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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 288



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

FROM THE SOURCE
SEE PAGE 3

THE FOR THE KIDS ISSUE

Alleged murderer played role of 'enforcer,' D.A. says

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN L.A. New court documents released in connection with the 2008 death of an aspiring Santa Monica model attempt to prove that a doctor hired the alleged murderer to intimidate the victim and others with whom he did business.

In the documents, prosecutors allege that both the suspected murderer, Kelly Soo Park, and her boyfriend, Ronnie Case, were process servers and debt collectors who used "scare tactics" to "obtain favorable results" for Dr. Munir Uwaydah, their employer.

It goes further to suggest that Park and Case went to the home of the victim, Juliana Redding, on the night of the murder at Uwaydah's behest, days after a business deal between Uwaydah and Redding's father, Greg Redding, went sour.

No charges have been filed against Uwaydah. He fled the country for Lebanon in 2010, according to the documents.

Both Case and Park stalked Juliana Redding in the days and hours before her murder, prosecutors say. Cell phone records indicate that both were at her apartment the night of the murder and the day before.

SEE CASE PAGE 8

Schools could see big bucks under Prop. 38

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Local public schools could receive millions of dollars in additional revenue under a ballot measure backed by

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 8

Gas prices easing off of record highs

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK Gasoline prices have begun their seasonal slide.

Better late than never, drivers say.

The national average retail price has fallen for 10 straight days and is now $3.74 per gallon. It could mark the beginning of the usual autumn decrease that was delayed this year because of refinery problems and high oil prices.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, predicts drops of 5 cents to 15 cents per week for the next three weeks. Over the next several weeks the national average could be at or below where it was last year.

"There's some nice relief coming," he said.

It can't come soon enough for Mary Hess,

SEE GAS PAGE 9



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

SAFETY FIRST: **First-grade students take cover underneath their desks during the 'Great California Shakeout' at Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) on Thursday. The fifth annual earthquake drill is intended to remind people to be prepared for a natural disaster.**

Millions take part in earthquake drill

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Millions of Americans preparing to survive an earthquake ducked under tables and covered their heads Thursday as part of the annual "Great ShakeOut" drill.

Organizers said some 14 million people, including 9.3 million in California, signed up to participate. Schoolchildren, hospital workers, elected officials and others got ready to rumble from Santa Monica to Washington, D.C.

The drill was held in some Western and southeastern states, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico and parts of Canada and Italy.

Newcomers included people in Virginia, where a magnitude 5.8 hit last year.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other officials ducked under a big red table set up at downtown's Union Station to demonstrate the proper procedure of "Drop, Cover and Hold On." Experts said

SEE DRILL PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Oct. 19, 2012

Last movie night
Santa Monica Pier
6 p.m.
Unwind on the front porch of Santa Monica for music and a free movie. Each Friday the pier hosts free flicks and a DJ spinning records. This week's movie is "500 Days of Summer." This week is the final movie. For more information, visit santamonicapier.org/frontporchcinema.

Meet the candidates
The Shores
2700 Neilson Way, 7:30 p.m.
Hear what the candidates for Santa Monica City Council have to say about the pressing issues facing the city during this community forum sponsored by The Shores apartments. Open to the public. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 392-2275.

A night with Mr. Vereen
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Few entertainers today are as accomplished in song, dance and storytelling as Tony Award-winner and show biz icon Ben Vereen. Westsiders will "step out" with Vereen as he travels through his 40-year career in this tour de force one-man show with a program that includes salutes to Frank Sinatra and long-time friend Sammy Davis Jr. Cost: $67-$110. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

That vintage feel
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The original Vintage Fashion Expo returns. The public is invited to join fellow clotheshorses, fashion designers, costumers, celebs and fashion editors from all over the globe who visit these regular shows. The event features 85 dealers of vintage clothing, accessories, textiles and more. The expo also takes place on Sunday. For more information, call (707) 793-0773.

Come one, come all
Universally Accessible Playground
2600 Bernard Way at Ashland Avenue, 10 a.m.
The Santa Monica Disabilities Commission invites the public to a poster viewing and photo event celebrating the start of construction for the new Universally Accessible Playground. The winners and first runners up of the 2011 "Let's Play" poster contest will all have their posters enlarged and displayed on the construction fence surrounding the site. For more information, call (310) 458-8701.

Boo!
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 7 p.m. — 2 a.m.
During the month of October, the third floor of Santa Monica Place will be transformed into a hair-raising haunted attraction where the un-dead will possess three mazes: "The Infirmary," "Insomniac Clown Playhouse" and "Granny's Manor of Mayhem." Spectators can also enjoy food and merchandise vendors throughout the night to compliment the main attraction, which will consume 50,000 square feet of what's billed as deathly horrifying space. Cost: $24; $19 for students. For more information, visit paranoiahalloween.com.

Tickling the keys
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Hailed as "one of the finest pianists in the world," this Grammy-winning virtuoso has won a large and devoted following for his tremendous emotional power, depth and expressiveness. A leading interpreter of classical and romantic music, Richard Goode makes this program of the early and late works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven sound unexpectedly fresh. Cost: $67-$110. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Sounds of Spain
The Broad Stage, Second Space
1310 11th St., 8 p.m.
Carlos Núñez has the quality of a classical music expert and the charisma of a rock star. Hailing from Galicia, the Celtic region in the north west of Spain, Carlos is considered one of the biggest artists in the international world and Celtic music scenes. Don't miss this extremely rare opportunity to see a world-class artist (usually playing to crowds of 10,000 or more in Europe) in the intimate Edye Second Space. Cost: $35. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

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

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

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



ELECTION 2012 City Council Candidates

Questions

1. WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL, WHAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO LEAD, AND WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PLAYING ON THE DAIS IF ELECTED?

2. WHAT ARE SANTA MONICA'S THREE MAJOR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES? WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ENSURE THE STRENGTHS REMAIN AND THE WEAKNESSES CONTAINED?

3. HOMELESSNESS CONTINUES TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN OF MANY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS. HOW WOULD YOU RATE CITY HALL'S RESPONSE OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, WHAT WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR AND DOES THAT MEAN MORE OR LESS FUNDING?

4. WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE CITY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO INCREASE THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT FROM $250 TO $325?

5. WILL YOU SPONSOR A LOCAL LAW BANNING SMOKING WITHIN MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNITS, I.E. CONDOS AND APARTMENTS? IF NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

6. IF ELECTED, WOULD YOU ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES TO SET UP SHOP IN SANTA MONICA?

7. WHAT POLICIES WILL YOU SUPPORT THAT WILL ENABLE SANTA MONICA TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASED COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES AND THE NEED TO BE SUSTAINABLE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO WATER AND POWER CONSUMPTION/GENERATION?

8. HOBBIES

9. WHAT ARE YOU READING?

10. THE LOSS OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUNDS DEALT A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE CIVIC CENTER, SAMOHI, AND THE PARK IN FRONT OF CITY HALL, AMONG OTHER PROJECTS. IF ELECTED, WHAT PROJECTS WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE AND HOW WOULD YOU FINANCE THEM?

11. CITY HALL ALREADY PROVIDES THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH MILLIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCESS TO CAMPUSES, MAINLY ATHLETIC FIELDS. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS DEAL IS GOOD FOR THE CITY, OR SHOULD IT BE REVISITED AND MODIFIED? IF SO, IN WHAT WAYS?

12. IF YOU COULD RIDE THE FERRIS WHEEL ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER WITH THREE PEOPLE IN HISTORY, WHO WOULD THEY BE AND WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

13. WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE SANTA MONICA AIRPORT?

14. COMMUNITY BENEFITS AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS: WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF A BENEFIT? WHEN SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL DEMAND BENEFITS AND TO WHAT DEGREE? AND SHOULD SOME BE PART OF A CHECKLIST THAT DEVELOPERS CAN CHOOSE FROM, OR SHOULD THE COUNCIL ALWAYS HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEVELOPERS?

15. WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF OVERDEVELOPMENT AND WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO PREVENT IT?

16. THE SPUTTERING ECONOMY AND THE RISE IN PENSION CONTRIBUTION COSTS HAVE FORCED SOME CITIES TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY. SANTA MONICA IS DOING BETTER THAN MOST, BUT IF NOTHING IS DONE TO TRIM COSTS, DEFICITS WILL BECOME REALITY. WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR CONTROLLING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION COSTS?

17. HOW DO YOU GET ACROSS TOWN DURING RUSH HOUR? ANY TIPS OR SHORTCUTS?

18. WHAT SHOULD CITY HALL'S ROLE BE WHEN IT COMES TO THE CREATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING?



JONATHAN MANN

- **NAME:** JONATHAN MANN
- **AGE:** 67
- **OCCUPATION:** TEACHER
- **NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH YOU LIVE:** OCEAN PARK
- **OWN OR RENT:** RENT
- **MARITAL STATUS/KIDS:** DIVORCED/TWO CHILDREN
- **OBAMA OR ROMNEY:** JILL STEIN
- **EDUCATION: WHERE DID YOU ATTEND AND WHAT DEGREES DO YOU HAVE?** CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE, B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY; COMPLETED PEACE OFFICER, MEDIATOR AND FLIGHT ATTENDANT TRAINING AND TEACHING CREDENTIAL.

1. WHY RUN

I am running because I am fed up with how the city is being run by the council, who allow staff, developers, public agencies and other special interests determine policy.

I am qualified because I oppose all special interests and would only represent the residents. I have no endorsements from special interests. In fact, my only endorsement is the L.A. County Green Party.

If elected I would work toward electing other candidates who would only represent the interests of the residents and work with me to implement a virtual town hall with citywide free WiFi. The technology exists to create an electronic village and direct participatory

SEE **MANN** PAGE 11



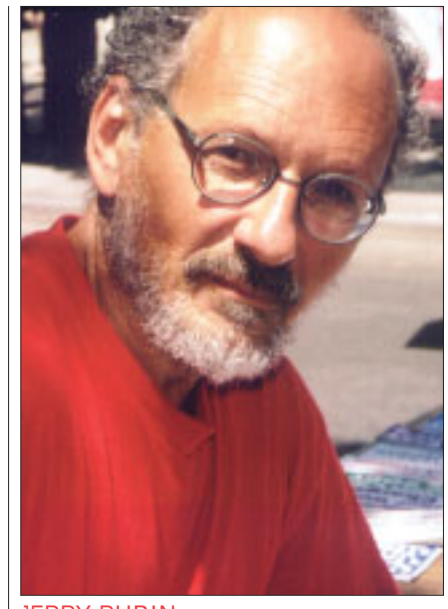
ARMEN MELKONIANS

- **NAME:** ARMEN MELKONIANS
- **AGE:** 41
- **OCCUPATION:** CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
- **NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH YOU LIVE:** WILMONT
- **OWN OR RENT:** RENT
- **MARITAL STATUS/KIDS:** MARRIED
- **OBAMA OR ROMNEY:** OBAMA
- **EDUCATION: WHERE DID YOU ATTEND AND WHAT DEGREES DO YOU HAVE?** UCLA, B.S. IN CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING.

1. WHY RUN

The next four years will be critical for Santa Monica. The Expo Light Rail is arriving and the future of the airport will be determined. Both of these pivotal events will change the look, feel and livability of Santa Monica for generations to come, and developers are already jockeying for position with the help of City Hall and the Planning Commission. Right now there are 24 development agreements on the Planning Commission case list, including the Miramar "Las Vegas" project and the Village Trailer Park project. Both projects have been proposed by developers as a direct result of the 2010 LUCE, a document with a clear "vision" opposite to the vision of the residents of Santa Monica. It's time to stop the nonsense and the scramble at City Hall and

SEE **MELKONIANS** PAGE 12



JERRY RUBIN

- **NAME:** JERRY RUBIN
- **AGE:** 68
- **OCCUPATION:** PEACE ACTIVIST
- **NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH YOU LIVE:** OCEAN PARK
- **OWN OR RENT:** OWN
- **MARITAL STATUS/KIDS:** MARRIED TO MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE MARISSA FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS. TWO CAT CHILDREN, SUNNY AND POLLY
- **OBAMA OR ROMNEY:** OBAMA!
- **EDUCATION: WHERE DID YOU ATTEND AND WHAT DEGREES DO YOU HAVE?** H.S.D. DEGREE (HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT). ALSO, TWO YEARS AT SANTA MONICA COLLEGE.

1. WHY RUN

I'm running to draw attention to community issues and encourage community involvement and activism. My chances are slim, but I do think I would be a good council member. There are many other good candidates, so if once again not elected, I will still be attending City Council and other important civic meetings.

2. CITY'S STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES

Major strengths: Great city, dedicated city staff, great people from around the corner and around the world. Major weaknesses: Not enough win-win solutions, not enough trees, too much airport pollution. The question is what will we all do together to accentuate the

SEE **RUBIN** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop the madness

Editor:

I would like to voice my extreme disapproval with the plan to demolish a parking structure in Downtown, to be replaced with an oversized theater/retail complex ("Notice of availability of a draft environmental impact report for the AMC Theater development agreement project," Legal Notices, Oct. 10). The idea that such a commercial venture would be allowed ... without even replacing the parking it is displacing, is the height of idiocy. Furthermore, we do not need another theater, nor does AMC need more business in our town, having three theaters already.

Downtown is at gridlock, leaving local residents unable to negotiate the streets of their own town to accomplish the smallest ordinary task in a reasonable amount of time. The level of construction is ridiculous and it is never-ending, with one project piggybacking upon the next so that there is never any respite from noise, inconvenience, turmoil and frustration. Our planning department is a joke. There seems to be no attempt to even coordinate construction projects to minimize traffic snarls. And it is astonishing to learn that developer fees mandated for traffic mitigation have not been collected for years while Santa Monica goes without left turn signals at most intersections and timed lights. I lay this at the feet of the City Council. The lack of oversight is appalling.

The last thing Santa Monica needs, given the onslaught of construction of rabbit hutch apartments Downtown and ongoing construction for the new park, is another project tearing up Downtown streets, impeding traffic, and removing over 300 of the few parking places we have now. Though I live in Santa Monica, I never shop here and avoid Downtown like the plague for fear of stroking out from aggravation. I go to the movies in West L.A. or Culver City or the Marina, and go to Century City or the Beverly Center if I have to do mall-type shopping, anything to avoid the horror of Santa Monica traffic and construction. The last time I took the Big Blue Bus you are trying to route all of us to, I waited alone in the dark opposite City Hall for the last scheduled bus, having seen the previous one depart as I approached, crying "wait!" The scheduled time came and went with nary a bus in sight, though I waited for almost half an hour past its due time. Finally I, a woman alone at night in a poorly lit part of town, walked all the way home.

Have you people so radically bumped your heads, given a bus situation like that one, a lack of taxis, and the fact that "date nighters" are probably not going to take their bicycles (especially in winter) and neither are seniors, that there is now a way to get around town after one would get out of a theoretical AMC movie complex without parking, after the evening shows? You are shooting yourselves in the foot. And you are killing our town as a place to actually live in instead of just visit by approving all this construction and chasing after tourist dollars instead of improving quality of life for the people who actually live here and pay for your salaries and pension funds.

The grandiosity of the schemes of the City Council and their toadying to developers at the expense of residents has created enormous frustration and backlash at the street level. And I use that term purposefully. I think this project, at this time (particularly given other ongoing construction projects including the Metro rail close by) is completely ill-advised, that the elimination of current parking and lack of adequate parking for patrons of the project is insane, and I urge the Planning Commission to reject it. I believe a construction moratorium has been needed for some time. Start here.

Sharon Hagen
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Laughing Matters

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

A Mann for the people?

AS THE NOV. 6 ELECTION GETS CLOSER, the stakes and controversies couldn't be greater. Frankly, I'm still stunned by Willard Romney's hidden video released last month by www.MotherJones.com. In front of a roomful of eager $50,000 donors, the Mittster despairingly referred to the "47 percent of the country who pay no income taxes, believe they're victims and entitled." He continued narcissistically, "I'll never convince them to take personal responsibility for their lives."

Speaking of responsibility, how about Willard releasing five years of his tax returns, especially since his father released 12 years' worth when he ran for president. To see the hidden video, go to www.youtube.com and search "Romney in secretly taped video." Or, for a laugh, visit www.youtube.com and search for "Mutt Romney Blues" performed by Ry Cooder, a much-esteemed Santa Monica resident.

By "controversies" I was actually referring to our City Council race in which 15 candidates are vying for four seats, two of which are "open." (Mayor Bloom is running for the state Assembly and Bobby Shriver chose not to seek a third term, though some suggest he will soon run for county supervisor.)

Where's the controversy? This past Monday this newspaper held its candidates forum known as Squirm Night, which featured candidates for the Assembly, Board of Education and City Council. With Ted Winterer ill that night, eight council candidates spoke before a packed crowd in the Martin Luther King Auditorium at the Main Library. Five days earlier the other six council candidates were informed they would not be included. Uh, oh.

The criteria were that a candidate had 5 percent of the vote from a previous election, or $1,000 in campaign funds or a prominent endorsement. They also had to return a questionnaire from the Daily Press. The "uninvited" were not exactly thrilled and immediately branded themselves the Santa Monica 6. (As opposed to the Chicago 7, although ironically in 1968 they had a Jerry Rubin and now we have a Jerry Rubin. In fact, when Chicago 7 Rubin was killed while jaywalking on Wilshire Boulevard in 1994 our Jerry Rubin was besieged with condolence calls.)

Among the most vociferous of the Santa Monica 6 was Jon Mann, who's running for City Council for a record 12th time. Letters of protest were issued but the Daily Press held firm and Squirm Night came off without a hitch. Almost.

In the audience on Monday night were a few of the "uninvited" including Jerry Rubin, Bob Seldon, and Terence Later, who fittingly enough, came later. Armen Melkonians, who was stuck in a Santa Monica traffic jam (I can remember when we didn't have such things) arrived last, but generously brought green T-shirts to give away in support of the protest. But in terms of outrage, the Santa Monica 6 had dwindled down to more like a combined 1 1/2.

The "one" was Jon Mann's, whose attire was a tad unusual. Wearing a tie and sports jacket, Mann looked quite dapper except for large black strips of duct tape across his mouth. (From a distance it looked like a huge Groucho Marx mustache.)



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

MAKING A POINT: **City Council candidate Jon Mann staged a silent protest during the Daily Press' Squirm Night on Monday. He was upset by being excluded from the forum.**

Holding a neatly-lettered protest sign, which only the folks in the first two rows could read without getting a migraine from squinting, Mann stood in front of the stage. After nearly an hour, and without incident, he took a seat in the front row and the event continued uninterrupted. All agreed that Jon's civil disobedience had indeed been civil.

I first met Jon over 20 years ago when I was trying to moderate a candidate forum at The Shores where I live. I say "trying" because during one of Jon's rather "complex" answers, I realized that I had suddenly lost total control of the forum.

Jon was talking about "virtual town hall meetings," this long before I even had a computer. As with many of Jon's unconventional ideas, it has taken me years to comprehend them, although the lag time seems shorter these days.

One of Jon's more radical proposals is to turn Santa Monica Airport hangars into giant medical marijuana farms. Assuming he's not kidding, then the poor souls in Sunset Park who have been scandalously exposed to jet noise and toxic pollution for years might one day be inundated with pot smoke. One plus, a nearby green space could then be named "Stoner Park" and have real meaning.

Though I write tongue in cheek, I genuinely admire the candidates for the tremendous time and hard work involved in running for council. Tonight, at 7:30 p.m. the caravan continues as The Shores hosts its biennial forum. But get there early as seating is limited.

And, oh yes, I figured out why Romney won't reveal his taxes. In some years, what with his Swiss bank accounts and Cayman Island income, he probably paid no income tax at all. If so, then technically he'd be among the very 47 percent he so bitterly complains that feel like entitled victims and don't take responsibility for their lives. Honestly, I wish Willard would borrow Jon Mann's duct tape.

The Shores, a 17-story apartment complex in Ocean Park, is located at 2700 Neilson Way. The forum takes place in the lobby Conference Room from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's open to the public and there's free parking. **JACK** can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.

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Google, Samsung to sell Chrome laptop for $249

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Google is dangling a low-priced laptop computer in front of consumers as rivals Microsoft and Apple prepare to release their latest gadgets.

The lightweight computer unveiled Thursday will sell for $249 and is being made in a partnership with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., which also makes smartphones and tablet computers that run on Google's Android software.

The laptop will run on an operating system revolving around Google's Chrome Web browser.

Like other so-called Chromebooks, this laptop doesn't have a hard drive. It functions like a terminal dependent on an Internet connection to get to information and applications stored in large data centers run by Google Inc. or other technology providers.

It's the least expensive Chromebook that Google has released in the two years that it has been working on the product line. Google and Samsung released a slightly more sophisticated Chromebook priced at $449 in the late spring.

The lower-priced model will go on sale early next week in more than 500 Best Buy stores in the U.S., as well as on various websites. Google hopes to begin accepting online orders at its Play store by this weekend.

Google Inc. appears to be trying to beat Microsoft and Apple to the punch with the discount Chromebook.

Microsoft Corp. is poised to release Windows 8, a dramatic makeover of its famous operating system, on Oct. 26. The long-awaited makeover is designed to run on touch-based tablets, as well as laptop and desktop computers. A variety of manufacturers will be selling a hodgepodge of Windows 8-powered personal computers and tablets. The prices of most of those machines, including a tablet made by Microsoft, will range from $500 to $1,000.

Apple Inc. says it plans to show off a new product Tuesday. The event is widely expected to be the coming-out party for a slightly smaller version of its hot-selling iPad.

The mini iPad is expected to feature a 7.85-inch screen compared to the nearly 10-inch screen of the pioneering iPad. Industry analysts expect Apple to price a smaller iPad in the $249 to $299 range in an effort to siphon sales away from other scaled-down tablets, such as Google's Nexus 7 and Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire.

Now, Google has a laptop vying for a piece of the same market.

"This is a big step in the journey for us," said Sundar Pichai, Google's senior vice president of Chrome and apps. "I think it's generally an exciting time in the computing industry."

Like tablets, the discount Chromebook will rely on a computer chip design known as ARM, instead of Intel Corp. microprocessors. The ARM architecture is more energy efficient, extending the duration of batteries between charges.

With an 11.6-inch screen, the new Chromebooks also will have a larger display than tablets selling in the same price range.

The laptops will be set up to automatically use all of Google's services, including its search engine, Gmail and YouTube video site. Because the laptop lacks a hard drive, Google also is offering 100 gigabytes of free storage on computers kept in its eight data centers. Those remote computers provide the backbone for Google's online storage service, Drive.

Despite the low price, the new Chromebook will face a tough time winning over consumers because it isn't set up like a traditional PC with a hard drive, said Gartner Inc. analyst Carolina Milanesi.

"A lot of people are going to see it and think, 'Once I have it, what exactly do I do with it?'" Milanesi predicted.

Google, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., will try to educate and woo prospective buyers by setting up Chromebook kiosks in Best Buy stores where staff will be on hand to field questions. The company also will promote the new Chromebook in television ads.

The attempt to grab a few early headlines Thursday backfired, though, when Google prematurely released its third-quarter earnings while the company was providing a preview of the low-priced Chromebook to a group of reporters. Once the earnings slipped out, some reporters bolted from the laptop presentation to focus on numbers that disappointed investors.

The Q Line

For the kids

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has placed Measure ES on the ballot to raise funds for improving and modernizing facilities.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Will you vote for the school bond or do you think the district is asking too much at a time when the economy continues to struggle?

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



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Benefits can flow both ways at celeb charity galas

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES The Beverly Hilton's International Ballroom will soon be filled with flowers, chiffon, fine china and crystal stemware for a starry black-tie ball costing couples as much as $20,000 to attend. Guests such as George Clooney, Quincy Jones, Jane Fonda and Magic Johnson will mingle with business and community leaders and maybe bid on the new Mercedes-Benz offered in the silent auction.

And it's all for charity. Or is it? Swanky, star-studded galas like Saturday's 26th Carousel of Hope in Beverly Hills and Alicia Keys' annual Black Ball next month at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom are stalwarts in the world of nonprofits. Yet for many guests, the benefits can far exceed the benevolence.

Such balls have helped raise millions of dollars for nonprofit agencies around the world. But they're much more than philanthropy for the rich and famous. Valuable business opportunities flow right along with the vintage Champagne, including networking, deal-making, image enhancement and, of course, tax deductions.

"As long as people are looking to curry favor with certain people and get on good terms with certain people, these things will still be popular," said Daniel Borochoff, president of CharityWatch, a nonprofit charity watchdog group.

But he adds, "There are also altruistic people who want to help the cause, as well."

Barbara Davis, the 82-year-old chairwoman and host of Carousel of Hope, considers herself in the latter group. She started the Children's Diabetes Foundation in 1977 when her daughter, Dana, was diagnosed with the disease.

When Davis broke the news of their daughter's condition to her husband, the late oil and entertainment tycoon Marvin Davis, "he said, 'Take care of it,'" she recalled. So she started raising money and held the first Carousel of Hope event in 1978 in Denver.

The couple opened the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes in Colorado in 1980. The following year, Marvin Davis bought 20th Century Fox, and the Carousel Ball's guest list grew to include Hollywood royalty and two U.S. presidents.

"It's very good to have a film studio: Everybody came," Mrs. Davis said. "Even though it was still in Denver that year, we must have had six or eight planes of stars."

Since then, performers at the gala have included Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Beyoncé, Elton John, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder. This year, it's Neil Diamond.

So far, the gala has raised more than $75 million for the Children's Diabetes Foundation and its treatment center in Colorado.

While the budget for Saturday's gala is private, "everything is donated that can be donated," Davis said. Superstar performers give their time, and companies like Chanel and American Airlines contribute auction prizes. The Beverly Hilton even donates the space.

This year, guests pay from $2,000 to $20,000 to attend as a couple; tables of 10 cost $10,000 to $100,000. About 1,200 people are expected at Saturday's soiree.

That's a lot of schmoozing and fundraising — and write-offs.

The fair-market value of the ticket is $500, so couples attending at the lowest price point can deduct $1,000 as a charitable donation, said David Wheeler Newman, a Los Angeles tax attorney who specializes in nonprofits.

Ads in the Carousel of Hope's souvenir tribute book range from $750 to $12,500 and are almost always a write-off for the businesses and individuals who contribute, whether as a charitable donation or a business expense, Newman said.

Who's motivated to give and why they do it can be complicated, said Newman, "especially in concentrated urban areas like LA or New York or Chicago, because of the relationship networks that people have."

"There's a big overlap between cultural and business and charitable networks," the attorney said. "You'd need to be a sociologist or archaeologist to graph out these relationships."

There could be unseen benefits for the celebrities, business leaders and companies that contribute to charity events, notes Newman. The entertainer who offers to perform at a gala could do so, in part, to gain favor with the organizer's spouse, with whom he does business. Or a Hollywood agent may support a studio head's charity, then later ask for an audition for an actor he represents.

"A lot of these charities hire celebrities to endorse them," said Borochoff. "And they can hide it."

Businesses and individuals can also boost their own images by aligning with charitable efforts. Angelina Jolie went from wild child to global do-gooder by lending her support and her famous name to humanitarian causes, notes Dorie Clark, a marketing and branding consultant. And celebrities might join forces with charities to "give the media something to talk about ... rather than gossip about their love life," she said.

Another reason celebrities like associating with nonprofit groups aiming to better the world?

"It's a way for them to prove they're smart and they're serious in an industry known for its vapidity," Clark said.

Companies that support charity galas by shelling out for expensive tables can appear to be good corporate citizens, she said, and it also allows their executives to mix and mingle with celebrities and other influential trendsetters.

"The networking benefits are great and the publicity benefits are great," she said.

The charities need the stars, too, both for publicity and brand association.

"Celebrities can grab attention like nobody else," said Tim Saunders, features editor at LooktotheStars.org, a website that chronicles celebrity charity news. "If you have a celebrity attached to your gala, you have instant publicity."

There's also the cool factor.

"Celebrity is a tremendously powerful force," Clark said. "Everybody wants to say, 'Oh, I met George Clooney.' For the rest of your life, you get to tell a story that makes you look cool at cocktail parties."

But coolness aside, there's no question elite charity events do serious good. Elton John, for instance, has raised $125 million for his AIDS foundation through his various galas, including his famous Grammy and Oscar parties.

Alicia Keys has helped collect nearly $14 million for Keep A Child Alive, which provides AIDS treatment in India and Africa, with her annual gala. This year's Nov. 1 event will feature Keys and Beyoncé as performers and Oprah Winfrey and singer Angelique Kidjo as honorees. Tickets cost $5,000.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Man arrested for allegedly masturbating on beach

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

MONDAY, OCT. 8, AT 11:55 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers received a radio call regarding a man seen masturbating on the sand just west of the bike bath and adjacent to Lot 1 North (1550 Pacific Coast Highway). When officers arrived, they detained the suspect and made contact with those who notified police. They said they had just parked their car in the lot and walked toward the bike path when they saw two adults with small children get out of their car and then immediately get back in. The group looked toward the sand and allegedly saw the suspect with his hands under his shorts manipulating his penis as he walked toward the family. The suspect was placed under arrest for lewd acts. He was identified as Michael Clouser, 32, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $500.

TUESDAY, OCT. 9, AT 12:52 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2000 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of a strong-arm robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who told them that he was walking eastbound on Pico from 20th Street when a man approached him, told him he owed the suspect money and then took a DVD player. He pointed out the suspect, who was sitting on a nearby bus bench, and police detained him for questioning. He admitted to taking the DVD player and hiding it in a nearby residence, police said. Officers could not locate the DVD player. The suspect was placed under arrest for robbery and a probation violation. He was identified as Robert Jackson, 60, a transient. No bail was set.

TUESDAY, OCT. 9, AT 3:21 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1900 block of 18th Street regarding a report of two people possibly doing drugs inside a parked car. When officers arrived, they detained the suspects, one of whom admitted to smoking some crushed Oxycodone pills. During a search of the vehicle, police said they found both Oxy, a pain killer, and Alprazolam, an anti-anxiety drug. The suspects did not have a prescription for the drugs and were placed under arrest. Isabel Bryan, 20, of Santa Monica, was booked for possession of a controlled substance, being under the influence of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bail was set at $10,000. Bryan Daniels, 18, of Santa Monica, was booked for being under the influence of drugs. His bail was set at $2,500.

FRIDAY, OCT. 12, AT 5:47 P.M.,
Officers were on patrol in the 1900 block of Euclid Street when they entered Alley 13 and saw two men walking away from the rear of a building known by officers as a drug den. Officers made contact with the two men who allegedly gave conflicting statements as to why they were in the area. Both agreed to be searched. Officers said they found methamphetamine hidden in a piece of paper in one of the suspects' T-shirt pocket. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked for possession of a controlled substance. He was identified as Trevor Egbert, 36, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $10,000.

SATURDAY, OCT. 13, AT 12:14 A.M.,
Officers were on patrol in the 800 block of Pico Boulevard when they saw two men crouching by a payphone. Officers approached the men to see what they were doing. They asked for permission to search the suspects. When an officer removed one suspect's hat, a clear Zip-Lock baggie containing methamphetamine fell to the ground, police said. The suspect was placed under arrest and transported to jail where he was booked for possession of a controlled substance. He was identified as Nicholas Cavins, 28, of Los Angeles. Bail was set at $10,000.

SUNDAY, OCT. 14, AT 8:02 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade on the report of two people who just fled Club Monaco after stealing approximately $1,800 worth of merchandise. While conducting their investigation, officers were informed that one of the Downtown Service Officers detained two people matching the suspects' description. The two were getting into a car parked in a handicap spot. Officers responded and determined that the handicap placard used was fraudulent and detained the suspects. Officers searched their car and recovered the stolen property, as well as two "booster bags" which were lined with materials used to defeat security sensors in stores. Officers also found merchandise from Anthropology, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Urban Outfitters. Both suspects were placed under arrest and booked for conspiracy to commit a crime and possession of burglary tools. They were identified as Lyle Gaines, 48, and Tradis Davis, 46; both from San Francisco. Bail was set at $20,000 each. Gaines was also booked for displaying an unauthorized disabled placard.

news@smdp.com

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

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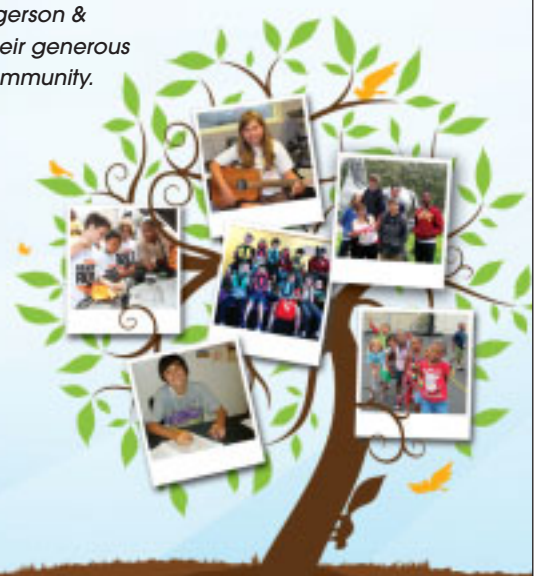


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CASE
FROM PAGE 1

DNA evidence recovered from Redding's neck, cell phone and the knob on a gas stove also linked to Park, according to court records.

Prosecutors allege that Park and Case regularly intimidated and harassed Uwaydah's clients or business partners. A history of such activity would provide motive and intent for the attack on Redding.

The prosecution lists two other cases in which Park and Case went after people for Uwaydah.

The first, in 2008, allegedly took her across the country to shake down a man in Kentucky for $350,000 Uwaydah allegedly won in a court settlement.

The second allegedly occurred in 2010, prior to her arrest. In that situation, Uwaydah and Case were trying to take over Ventura County Business Bank by buying up stock certificates in an attempt to get a controlling block of the bank's stock, prosecutors say.

According to the documents, both Park and Case intimidated the bank manager, Jerry Lukiewski, and, in items taken from Park's home during a court-sanctioned search, police found handwritten notes and recordings to that effect.

In a recording, the defendant asked if "Ronny need[s] to choke some people," the document says.

Park has pleaded not guilty to one count of murder. No trial date has been set.

ashley@smdp.com

SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

local parent groups, but school officials are still puzzling out what exactly it would mean for the district.

Proposition 38, which will appear on the ballot on Nov. 6, proposes to give $10,267,567 to the schools in the 2013-14 school year, an amount which will supposedly increase each year thereafter and hit $24,162,949 in 2023.

The money comes from a hike in income tax on nearly every Californian, including those who make approximately $7,300 a year, which would expire after 12 years.

Prop. 38, also called "Our Children, Our Future," is the creation of wealthy social activist Molly Munger and is competing with Gov. Jerry Brown's Proposition 30 for voters' hearts.

It would be a great thing for local schools, which have been struggling to make ends meet as the district lost 20 percent of its state funding, said Patti Braun, president of the Parent Teacher Association Council.

The PTA Council is supporting Prop. 38 and staying neutral on Pro. 30, which would raise about $6 billion to Prop. 38's $10 billion and involve an increase in sales tax and upping income taxes on California's wealthiest.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education has endorsed both in hopes that one of them passes.

Unlike Prop. 38, Prop. 30 puts the money into California's General Fund rather than funneling the money directly to the schools, a move that the Los Angeles Times called a "vote of no confidence" in Sacramento.

Many of the local schools have chosen to endorse Prop. 38 because it will put large amounts of money right into the governing board's hands, Braun said.

"People are recognizing that the Munger initiative is a visionary and transformative solution rather than being reactionary to the economic downturn," Braun said. "We want a brand new funding stream that will guarantee every school will get what they need and … prohibit Sacramento from touching the money."

It's not all sunshine and roses, however.

If Prop. 30 doesn't pass, $6 billion in trigger cuts will hit California's budget, necessitating an ongoing reduction in base funding for schools. Passing Prop. 38 will not stop that, said H.D. Palmer, spokesperson for the California Department of Finance.

"What happens is that under Prop. 38, it does not go to schools in the first year," Palmer said. "What would happen in a scenario like that is you'd have that $5.4 billion reduction occur in the current fiscal year."

That means funding for schools would grow from a reduced base, he said.

Braun hopes that if Prop. 38 makes it past voters in November, legislators will free up the money needed to keep schools afloat knowing that new funds are on the horizon.

"It would be unconscionable to do anything else if you knew the money was on the table," Braun said.

One of the biggest concerns about Prop. 38 is one of uncertainty.

Unlike the Brown measure, which is built into the state budget, school officials do not know what Prop. 38 will mean in terms of new accountability measures or how it impacts currently-funded district programs at schools.

"Some folks are concerned because there is not enough language in the initiative to provide guidance about how it is to be executed," said SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon.

There is also fear that it could turn into another cumbersome layer in the morass of educational funding, and ultimately result in lawmakers withholding General Fund money because of the presence of the dedicated education fund that it creates.

The district is already preparing for the various outcomes of the Nov. 6 election — with one, both or neither measure passing — and will hold budget meetings for the school teams and different staff to provide information about priorities leading up to the budget study session in January, Lyon said.

Prop. 38 is another use of California's initiative system, a form of direct democracy from the turn of the 20th century used to fight the railroad companies' hold on power in the Golden State.

That process has since been co-opted by the very monied interests that it was supposed to protect against, according to a report issued in 2000 by the Public Policy Institute of California.

According to that report, there were more initiatives circulated, placed on the ballot and approved by voters than any other decade in California's history.

The "initiative industrial complex" spawned companies that provided services to automate the process.

Such initiatives can have adverse, unintended consequences, much like Proposition 13. Passed in 1978, Prop. 13 was intended to help homeowners who faced runaway property taxes stay in their houses.

It capped property tax increases, which in effect starved local schools of funds, forcing the state to come up with new ways to pay for its education system.

Education advocates often point to Prop. 13 as one of the reasons the state has fallen to 47th in the nation in terms of per-pupil-funding.

Braun believes that Prop. 38 could change that dismal track record.

"I think it's time to invest in our schools. We all share benefits of better schools and all share the benefit of an educated workforce," Braun said.

ashley@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Awarding the arts

Have you, or someone you know, played an important part in contributing to Santa Monica's artistic and creative vitality? The Santa Monica Arts Foundation is launching the Arts Leadership Awards, which recognizes exemplary leaders who have supported Santa Monica's creative community.

The non-monetary, annual leadership awards will honor individuals and businesses in three categories:

Arts Patron: An individual or business leader providing extensive support for the arts in Santa Monica.

Artist in the Community: An artist who has contributed significantly to Santa Monica's arts community through activism, patronage, and/or volunteerism.

Creative Community Innovator: An individual or small or mid-size commercial creative business contributing to making Santa Monica's arts and culture sector "cutting edge" through experimentation, design, or cultural sustainability.

The leadership awards are a program of the Santa Monica Arts Foundation — a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing civic engagement and support of the city's arts and cultural community.

"Volunteers, philanthropists, and the creative industry are the backbone of Santa Monica's extraordinary arts community," said George Minardos, foundation chairperson, "and these awards will highlight the importance of their contributions."

Both nominators and nominees must currently live or work in Santa Monica, and nominated businesses must be currently licensed and operating in the city. Self-nominations are accepted. The selection committee will consider the significance of nominees' contributions and leadership as they reflect the breadth of Santa Monica's creative community. Awards recipients will be recognized at a ceremony in early 2013 and will receive an original artwork by a locally renowned artist.

Guidelines and the nomination form are available at www.smgov.net/artsleaders. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m., Nov. 29.

– DAILY PRESS

CITY HALL

New mobile site

City officials recently launched a mobile version of their Be Excited! Be Prepared! website — www.smconstructs.org — that provides information regarding prominent capital improvement projects like the Exposition Light Rail Line construction and the rebuilding of Parking Structure 6 Downtown.

One of the primary features of the new site, which is accessible using mobile phones, is the project map, an interactive Google Maps-based application that pinpoints the exact location of every construction project occurring around the city. It allows users to determine their exact location in relation to construction projects in order to adjust their routes accordingly. Videos and live-streaming feeds, and weekly traffic updates and alerts are available on the mobile website as well.

The mobile site is currently up and running and should be accessible using any cell phone connected to the Internet.

– KEVIN HERRERA

GAS

FROM PAGE 1

who commutes 40 miles each way from her home in Sodus Point, N.Y. to Oswego, N.Y., where she teaches English. She hasn't noticed much of a drop — she's still paying $4.04 per gallon to fill up her Buick Century. Gasoline is among the biggest parts of her budget — and she doesn't think it should be.

"I'm frustrated more than anything," she said.

Gasoline prices typically decline in the fall as refiners switch to cheaper fuel blends and drivers take a break from road trips. This year a series of refinery and pipeline problems sent gasoline supplies plummeting. That sent wholesale gasoline buyers and traders scrambling to purchase whatever they could, at ever higher prices, to secure supply.

"It was a cluster of random coincidental events and the buying had a panic nature to it," Kloza said.

Gasoline prices were already steep — they were on track to set an annual record by midsummer — because of relatively high global crude oil prices. Brent, the type of crude most important in determining the price of gasoline, has averaged $112 per barrel this year. Global oil demand is on track to set a record this year despite economic uncertainty. And the standoff over Iran's nuclear program has raised fears that oil supplies could be disrupted if tensions escalate.

Against that backdrop, the nation's gasoline infrastructure got slammed.

In August, ruptures to pipelines that serve the Great Lakes and refinery outages in Indiana and Illinois sent gasoline prices higher in the Midwest. Then a fire at a Chevron refinery in Richmond, Calif. crippled a major contributor to California's gasoline supplies. Then Hurricane Isaac forced several Gulf Coast refineries to shut or slow down operations.

As those refineries ramped back up, California saw more trouble. A pipeline that serves Bay Area refineries closed, two refineries were offline for maintenance and an Exxon Mobil Corp. refinery in Torrance, Calif., near Los Angeles shut down because of a surprise power outage.

The national average price kept rising after Labor Day, when prices normally start to fall. It topped out for the season at $3.87 on Sept. 14 and California prices hit a record $4.67 per gallon on Oct. 7. On the East Coast, gasoline supplies dipped to a four-year low, keeping prices stubbornly high.

Then — finally — the market began to stabilize. The government reported Wednesday that gasoline supplies are heading back up. They had fallen for 10 of the last 11 weeks.

That led to a dramatic drop in wholesale gasoline prices in regional spot markets, according to Kloza, that will soon translate into lower prices at the pump.

California spot prices are down 30 percent over two weeks. Prices elsewhere in the country have declined between 15 percent and 27 percent. In Chicago, wholesale prices have fallen to $2.36 per gallon. That could bring retail gasoline prices in some parts of the Midwest to near $3 per gallon in the coming weeks.

The average price at the pump fell 22 cents in Ohio and 16 cents in Wisconsin in the past week. Those are two key battleground states in the presidential election, with 18 and 10 electoral votes, respectively.

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EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD!

DRILL
FROM PAGE 1

it is safer to cover in place than to seek cover in a doorway or try to flee if a temblor hits.

"Hope doesn't save lives. Preparation does," Villaraigosa said. "Take a moment to remember: The power's out, alarms are sounding, your phone doesn't work, roads are inaccessible. This is a moment you have to plan for."

Los Angeles commuter and subway trains practiced for a quake by briefly slowing to 10 to 15 mph.

In an earthquake, "the trains would be going slow enough so that they could safely stop if the tracks are out of alignment or something fell on them" such as a downed tree, said Marc Littman, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Trains would move to a safe place in the event of a large quake, he said.

"You don't want to be hanging out on a bridge, necessarily, or be stuck in a tunnel between stations," Littman said.

However, they would stop automatically in the event of a gigantic quake such as the dreaded Big One that scientists say will one day erupt in California.

Littman and others officials also got a shake-up in an earthquake simulator.

"My house was wrecked in the Northridge earthquake, so that was deja vu for me," Littman said.

In Washington state, students at Twin Lakes Elementary School in Federal Way got a lesson in earthquake preparedness and practiced taking shelter under classroom tables. They also watched a demonstration on emergency responder techniques, including the use of a gurney.

Southern California has not experienced a seismic disaster since that 1994 magnitude-6.7 quake, which killed 72 people and caused $25 billion in damage to the Los Angeles region.

Southern California held the first safety drill in 2008 based on a fictional magnitude-7.8 event on the southern San Andreas Fault. The entire state participated the following year, and the exercise since has spread around the world.

"It's not looking at earthquakes as doom and gloom," organizer Mark Benthien said. "It's all about what we're going to do as a community to be prepared so that when there's an earthquake, we'll get back on our feet and recover."





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MANN
FROM PAGE 3

democracy, so candidates who oppose special interests can campaign for public office from a level playing field. It would enable residents to enforce transparency in municipal government, hold our public officials accountable, expose conflict of interest and incompetence and provide residents with a powerful voice in policy decisions.

2. CITY'S STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES

Santa Monica is a wealthy city, located on the Pacific Ocean with one of the best climates on the planet.

Its biggest weaknesses are the conflict of interest in governance, the greed, nepotism and cronyism of its council, staff and special interests.

3. HOMELESSNESS

This city spends an enormous amount of its revenue on creating a bureaucracy that fosters dependency among the homeless. It creates well-paid positions in that bureaucracy for cronies from the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights membership and steering committee, past and present members of the council, etc. It should be using those revenues to create jobs and housing for homeless in the city. It gives a man a fish instead of teaching how to fish. Such practices are discouraging residents from enjoying the use of our parks and public facilities.

4. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

This is another blatant abuse of governance to increase the chance of incumbents' re-election and deprive candidates who do not solicit contributions and endorsements from special interests. The council would like to charge candidates a $250 fee to run for office to further dominate elections. They also reject any kind of campaign reform, including ranked voting and clean money.

5. SMOKING BAN

I have never been a smoker, but these draconian laws are unrealistic, unenforceable and pit neighbor against neighbor. I favor a compromise solution that would allow smokers to kill themselves in smoking-only structures.

6. MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Not only would I allow medical marijuana dispensaries to set up shop, I would encourage laboratory testing of medical marijuana. I would go even further and have the city industrial grow, dispense and tax it, so it could be monitored to prevent abuse, while dramatically increasing revenues and providing jobs.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

I support any and all policies that will enable Santa Monica to deal with the sharing of sustainable resources, particularly when it comes to water and power conservation.

8. HOBBIES

Bicycling, travel, politics, reading, Scrabble, attending science fiction conventions, body surfing and surfing the Internet.

9. READING

"The Unincorporated Future," "Technologies Without Boundaries," "Last Words" (George Carlin).

10. REDEVELOPMENT

It's too late to stop plans for the Civic Center, and the park in front of City Hall, etc. I would reduce them as much as possible, and implement a moratorium on further projects, such as building another branch library, and divert the savings to invest in our schools.

11. MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

I approve putting educational facilities to public use and other ways of allocating assistance to the school district as long as the money is utilized to improve educational opportunities for students.

12. FERRIS WHEEL GUESTS

Jefferson, Christ and Marx to discuss how governments, religious institutions and the news media have perverted their political, philosophical and religious teachings.

13. SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

I was the first candidate to advocate closing SMO and I lost my AFA/CWA endorsement as a result. I was not taken seriously until the last election when pro-development forces realized there was big money to be made. That property should be used in ways that benefit the public, and not special interests. For example, to hold a giant garage sale, flea and Farmers' Market, stages for performers and free speech corner that was open to the public with free spaces available only to residents of Santa Monica. Space should also be allocated for residents to exhibit and sell their art and I would use the hangars to industrial grow marijuana.

14. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

It is quite obvious that developers cannot be trusted to choose or honor promises made to secure permission to exploit a property for their benefit. I strongly oppose any further development and advocate a moratorium unless it is authorized by and benefits Santa Monica residents.

15. OVERDEVELOPMENT

So-called slow or smart growth are euphemisms for overdevelopment. Santa Monica has already surpassed the optimum level of development, creating a traffic and parking crisis that continually deteriorates, despite election year promises to the contrary. So-called traffic calming measures make the problem even worse and are an impediment to police and fire department response.

16. PENSION COSTS

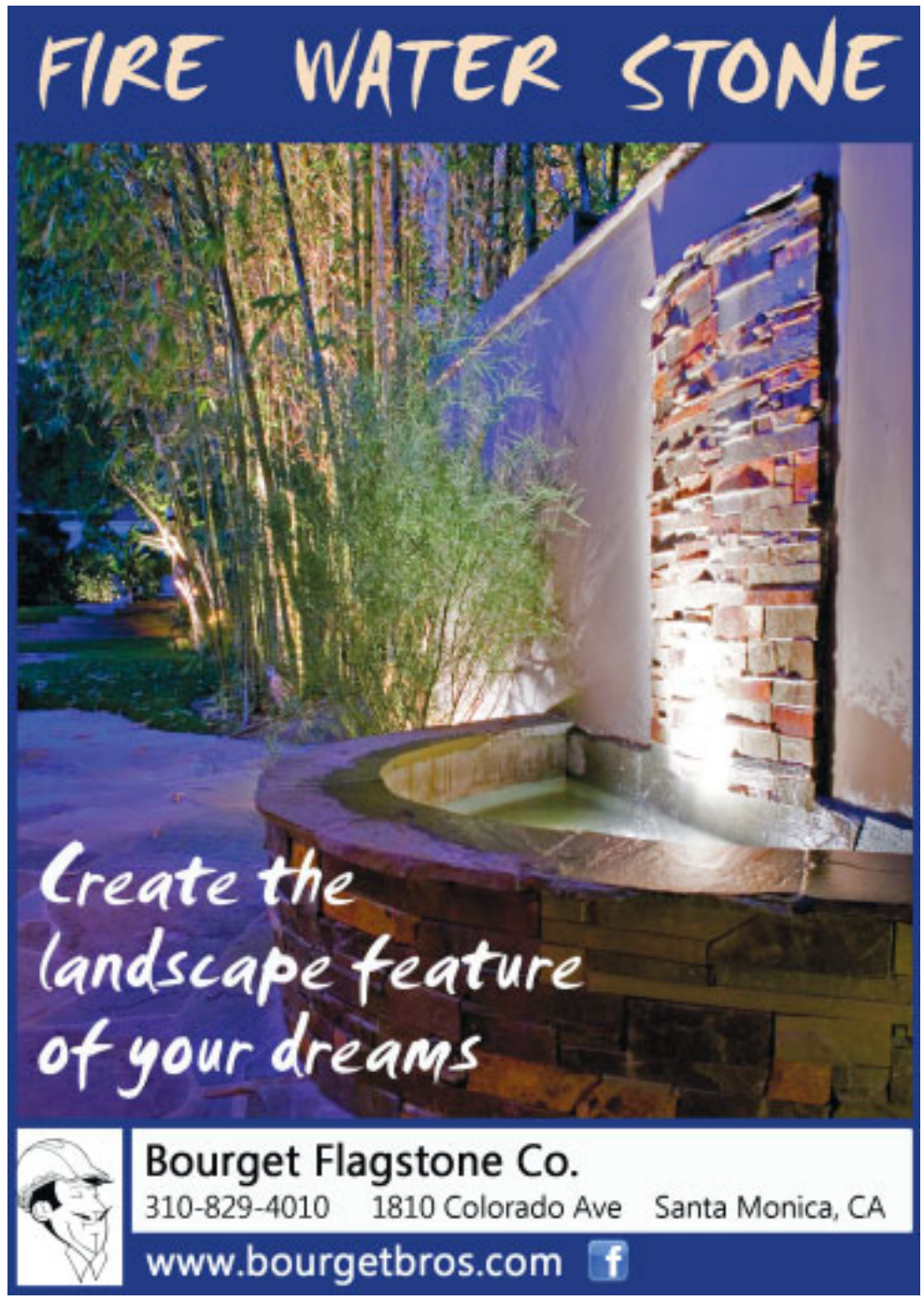
Pension costs have exploded beyond the future ability of taxpayers to offset without diverting funds to make our city one of the ideal locations on the planet. The worst examples of this are among the greedy civil service and public agency supervisors and administrators, who conspire with the City Council to line the pockets of their cronies and friends. I would implement a whistle-blowing function on the city website and have the budget audited online to expose conflict of interest and waste. I would further forbid all past and present city officials from working for the city, receiving consultant fees, or awarding city contracts to relatives, colleagues or friends.

17. TRAFFIC SHORTCUTS

I avoid driving when I can. I bicycle and use the bus as often as possible and allow plenty of time to get where I am going.

18. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The city should be creating affordable housing for low-income workers who have jobs in Santa Monica, and investigate people who are living in HUD and Section 8 housing for which they do not qualify. Santa Monica has become a haven for welfare cheats who are residing in low-income housing that should go to low-income workers who commute long distances to take jobs that most are too lazy or too proud to accept.





MELKONIANS

FROM PAGE 3

at the Planning Commission. It's time to elect someone with no political ties, agendas, or motives, someone with real sustainable solutions, not political ones.

I am a civil and environmental engineer and I have first-hand experience in designing the communities in which we live and in successfully confronting the challenges presented to us by our built environment. Through my 20-plus years of experience, I have seen what has worked and what has not. I have seen development projects add value to our communities — and those that detract from it. Through my experience, I have developed a new revolutionary sustainable and responsible growth policy — netZAID, which stands for net Zero Adverse Impact Development. If elected, I will make netZAID a reality for Santa Monica.

Twenty years ago, my first project as a civil engineer was to write the infrastructure element for the L.A. Framework Master Plan — L.A.'s equivalent of the Santa Monica 2010 LUCE. Twenty years later, the L.A. Framework has failed our neighboring city. L.A.'s City Council and Planning Commission sold the Framework as a "vision" that would work, with targeted growth areas centered around Metro stations, which were then arriving. Twenty years later, traffic has gotten worse and L.A.'s infrastructure continues to operate at above capacity levels — worse than before. Santa Monica is now on the same path with the 2010 LUCE, and again it will not work. The path can be corrected, but this election is the time, before it's too late.

Santa Monica zoning codes are currently being rewritten by the Planning Commission and will be adopted by our next City Council. These zoning codes are being written with the "vision" of the 2010 LUCE and we have seen precursors of this "vision" with the proposed Miramar and Village Trailer Park projects.

New developments, which are not subject to rent control, have been approved by City Hall and the Planning Commission and are now being built. The proposed Village Trailer Park project rips the very fabric and foundation of Santa Monica, displacing one of the lowest income groups in our community, while providing giant profits for developers with the aid of City Hall. Proposed luxury condo's at Miramar are planned in order to subsidize the developer's bad business decisions of buying overpriced real estate and finance the construction of the revitalization of the hotel while leaving adverse traffic impacts, which cannot be mitigated with any development agreement donation or benefit.

My netZAID policy will replace development agreements, which do not work. Santa Monica is a built-out city and development agreements fail to address this. If our city is a bucket, it is full. We cannot increase the size of our bucket. We must insure that our bucket doesn't overflow. This is netZAID. Development agreements defy zoning codes and cause the bucket to overflow — decreasing our quality of life. NetZAID recognizes our bucket is full and enhances our quality of life — the only job of the City Council. Zoning laws are developed through community input and physical constraints and are meant to preserve our quality of life. The ability of a city to adequately service its residents and businesses through its existing infrastructure (i.e. traffic/congestion, fire, police, schools, sewers, etc.) is not addressed through the development agreement policy. NetZAID will ensure that all development projects leave a net zero adverse impact on our community, or they will not be built.

2. CITY'S STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES

No answer provided.

3. HOMELESSNESS

No answer provided.

4. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

I am not raising or accepting any campaign contributions. This speaks for its self.

5. SMOKING BAN

I support the ordinance banning smoking for new tenants.

6. MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Yes.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

I would support the development of the Sustainable Water Master Plan (SWMP) to achieve water self-sufficiency by 2020. I would support the conversion of the airport property to a park with integrated solar and wind power generation facilities.

8. HOBBIES

Late night walks with my wife or a friend reflecting on anything and everything.

9. READING

"In Search of Lost Time," by Marcel Proust

10. REDEVELOPMENT

I would work tirelessly to finally get our four-legged community an off-leash dog park at the beach. I do not believe that Fido will pollute the ocean — as has been argued by State Parks and Rec to stop Santa Monica's efforts to unleash the beach. I will personally use my skills as a civil and environmental engineer to mitigate any concerns that Parks and Rec has so that we can have a ribbon chewing ceremony within the next four years. If I am not successful, I will not run for a second term.

11. MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

No answer provided.

12. FERRIS WHEEL GUESTS

My grandmother and grandfather that passed on before I was born. I would ask about what their definition of love and happiness was, and I would listen.

13. SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

Simple, it's time City Hall smells the "avgas" and hears the noise. Close it down.

14. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

No answer provided.

15. OVERDEVELOPMENT

My netZAID policy (see above).

16. PENSION COSTS

No answer provided.

17. TRAFFIC SHORTCUTS

Ocean [Avenue] going east-west, might as well enjoy the view. North-south — Hah!

18. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

No answer provided.



RUBIN
FROM PAGE 3

positive and eliminate the negative?

3. HOMELESSNESS

Santa Monica is working hard to deal with the difficult issue of homelessness, but more public and private funding would be helpful. The city is much less polarized regarding homelessness than it was just a few years ago. We need to support more help for homeless veterans. We also need to further accelerate the housing-first approach. Virtually no one really wants to be homeless, but there are still too many people who wrongly and sadly still hold that misconception. Here's a sticker slogan to reflect on: "Feed the poor and homeless, not the Pentagon and bomb makers."

4. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

It was a very reasonable increase. Sadly, it is expensive to run a campaign. … I'm not soliciting any campaign contributions, but I am encouraging people to attend the candidate forums, call all the candidates or visit all their websites and seek out your own answers. Don't simply rely on the sleekest looking or sounding campaign literature. Be wary of fear mongering and personal attack campaign brochures. Elections can often be more confusing than clarifying. But you can decide to not be confused. … People sometimes say I'm not a serious candidate because I'm not soliciting campaign contributions. By that standard election definition of "serious" they have a point, but I assure you that my involvement in our city and the election campaign process is being done with the most serious of intentions.

5. SMOKING BAN

Absolutely yes. I supported steps toward banning smoking in our parks, our beaches, the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Pier, our bars and clubs, our outdoor dining areas, and our apartment and condo patios and common areas. But when second-hand smoke from your neighbors is coming into your residence and affecting you and your family's health, then something must be done.

6. MEDICAL MARIJUANA

I would, but in a limited manner.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

We should eventually have all our own water. We should be promoting solar energy on more rooftops. We should be doing planting that requires less watering. We should be driving our cars a bit less and taking the bus and other modes of alternative transportation more. And we should be taking shorter showers, because how over-clean do we really need to get?

8. HOBBIES

An activist should have hobbies, but I really don't. I used to collect baseball cards, coins and postage stamps. Now I'm simply collecting fond memories. I know that going to meetings is really not a hobby. Maybe I'll get a book on hobbies to see what I might be missing. But for the most part, life is good and I'm pretty happy. Except when I think of all the bad things in the world. Maybe I should take up the hobby of not worrying.

9. READING

I'm still reading the morning papers. Yes, the Santa Monica Daily Press is one of them. Maybe I'll also get a book on hobbies (see previous answer).

10. REDEVELOPMENT

I'm still not giving up hope that California will soon come to its senses and re-establish the important funding to some degree. But until that time we should not abandon or neglect our important vision and our important landmarks like the Civic Auditorium, the "Chain Reaction" sculpture and Chez Jay restaurant. Forward! Slowly, perhaps, but surely.

11. MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

We must always support and fund our schools. We must support and pass the upcoming local school bond measure. Things can always be modified if necessary, but I think the access deal is a good one.

12. FERRIS WHEEL GUESTS

The late Paul Conrad, who created the "Chain Reaction" sculpture. The late Santa Monica Mayor Ken Genser, who voted to approve the iconic public art creation. And Marcia Genser, the late mother of Ken Genser, who always said "Chain Reaction" was her favorite sculpture. We would talk about how the community is going to save "Chain Reaction."

13. SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

I would stand far away. Seriously, I think the time has come to work together to close SMO after the agreement with the FAA expires in 2015. Ongoing toxic pollution. Noise and more noise. Safety threats and aircraft disasters. Why shouldn't it be closed? Santa Monica could then use that land to benefit our community recreationally, artistically, educationally and economically, with more affordable housing, open space, community gardens, plus traffic-diminishing new connector streets and the community finally rid of the ongoing pollution, noise, and safety threats for good.

14. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Council and developer negotiations are important, but a broad check list can also be helpful. Flexibility and consistency can go hand in hand. Community benefits are extremely important. But the tax money the city gets, the jobs that are created, the services and retail offered, and the opportunity for individuals and families — rich and low income — to live in Santa Monica is good reason we should not simply make development the enemy. More benefits for art. More for trees. More for education, child care and affordable housing.

15. OVERDEVELOPMENT

I don't want to prevent development. I don't want skyscrapers, but development that goes a few feet higher and is more workable can benefit the community. I did not support the failed RIFT ballot initiative that would have put a moratorium on development.

16. PENSION COSTS

There have been some pension cuts already, but we can't sell our public employees short. I am not in favor of further cuts.

17. TRAFFIC SHORTCUTS

I walk. I take the Big Blue Bus. It's not really a problem for me since I'm not allowed out of Santa Monica (only kidding). But, I do feel sorry for those people stuck in traffic. We should have had a light rail and subway decades ago.

18. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

More affordable housing! The city should always encourage and support development that is helping with the creation of more affordable housing.



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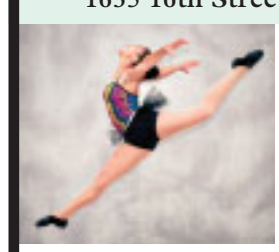
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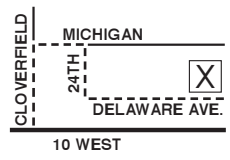
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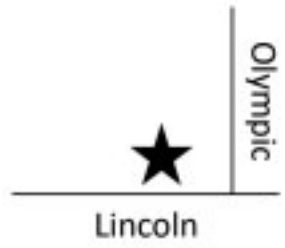
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Google issues a bad report early, hurting Nasdaq

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Google plummeted almost $80 per share, more than 10 percent, and trading in the stock was halted two and a half hours Thursday after a disappointing earnings report was published ahead of schedule and surprised investors.

Bleak figures in the report about online advertising dragged down Facebook stock, too, and the Nasdaq composite index skidded 1 percent on a day when the broader stock market was mostly flat.

Google was trading at $754 per share at 12:30 p.m. EDT, then fell almost $20 in a minute after investors saw the report, a draft. It dropped as low as $676, and Google halted trading at 12:50 p.m., with the stock at $687.

The stock was halted until 3:20 p.m. Companies routinely halt trading when they have news to release to investors during the market day, but two and a half hours is an unusually long suspension.

When trading in Google resumed, the stock climbed slightly, but it still finished down $60.49, or 8 percent, at $695.

Google blamed a printing company, R.R. Donnelley & Sons, for filing its quarterly statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission more than three hours ahead of schedule.

R.R. Donnelley & Sons stock also plunged — as much as 71 cents, or 6.5 percent, to $10.14 — after the mistake. It later recovered most of the loss and ended the day down 9 cents.

The Google report said it earned $2.18 billion from July through September, down from $2.73 billion in the same period a year ago.

Profit came to $6.53 per share, and would have been $9.03 if not for accounting costs from employee stock compensation and restructuring charges related to Google's acquisition of Motorola Mobility, a cellphone maker.

Still, analysts polled by FactSet, a provider of financial data, were expecting $10.63 per share.

Besides disappointing investors, the report was an embarrassment for Google. Near the top of the draft, the report said, "PENDING LARRY QUOTE," apparently a place to insert a quote from Larry Page, one of Google's founders.

The earnings report said that Google made about 15 percent less than a year earlier each time a user clicks on an online ad. That is the fourth straight quarter of erosion in Google's ad prices.

It is a warning sign for Facebook, which is trying to figure out how to make money off advertising on mobile devices.

Facebook stock declined 90 cents, or 4.6 percent, at $18.98, with most of the loss coming after Google's earnings report. The company went public in May at $38, but it has fallen as low as $17.55, in part because of investor concerns about ads.

"Google and Facebook are very reliant on online ads," said Scott Kessler, head of technology sector equity research at S&P Capital IQ, a research firm. "So if Google's results indicate a lack of demand and growth, that's obviously a worry for Facebook."

Google is the third-largest component in the Nasdaq composite, behind Apple and Microsoft. The Nasdaq finished down 31.25 points at 3,072.87.

The broader market fared better: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 8.06 points, or 0.06 percent, at 13,549.94. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.57 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,457.34.

The broader market is "waiting for a clear catalyst," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist at Prudential Financial. What investors most want, she said, is a sense of direction about earnings and the economy.

"We basically know what happened in the last quarter," Krosby said. "What we're looking for is what's next: Are we turning a corner? Will demand pick up at the end of the year?"

Analysts expect S&P 500 companies to say that overall earnings shrank in the third quarter compared with a year ago, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be the first drop in exactly three years.

American Express reported quarterly revenue late Wednesday that fell short of Wall Street's expectations even though earnings were in line. Amex said card holders' rate of spending has slowed in recent months. Its stock lost $1.76 to $57.61.

Strong profits for the insurer Travelers sent its stock up 3.6 percent. The company said claims from catastrophes plunged compared to the same quarter last year, which helped earnings double. Travelers' stock gained $2.56 to $73.94.

BB&T bank, Philip Morris International and Boston Scientific all fell after reporting results that fell short of forecasts. Microsoft fell in after-hours trading after reporting its earnings.

Weekly applications for unemployment benefits surged to a four-month high, a sharp rise from the previous week. The Labor Department pointed to technical reasons behind the swing, mainly delayed figures from one large state, California.

Better earnings from Johnson & Johnson and other companies, along with encouraging reports on industrial production and the housing market, have pushed the stock market higher this week. The Dow is up 1.6 percent and the S&P 500 is up 2 percent.

In other trading Thursday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note was 1.83 percent, up from 1.82 percent Wednesday. The euro lost 0.4 cent against the dollar to $1.307. Crude oil fell 2 cents to $92.10 per barrel.

Among other stocks making big moves:

• EBay jumped $2.63, or 5.4 percent, to $50.83 after posting better net income and more revenue from its PayPal payments service and its online markets. The company also raised its full-year estimates for earnings and sales.

• Verizon Communications surged $1.06, or 2.4 percent, to $45.78. The company said its wireless division signed up more customers in the quarter. Verizon said its customers also added more devices to its Share Everything plan.

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Check out the HOROSCOPES on PAGE 17!

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Study: 3.4 percent of American adults are LGBT

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK A new Gallup survey, touted as the largest of its kind, estimates that 3.4 percent of American adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The findings, released Thursday, were based on interviews with more than 121,000 people. Gallup said it is the largest study ever aimed at calculating the nation's LGBT population.

The report's lead author, demographer Gary Gates of the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, said he hoped the findings would help puncture some stereotypes about gays and lesbians while illustrating the diversity of their community.

"Contemporary media often think of LGBT people as disproportionately white, male, urban and pretty wealthy," he said. "But this data reveal that relative to the general population, the LGBT population has a larger proportion of nonwhite people and clearly is not overly wealthy."

According to the survey, which was conducted between June and September, 4.6 percent of African-Americans identify as LGBT, 4 percent of Hispanics, 4.3 percent of Asians and 3.2 percent of whites. Overall, a third of those identifying as LGBT are nonwhite, the report said.

There was a slight gender difference — 3.6 percent of women identified as LGBT, compared to 3.3 percent of men. And younger adults, aged 18 to 29, were more likely than their elders to identify as LGBT.

One striking difference: among 18-to-29-year-olds, 8.3 percent of women identify as LGBT, compared with 4.6 percent of men the same age.

In contrast to some previous, smaller studies, the Gallup survey found that identification as LGBT is highest among Americans with the lowest levels of education. Among those with a high school education or less, 3.5 percent identify as LGBT, compared with 2.8 percent of those with a college degree and 3.2 percent of those with postgraduate education.

A similar pattern was found regarding income groups. More than 5 percent of those with annual incomes of less than $24,000 identify as LGBT, compared to 2.8 percent of those making more than $60,000 a year.

Among those who report income, about 16 percent of LGBT individuals have incomes above $90,000 per year, compared with 21 percent of the overall adult population, the Gallup survey found. It said 35 percent of those who identify as LGBT report incomes of less than $24,000 a year, compared to 24 percent for the population in general.

Regarding family status, 20 percent of LGBT individuals said they are married and an additional 18 percent are living with a partner; they weren't asked about the gender of those spouses and partners. Among non-LGBT Americans, 54 percent are married and 4 percent are living with a partner, the report said.

The survey found that 32 percent of both LGBT and non-LGBT women have children under 18 in their home. By contrast, 16 percent of LGBT men had children in their home, compared to 31 percent of non-LGBT men.

Gates said he was struck by the geographical spread of the LGBT population — pegged at 3.7 percent in the East, 3.6 percent in the West, 3.4 percent in the Midwest and 3.2 percent in the South.

The results were based on responses to the question, "Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?" included in 121,290 Gallup interviews conducted between June 1 and Sept. 30.

The overall 3.4 percent figure is similar to a 3.8 percent estimate made previously by Gates after averaging a group of smaller U.S. surveys conducted from 2004 to 2008.

Judge rules for cheerleaders in Bible banner lawsuit

CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas A judge stopped an East Texas school district on Thursday from barring cheerleaders from quoting Bible verses on banners at high school football games, saying the policy appears to violate their free speech rights.

District Judge Steve Thomas granted an injunction requested by the Kountze High School cheerleaders allowing them to continue displaying religious-themed banners pending the outcome of a lawsuit, which is set to go to trial next June 24, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said. Thomas previously granted a temporary restraining order allowing the practice to continue.

School officials barred the cheerleaders from displaying banners with religious messages such as, "If God is for us, who can be against us," after the Freedom From Religion Foundation complained. The advocacy group says the messages violate the First Amendment clause barring the government — or a publicly funded school district, in this case — from establishing or endorsing a religion.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry and Abbott spoke out in support of the cheerleaders on Wednesday. Perry appointed Thomas to fill a vacancy on the 356th District Court, and he is running for election to continue in the post as a Republican.

"The Constitution has never demanded that students check their religious beliefs at the schoolhouse door," Abbott said in a statement issued after the ruling. "Students' ability to express their religious views adds to the diversity of thought that has made this country so strong."

Abbott filed court papers to intervene in the lawsuit and sent state attorneys to support the cheerleaders' position that the district's ban violated their free speech rights. The Texas Education Code also states that schools must respect the rights of students to express their religious beliefs.

"It is the individual speech of the cheerleaders and not in fact the government speaking," David Starnes, the cheerleaders' attorney said, according to KDFM television. "It is not just one girl or one person in the group that comes up with the quote, but it's on a rotating basis that each girl gets to pick the quote. That is their individual voices that are being portrayed on the banner."

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Purpose:
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- Learn about potential job opportunities in the area
- Attract qualified contractors, suppliers, vendors, and professional services
- Measure BB and how it has positively impacted the Santa Monica-Malibu communities

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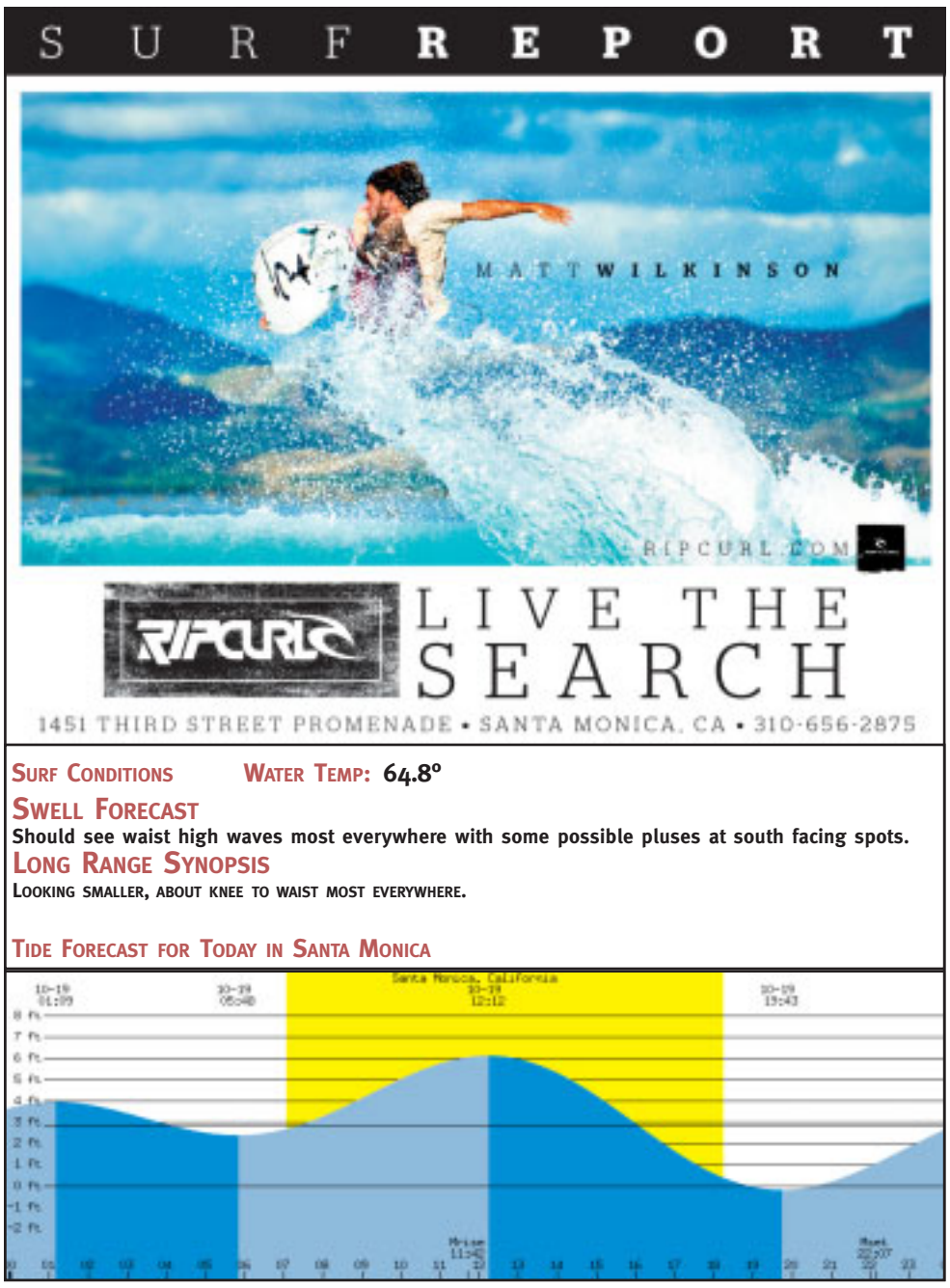
For further Information or to RSVP attendance please contact Sheere Bishop-Casanova at BBprojectinfo@smmusd.org

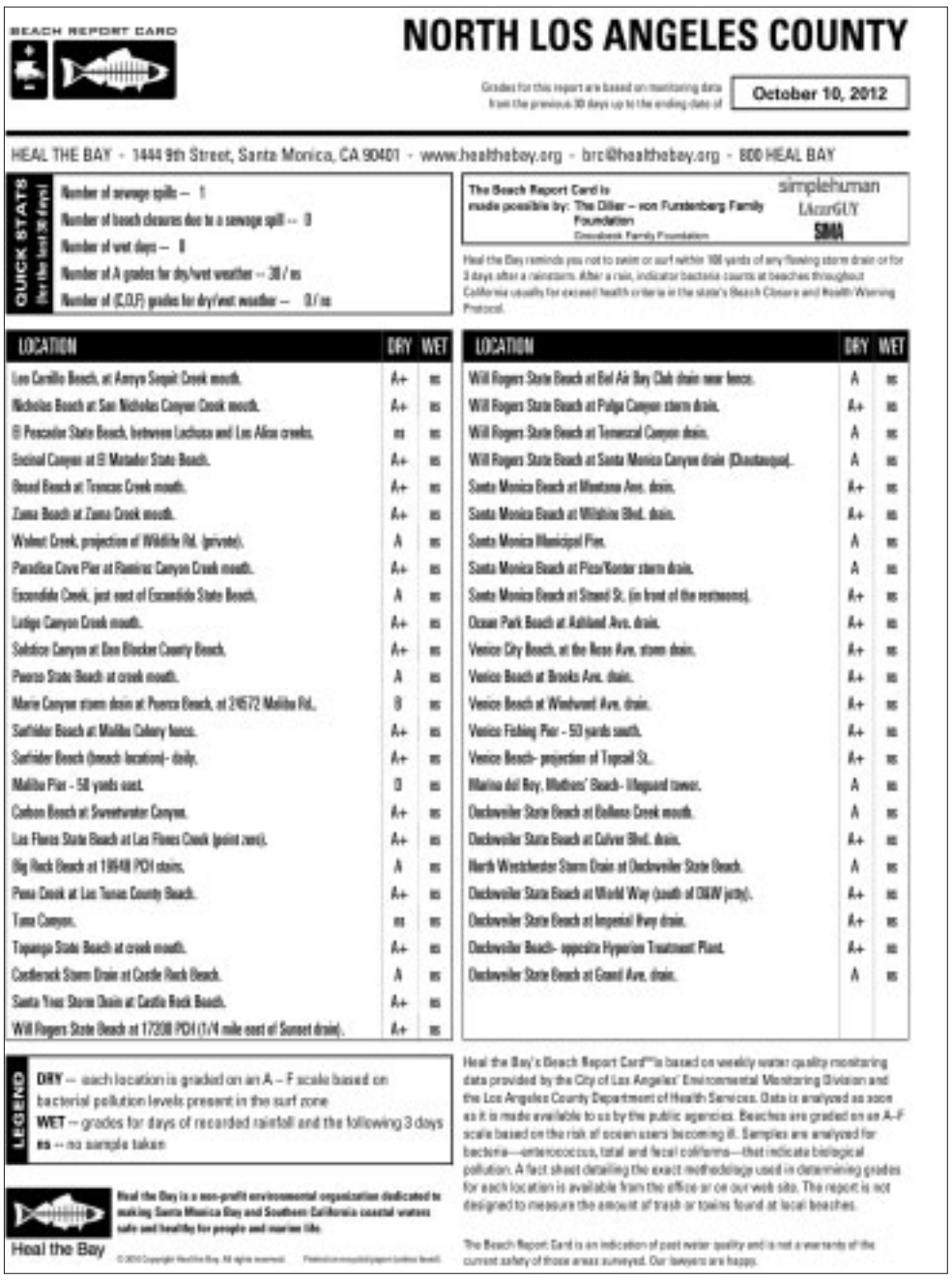
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NCAA FOOTBALL

Road-weary USC hopes to get sharper at home

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES After traipsing from the humid New Jersey swamps to rain-soaked Seattle over the past few weeks, Matt Barkley is awfully grateful to be back in the Southern California sunshine.

With a travel-heavy first half of the year finally behind them, the No. 11 Trojans (5-1, 3-1 Pac-12) will leave Los Angeles just once for the rest of the regular season, which begins with Saturday's visit from lowly Colorado. USC doesn't blame the schedule for its unintimidating performances thus far, but it's clear the preseason's No. 1 team probably will benefit from the comforts of home.

"Seems like we've been away for a long time," Barkley said. "You don't hear guys talk about it, but I think you'll see it in the next couple of games. We don't like to think it affects us, but being back at the Coliseum will be a big help."

Although the Trojans have hardly been the juggernaut many expected, Barkley and his teammates believe their lofty goals are still achievable if they settle into a flow of strong play after a disjointed month since their only loss at Stanford. With a relatively healthy roster and motivation to land a big destination for their first bowl game since 2009, the Trojans realize they'll need four strong performances at the Coliseum during visits from Colorado, Oregon, Arizona State and Notre Dame over the next six weeks.

USC, which was No. 10 in the first BCS standings, had just one home game in a 48-day stretch between its season opener and Saturday. By comparison, Oregon has been on the road just once — and it was only a trip to Seattle for a neutral-site game with Washington State.

"We've been in a very weird rhythm, with the bye and all the road games," coach Lane Kiffin said. "But now we've got six Saturday games in a row, most of them at home. It's nice to be in the rhythm of being in your own hotel (before games) and not having to get on a plane. ... We're just relieved to make it through not just four road games, but the long trip back East, the preseason hype, everything."

The Trojans went back to work on campus this week with hopes of finding that rhythm, which has eluded them so far. USC has won three straight games since that seven-point loss to the Cardinal, but the Trojans haven't beaten anybody impressively since their season opener, content to grind out ugly victories that have left their fans wondering why a talent-loaded team isn't flattening everything in its path.

"We knew every game would be even tougher this year," said All-American receiver Robert Woods, who has 36 catches for 360 yards and five touchdowns. "Whenever another team plays USC, they're going to treat it like their biggest game. Every week we have to be prepared for that."

Yet the Trojans aren't handling it perfectly: USC leads the FBS with an average of 10 penalties per game, and the spate of road games can't be the only explanation. The Trojans also are 112th of 120 teams in third down efficiency, an improbable development for a team with their wealth of offensive talent.

That talent has been offset by deficiencies in other areas. USC still hasn't decided on a starting left tackle midway through the season, with Kiffin re-opening the competition this week between Max Tuerk and Aundrey Walker, the Trojans' most-penalized player.

USC didn't bank many style points during its road trips to Washington, Utah, Stanford and East Rutherford, N.J., to face Syracuse. Their 13-point win over the Orange was the only thing close to a blowout, and the Trojans are back home after a pair of workmanlike 10-point wins over the Utes and Huskies.

Barkley's Heisman Trophy chances are waning with each week, yet the senior leaves little doubt he would gladly skip a trip to New York in December for the chance to play in Miami or Pasadena in January.

"Defenses have tried to play us different ways over the last couple of weeks, knowing our passing attack," Barkley said with a shrug after going 10 for 20 for 167 yards at Washington. "We've been running the ball tremendously well. It's team-first."

Colorado's visit would seem to provide a perfect opportunity for Barkley, Woods and Marqise Lee to show off before the Trojans travel to Arizona for their only remaining out-of-town game. Kiffin won't promise any offensive fireworks, sticking to his determination to keep banking wins with a steady running game and a defense that has been better than many expected.

The Trojans are hoping those beauty-pageant victories just happen naturally when they're in front of their 90,000 fans.

"We need to get in front of our fans and get some momentum going," safety T.J. McDonald said. "We're finally home now. This is our chance to do that."



MOVIE TIMES

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

Blow-Up (NR) 1hr 51min
Blow Out (R) 1hr 47min
7:30pm

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

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:45pm, 3:55pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

First Time (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

Least Among Saints (R) 1hr 45min
5:10pm

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

Hotel Transylvania 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
1:45pm, 7:00pm

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

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 7:55pm, 10:50pm

Taken 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Paranormal Activity 4 (R) 1hr 35min
11:05am, 12:05pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:05pm, 5:10pm, 6:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm, 11:15pm

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

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:15am, 4:20pm, 9:30pm

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

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

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

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

Mystical Law (NR) 2hrs 00min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

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

Frankenweenie in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

Frankenweenie (PG) 1hr 27min
11:20am, 4:25pm, 9:30pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Sinister (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Alex Cross (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
11:40am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

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

Go with the flow tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You feel as if you have a tiger by its tail, but do not count on this feeling lasting forever. You have been putting more effort into your life, and it shows. At the last minute, a boss or higher-up could make a request that you might like to say "no" to. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for new information. If it is possible, try to arrange for a change of scenery this weekend. As you integrate new information, you will detach enough to where you might decide that a problem really isn't one anymore. Tonight: Break a pattern.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be questioning someone's choices. You will not be able to change this person's mind or have much influence on what he or she chooses to do. Say little, yet be there for a discussion. Tonight: Sort through invitations, one by one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be very enthusiastic about an upcoming event, yet you realize you'll have to wade through a lot of work to get there. You currently seem unable to tap into your incredible ingenuity, which could slow you down. Tonight: Where people are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ If you sense a general feeling of indulgence from others, your hunches are right. Everyone might be ready to get into their weekend routines. Tonight: Let the party begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Stay close to home. Don't get involved in any of your routine adventures right now. Just do what you want, and avoid feeling so work-driven. This stance could be challenging, but ultimately very refreshing, once you get into the swing of it. Tonight: Ever so playful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Make and return calls. You easily could veer off track in a conversation. You laugh, and others lighten up. Consider simply walking out the door and starting your weekend early. Tonight: A last-minute decision could come at a price.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of handling a situation as you are. You might be setting a precedent. Make it clear that your response is just for now. Rather than leave this thought unstated and assumed, verbalize it. Tonight: You do not have to go far.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could be unusually extroverted, and someone might misunderstand your mood. Stay clear, and be sure to separate work from pleasure. You'll discover the true depth and meaning in a bond that you'd prefer to keep hush-hush. Tonight: Go with the flow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Screen calls; you might not want to talk to all of the people reaching out to you. Emotions could run high, so keep certain information to yourself. Pay attention to your premonitions today. Your senses are working overtime. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Wherever you are, friends surround you. Do not push too hard to have things go your way. Discussions will take you to the same point, if you relax. Your instincts are right-on about a money matter. Tonight: On top of your game.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Understand what is happening with a boss, parent or someone you look up to. This person does not need to agree with you, so respect his or her ideas regardless. Tonight: Get your weekend going as soon as possible.

Happy birthday

This year you really live life to the max. Be aware of a tendency to overindulge. Your creativity emerges the more relaxed you become. You say what you mean, and you mean what you say. As a result, you attract much of what you desire. If you are single, your desirability is clear -- even on the most basic level. If you are attached, you unintentionally could give off mixed signals. CAPRICORN is very traditional.

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

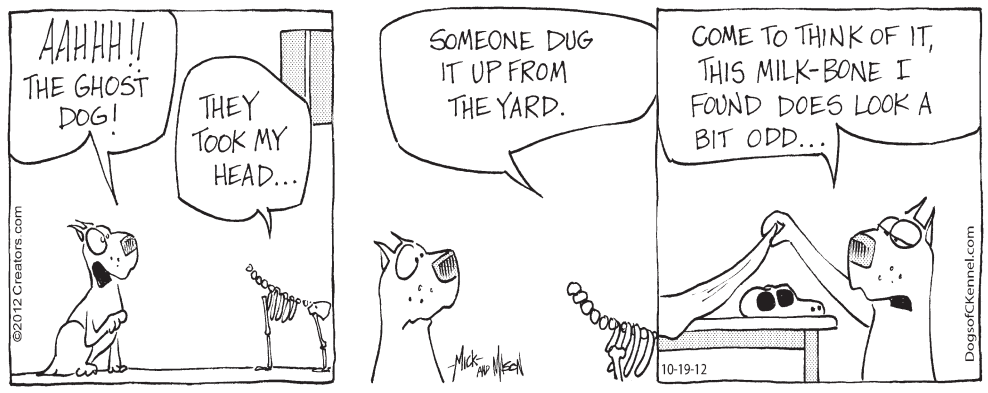


Strange Brew By John Deering



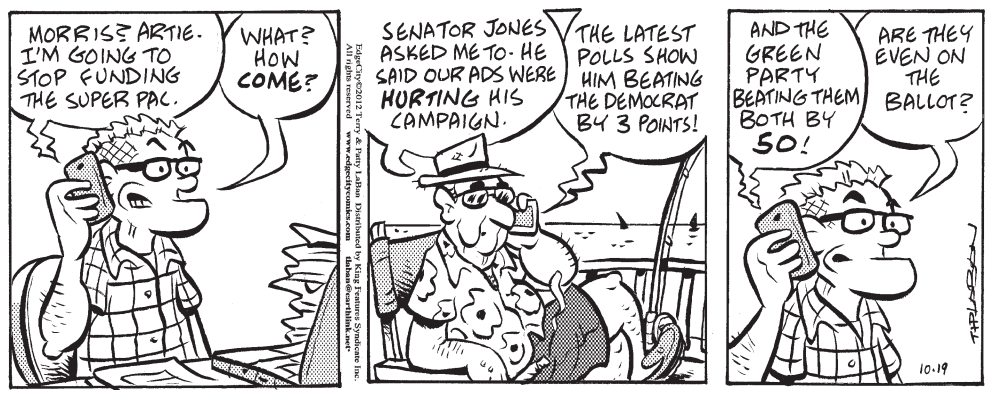
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



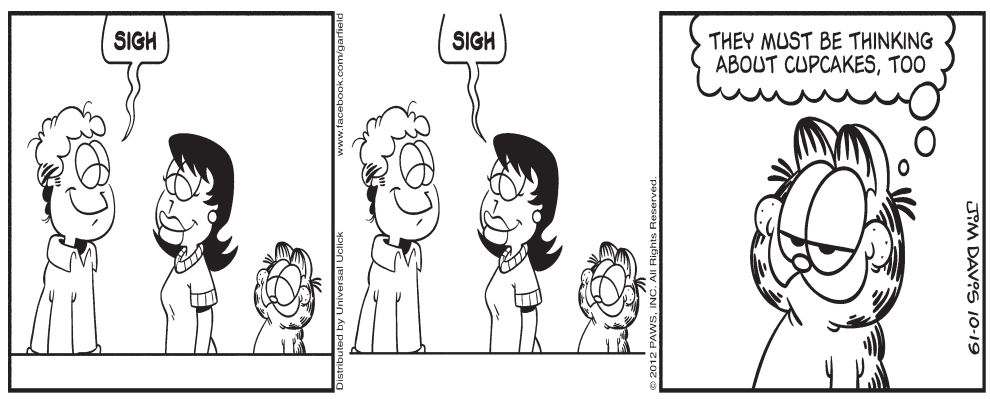
Edge City

By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

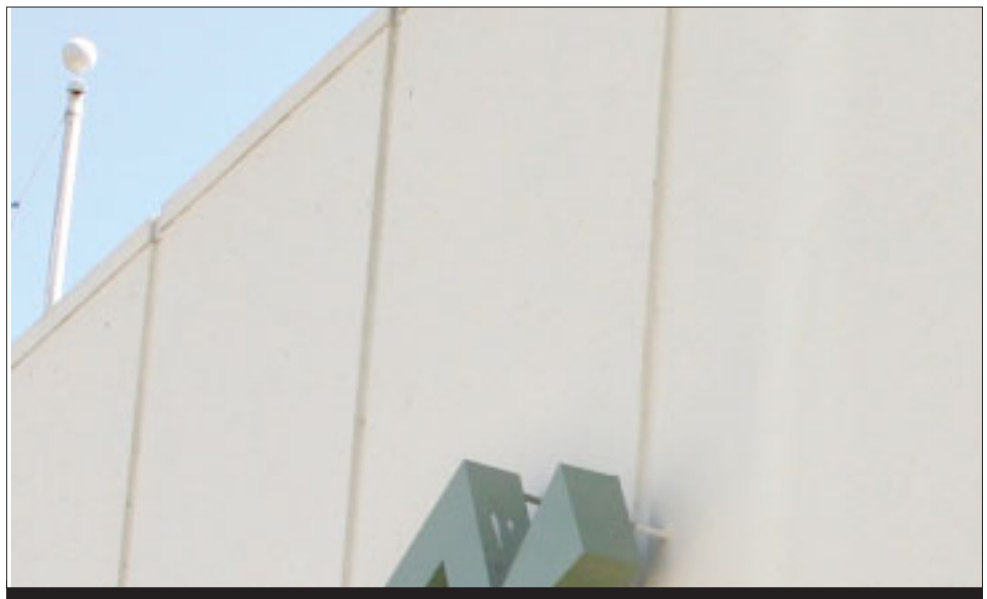
There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

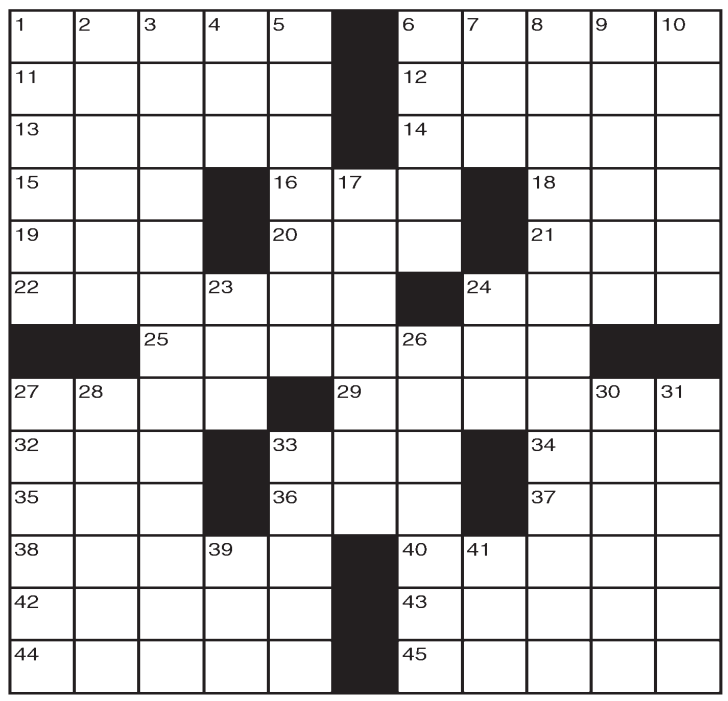
ACROSS
1 Repair-bill line
6 Fossil resin
11 Piano piece
12 Drunk
13 Cook's mush-room
14 Docking spots
15 Leaf lifter
16 Mineral suffix
18 English article
19 Collar
20 Big truck
21 Writer Deighton
22 On the schedule
24 Emporium
25 With 37-Across, Eurasian lake
27 Lyricist Sammy
29 Like some garages
32 — standstill
33 Diner sandwich
34 Finished off
35 Neither follower
36 Director Spike
37 See 25-Across
38 Knock for a loop
40 Worship site
42 Chops into cubes
43 Oscar-winner Wither-spoon
44 Massage targets
45 Begat

DOWN
1 French race site
2 Like Berg's music
3 "Walk On By" com-poser
4 Pindar poem
5 Exper-iences anew
6 Quaking tree
7 Cattle call?
8 "Elmer Gantry" star
9 Old Testa-ment book
10 Bristle at
17 Future frog
23 Salon offering
24 West of films
26 Distraught
27 Second-largest country
28 Like some clocks
30 Relaxed
31 Brought up
33 Conse-crate
39 Last letter
41 Island souvenir

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

Yesterday's answer

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10-19

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/16
13 37 40 46 52
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/17
4 19 25 40 42
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/18
6 7 16 33 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/18
MIDDAY: 3 8 8
EVENING: 1 9 7

SANTA ANITA
Draw Date: 10/18
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:46.15

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Modern Warfare:** China, Japan and Taiwan each claim ownership of the uninhabited South China Sea islands of Senkaku or Diaoyu, and the controversy heightened in September when Japan announced that it had formally "purchased" the islands from a private company that reputedly owned them. China countered by "launching" its first-ever aircraft carrier (a vessel junked in 1998 by Ukraine), which it hopes will intimidate its neighbors even though it is useless to planes. Days later, patrol boats from Taiwan and Japan had a confrontation near the islands -- drenching each other in a military-grade squirt-gun fight. (Japan won.)

■ The City Council of Jersey City, N.J., voted in September to settle a lawsuit filed by Joshua Lopez, who had driven his car directly at a police officer during a 2009 traffic stop, trapping the officer against his own squad car, and thus forcing the officer to fire at him. Lopez suffered only an injured hand, but the city has now agreed to give him $26,500 out of fear of "litigation risk."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1950 - The People's Liberation Army takes control of the town of Qamdo; this is sometimes called the "Invasion of Tibet".

1950 - The People's Republic of China joins the Korean War by sending thousands of troops across the Yalu river to fight United Nations forces.

1950 - Iran becomes the first country to accept technical assistance from the United States under the Point Four Program.

1954 - First ascent of Cho Oyu.

1956 - The Soviet Union and Japan sign a Joint Declaration, officially ending the state of war between the two countries that had existed since August 1945.

WORD UP!

ombudsman \ OM-buhdz-muhn \ , noun; 1. A government official who hears and investigates complaints by private citizens against other officials or government agencies.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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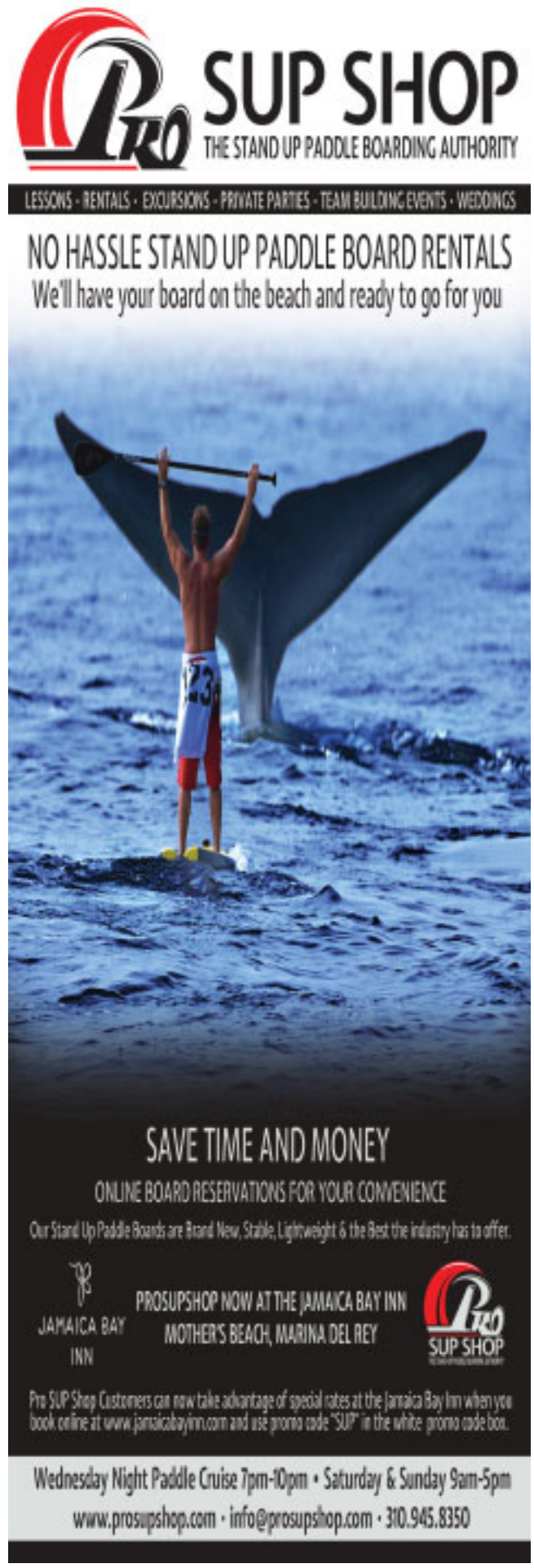
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