuesday. "Threats, sanctions and threats of pressure in the current situation, we are convinced, would be counterproductive," Lavrov said.

Later, three senior American officials said Medvedev had reaffirmed his earlier support for the U.S. position in a private meeting with Clinton at his home outside Moscow. They said they were baffled by Lavrov's dismissive comment.

By keeping its positions ambiguous — and its options open until the last possible moment — Russia has achieved so much with so little.

And that could mean either more U.S. concessions, or less of what Washington hoped for, or both.

Meanwhile, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin — by most reckoning Russia's most powerful political leader — was in China, where he said Moscow's cooperation with Beijing helps to "restrain" other powers, a not-so-veiled reference to the United States.

Again, he appeared to be playing the angles.

Russia desperately needs investment to find and develop new energy fields. Putin was in Beijing to sign a framework $3.5 billion energy trade pact. But the details of Tuesday's deal remain to be worked out, and China hasn't agreed to Russia's demand for premium prices for its gas and other resources.

Putin seemed to be suggesting to China's Communist rulers that a high-priced energy deal with Russia could pay political as well as economic benefits. And one of those benefits, it seems, would be a strengthened partnership opposing what Putin has called U.S. global hegemony.

Iran is another good example of how Russia has played a weak hand skillfully.

A nuclear-armed Iran could threaten Moscow. On the other hand, Russian support for sanctions might sour important trade deals, especially in armaments and nuclear technology. Worse, Iran might decide to lend clandestine aid to Muslim separatists in the Russian Caucasus.

So Moscow has walked a tightrope: joining Iran in scolding the West for its alleged imperial ambitions and blocking sanctions on the one hand, while warning Tehran it will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran on the other.

Russia has agreed to sell Tehran sophisticated missile defense technology, but has so far declined to deliver those weapons — without giving up the right at some point to do so.

By holding out the hope of sanctions to the U.S., Russia has won a lot of good will in Washington.

By keeping alive the possibility of missile sales and continuing opposition to sanctions, it insures it has friends in Tehran.

By delivering on neither, Russia has irked both would-be allies. But so far it has preserved its influence in a region where, otherwise, it might have little. Or none.

Meanwhile, Russia continues to make incremental progress, it seems, on its own foreign policy goals, including expanding its control of Europe's energy markets and limiting the influence of NATO on its borders.

Some U.S. officials suspect the mixed messages coming from Moscow are the product of a lack of coordination at the top. Others see them as mostly reflecting debate and disagreements within the Russian government, perhaps the result of rival factions that surround Putin and Medvedev.

Both may play some role. But Russia has been tacking like a sailboat, shifting from position to position to make the most of the prevailing winds, since Putin came to power in 1999.

Russia's maneuvering has become even more intense since Putin engineered Medvedev's election and became prime minister in 2008, in effect giving the country two leaders.

Today, Medvedev is often seen as the champion of Western hopes for reform and closer cooperation with leading democracies, while Putin typically plays the heavy.

As in the case of Iran and the U.S., the result is that Russia's negotiating partners are whipsawed between their hopes and fears, uncertain about where exactly Russia stands — and perhaps ready to make concessions in order to test the waters and appeal to Russia's better nature.

So are Medvedev and Putin rivals battling for the soul of Russia? Or are they silent partners, each playing his role in a grand strategy?

No one outside the Russian government knows for certain.

"This is a non-transparent system," said Masha Lipman of the Moscow Carnegie Center think tank. "We don't know how decisions are taken."

Whatever the reason behind Russia's seeming split personality, Moscow has in the last decade put itself in the center of some of the major foreign policy challenges facing the United States, including Iran, Afghanistan, North Korea and arms control. Russia has repeatedly sought concessions in exchange for these services.

And given Moscow's success, there seems to be little likelihood this pattern will change.

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MLB

Sabean, Bochy receive extensions from Giants

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Giants general manager Brian Sabean and manager Bruce Bochy have been planning for the 2010 season for a while now, even with their own contract situations unresolved.

Both knew their futures with the club would be handled in time. Now, they know they're staying in San Francisco.

Bochy and Sabean each received two-year contract extensions with a club option Tuesday after meeting with managing general partner Bill Neukom. Both men expected to return, but Neukom had said he would wait until the end of the season to make a decision after sitting down to debrief on the year.

While the Giants missed the playoffs for a sixth straight season, they were in the NL wild-card chase well into September and at 88-74 won 16 more games than in 2008.

"The job of the Giants in the 2009 season was to return to winning baseball," Neukom said on a conference call. "The Giants had a winning season and then some. We are not complacent about that. We have more work to do because we want to get the San Francisco Giants to be a franchise that's a contender year in and year out."

Sabean is the longest-tenured GM in baseball after completing his 13th season with San Francisco. Bochy's three-year contract worth roughly $6 million expired after the season ended.

Bochy and Sabean believe this rebuilding franchise is headed in the right direction to become a regular contender again, but knew it would take time with a young roster. Neukom clearly saw the strides he'd hoped for with Bochy and Sabean leading the way.

"We're at a good place in a good time to use this season as a springboard," Sabean said.

Bochy has been committed to "changing the culture" around the Giants and said when the season ended, "We're in a win mode now."

There were significant highlights this season, most notably Jonathan Sanchez's no-hitter against San Diego on July 10 and left-hander Randy Johnson becoming the 24th pitcher in major league history to win 300 games.

Sabean guided the wild-card Giants to the 2002 World Series and NL West crowns in 1997, 2000 and '03, their last year in the playoffs.

Sabean acknowledges he's made his share of mistakes along the way, too.

He has been criticized for signing players to big contracts such as pitcher Barry Zito's $126 million, seven-year deal through 2013 with a club option for 2014, and a $60 million, five-year contract for center fielder Aaron Rowand done in December 2007.

Sabean is gearing up for a busy winter. One of his top priorities will be to upgrade the offense by adding a big bat in the middle of the order, though he's said that will be a challenge in this free-agent market.

The Giants could be in for a complicated, expensive arbitration process with ace Tim Lincecum, the 2008 NL Cy Young Award winner who went 15-7 with a 2.48 ERA.


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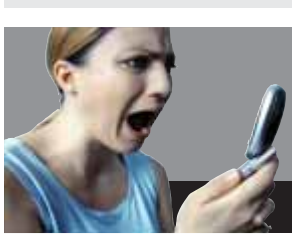

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You make the call. We'll print the answers.
Sound off every week on our Q-Line™. See page 5 for more info.
Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 65°

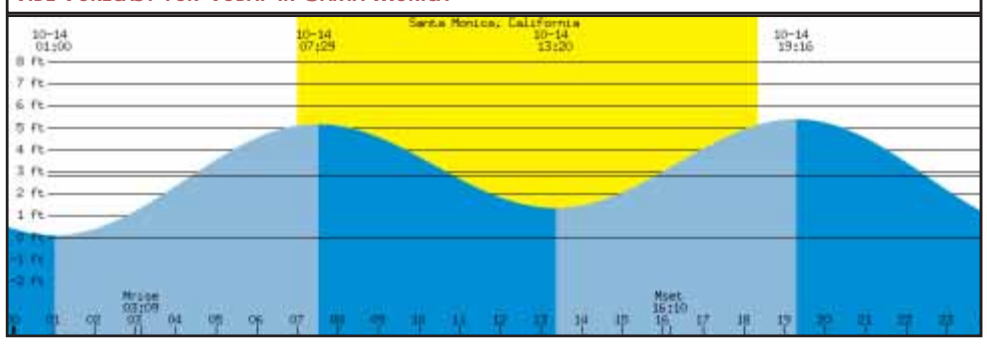
Swell Forecast

A messy mix of swell is expected to build as the storm passes through the region. Look for a mix of short period (9-11 seconds) swell from 260-280°.

Long Range Synopsis

The WNW swell is likely to back down to around chest to maybe head high for the early AM sessions, smaller as the day progresses.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **October 6, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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

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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

NCAA FOOTBALL

USC's Johnson could leave hospital Wednesday

Southern California tailback Stafon Johnson could leave the hospital on Wednesday, just over two weeks after his neck was crushed in a weightlifting accident.

Coach Pete Carroll says Johnson is on schedule to be taken home for further care and rehabilitation. Doctors have praised the senior's remarkable progress after the accident, which left his throat and larynx almost completely crushed by a weight bar.

Carroll says Johnson is feeling healthier, sleeping more soundly, and could start exercising soon as well.

Carroll also says there's a chance Johnson could qualify for a medical redshirt to earn a sixth year with the Trojans, though he also might be interested in heading to the NFL.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Clippers exercise player contract options

The Los Angeles Clippers are exercising their third-year contract option on guard Eric Gordon and the fourth-year option on forward Al Thornton.

The team made the moves Tuesday.

Gordon is signed through the 2010-11 season. He averaged 16.1 points in 78 games during his rookie season. Under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, the Clippers had the right to exercise the option.

AP

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Free Style (PG) 1hr 34min
1:05, 3:20, 7:50, 10:05

From Mexico With Love (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35

Capitalism: A Love Story (R) 2hr 7min
1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50

Surrogates (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45

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

Capitalism: A Love Story (R) 2hr 7min
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 1hr 21min
1:30, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15

Invention of Lying (PG-13) 1hr 40min
2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

Paranormal Activity (R) 1hr 39min
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40

Toy Story & Toy Story 2 in 3D Double Feature (G) 2hr 49min
1:00, 4:45, 8:30

Zombieland (R) 1hr 21min
12:30, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10

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

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

Good Hair (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

More Than A Game (PG) 1hr 42min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

The Boys Are Back (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

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

Couples Retreat (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:30 (am), 1:10, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20,

The Informant! (R) 1hr 48min
11:40 (am), 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

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

Fame (PG) 1hr 47min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

Whip It (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

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

Relax to music, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ All work and nothing else could be a bit dreary. Though you might not have immediate plans on the horizon, don't fret. Do your job. Get your work done. Complete your errands. Finish off your must-dos. For the majority of Rams, there is more ahead than just the daily grind. Trust. Tonight: Listen to a proposal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your creativity blooms; plug some of your ideas into your work. Listen to feedback, understanding you could see a big difference in what occurs. Smile and be open to possibilities that come up if you indulge a co-worker or friend. Tonight: Good feelings bloom no matter what you choose.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Anchor in, and be willing to prioritize and understand a partner's or key associate's needs. Relax, and a lot will come up from out of nowhere. A child or loved one lets you know how very special you are. Tonight: Treat a loved one to a special dessert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ If you want to open up conversations and get past a problem, the time is now. A brainstorming session adds to the possibilities, and also to a pervading sense of good will. Consider a card or a token of affection for a loved one. Tonight: Hang out with your pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You have an opportunity to deal with hard facts and facts alone. Leaving out the story will only help you come up with an even better solution. Indulge someone who makes a difference in your day-to-day life. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You are personality-plus, and others respond to your humor and creativity. Let your mind go without restrictions and without holding back. When you are resourceful like this, you are difficult to stop. Indulge a whim today. Tonight: Dance the night away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Let others talk, and you keep your own counsel. Strangely enough, you become even more appealing when you keep your own company. Focus on home and family issues during a break or later on. You cannot settle everything all at once. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Meetings are important. You feel more together than you have in a long time. Investigate another's suggestion and play devil's advocate. If you ask, you will have many more supporters than you think. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take a stand and be willing to assume responsibility. You'll discover that you have a lot of team players. Loosen up and relax. You'll see a situation far differently than in the past as a friend explains exactly where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might want to understand more of what goes into a situation to make it work. Your ability to zero in on the real issues comes from the ability to detach and see events differently. Someone looks up to you and puts you on a pedestal. Tonight: Relax to music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A partner could be out of whack, and there is little you can do to anchor him or her other than ask the right questions to help this person center. Understanding will develop if you detach and see how hard this person tries. Tonight: Go with another's choice.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A friend shares a lot and gives you a different perspective. It might be surprising if you pull back and see how much this person has transformed in the past few years. A key friend or associate paves your way. This person cares! Tonight: Go along with suggestions.

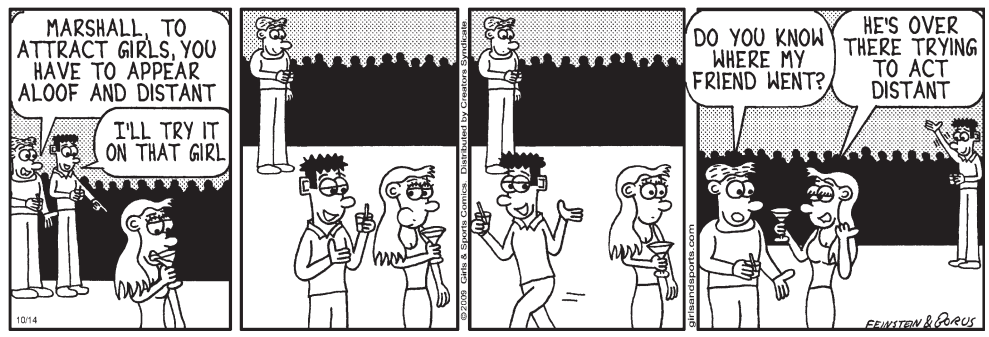
Happy birthday

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

This year, take your leave of situations; feel free to withdraw and reflect. You simply know that sometimes you are on the wrong path. Your dynamic energy and understanding open up many options, not only for you but for others. You play an important role in others' daily lives. If you are single, you could meet someone who is unavailable. Take your time and date. If you are attached, as a couple you'll benefit from frequent timeouts together. VIRGO makes a good doctor.

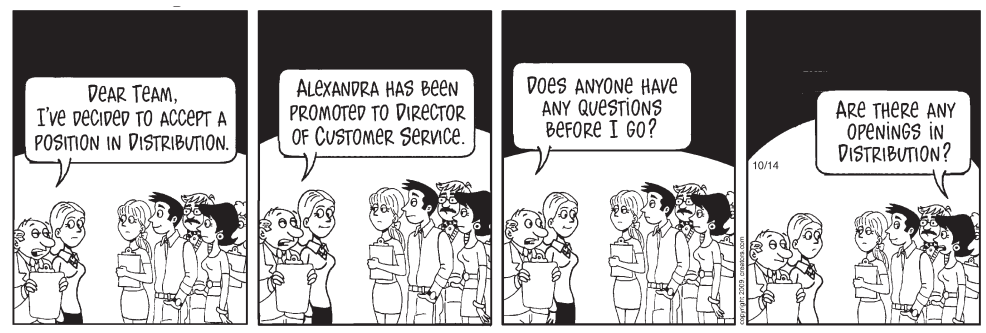
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



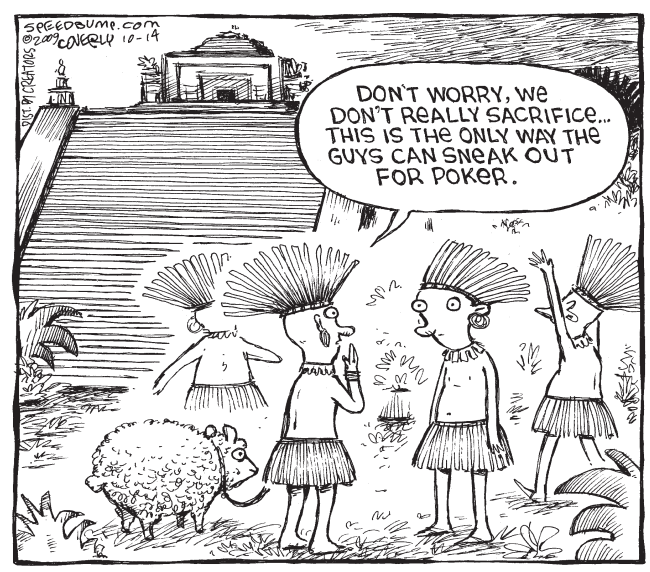
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

A CROSS

1 Activist Clara
7 Obsessed whaler
11 One-celled organism
12 Fodder holder
13 Gadgets
14 Remain
15 Elephant treat
17 In addition
20 Cork people
23 Island souvenir
24 Pretty fast, on the freeway
26 Allow
27 Candle count
28 Mountain pass
29 Stop sign, for one
31 Islands strings
32 Eye part
33 Went fast
34 Get cozy
37 Long story
39 Poland capital
43 Respon-sibility
44 Ask along
45 Sort
46 Called for

DOWN

1 Chips buy
2 Paris pal
3 Cartoonist Chast
4 Allegro, for one
5 Bassoon's cousin
6 Shuttle org.
7 Promise
8 Asking for money from
9 Copying
10 Young fellow
16 "Separate Tables" star
17 Permit
18 Hanger-on
19 Showing sudden interest
21 Buffy's weapon
22 Pro-moted
24 Wise ones
25 Swelled head
30 Relaxed
33 Act the waiter
35 Exact match
36 Bowling site
37 Drunkard
38 One or more
40 Rocker Vicious
41 Had dinner
42 Marry

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

10-14

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 14 21 24 51
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: $170M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 6 11 16 43
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 5 8 13 17 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 9 6 3
EVENING: 6 2 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:46.31

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

■ In September, a judge in Stuart, Fla., was about to sentence pastor Rodney McGill for real estate fraud, but McGill was undaunted, addressing a courtroom prayer for his enemies: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, for every witness called against me, I pray cancer in their lives, lupus, brain tumor, pancreatic cancer." The judge then sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

■ The cheap-drink Tuesday night special at the Attic bar in Newcastle, England, in early September was a money-back guarantee at the end of the night to anyone who could still legally drive (measured by the bar's breathalyzer), with the evening's most-alcohol-saturated customer drinking free the following week. The Newcastle City Council soon convinced the bar it was a bad idea.

■ The Department of Homeland Security (relying on a study later termed by the Government Accounting Office to have been rushed and flawed) decided in January that the best place for its new $700 million research facility on infectious diseases would be in Kansas, which happens to be in the heart of America's "tornado alley." The GAO report, leaked to The Washington Post in July, claimed the risk of accidental release of dangerous pathogens is far greater than the department assumed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1910 English aviator Claude Grahame-White lands his Farman biplane on Executive Avenue near the White House.

1912 While campaigning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, former president Theodore Roosevelt is shot by saloonkeeper John Schrank. With a fresh flesh wound and the bullet still in him, Roosevelt still delivers his scheduled speech.

1913 Senghenydd Colliery Disaster, the United Kingdom's worst coal mining accident, which claimed 439 lives.

1916 Sophomore tackle and guard Paul Robeson is excluded from the Rutgers football team when Washington and Lee University refused to play against a black person.

WORD UP!

triskaidekaphobia \tris-ky-dek-uh-FOH-bee-uh\ , noun:
1. Fear or a phobia concerning the number 13.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Miscellaneous

AIRLINE MECHANIC: Train for high paying Aviation Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. 866-453-6204.

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from home. Medical, Business, Paralegal, Accounting, Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial aid if qualified. Call 800-494-3586 www.CenturaOnline.com

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DISH TV. $19.99/mo., $600 Sign-up Bonus! FREE 4-Room Install. FREE HD-DVR! Call now. 1-800-915-9514.

RECEIVE $1000 IN GROCERIES! Real relief program helping people just like you! Pay only $4.90 for your grocery voucher. Use on your favorite brands! Consumer Advocate Response introductory price - 800-417-9847.

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AWESOME CAREER. $20/hr/ $57K/yr, Postal jobs, Pd Training, Vac. Benefits. Call M-F, 8-5CST. 888-361-6551, Ext.1034

FORCE PROTECTION SECURITY DETAILS $73K-$220 Paid Training! Kidnapping Prevention $250-$1000/day Call 1-615-891-1163,Ext.812 www.rlcenterprises.net

WORK AT HOME. Government Jobs, data entry, clerical benefits. $12-$48 hr. FT/PT. Call 1-888-293-7370.

Business Opps

ALL CASH Vending! Do you earn $800/day? Local Vending routes. 25 machines + candy. $9,995. 1-800-807-6485. (Void/SD,CT,MD)

ATTENTION READERS: Earn money from home processing mortgage assistance postcards. No advertising. Direct deposit available. References available. No gimmicks. 800-650-2090.

Adoption

Faced with an unplanned pregnancy? Loving couples await. Receive information/pictures; you choose. Open or closed adoption. Assistance available. Call compassionate counselor. 1-866-236-7638; 24/7

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? You choose from families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6292.

For Sale

HIGH COST of Cable Got You Down? GET DISH w/FREE FREE installation! Over 50 Free HD Channels! Lowest Prices! Call 800-240-8112.

SPA/HOT TUB 2009 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310)479-3054

For Sale

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PLEASE HELP SOMEONE GOOD TODAY? Lovely 59 year old, former RN independent, disabled, homeless woman is in need of your financial/low cost room for rent Mindy (323)282-1899

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For Rent

$1495 PRIME LOCATION SANTA MONICA
close to beach and 3rd Street Promenade, Lower, Cute 2+1, patio, backyard, paid utilities
(310)395-1495, (310)666-8360
Open house Sat/Sun 10-2
917 Lincoln Blvd Apt A

12309 CULVER Blvd unit 12, 1bdrm/1bath $975/mo. stove, fridge, carpets, blind, laundry, utilities included, gated parking, intercom entry, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512, jkwproperties.com

1474 Crest Dr. upper 2+1 $1320 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, ceiling fan, garage space, no pets. $500 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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

501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $1225/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 12 single, $1025/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2295 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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For Rent

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(310)869-7901

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Pergo floors, 2 parking spaces, balcony $1995

1011 Pico Blvd. #8 2+2, Loft, 3 levels modern building, $2650
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L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large upper unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, no pets, $1195, (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1225/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

L.A. GROVE area 458 N Curson unit 103 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1195/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12760 Matteson Ave #8 1+1 $950/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $750 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 224 1bdrm/1bath, carpet, granite counter tops, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, no pets. $1025/mo $500 off move-in on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #6 1+1 $1095/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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

MARVISTA-LA $1550.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in unit

MDR adj.$1100 one bedroom upper appliances, new carpet, private balcony, laundry, parking, Info (310)828-4481 or (310) 993-0414 after 6 p.m.

MDR adj. $900 Large Studio, Full kitchen with stove & refrigerator, large closets, carpets, laundry, parking. Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $995 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, bamboo & vinyl floors, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 2 $895 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

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

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

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

SANTA MONICA $1750/mo. 19th Street near SM. Blvd., spacious 2bd/1bath, Large private patio, new carpets, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry, parking, small building. Info (310)828-4481.or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m

SANTA MONICA Condo. 1301 Franklin 2+1 stove, fridge, microwave, tile floors, dish washer hardwood floors. Washer/dryer hookup. Intercom entry. Gated, shared garage parking. Cat OK w/deposit $2075 $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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

WESTCHESTER 7087 1/2 Manchester Ave.Single stove, fridge, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets, $895/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 7087 Manchester Ave.Single stove, fridge, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets, $895/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA, $1285/mo large 1bdrm.upper On Barrington near National. Bright, spacious, large closets, crown moldings, appliances, closed garage, cat OK Charming older building in popular WLA area, near Whole Foods and Starbucks. Owner 310-828-4481, or 310-993-0414

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Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
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Santa Monica, CA

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

First Nine Months of 2008 compared to First Nine Months of 2009

Santa Monica Single Family Homes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	10	15	50%
Average Days on the Market	108	55	-49%
Lowest Price	$1,487,000	$875,000	-41%
Median Price	$2,000,000	$1,900,000	-5%
Highest Price	$4,200,000	$4,700,000	12%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$860	$876	2%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	92%	-4%

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	53	41	-23%
Average Days on the Market	51	70	37%
Lowest Price	$1,575,000	$1,400,000	-11%
Median Price	$3,000,000	$2,500,000	-17%
Highest Price	$5,945,000	$4,500,000	-24%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$913	$798	-13%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	93%	-4%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	19	17	-11%
Average Days on the Market	53	81	53%
Lowest Price	$400,000	$1,027,125	157%
Median Price	$1,960,000	$1,500,000	-23%
Highest Price	$3,000,000	$2,800,000	-7%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$858	$671	-22%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	94%	-3%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	7	2	-71%
Average Days on the Market	38	134	253%
Lowest Price	$699,000	$659,500	-6%
Median Price	$940,000	$699,250	-26%
Highest Price	$1,250,000	$739,000	-41%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$515	$759	47%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98%	93%	-5%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	24	26	8%
Average Days on the Market	59	73	24%
Lowest Price	$780,000	$675,000	-13%
Median Price	$1,120,000	$1,078,000	-4%
Highest Price	$2,520,000	$1,875,000	-26%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$659	$600	-9%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	93%	94%	1%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	13	14	8%
Average Days on the Market	178	61	-66%
Lowest Price	$615,000	$656,050	7%
Median Price	$1,050,000	$1,183,500	13%
Highest Price	$2,225,000	$2,775,000	25%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$892	$788	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	92%	96%	4%

Santa Monica Condo's & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	1	3	200%
Average Days on the Market	330	51	-85%
Lowest Price	$1,150,000	$1,014,000	-12%
Median Price	$1,150,000	$1,475,000	28%
Highest Price	$1,150,000	$5,100,000	343%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$824	$1,304	58%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	93%	-3%

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	25	13	-48%
Average Days on the Market	70	111	59%
Lowest Price	$465,000	$630,000	35%
Median Price	$1,295,000	$1,225,000	-5%
Highest Price	$5,800,000	$3,175,000	-45%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$920	$885	-4%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	90%	92%	2%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	87	95	9%
Average Days on the Market	55	56	2%
Lowest Price	$394,000	$270,000	-31%
Median Price	$756,000	$700,000	-7%
Highest Price	$1,600,000	$3,100,000	94%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$618	$582	-6%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	96%	-1%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	75	68	-9%
Average Days on the Market	85	84	-1%
Lowest Price	$330,000	$277,000	-16%
Median Price	$585,000	$537,500	-8%
Highest Price	$1,040,000	$945,000	-9%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$519	$458	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	96%	0%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	24	17	-29%
Average Days on the Market	61	55	-10%
Lowest Price	$345,000	$439,000	27%
Median Price	$732,500	$555,000	-24%
Highest Price	$1,199,000	$975,000	-19%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$488	$420	-14%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	98%	1%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 9-30-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 9-30-09	% change
Number of Sales	38	40	5%
Average Days on the Market	114	63	-45%
Lowest Price	$375,000	$395,000	5%
Median Price	$760,125	$822,500	8%
Highest Price	$1,750,000	$1,200,000	-31%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$704	$621	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	95%	97%	2%

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