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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 304



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

A DYING BREED?
SEE PAGE 8

THE IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN SANTA MONICA ISSUE

A smoother ride for Santa Monica Blvd

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BLVD. The bumpy ride along one of the most heavily traveled roads in the city will soon get a lot smoother.

Fresh pavement is planned for a nearly one-mile stretch of Santa Monica Boulevard from Cloverfield Boulevard to Centinela Avenue as part of a federally-funded project that will include repairing sidewalks and installing concrete gutters.

The City Council is expected to approve two contracts for the Santa Monica Boulevard Resurfacing Project that's part of a $13.7 million spending package on the table tonight.

Those contracts are slated to go to All American Asphalt for construction services, totaling $674,638, and Tetra Tech for project management at a cost of $67,100.

The project will be funded through the federal stimulus package.

Aiding the flow of vehicles once the project is completed will be the new Advanced Traffic Management System, which will centralize all signal controllers and other transportation command devices.

The council will be asked to authorize a $320,000 contract with Iteris Inc. to design the communication infrastructure for the system, which will include features such as favoring the flow of public transit on streets like Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards. Approximately 38 signalized intersections will be included.

SELLING STATE LOANS

A $3.1 million loan to the state using local property tax revenues could be paid back well in advance of the 2013 reimbursement

SEE **CONSENT** PAGE 10



ENJOYING IT WHILE IT LASTS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Tourists from Norway enjoy a game of volleyball in the afternoon sun at the Santa Monica Beach on Monday. Temperatures were in the 80s at the beaches, which came as a shock to some who were expecting more fall-like temperatures. A cold front is expected to arrive today in Southern California, bringing a sharp drop in temperatures and potentially damaging winds, National Weather Service officials said.

Come and get it

Santa Monica Place combines fast food with fine dining

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Aside from the upscale and critically-acclaimed restaurants at the new Santa Monica Place will be an old favorite that was popular with budget-minded shoppers and local workers before the resurrection of the mall.

Macerich Co. announced this week the lineup of nine fast-food eateries that will occupy the enclosed food court on the mall's rooftop dining deck, featuring new names like Sarku Japan and Chick n' Ribs and the return of familiar faces like Charlie Kabob and Manchu Wok.

They join five sit-down restaurants that will line the perimeter of the top level, including XINO Restaurant + Lounge, Ozumo, Zengo, La Sandia and Pizza Antica, creating a dedicated space where shoppers can dine in the open air with an ocean view.

The new fast-food tenants include Pinches Tacos, Sushi Itto, Stefano's Pizza, Wetzel's Pretzels and Fatburger, the latter three of which also have restaurants on the Third Street Promenade. A tenth tenant specializing in fresh-made sandwiches and salads could also be added later.

Michael Guerin, the assistance vice president of leasing for Macerich, said the goal was to bring some diversity in the dining offerings to shoppers.

"We want to give a full experience when

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 10

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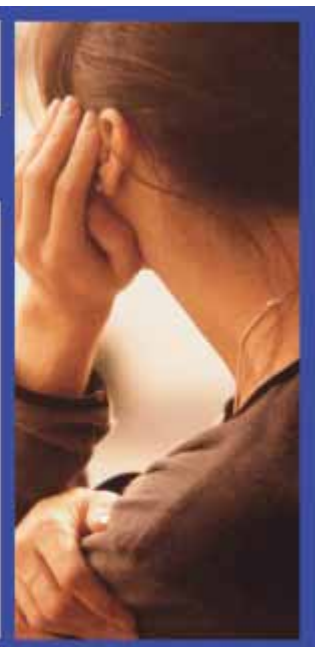
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Write away
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Come to the first meeting of this free group for writers of all kinds, and receive inspiration, guidance and support. Meetings will be held every Tuesday through Dec. 29. Call (310)450-0443 for more information.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park at Montana Avenue
4:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
This is a gentle beginner's yoga class that emphasizes breathing, stretching, slow movement, strengthening, balance and relaxation. A perfect class for beginners and anyone looking for a gentle approach to yoga. Suggested donation: $10 per class. Bring a yoga mat or a beach towel. Contact meghanmbowen@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Living fearlessly
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The conclusion of a six week series of video talks by self-realization author Guy Finley, this class explores that true source of power that is required to live a truly fearless life. Admission is $3. Contact (310)266-9930 for more information.

The economics of being a woman
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Learn about investments, portfolios, tax strategies and more in this first session of a five-week workshop designed to help women build wealth and establish financial stability. The $45 class fee includes dinner and materials. Call (310)452-3881 for more information.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 4th St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Join the ladies of Santa Monica Bay for free dance lessons, followed by dancing on their 3,000-square-foot floor. Waltz, fox-trot, swing, hustle and more — no partner necessary. Admission fee: $10. Call (310)487-0911 for more information.

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

AP Poll: Pet owners willing to go mouth-to-muzzle

BY SUE MANNING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Most pet owners would leap into action for an injured pet, even if it meant risking dog breath by going mouth-to-snout.

Fifty-eight percent of pet owners — 63 percent of dog owners and 53 percent of cat owners — would be at least somewhat likely to perform CPR on their pet in the event of a medical emergency, according to an Associated Press-Petside.com poll.

Tammy Parks, 52, of Amherst, Mass., has taken a pet first aid class and wouldn't hesitate to help her 15-year-old mixed breed terriers, Lucy and Julia, or her white fronted Amazon parrot Koko.

"It's not rocket science. The mechanics are the same as humans," said Parks, who was an American Red Cross first aid trainer. "Size is the biggest difference."

In general, though, the poll found few pet owners are prepared to handle pet emergencies. Just 20 percent of pet owners have a pet first aid kit with medical supplies like bandages and ointment in their home, and 54 percent do not have a fire evacuation plan for their pets.

And the survey revealed frequent reporting of dangerous practices that can lead to accidents and injuries. For example, a quarter of pet owners, including 30 percent of dog owners and 22 percent of cat owners, give their pets bones from table scraps, at least sometimes.

Sixty-two percent of dog owners and a third of cat owners let their pets ride in their cars unrestrained, rather than placing them in a special pet carrier. And 11 percent of pet owners sometimes leave their pets unattend-

SEE POLL PAGE 12

California's first lady caught parking illegally

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA First lady Maria Shriver, sister to Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver, appears to need a refresher on California traffic laws, based on a video posted Monday that shows her parking in a red zone.

Two weeks ago, she apologized after the Web site TMZ.com posted photographs and a video of her violating the state's handsfree cell phone law.

On Monday, the Web site posted a video showing her walking toward her Cadillac Escalade, which is clearly parked in a red zone. The site says Shriver parked there nearly an hour while visiting a doctor's office in Santa Monica.

"I regret that I made a mistake. I take responsibility for it," Shriver said in a statement issued through her office.

Santa Monica Police Lt. P.J. Guido said tickets for parking in a red zone, which is reserved for emergency vehicles, can be issued after the fact if there is sufficient evidence of a violation. A citation can bring a $61 fine.

He cautioned that it was not immediately clear from the video when and where the violation occurred.

Guido said Shriver has an official placard to put on her dashboard when she is on government business, although no placard is visible in the TMZ video.

The first lady seems to have learned at least one lesson: The red zone video shows her chatting on her cell phone as she scoots into the Escalade, then putting it down before driving away.

news@smdp.com



ALL FOR ONE

Natalie Saito *news@smdp.com*

The Santa Monica College Corsair huddle after a 29-28 victory against West Los Angeles College in Culver City on Oct. 24. After trailing 7-28, the Corsairs came back strong in the second half to win the game, which they dedicated to their former coach, Robert Taylor, who died last week.

'Crash' director Paul Haggis quits Scientology

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK "Crash" director Paul Haggis has severed his ties with the Church of Scientology, in part because of what he alleged as the organization's stance against gay marriage.

Haggis, a resident of Santa Monica, wrote a letter addressed to Tommy Davis, the head of Scientology's Celebrity Centre. In it, Haggis said he was disappointed by the church's tacit denial of gay rights in the debate over California's gay marriage ban.

The 56-year-old Haggis, who won an Oscar in 2005 for co-writing "Crash," said he was quitting the church after 35 years.

"I could not, in good conscience, be a member of an organization where gay-bashing was tolerated," Haggis wrote.

The filmmaker said that he was promised that action would be taken but that he was frustrated after time passed.

"Silence is consent, Tommy," Haggis wrote. "I refuse to consent."

The letter, dated Aug. 19, was published in a blog about Scientology and has since been widely circulated online.

SEE HAGGIS PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Do no harm

Editor:

The veterinarian's oath can be distilled into one simple concept: Above all, do no harm. As a veterinarian, I feel bound by that promise. I also feel that I cannot be silent when it comes to veterinary practices that cause animals harm. There has been a heated debate about declawing ever since Councilmembers [Kevin] McKeown and [Gleam] Davis introduced the compassionate and progressive motion to ban the barbaric practice in our city. I am grateful to them for taking a stand. For those of you who don't already know why, let me tell you what I have seen.

Declawing is the amputation of the last bone in a cat's toe. It is not some magical way that a veterinarian can stop the claw from growing. The bone is amputated because it contains the nail bed germinal tissue. Their nails are not growing from the skin like ours are. The surgery is most often performed using dog nail clippers. The bones are snipped off in 10 separate knuckle amputations. Even with laser, the outcome is the same.

The adverse effects of this surgery are numerous. Surgical complications include lameness, infection, arthritis, and in some cats, the abnormal claw will grow under the skin. Pus accumulates. I have seen the digital pad, a cushion for each of the cat's steps, shrink and retract so that the cat is walking on the remaining bone and bone shards. I have seen these cats become stiff and arthritic because they can no longer stretch properly.

While the surgical complications alone are enough reason to stop this unnecessary surgery, the behavior problems that many declawed cats begin to exhibit as a result of declawing, are equally disturbing. Declawing a cat robs that animal of its primary defense. A declawed cat has to resort to biting. This has been documented in studies. A declawed cat is less likely to use the litter box probably because it hurts to dig in the sand. If the cat's owners are intolerant of scratching on the sofa, they are sure to be intolerant of biting and peeing all over the house. This is why declawing a cat makes that cat more likely to be left in the pound or abandoned, defenseless, outside.

These behavioral changes are not good for human health. Declawing is ill-advised in human health issues because a bite wound is much more likely to send someone to the hospital than a scratch is.

Although these are the facts, the real question is about animal cruelty. And let me assure you, declawing is animal cruelty.

Jennifer Conrad, DVM
Santa Monica

Beam me up Scotty

Editor:

In response to Peter Davison's letter in the Oct. 22 Daily Press, I would like to state that I think if people didn't have to worry about health care, food and shelter, then everyone would have time and energy to pursue passions and interests that would benefit or entertain everyone else. I think that now we have reached the 21st century, our society is ready to live the Star Trek life.

Kennith Harris
Agoura Hills





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

They may be shallow but these seas provide plenty

ALTHOUGH THE SHALLOW SEAS OCCUPY 8 percent of the ocean's surface, they are brimming with life including 90 percent of the world's commercial fisheries.

Most shallow seas occur along continental shelves — underwater extensions of the continents stretching about 50 miles with exceptions like the Pacific in South America (less than a half a mile) and off the Arctic coast of Siberia which extends some 450 miles. Water depths rarely exceed 650 feet.

In order for these waters to be productive and support myriad life forms they require sunlight and nutrients particularly nitrogen and phosphorous. This in turn enables phytoplankton to grow and comprise about 90 percent of primary production in the ocean powering the entire marine food chain.

Tropical seas are located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. And while these crystal clear waters are bathed in sunlight they are mostly deficient in nutrients. Nitrogen and phosphorous are found deep within the ocean, but in the tropics a lack of surface winds precludes little if any mixing of the upper and lower ocean waters.

Coral reefs are found in tropical waters above 68 degrees and are some of the most productive habitats in the ocean rivaling even that of tropical rainforest productivity.

So what makes the coral reefs so rich?

In order to overcome a lack of nutrients corals evolved an exquisite symbiotic relationship with zooanthellae — a photosynthetic algae that lives within the coral polyps.

Coral is made up of billions of polyps, resembling miniature sea anemones a couple millimeters long. Individual polyp's live in a small cup-shaped skeleton of calcium carbonate, which it makes. Thousands of years of accumulation enable calcium carbonate to form coral reefs.

Polyps draw energy from the algae living in their tissue and in return they supply algae with nitrogen and phosphorous. Moreover, all the polyps waste is recycled by algae as a part of the photosynthesis process.

Fringe reefs occur as a narrow band along the coastline. The Red Sea has the longest single reef on the globe at over 2,500 miles.

Barrier reefs follow the coast but exist farther out to sea sometimes extending 60 miles away from land; lagoons and beds of sea grass protect them. Australia's Great Barrier Reef covers about 87,000 square miles and is visible from outer space.

Charles Darwin discovered the third type of reef — an atoll which has rings of coral around a central lagoon ranging from a half-a-mile across to more than 19 miles wide. Atolls are not always close to continental shelves and are prevalent in the Indian and Western Pacific oceans.

Coral reefs are easily the most complex of all marine ecosystems. The biological diversity on the Indonesian archipelago reef is breathtaking at over 2,800 fish species and 450 kinds of coral.

The temperate seas, just beneath the polar seas, are amongst the most productive of all the shallow seas. Plankton blooms in massive annual events supporting colossal numbers of fish, seabirds and whales.

When autumn occurs most will depart, some traveling more than 3,700 miles to equatorial whales nursing grounds.

Why are the temperate seas so rich?

It is due to the quantity of nutrients available in the surface layers of the ocean, and this is where photosynthesis takes place. The higher latitudes have powerful storms where the winds stir-up the water bringing deep layer nutrients to the surface. Also, rivers carrying nutrients replenish water near the coastline. Incidentally, these are where the most productive fishing grounds on the globe are located.

Winter storms inject new energies into the seas. And the phytoplankton blooms feed immense numbers of tiny animals called zooplankton, which feed jelly-fish, herring, sardines and anchovies.

Upwelling currents bringing nutrients to the phytoplankton are found predominantly along the west coasts of continents and in South America the Humboldt Current feeds anchovies that provide food for dusky dolphins, fur seals, sea lions, sharks and Magellanic penguins.

In the summertime, Alaska's Aleutian Islands are home to 10 million breeding seabirds. Phytoplankton feeds 4.4 billion pounds of pollock, which in turn feeds birds, salmon, atka mackerel, herring and humpback whales.

Temperate sea continental shelves are fertile because waves stir-up the nutrients from the shallow bottoms (usually no deeper than 650 feet) and rivers constantly feed these seas with surface nutrients. Sandy and muddy sea floor bottoms are inhabited by bottom feeding burrowers like lugworms and trumpet worms.

Continental shelves that have rocky bottom substrates are home to underwater jungles. One of the most surreal ecosystems I've visited is the giant kelp forests' of Southern California. Two hundred foot-tall plants with holdfast or root-like structures are the ocean's equivalent to terrestrial rainforests.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and conservation biologist. His latest book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Moved by a poignant poet

LAST YEAR I WAS INTRODUCED TO A monthly spoken word/art/music showcase called Flypoet at The Savoy Entertainment Center in Inglewood. It takes place on the first Wednesday of the month and starts at exactly 8:03 p.m. It's a night of poets, musicians and has a live artist who interprets the works that are being recited on stage.

My first time there, I saw a young poet/rapper/actor who goes by the name of In-Q. He bounded on stage and his energy and enthusiasm were like an octopus capturing dinner, he reached out and grabbed the room and didn't let go.

I was completely taken with him, from his vitality to the floppy hair that framed his square-jawed face. Then he started sharing his poetry.

This is no "rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain" stuff, it is not the flowery ethereal, trying to bring the celestial down to earth writings of some teenage girl. This was gritty, emotional, experiential commentary on the state of the world. But not just the outer world of racism, poverty, and politics.

In-Q is a storyteller who takes his inner world, his emotional landscape, and lights it up for all to see and share. He brings his insights of humans, and humanity, to the edge of the stage and with a rhetorical flourish, he says, "here, look at what I am feeling."

His presentation is highly polished and with intoxicating rhythms and rhymes, he sets the stage, but it was his openness that drew me in like a Venus flytrap. He grew up the product of a single mom and he uses that in a piece about connecting with his father, and how he had to forgive his dad in order to get to know him. It is such a moving piece, that the memory of it alone, can make me tear up today.

So when he had a one man show at the Greenway Court Theater last month, I had to attend. This was a one night only show, and the room was packed, literally standing room only, with different types of people. There were the nattily dressed African-American couples out on a date and the young white boys in their T-shirts and jeans. The stage had Latino-American girls sitting on the floor next to Asian-American boys. I stood in line with a 60-ish woman, next to a herd of 20-somethings. There were so many people lining the stairs to the back balcony that I couldn't get down the stairs. For 90 minutes he held 300 people in the palm of his hand, doing audience participation exercises, and sharing his best work.

I left that show, and cried most of the drive back to my house. He touched on themes of love and loss, hope and happiness, racism and romanticism. This was a talent that I wanted to know more about.

His name is Adam Schmalholz, and he grew up in Santa Monica.

He accepted my invitation to be interviewed and we met this past week at the Loews Hotel for a coffee and a chat. Overlooking the Santa Monica Pier we talked about his life as the product of a single mother who taught behaviorally challenged kids at Culver High. We talked about what he has done to get over the anger he had growing up without a dad and how he turned that into such a powerfully moving piece.

This is no ordinary want-to-be actor, day dreaming about what it would be like to walk the red carpet. He's real. He's authentic. He wants to touch people. He attacks his work from the perspective of what is the most interesting side of the story. He's a masterful storyteller.

We talked a lot about his piece, and the peace he made with his father. The easy shot would have been to expose the anger and rage of a teenage boy who didn't know his dad. But Adam saw that the more interesting side of this was his path to forgiveness, and it was in sharing that pain, and the path, and emotionally opening up, that he makes his point so poignantly.

I asked him what does being a man mean to him, he said, getting "outside yourself, doing something for others." He does for others by teaching poetry at Upward Bound.

His innate empathy swirls around him like a fine cologne, it's not overpowering, it occasionally reminds you it is there and lets you remember it's OK to share. "I'm a much better person for having grown up in the multi-cultural experience of Santa Monica," he said.

And I'm a much enriched person for having spent some time with this young poet, the product of our diverse city, and his insightful views on life.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Lunch on four wheels

Downtown restaurant owners are concerned about the impact the food truck craze has had on their bottom lines, complaining that the operators of these trucks do not have to play by the same rules or pay the same taxes and fees, therefore creating an uneven playing field.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Are you a fan of the food truck craze and do you think their presence hurts local restaurants and delis?

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



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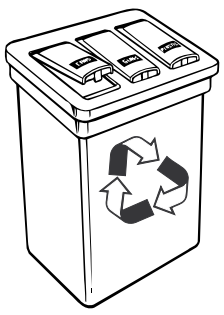
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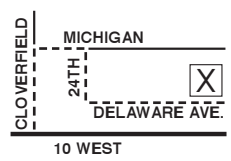
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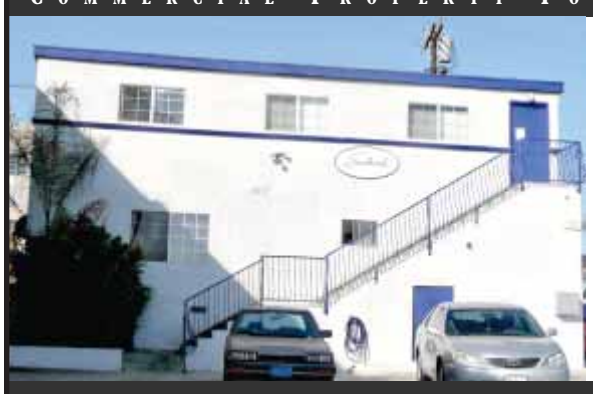


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On a mission to lose that baby weight

RIGHT AFTER I HAD MY SON, I WENT TO my good friend's wedding. This wedding had been stressing me out for some time. I had gained 52 pounds (yes 52 on my 5-foot,4-inch frame) and in the two to three months since, I had lost just less than 30 of it. I thought an ex-boyfriend of mine was going to be there and though tremendously happy with my husband, when you bump into an ex, you like to look your best and get them to think twice about that break-up. I was relieved when I learned he was not attending and I squeezed myself into my Spanx and put on a flowing black dress and readied myself for a good time.

Then I bumped into an old friend during cocktail hour. "How are you," he asked after we hugged hello.

"Great," I said as I took my husband's hand eager to introduce them. "We just had a baby!"

"Oh," he said, "that explains … ." And then I could see him trying to swallow his words, his mind racing, his body pausing, the mistake he was making and trying to fix, "why you look so happy."

It was a nice attempt at a cover, but I knew what he meant to say was, "That explains why you look so fat."

It was horrifying and we stayed on opposite sides of the wedding for most of the night. But the thing was, I was fat. He just didn't hold his tongue fast enough. I gained too much weight in pregnancy, so much so that I had to do physical therapy for my feet after because they hurt so much from carrying that much around on my little frame.

I have always struggled with my weight, but never in such a grand scale way. When you are small and petite, a few pounds show. But now it was more than a few pounds.

My son is 3 now and I have lost most of it, but not all. There are reasons why I can't shed all the weight and am not in the best shape. But they will just sound like excuses. But my son's special needs took precedence over my vanity and then this year happened. It has been a hard year. There was a death in the family and I have had several miscarriages. With each one, I found comfort in my friend's chocolate cake, my son's mac-n-cheese, lattes at The Coffee Bean.

I will not dwell on how many pounds, for when my mother, who is the tiniest little thing, complains about the 1-2 pounds she is trying to lose, my eyes glaze over. I know they are important numbers to her, but when you are trying to lose 10 pounds, that seems like nothing. So it is fair to say my 10 pounds may seem eye-roll worthy to others. But we all have the same desire — to feel healthy, fit and above all, adorable. And I haven't felt adorable in awhile. And I like feeling adorable.

The time has come to get serious, because I am tired of my clothes not fitting. I am tired of being tired. I want to take back the energy that was drained from me this year. I want to be the healthiest I can be as I attempt another pregnancy.

So I approached Laura Hebert from Santa Monica Sweat. I took her boot camp at the beach last year three times a week for six weeks and though it was at 7 a.m. I was usually bouncing out the door to go. I felt great. Then I got pregnant, and then, well, you know what happened. So now she is training me twice a week with a partner. Full disclosure, Laura is doing a trade out with me. She'll train me and I'll write about it here.

I HAVE ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH MY WEIGHT, BUT NEVER IN SUCH A GRAND SCALE WAY. WHEN YOU ARE SMALL AND PETITE, A FEW POUNDS SHOW. BUT NOW IT WAS MORE THAN A FEW POUNDS.

So I have signed back up for Weight Watchers and I am hoping Laura and Santa Monica Sweat (www.santamonicasweat.com) will be the kick in the pants I need. Laura is not a screamer. She trains like a friend, and is gentle and therefore I don't want to skimp. That works for me. I want to do what she asks of me. I will take it very seriously because I want to report back to you about my success. But when I stumble, as I am sure I will, I'll tell you about that too.

I am not original in my desire to lose weight or in my struggle. This will be my story as I try to get back in shape and I thank you in advance for letting me tell you about it here, because I don't think any of us want to bump into an old friend and feel less than we once were, even if it is from something wonderful like having a baby.

Pregnancy to nursing to being up all night rock-bottom tired, has affected my body. I am proud that my body made my son and nourished him, but there is no baby there now, and it shouldn't look like there is.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com. If you have an exercise class that you think would help her lose those dreaded last 10 pounds, send an e-mail and maybe she'll write about it.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 17!

Do not let kids' diets get tricked by Halloween treats

BY MARY BARBOUR
Special to the Daily Press

IT'S ALL HALLOWS EVE do you know what your kids are eating?

This Halloween, don't let your little ones get tricked by the smiling jack-o-lantern bucket, which typically hides about 250 pieces of candy, amounting to a frightening 9,000 calories. The sad reality is that many children actually eat their way through the entire bucket — and then some!

Because Halloween is the start of a string of holidays when overindulgence on food is at an all-time high, now is the perfect time to discuss the importance of making healthier food choices. That's why I've partnered with the California Milk Processor Board — the creator of GOT MILK? — to encourage children to keep sweets in moderation during Halloween and to choose nutritious treats like low fat or nonfat chocolate milk for strong bones.

A study in the September 2009 issue of Academic Pediatrics shows that severe childhood obesity in the United States has tripled in the last 25 years, putting children at risk for serious health problems later in life. This startling statistic stems from poor food choices by children and their parents. Based on the latest research, there are about 71 million children in the nation ages 2-19 that are obese, of which 2.7 million are considered severely obese. The key to preventing such problems would be to keep a nutritious diet not only during Halloween, but every day.

For Halloween, GOT MILK? has developed 10 tips and strategies with registered dietitians like myself to keep candy consumption in moderation during Halloween:

1) Plan Ahead. Make a plan prior to Halloween so that you can keep tabs on what your children will be consuming that night. Talk to teachers (many schools hold Halloween events), party hosts and neighbors to agree on the types of treats to be handed out to children.

2) Negotiate with Kids. Talk to kids and set up expectations for Halloween day. Make sure that they do their homework and chores before trick-or-treating.

3) Dinner First. On Halloween night, before trick-or-treating, give children an extra-nutritious dinner. It will reduce their appetite for sweets and they will less likely be tempted to dig into goodies before they get home. A meal filled with lean protein, whole grains and vegetables are the way to go! Remember to serve a glass of low fat or nonfat milk with the meal for extra nutrition. Drinking milk is proven to strengthen teeth, prevent cavities, and boost calcium, vitamin D and potassium levels.

4) Non-Food Treats. Consider handing out treats like themed school supplies like coloring books or pens and pencils to school-age children as they will come in handy for class. Small toys are also appropriate in reducing the amount of candy children eat during Halloween. Plus, they're fun!

5) Power Trick-or-Treat. Make sure children get enough physical activity to burn off excess sugar and fat. Trick-or-treating can be a fun way to incorporate walking and exercise. Plan a few extra loops around the neighborhood. This process can tire out kids and prepare them to hit the sack when they get home.

6) GOT MILK? Chocolate milk after trick or treating is a great, healthy treat. Serving chocolate milk will ensure you don't deprive kids of the chocolate closely associated with Halloween, while still providing them great nutrition. If you want to help your kids sleep on Halloween night, a glass of warm low fat or nonfat milk prior to bed will do the trick. Milk contains tryptophan which helps people snooze.

BASED ON THE LATEST RESEARCH, THERE ARE ABOUT 71 MILLION CHILDREN IN THE NATION AGES 2-19 THAT ARE OBESE, OF WHICH 2.7 MILLION ARE CONSIDERED SEVERELY OBESE. THE KEY TO PREVENTING SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD BE TO KEEP A NUTRITIOUS DIET NOT ONLY DURING HALLOWEEN, BUT EVERY DAY.

7) Set Limits. Set boundaries with your child on how many pieces of candy they're allowed to eat on Halloween and while trick-or-treating. Allow your children to make their own selections, but tell them they can only pick a few pieces. Ration out the treats.

8) Exchange Program. Trade your children's Halloween candy for a desired toy to reduce candy consumption. Many schools, doctors and dentists have similar exchange programs. Donating the candy to a cause also teaches children about the importance of giving.

9) Out of Sight, Out of Mind. Bring candy to work or throw them away. Kids don't eat what they can't see.

10) Set an Example. Parents should also stay away from eating too much candy during Halloween. They need to be role models by consuming sweets in moderation.

By following these simple tips, we can all have a happy, healthy Halloween! For more information visit www.gotmilk.com.

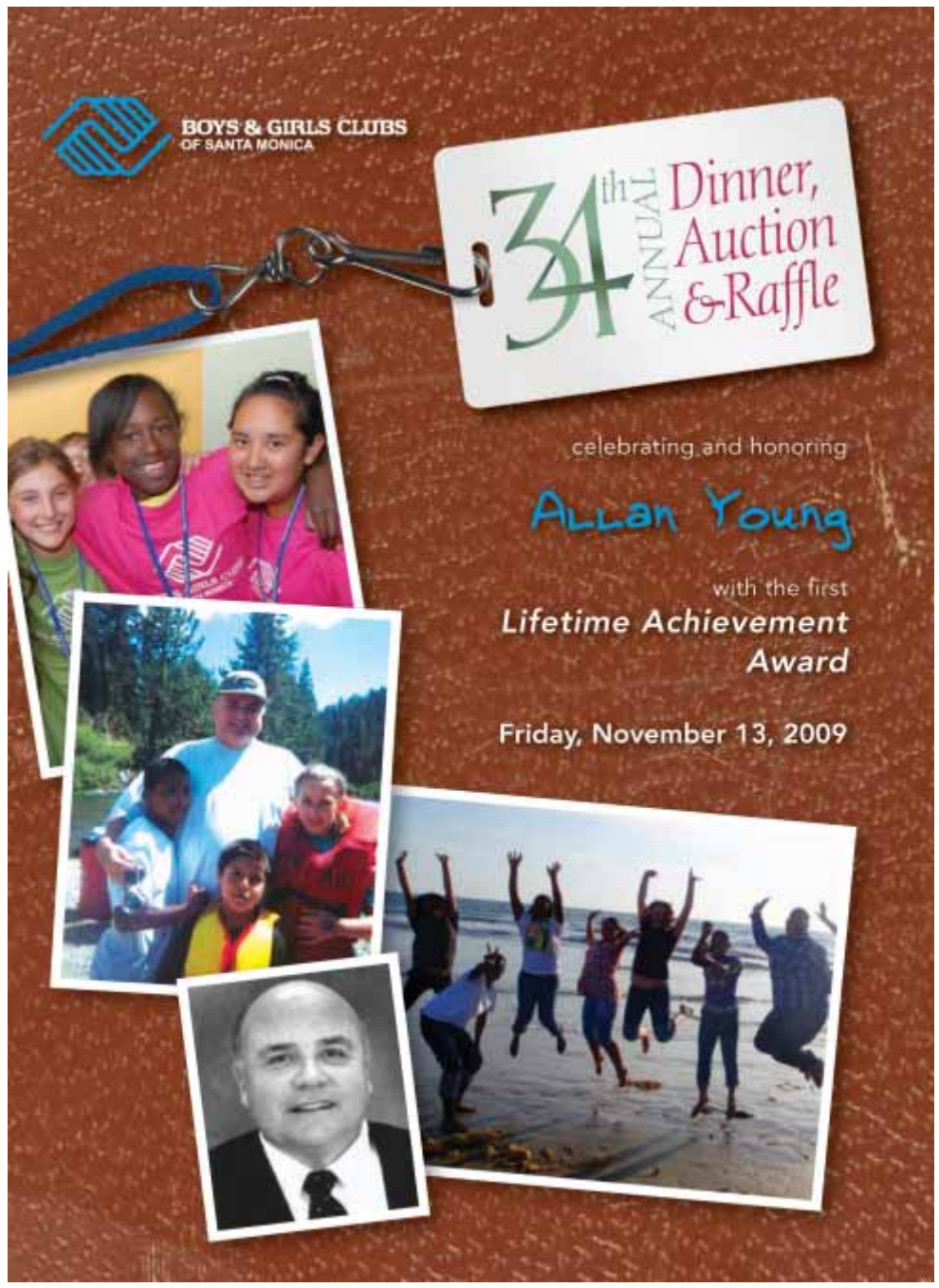
MARY BARBOUR is a Los Angeles-based registered dietitian who is an active member of the American and California Dietetic associations, working with children on maintaining a healthy weight. She was featured on FOX's Hell's Kitchen.

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Tornante
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Is Harley-Davidson the next casualty?

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, WHICH TO MANY people is a Hummer-like example of housing bubble-fueled consumer product overkill, seems in danger of going down a similar road as that gigantic military vehicle-turned-grocery-getter, and was recently sold to a Chinese company.

To quote from an Oct. 15 H-D corporate press release: "Worldwide retail sales of new Harley-Davidson motorcycles declined 21.3 percent in the third quarter compared to last year's third quarter, an improvement from the 30.1 percent decline in this year's second quarter. An 84.1 percent decline in net income and an 84.5 percent decline in diluted earnings per share from the year-ago quarter reflected lower motorcycle shipments and the effects of the economy on retail and wholesale loan performance at Harley-Davidson Financial Services."

This past week H-D shut down their East Troy, Wis., factory where their Buell line of sport bikes are built, putting about 180 people out of work, and announced they're looking for a buyer for their MV Agusta brand (which also builds Cagiva bikes), based in Italy.

Harley bought MV Agusta in 2008 for $109 million, just before the economy took a serious dive.

And Buell just last month won the American Motorcyclist Association's SportBike championship — the first for an American motorcycle maker since 1986. MV Agusta is perhaps the world's most-storied name in two-wheel racing, with a history of one world championship title after another in road racing.

H-D itself laid-off 1,100 factory workers this past January.

And in another instance of what would turn out to be bad timing, Harley opened their 130,000-square-foot museum in downtown Milwaukee in July, 2008; the next few years would not prove to be the best time to say "Welcome!" to tourists.

Until the downturn, H-D had been enjoying the best years of their 105-year existence. Their Harley Owners Group (known as HOG) remains the biggest motorcycle club in the world and the machines were sought-after everywhere, especially popular in Japan during that nation's awash-in-cash housing bubble in the 1980s and '90s.

Harley-Davidsons, like Hummers, are overpriced, overweight and overwrought. Buyers who wanted a Harley would accept nothing else, making them similar to Hummer buyers, and with fast and easy cash pouring through the economy starting in the 1980s and continuing through the end of 2008, the bikes (and H-D clothes, tsotchkes, etc.) sold in record numbers.

Doctors, lawyers and celebrities of all sorts were financing new Harleys, earning these buyers the derisive nickname Rubbies, short for "rich, urban bikers," considered by "real bikers" as mere poseurs who didn't really understand what made a Harley a Harley (which, after years of study, I consider to be the bone-rattling noise they produce; in fact, that sound has been trademarked by the company).

But in the past 18 months, since the economy began its tanking maneuver, Harleys, like Hummers, became representative of obnoxious excess to more and more Americans.

And this past week there was yet another "sign o' the times" when it comes to the economy and involving Harley-Davidson.

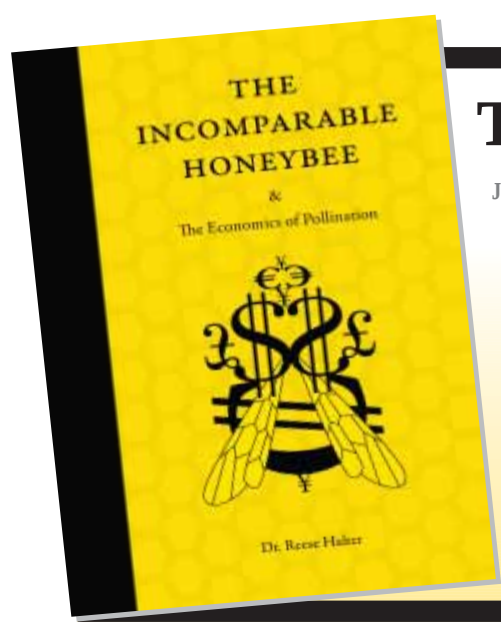
The Love Ride, an annual biker extravaganza staged and sponsored by Glendale Harley-Davidson, was to celebrate its 26th anniversary this year, on Oct. 25. Begun in 1984 with 600 riders as a fundraising event for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, it now benefits more than a dozen children's charities and raises over $1 million a year.

The event morphed over the years into one of the largest single-day motorcycle events in the world, attracting more than 20,000 riders.

But this year's Love Ride has been canceled, due to a dearth of bikers willing (or able) to pay the $70 minimum entry fee, and also because local businesses bowed out of the event, ending their sponsorships and support.

And the beat goes on …

STEVE PARKER is a two-time Emmy Award-winner who has covered the world's auto industry and motor racing for over 35 years. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Website at www.SteveParker.com.



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City Hall gets money to combat terrorism

FROM CONSENT PAGE 1

deadline.

City Hall is planning to sell the loan to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, a joint-powers agency between the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities that issues bonds to immediately repay member municipalities while assuming ownership of the state's obligation in exchange.

The council will be asked to authorize the sale of the loan, which would allow City Hall to receive $3.1 million from the authority this fiscal year.

The state is borrowing 8 percent of property tax revenues apportioned to cities, counties and special districts and legally has until June 30, 2013 to pay back those loans plus interest. With the sale of the loan, the state will later reimburse the authority.

Property tax revenues are expected to decrease next year but not because of state borrowing.

The council will be asked to approve Mills Act contracts with the owners of five historic properties, including the famous beachside cottage at 2219 Ocean Ave., which drew attention several years ago when its former owner proposed demolishing the aging structure.

The Mills Act is a state law that authorizes local governments to award property tax reductions for qualified historic sites as a financial incentive for preservation. The contracts will go to craftsman-style residences at 405 Palisades Ave., 514 Palisades, 236 Adelaide Drive and 3018 Third St.

The contracts are expected to reduce property tax revenue by $23,264 next fiscal year.

TEMPING AT CITY HALL

A dozen different staffing agencies will be responsible for providing temporary relief to City Hall for the next five years.

Council will be asked to authorize the Human Resource Department to issue the purchase orders for temporary staff from the various agencies through the 2013-14 fiscal year. Among the agencies are Corestaff Services, First Call Staffing Services and Chrysalis, which provides employment opportunities to homeless individuals looking to build their resumes.

City officials estimate that temporary staffing will cost less than $750,000 a year.

The council is also slated to approve annual premium payments for city employees' group life and long-term disability insurance plans with Prudential Insurance Company of America. The annual premiums are estimated to be $1.2 million for calendar years 2010-12.

NEW GRANTS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

City Hall will receive two grants to enhance its capability to prevent and respond to threats and incidents of terrorism.

The grants, totaling more than $146,000, will come from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative.

CONSULTING FOR BONDS

A relationship with Stradling, Yocca, Carlson and Rauth, which has been providing legal services related to bonds, will continue a while longer as City Hall evaluates various debt financing options, including two that could save the municipality an estimated $1.6 million.

City staff will be asking the council to increase the contract by $150,000.

The two debts that are being considered for refunding concern bonds for the Public Safety Facility construction and Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CITY HALL RETROFIT PROJECT STILL GOING

The council will be asked to approve a series of contract extensions and new agreements related to the retrofit of City Hall and conversion of the old jail space to house the Information System Department.

They include a new $3.8 million contract with West Valley Investment Group; a $580,429 extension with Black and Veatch for the retrofit portion of the project; a $55,938 extension with Black and Veatch for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning) replacement project; and a new $727,504 contract with Data Specialties to design and build the new City Hall Data Center, which will be housed in the old jail space.

The extension with Black and Veatch concerns the addition of construction administration services.

melodyh@smdp.com

Old food court tenants return

FROM FOOD PAGE 1

you're looking at it from a food perspective," he said.

Santa Monica Place will be the second location for Pinches Taco, which opened its flagship restaurant in 2008 on Sunset Boulevard near the Chateau Marmont Hotel.

George Anaya, who owns the restaurant with his two brothers, said they hope success at Santa Monica Place will help lure potential investors as they look to expand their business nationwide, making it as big as Baja Fresh.

The restaurant offers traditional Mexican food with what Anaya describes as a healthier twist with fresh ingredients.

"It's traditional but not with the normal heavy mess with lard and grease," he said.

Anaya said the restaurant uses family recipes going back more than a century. His great uncle was a cook for Francisco "Pancho" Villa.



Image courtesy of Macerich Co.

CHOW TIME: **A rendering of the future dining roof-deck at Santa Monica Place, which is scheduled to open Aug. 6, 2010. There will be traditional mall fare along with higher-end restaurants.**

SEE DINING PAGE 11







FIGHTING SUICIDE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Over 1,000 people gather in front of City Hall to participate in the Los Angeles 'Out Of the Darkness Community Walk' on Saturday morning. The fundraising walk benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) by helping to support local and national suicide prevention and awareness programs.

Church says it's not anti-gay

FROM **HAGGIS** PAGE 3

Ziggy Kozlowski, a publicist for Haggis, confirmed that the director wrote the letter. Kozlowski said the letter was intended to remain private.

Davis said Haggis' complaints were based on misunderstandings and that he has since spoken to the filmmaker. Davis strenuously disagreed with Haggis' claim that the Church of Scientology is in any way anti-gay.

Davis said the San Diego chapter of the Church of Scientology was incorrectly characterized as supportive of Prop 8.

"We're all for civil rights and the rights of minorities," said Davis. "We know what it is to be a minority and have your rights curtailed. We're very vocal and consistent in our stance on discrimination against anybody. We take it very seriously."

For an organization often shrouded in secrecy, the letter offered an unusual window into a dialogue between the church and one of its famous members. Occasionally, Scientology materials are leaked. Last year, a promotional video starring its most famous member, Tom Cruise, was watched by millions.

Haggis also said he was "shocked" that the Church of Scientology was publicly denying that it adheres to a policy of disconnection — of severing ties with a friend or family member who's antagonistic toward Scientology. Haggis said that his wife, Deborah Rennard, was given precisely those orders and didn't speak to her parents for more than a year.

Davis again disagreed with Haggis and said the church doesn't mandate disconnection with anybody and that it was an entirely "self-determined decision."

"The great majority of Scientologists I know are good people who are genuinely interested in improving conditions on this planet and helping others," Haggis wrote. "I have to believe that if they knew what I now know, they too would be horrified."

The Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology, founded in 1954 by the late science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, claims to have 10 million members in 165 nations.

Haggis, who also wrote the Oscar-winning "Million Dollar Baby," is shooting "The Next Three Days" in Pittsburgh. It stars Russell Crow, Liam Neeson and Elizabeth Banks.

news@smdp.com

Rents said to be competitive

FROM **DINING** PAGE 10

He also has ties in Santa Monica where his cousin owns the popular Cha Cha Chicken on Ocean Avenue.

Among the returning business owners is John Mahdavi, who opened Charlie Kabob in the old Santa Monica Place in 1982.

The aerospace engineer from Iran started the business with his wife, who earned her psychology degree in the United States, hoping to introduce Persian and Mediterranean food, taking over the lease for an old churro shop.

While business was slow at first, interest started picking up after several years.

He expanded in 2002 by opening Charlie Burger in the same food court.

"We went to too many places where the burger they were serving was not as good as it should be," he said. "All the time they were frozen or there was something wrong inside."

He won't be serving any burgers when Santa Monica Place reopens on Aug. 6, 2010. Mahdavi said he decided to stick with Charlie Kabob because the rent was doubling.

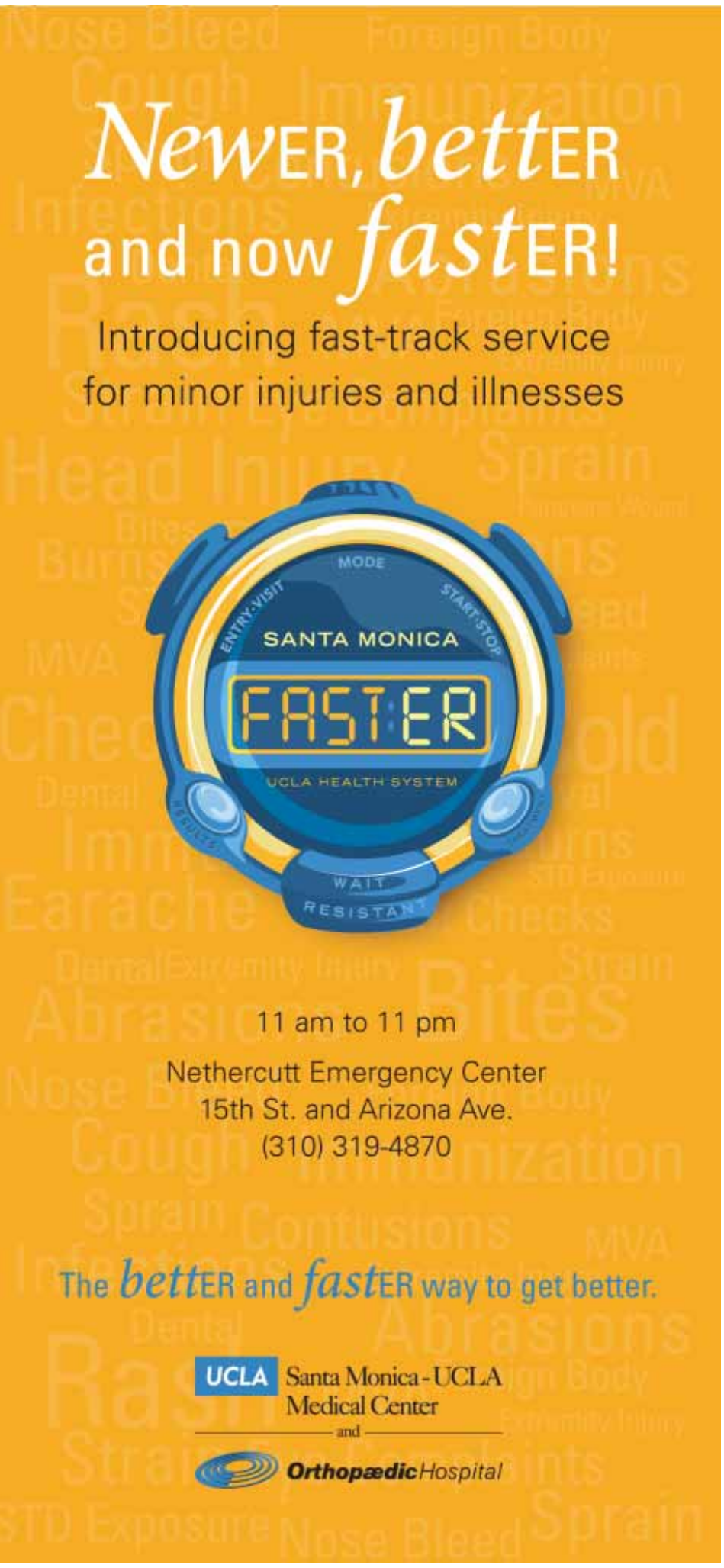
Guerin could not comment on specifics for the rent but said that it was competitive with the market as a whole.

But Mahdavi, who also owns Charlie Kabob restaurants in Irvine, Downtown Los Angeles and Westside Pavilion, said he anticipates business will do well at the new mall thanks to the new open-air design.

"It's worth it," he said. "It's Santa Monica and it deserves to have such a mall."

melodyh@smdp.com





Few pet owners prepared

FROM POLL PAGE 3

ed in a car or truck.

Still, most pet owners said they would go the extra mile to rescue their pets. Women were more likely to say they would perform CPR on their pets than men, 65 percent to 50 percent, the poll showed.

Nearly every decision made at the Parks house is made with the safety of the animals in mind.

"We don't use pesticide on the lawn. We don't buy food with pesticide on it. No sugar, no salt, just natural nuts and fruits. No Teflon in the house, no smoking, no air fresheners, no aerosol products," she said, explaining that any one of those things could kill their 7-year-old bird.

Barbara Klingman of Houma, La., said she changed things after her Chihuahua, Honeychild, ate something that forced an emergency trip to the vet.

"I make sure she doesn't have anything she shouldn't have," Klingman said of the 7-pound, 4-year-old dog.

The poll showed 7 percent of those polled have pets who have eaten something poisonous and 16 percent have pets who have had allergic reactions to something.

There were also threats from pets themselves: 17 percent reported having a pet bitten or attacked by another animal, 9 percent said a pet had bitten or attacked another animal and 5 percent said a pet had bitten or attacked another person.

The poll revealed that 41 percent have experienced at least one pet safety emergency that required an emergency trip to a vet and 11 percent have had a pet hit by a car.

Edwin Griffin Jr., 61, of Plano, Texas, remembers all too well 25 years ago when his white German shepherd ran in front of a car. The dog broke both hips and his jaw, lost an eye and was in intensive care at an animal hospital for two weeks.

"I had just lost my wife the month before. My children were 1 and 3. I mortgaged the car to save my dog because of the impact it would have had on the children," he said.

The dog lived six more years.

Now Buddy, Griffin's 3-year-old golden retriever, has a first aid kit, a carbon monoxide alarm in the room where he sleeps and several designated escape routes for emergencies. But it's Buddy who's come to the rescue of humans in his home, especially Griffin's father-in-law, who is in the final stages of pancreatic cancer.

"My wife's father gets a great deal of relief from being able to touch and rub Buddy. Buddy just stands beside him. He knows that is his role," Griffin said.

Pet safety and CPR training is offered by the American Red Cross and many private companies. "Vets are the experts but they are rarely on scene when something happens to our pets," said Denise Fleck, who runs Sunny-Dog Ink in Burbank and has written pet safety textbooks, appeared on a number of TV shows and taught classes throughout Southern California.

Disaster plans are important, too, especially in areas like Southern California that are at the mercy of earthquakes and fires.

"If people value their pets like a family member, they should know how to do CPR, just like they would for their kids. In disasters, pets get hurt and run into debris and all kinds of things," said Mark Solnick, director of emergency preparedness and response for the Red Cross of Santa Monica.

Laurie Sullivan, 47, of Littlerock, Calif., has three dogs (Elsa Ann, Hope and Schotzie), an Arabian horse (Cary) and 19 cats. She has tended to a wide variety of emergencies over the years. Lucky for her menagerie, she was a certified emergency medical technician and a hospital worker.

She was there to help when one of her dogs choked on a small bone, when one of her cats had a hard time delivering eight kittens, when a neighbor lost the tip of her finger to a horse and for countless everyday cuts, scrapes and bruises.

She has never had to use CPR on an animal, but she knows how to. However, "it would really be hard to give CPR to a horse," she laughed.

The AP-Petside.com poll was conducted Oct. 1-5, 2009, by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media. It involved telephone interviews on landline and cell phones with 1,166 pet owners nationwide, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for all pet owners.

Associated Press polling director Trevor Tompson contributed to this report.



GIVING BACK

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Save Our Space chair Mary Wiesbrock (center) and board member Sue Boecker (right) receive a check worth $2,500 at the second annual 'Voice Your Choice' environmental grants reception at the Patagonia clothing store on Main Street on Sunday afternoon. Each Patagonia store in the United States divided $5,000 grant checks between three environmental nonprofit organizations.





STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Calif. utility wants more solar from customers

California's largest utility plans to boost the amount of solar power it buys from homes and businesses.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. plans to ask state regulators to approve the change.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says the move should encourage more homeowners to install rooftop solar panels.

More than 50,000 homes and businesses in the sunny state generate solar power. They can get credits against their electric use by providing any excess power they generate to utilities.

The governor plans to push to end limits on the amount of solar power purchased by utilities from customers.

Last year, solar power accounted for less than 1 percent of the electricity generated in California.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

L.A. mom charged with killing 2 children

A mother faces two murder charges for allegedly killing her two young sons in Los Angeles.

Prosecutors said Monday that Latonya Ann Dixon is charged with two counts of murder, assault on a child and an allegation of using a firearm. The 26-year-old mother faces multiple life sentences if convicted of all the charges.

Dixon is in custody on more than $3 million bail. She is set to be arraigned Nov. 2.

Officers disarmed Dixon on Oct. 17 after she called 911 to report that she shot her children. Her 5-year-old son was killed and her 1-year-old was placed on life support.

An attempted murder charge was changed to murder after her 1-year-old died.

Prosecutors have not released a motive.

AP

LOS ANGELES

5 charged with torturing SoCal loan agents

Five people are charged in Los Angeles with torturing and robbing two men they believed falsely promised to save their home from foreclosure.

Prosecutors on Monday charged two men with torture, robbery and false imprisonment. A man and two women pleaded not guilty to the same charges Friday.

Prosecutors say Daniel Weston and Mary Ann Parmelee hired two loan modification agents in hopes of keeping their home but believed the men took their money and did nothing.

Prosecutors claim the victims were lured to Glendale on Oct. 20, held for hours, beaten and robbed before one escaped.

Weston, Parmelee, Mario Gonzalez, Marissa Parker and Gustavo Canez remained jailed on about $1 million each.

An attorney for Gonzalez and Parker says his clients are innocent and the loan modification agents were frauds.

AP

ANAHEIM

2 dead, 3 injured in wrong-way freeway crash in OC

The California Highway Patrol says a wrong-way driver who may have been drunk smashed into a pickup truck on an Anaheim freeway, killing two women and seriously injuring two children and herself.

Officer Denise Quesada says 21-year-old Jessica Shekell plowed a Toyota Tundra into a Chevy Silverado around 3 a.m. Monday on State Route 91.

Quesada says four San Bernardino family members were in the Silverado and none was wearing a seat belt. The crash killed driver Sally Miguel, 44, and Patricia Miguel, 30, and injured their two nieces.

Quesada says 11-year-old Sara Miguel appeared to have life-threatening injuries but her condition could not immediately be determined.

Mary Miguel, 15, was listed in serious condition.

A hospital spokesman says Shekell is in fair condition.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Evacuations lifted in Santa Cruz Mountains fire

An evacuation order was lifted Monday as crews made progress against a wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains that had threatened about 85 homes.

Residents of the rugged area north of the coastal city of Santa Cruz were allowed to return to their homes during the early afternoon, state fire spokesman Justin Smith said.

The fire destroyed 600 acres – less than a square mile – and destroyed a trailer and two outbuildings.

Crews laying hoses and clearing vegetation were helped when winds eased to 20 mph after gusting to about 40 mph on Sunday.

"That has absolutely been a huge benefit," Smith said.

The fire was 20 percent contained, and officials said they expected that number to increase significantly later in the day.

"We want to make sure we put this fire to bed before more wind hits," Smith said.

The fire began early Sunday in Santa Clara County then spread to Santa Cruz County. The cause remained under investigation.

About 1,000 firefighters were fighting the blaze. Two suffered minor injuries.

The blaze was burning in the same place a wildfire scorched 4,200 acres in May 2008.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

SF police to ease unlicensed driver policy

San Francisco police are easing a policy that requires officers to impound the vehicles of drivers caught without a license – a move expected to help illegal immigrants.

The revised policy, which takes effect next month, gives unlicensed drivers 20 minutes after they're pulled over to have a licensed and insured driver move their vehicle. If not, the vehicle can be towed, but only with the approval of a supervisory officer.

If the person is caught driving without a license again within six months, the vehicle will be impounded.

AP

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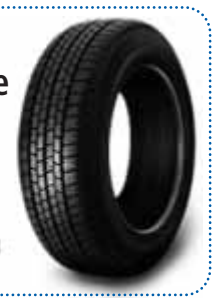
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #2990 – FURNISH AND DELIVER BOTTLE-LESS WATER COOLERS AS REQUIRED BY VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on November 4, 2009 at 10:00 AM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Karl Bruskotter and Kellee Mac Donald in the City of Santa Monica City Hall lobby at, 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA. 90401.
- Parking is not provided, however public lots are located nearby. *Late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding.*
  Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
- *The bid packet can be downloaded at:*
  http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
- **Submission Deadline is November 16, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

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

UPDATED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE FIVE-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN COVERING FISCAL YEARS 2009/10 – 2013/2014, FOR THE OCEAN PARK 1A, OCEAN PARK 1B, DOWNTOWN AND EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In 2004, the Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") adopted a Consolidated Five-Year Implementation Plan for its four Redevelopment Project Areas ("Project Areas"), which described proposed Agency activities in the Project Areas between FY 2003/04 and FY 2008/09. Pursuant to Section 33490 of the California Community Redevelopment Law, Health and Safety Code Sections 33000 et seq. ("Law"), the Agency will be conducting a public hearing to review the proposed draft of the Consolidated Five-Year Implementation Plan for FY 2009/10 through FY 2013/2014 ("Proposed Implementation Plan"). The Proposed Implementation Plan contains the Agency's goals and objectives for the Project Areas, the proposed projects and expenditures for the next five-years, and an explanation of how these goals, objectives, projects, and expenditures will eliminate blight and effectuate recovery within the Project Areas and implement the requirements of the Law and other matters required by Law.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

WHAT: Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency Public Hearing on the Five-Year Implementation Plan, FY 2009/10 – 2013/14

WHERE: City of Santa Monica City Hall
Council Chambers
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica

WHEN: November 17, 2009 (meeting moved from November 10)
6:45 p.m. (or as soon as possible thereafter)

If you wish to obtain further information about the Proposed Implementation Plan, please contact the Redevelopment Agency at (310) 458-2232.

Publish: October 13, 2009, October 22, 2009, October 27, 2009

Joke's on Bill Cosby as Seinfeld, Rock pay tribute

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld will salute fellow funny man Bill Cosby on Monday night with the nation's top humor prize at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, along with two co-stars from "The Cosby Show," Phylicia Rashad and Malcolm-Jamal Warner.

Tribute performances will range from standup to orchestra and jazz as Cosby receives the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. Carl Reiner, Sinbad and Wynton Marsalis are slated to perform, as well as Willie Nelson.

Cosby, 72, has won other big awards, including the Presidential Medial of Freedom in 2002. Still, the Mark Twain Prize is special, he said, because Twain was the "quintessential American writer — because he held his language and his love for words in perfect American form."

He has insisted that performances at the tribute be free of profanity and that the show reflect his emphasis on education. He planned a special nod to his beloved Central High School in Philadelphia, with fellow alumnus James DePreist conducting an orchestra that will play their high school's alma mater.

"The show is very, very important to me," Cosby said in an interview. "It makes me aware that as a monologist and a writer and a performer, I've done some wonderful work."

The tribute will air Nov. 4 nationwide on PBS.

Of all his accomplishments as a comedian, actor, author and television producer, Cosby said he is most proud of "The Cosby Show." He said he carefully crafted the hit TV show the way he wanted it to look.

Seinfeld, who took over Thursday nights on NBC after "Cosby" went to reruns, said he learned how to make the jump from standup to television by watching Cosby.

"The way that he would take reality and silly putty it, I think was the biggest thing I learned from him," Seinfeld said. "It was the idea that this may be how this thing is, but you can make it into something completely different in the way you talk about it and make it into something fun."

Castro's sister says she collaborated with CIA

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ
AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

MIAMI One of Fidel Castro's sisters says in a memoir released Monday that she collaborated with the CIA against her brother, starting shortly after the United States' failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Juanita Castro, 76, initially supported her brother's 1959 overthrow of the Batista dictatorship but quickly grew disillusioned. In a Spanish-language memoir published by Santillana USA and co-written by journalist Maria Antonieta Collins, she says the wife of the Brazilian ambassador to Cuba persuaded her to meet a CIA officer during a trip to Mexico in 1961.

By then, her house had already become a sanctuary for anti-communists, and Fidel Castro had warned her about getting involved with the "gusanos," or worms, as those who opposed the revolution were called.

Castro said in the book, "My Brothers Fidel and Raul. The Secret Story," that she traveled to Mexico City under the pretense of visiting her younger sister Enma. There she also secretly met a CIA officer who identified himself as "Enrique" at the elegant Camino Real hotel.

A spokesman for the CIA in Langley, Va., declined to comment on Castro's account.

Castro said that during the hotel meeting, she expressed her concerns that those who supported Batista's overthrow but were not communists were being pushed out of the new government. Castro writes she agreed to help the CIA gather information but refused to accept money for her efforts and said she wanted no part in any violence.

"I want to be very clear that agreeing to collaborate with you does not signify that I will participate in any violent activity against my brother, nor any official in the regime," she told the agent. "This is my most important condition. And moreover, I would say it is the only condition."

"Enrique," whom Castro says she later learned was a CIA officer in Cuba named Tony Sforza, then asked her to smuggle messages, documents and money back into the country hidden in canned goods.

He told Castro she would receive information through shortwave radio communications. Castro chose a waltz and a song from the opera Madame Butterfly as the signals her handlers would use to let her know if they had information for her.

Castro said she remained on the island while her mother was alive, believing she was protected from the full wrath of Fidel. Her mother died in 1963 and she fled Cuba the following year, eventually settling into a quiet life in Miami, where she ran a pharmacy until 2007 and is generally well regarded by other Cuban exiles.

Fidel, she wrote, was not initially a hard-line communist like their brother Raul and fellow revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, but that Fidel turned to communism to maintain power. Juanita Castro said she tried to help many people who initially supported the revolution only to be ousted in the new regime's initial purges.

"My brothers could ignore what I did — or appear to ignore it — so as not to hurt my mom, but that didn't mean I didn't have problems ... everything was becoming more dangerously complicated" after her mother's death, Castro writes.

Juanita Castro had to get help from Raul — to whom she was much closer than Fidel — in getting a visa to leave Cuba. They have not seen each other since June 18, 1964, the day before she left the country.

When she first arrived in the U.S., many exiles considered Castro a communist spy. She later helped found a CIA-backed nonprofit organization that worked against Cuba's government.

Senate health bill will embrace 'public option'

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Health care legislation heading for the Senate floor will give millions of Americans the option of purchasing government-run insurance coverage, Majority Leader Harry Reid announced Monday, although he stopped short of claiming the 60 votes needed to pass a plan steeped in controversy.

Reid, D-Nev., said individual states would have the choice of opting out of the program.

His announcement was cheered by liberal lawmakers, greeted less effusively by the White House and noted with a noncommittal response by Democratic moderates whose votes will be pivotal.

Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, the only Republican to vote with Democrats on health care so far this year, issued a statement saying she was "deeply disappointed" in the approach the Democratic leader had chosen.

Reid said, "While the public option is not a silver bullet, I believe it's an important way to ensure competition and to level the playing field for patients with the insurance industry." He said a long-delayed Senate debate on President Barack Obama's call for an overhaul of the health care system would begin as soon as the Congressional Budget Office completes a mandatory assessment of the bill's cost and impact on coverage.

Changes on the public option — and numerous other provisions in the measure — are possible during a debate expected to last for weeks.

And officials said Reid had prepared several variations of key provisions so he could make adjustments in his bill at the last minute and still make sure he was within Obama's target of a $900 billion price tag over a decade.

Both the House and Senate are struggling to complete work by year's end on legislation extending coverage to millions who lack it, to ban insurance industry practices such as denying coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and to slow the rise in medical costs nationally.

As in the Senate, attempts to complete drafting a measure in the House have been delayed by internal Democratic divisions on the details of a government-run option. Differences in bills passed by the House and Senate would have to be reconciled before any legislation reached Obama's desk.

In an appearance at a Florida senior center during the day, Speaker Nancy Pelosi suggested a new name for the same approach to ease the opposition. She suggested "the consumer option." Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., appearing at Pelosi's side, used the term "competitive option."

Critics say that by any name, the approach amounts to a government takeover of the insurance industry.

In deference to moderates, Reid also said he was including a provision for nonprofit co-ops to sell insurance in competition with private companies.

Senate Democratic officials say the bill Reid envisions would require most individuals to purchase insurance, with exemptions for those unable to find affordable coverage. Large businesses would not be required to provide insurance to their workers, but would face penalties of as much as $750 per employee if any qualified for federal subsidies to afford coverage on their own.

The bill will also include a tax on high-cost insurance policies, despite opposition from organized labor, officials said. In a gesture to critics of the plan, Reid decided to apply the new tax to family plans with total premiums of $23,000 a year. The Senate Finance Committee approved a tax beginning at $21,000 in total premiums.

Nominally, the majority leader has spent the past two weeks melding bills passed earlier by the Senate's Finance Committee and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. But in reality, he has had a virtual free hand to craft a new measure in consultations with senior members of the two panels and top White House aides.

"I feel good about the consensus that was reached within our caucus and with the White House," he said at his news conference. And we're all optimistic about reform because of the unprecedented momentum that now exists."

Within minutes, the White House released a statement saying Obama was "pleased that the Senate has decided to include a public option for health coverage, in this case with an allowance for states to opt out."

Obama has long voiced support for such a plan but has also signaled it is not a requirement for a health care bill he would sign. He has also said he would like bipartisan support for the legislation — and Snowe appears to be his last, best hope for that.

She favors a standby provision for government coverage if there is not enough competition in the private marketplace. Reid said that was not in his bill. "We hope that Olympia will come back. ... She's a very good legislator. I'm disappointed that the one issue, the public option, has been something that's frightened her."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who has long backed a government-run insurance option, said the approach "has a new life because as Americans have learned more about it, they have come to see it is the best way to reduce costs and increase competition in the health insurance industry."

Ben Nelson of Nebraska, the most conservative Democrat in the Senate, "is not committing how we will vote regarding any proposal Senator Reid is advancing," said spokesman Jake Thompson.

Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., a moderate seeking a new term in 2010, said through a spokesman she intends to study the details and decide how to vote based on the impact on her home state.

With the support of two independents, Democrats command 60 seats in the Senate, precisely the number needed to overcome any Republican filibuster.

Asked about the prospects for success, Reid answered, "We have 60 people in the caucus. ... We all hug together and see where we come out."

While the controversy over government-run insurance is the most intense, there are numerous other issues to be settled before legislation can win passage.

Obama has set a $900 billion, 10-year price tag for the legislation, and the program would be funded through cuts in future payments to Medicare providers and through higher taxes — an income surcharge on million-dollar earners in the House version and a new levy on high-cost insurance policies in the Senate.

Pelosi has said the House bill will strip the insurance industry of its exemption from antitrust laws, a provision that the Congressional Budget Office said during the day would have only a small impact on the cost of insurance to consumers.

The insurance industry was sharply critical of Reid's announcement.

"A new government-run plan would underpay doctors and hospitals rather than driving real reforms that bring down costs and improve quality. The American people want health care reform that will reduce costs, and this plan doesn't do that," said Karen Ignagni, head of America's Health Insurance Plans.

Associated Press writers **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS, RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND ERICA WERNER** in Washington, and Matt Sedensky in Sunrise, Fla., contributed to this story.

Wayward pilots were working on their laptops

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Two Northwest Airlines pilots have told federal investigators that they were going over schedules using their laptop computers in violation of company policy while their plane overflew their Minneapolis destination by 150 miles, the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday.

The pilots — Richard Cole of Salem, Ore., the first officer, and Timothy Cheney of Gig Harbor, Wash., the captain — said in interviews conducted over the weekend that they were not fatigued and didn't fall asleep, the board said in a statement.

Instead, Cole and Cheney told investigators that they both had their laptops out while the first officer, who had more experience with scheduling, instructed the captain on monthly flight crew scheduling. The pilots were out of communication with air traffic controllers and their airline for more than an hour and didn't realize their mistake until contacted by a flight attendant, the board said.

Many aviation safety experts had said it was more plausible that the pilots had fallen asleep during the cruise phase of their flight last Wednesday night than that they had become so focused on a conversation that they lost awareness of their surroundings for such a lengthy period of time.. Air traffic controllers in Denver and Minneapolis repeatedly tried without success to raise the pilots of the San Diego-to-Minneapolis flight by radio. Other pilots in the vicinity tried reaching the plane on other radio frequencies. Their airline tried contacting them using a radio text message that chimes.

Authorities became so alarmed that National Guard jets were readied for takeoff at two locations and the White House Situation Room alerted senior White House officials, who monitored Northwest Flight 188 with its 144 passengers and five crew members as the Airbus A320 flew across a broad swath of the mid-continent completely out of contact with anyone on the ground.

"It's inexcusable," said former NTSB Chairman Jim Hall. "I feel sorry for the individuals involved, but this was certainly not an innocuous event — this was a significant breach of aviation safety and aviation security."

Cheney and Cole are both experienced pilots, according to the NTSB. Cheney, 53, was hired by Northwest in 1985 and has about 20,000 hours of flying time, about half of which was in the A320. Cole had about 11,000 hours of flight time, including 5,000 hours on the A320.

Both pilots told the board they had never had an accident, incident or violation, the board said.

The pilots acknowledged that while they were engaged in working on their laptops they weren't paying attention to radio traffic, messages from their airline or their cockpit instruments, the board said. That's contrary to one of the fundamentals of commercial piloting, which is to keep attention focused on monitoring messages from controllers and watching flight displays in the cockpit.

"It is unsettling when you see experienced pilots who were not professional in flying this flight," said Kitty Higgins, a former NTSB board member. "This is clearly a wakeup call for everybody."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., called the incident "the ultimate case of distracted driving, only this time it was distracted flying."

The Air Transport Association, a trade group that represents major U.S. airlines, expects pilots to comply with federal regulations and airline policies, but hasn't taken a position on the use of electronic devices by pilots while in the cockpit, ATA spokeswoman Elizabeth Merida said.

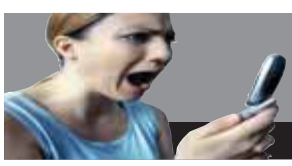
Pilot schedules are tied to their seniority, which also determines the aircraft they fly and layoff protection. Those at the top of the list get first choice on vacations, the best routes and the bigger planes that they get paid more for flying.

Following Delta Air Lines' acquisition of Northwest last October, an arbitration panel ruled that the pilot seniority lists at the two carriers should be integrated based on pilots' status and aircraft category.

The panel ruled that pilots from one carrier would not, for a period of time, be able to fly certain planes the other carrier brought to the combination.

The panel's decision affected the roughly 12,000 pilots of Delta and Northwest.

AP Airlines Writer **HARRY R. WEBER** contributed to this report from Atlanta.


You make the call. We'll print the answers.
Sound off every week on our Q-Line™. See page 5 for more info.
Santa Monica Daily Press
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

Swell Forecast

Should see NW wind swell build throughout the day. Conditions are looking less than favorable though as winds are expected to be onshore from theNNW early on, and reach 20+ mph in the afternoon (or before noon).

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a dramatic decrease in NW wind swell with waist to maybe chest high waves around west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **October 14, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 2
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 9

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	C	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NBA

Even players not sure free agency risk worth it

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

A rebuilding strategy centered on chasing the likes of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh makes perfect sense to a team like the New York Knicks.

Wade and Bosh aren't so sure. Charles Barkley thinks it's "stupid."

Trying to win through free agency is risky in the NBA, yet the Knicks, New Jersey Nets and Miami Heat clearly seem to be leaning in that direction. They appear to have no Plan B.

"I mean, those are teams who are putting all their eggs in the basket," Bosh said.

Those clubs are positioned to be farthest under the salary cap next summer, waiting with checkbooks open when a blockbuster free agent class arrives. James is the headliner, with Wade, Bosh and Amare Stoudemire among the other All-Stars who could be available.

Throw in names like Yao Ming, Dirk Nowitzki, Ray Allen, Tracy McGrady, Carlos Boozer and Joe Johnson, all of whom could be on the market, and it's obvious why teams are lining up for the chance to be spenders.

Bad strategy, said Barkley, who considers James the only franchise changer.

"To put your fans through all the losing and then you don't get that quote-unquote savior, I don't think it's fair at all," Barkley said. "These teams have all become losers. They're all shedding their good players and their contracts for one guy. And I'm like, that doesn't do your fan base any good, but also if you don't get that guy, what do you do?"

Seven teams could be more than $10 million under the cap, and most of those were cautious or inactive this summer so they could save their money for next July. With the caliber of players who could be available, it's an understandable decision.

But Wade offers a warning: Buyers beware.

"When you think about how many teams that quote-unquote are waiting around, you've got to remember there's not that many franchise players to fill every team, from the looks of it now," Wade said. "For everybody to wait around, it is kind of like swinging a bat with your eyes closed. You don't know if you're going to hit it or not."

And that's just one reason some people say you can't win in the NBA by trying to build through free agency.

"I disagree with that. I think that's the quickest way to get up to the contending class," Knicks president Donnie Walsh said. "I think a lot of people back when I started doing this, they used to build through the draft. That's going to take you a long time.

"First of all, let's say you need four or five players. That's four or five years. And then when you get all the players, they have to play together to become a team, and then you have to be right on every pick. So that's seven, eight years. So I think you can shortcut that."

Walsh said from the moment he arrived in New York in April 2008 that his goal was to get into the free agent market in two years, and he's done it. The Knicks will have about $23 million in cap space next July. That's about the same as the Nets, who have shed payroll by dealing Jason Kidd, Richard Jefferson and Vince Carter in recent years, and roughly $5 million more than the Heat.

Having money and getting players to take it are entirely different things. Chicago learned that when it tried to rebuild after Michael Jordan retired the second time, only to find no amount of money was worth the pressure of trying to replace him.

Orlando's strategy a decade ago was to land Tim Duncan and Grant Hill. It had to settle for Hill and McGrady, and never won a title. Duncan stayed in San Antonio and won three more.

"There's a combination of guys who make you a championship contender, but to make that risk when there's so many other teams doing the same thing, the risk isn't worth the reward, because the consequences can be fatal," said Kenny Smith, Barkley's TNT studio partner. "You risk having this money and then having to give it to guys that aren't really going to make you a different team."

NBA rules allow teams to pay their free agents more than other teams, making it harder to pry a player away. James could make $125.7 million in a six-year deal by staying in Cleveland, but earn "only" $96.2 million over five if he goes elsewhere.

Plus, the Knicks and Nets would have to interest him in leaving a title contender for a rebuilding team.

"Everybody wants to win," said Hornets All-Star Chris Paul, a friend and Olympic teammate of James and Wade. "So let the Heat win the championship this year, you think D-Wade's going somewhere? Let 'Bron win the championship, you think he's going somewhere?

The Knicks aren't scared by talk like that.

"I think there's a lot of factors involved," said coach Mike D'Antoni, who engineered a huge turnaround in Phoenix after the Suns signed Steve Nash. "The city's involved and the amount of money's involved and whether you can win or not's involved, your teammates are involved, the coach's involved, the style, all that.

"Now one player might want more money over winning, one winning over money. They all say it's about winning, but a lot of times it's about the money. So I just don't think you can generalize and you've just got to take it by case-by-case basis."

The Knicks have plenty of money, and so will the Nets if their proposed sale to Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov goes through. But this isn't like baseball, where there is no salary cap and the New York Yankees spent $423.5 million last offseason on CC Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira, and find themselves in the World Series.

Spend too much on one or two players in the NBA, and there may not be enough left to fill out a championship-caliber roster — especially with the cap expected to decline next summer as a result of the economic downturn. That's something else James would have to consider, but D'Antoni shakes off that concern, too.

"I would think you'd try to get guys that (think), 'Where I go, they'll win no matter who they are,'" he said. "That's kind of the guys that we would like to entice, that they're the difference makers."

There often aren't enough of them, with Shaquille O'Neal's move from Orlando to Los Angeles in 1996 the last major free agency transaction to yield an NBA title. A few teams are hoping it can happen again.

"You've got 25 starters that's going to be free agents, but to be bad for three years for that, that's a tough pill to swallow," Smith said. "You've got to be good in 2010, that's what I would say. If you're not good in 2010, there's a lot of people that will be trying to get jobs next to me and Charles."

AP Sports Writer **TIM REYNOLDS** in Miami contributed to this report.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Capitalism: A Love Story (R) 2hr 7min
1:25, 4:25, 7:30, 10:20

The Invention of Lying (PG-13) 1hr 40min
2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:45

A Serious Man (R) 1hr 45min
2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10

Whip It (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

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

Paranormal Activity (R) 1hr 39min
1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05

Astro Boy (PG) 1hr 34min
1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
12:20, 1:45, 2:45, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10

Zombieland (R) 1hr 21min
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG-13) 1hr 48min
2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00

Saw VI (R) 1hr 31min
12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

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

Amelia (PG) 2hr 0min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

The Maid (La Nana) (NR) 1hr 34min
1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35

Motherhood (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

New York, I Love You (R) 1hr 43min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

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

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (PG) 1hr 21min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00

Couples Retreat (PG-13) 1hr 47min
3:50

Couples Retreat — Digital Projection (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

The Informant! (R) 1hr 48min
1:10, 6:30

Law Abiding Citizen (R) 1hr 48min
12:20, 1:30, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 2hrs 1min
9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:45

The Stepfather (PG-13) 1hr min41
12:10, 2:40, 5:10

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

Do you, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your imagination takes you to a new level of understanding. You have the ability to ground your ideas through brainstorming. You really do make headway, and quite quickly. Others have some unusual ideas. Are they workable? Tonight: Find your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ A must appearance seems to be inevitable, though you could find that you never want to go elsewhere. Others seek you out for your opinions. Don't eliminate possibilities that surround a friend. Be open to others' input without feeling that your authority is being challenged. Tonight: In the limelight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. You could be overwhelmed by the possibilities that appear. If you ask a question, the answer could be a bundle of questions back. Detach and work with someone who helps you get past yourself. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you to a new level of understanding. Certainly someone in your life adds a lot of get-up-and-go. Walk into this person's dreams and ideas. You could be enchanted by this person's thinking. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Examine what is happening with associates, friends and loved ones. Suddenly, key people express a creative, dynamic side. Enjoy the brainstorming, high energy and ability to see past the obvious. Tonight: So many suggestions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ An easy, steady pace helps you stay on top of your game. Realize when you have had enough or need to share more with someone. The people in your daily life express more creativity and energy than they have in quite a while. Tonight: Make it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination appears to have no limits. Use your abilities to relate and maximize the energy between you and another person. Your happy style and upbeat manner draw many people to you. Tonight: Infuse the moment with excitement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ If you can work from home, please do. In a relaxed setting, you are able to get past a problem with a more centered approach. Sometimes too much going on makes you feel as if you are at a circus and most distracted. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You could suddenly feel overwhelmed by what is going on, whether you want to or not. You might want to screen your calls. What comes up could be most exciting if you let go of judgments. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Optimism surrounds a business deal. The real issue is the best way to handle a problematic person. Be honest with yourself. No matter how great an idea is, there could be a risk. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ At this point, reveal your true agenda and what you perceive is going on. You remain energized and extremely creative. Don't hesitate to ask for others' impressions. Make it clear, though, that you might not use all their ideas. Tonight: As you like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Knowing when to pull back could be critical to a decision. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is on your plate. You might need to close your door or work from home. Understanding grows when you have time to think. Tonight: Do for you.

Happy birthday

This year, you open up to many new possibilities and probabilities. Your ideas are endless. You also discover that home is where the heart is. Often, you might not want to see information, especially if it involves your personal and domestic life. Certain skeletons in your closet seem to appear. Be careful with real estate investments. If you are single, you meet people with ease. However, finding the right person could take talent. Date and take awhile getting to know someone. If you are attached, you benefit from privacy as a couple. Schedule more special time together. AQUARIUS serves as an anchor.

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

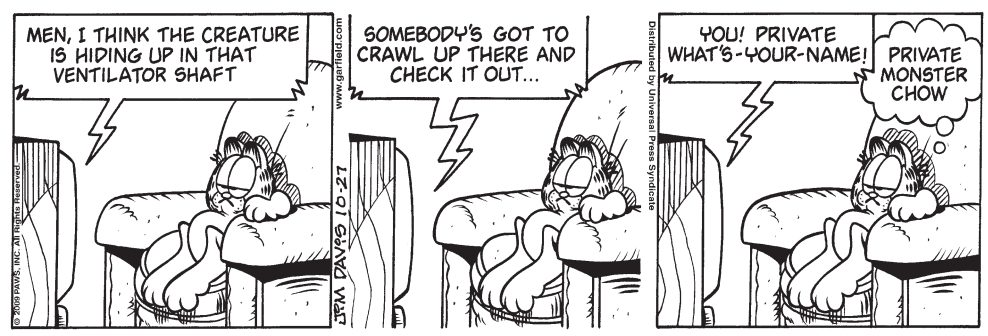
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



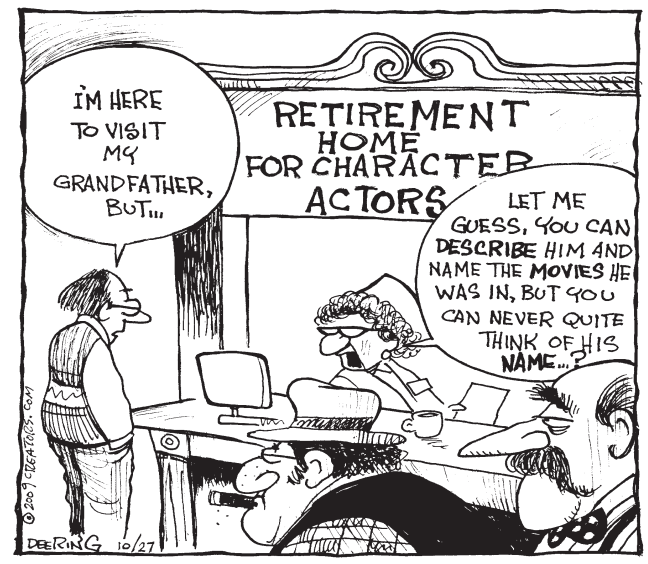
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY REVEALED

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Robert Almada correctly identified this photograph of the palm tree located on the Santa Monica Place parking structure on Fourth Street and Broadway. He will receive two VIP passes to Pacific Park. Check out tomorrow's paper for another chance to win.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Wild party
5 Closes
10 Book of maps
12 Subject
13 Spicy mixture
15 Cool, to jazzmen
16 Micro-wave, in slang
17 "— live and breathe!"
18 Skilled shooter
20 Resting on
21 Derisive sound
22 Trans-mitted
23 Intimidate
25 Act sullen
28 Take by force
31 God of war
32 "Ben-Hur" star
34 Clamor
35 Auction action
36 GI-entertain-ing org.
37 Shake ingredient
40 Fake name
41 Secret agents
42 Traders' wares
43 Method

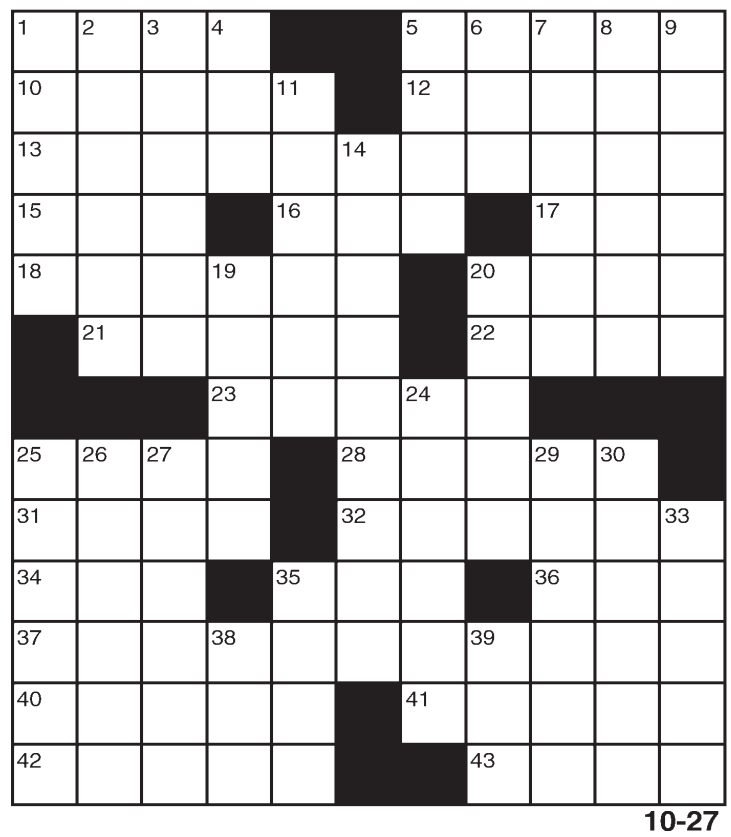
DOWN

1 Family of German com-posers
2 Acropolis setting
3 Enter quietly
4 "2001" computer
5 Halt
6 In what way
7 Brief news offering
8 Attaches, as a feedbag
9 List of lines
11 Sorting devices
14 Congress VIP
19 Church leaders
20 Fire remnants
24 Doctrines
25 Zany
26 Red-and-black bird
27 School-bag item
29 Painter's place
30 Go — (decay)
33 Like Thor
35 Deep voice
38 Bran bit
39 Typing speed meas.

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



10-27

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 27 45 48 54 56
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $28M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 10 11 26 32
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 14 25 29 37 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 5 6
EVENING: 0 2 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.44.41

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In 2002, following an acrimonious family debate, the head of late baseball slugger Ted Williams was cryogenically frozen, in the hope that science will some day learn how to revive dead people. An employee of the Arizona lab that stores the head recently disclosed some inside shenanigans, according to a September report in the New York Daily News. According to the employee, to keep Williams' head from sticking to the inside of its storage carton, the head was placed on an empty Bumble Bee tuna fish can inside the container, but the can itself then stuck to the head and had to be whacked off with a monkey wrench. (Since the lab's work is secretive, only first-person reports are likely to emerge on this story.)

■ High-Maintenance Goddesses: In Ahmedabad District, India, in September, Ramveer Singh Baghel, 35, sliced off his tongue as an offering to the goddess Amba. His sacrifice made him an instant deity in the local temple, delaying his trip to the hospital. And two weeks later, in a village in Bargarh District, India, a 19-year-old woman cut out her tongue, hoping, she said, that the Shiva temple's resident goddess would halt the woman's imminent arranged marriage and allow her to pick someone closer to her age.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1990 Supreme Soviet of Kirghiz SSR chooses Askar Akayev as republic's first president.

1991 Turkmenistan achieves independence from the Soviet Union.

1992 United States Navy radioman Allen R. Schindler, Jr. is brutally murdered by shipmates for being gay, precipitating first military, then national, debate about gays in the military that resulted in the United States "Don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

1994 The U.S. prison population tops 1 million for the first time in American history.

1994 Gliese 229B is the first Substellar Mass Object to be unquestionably identified.

WORD UP!

loquacious \loh-KWAY-shuhs\ , adjective: 1. Very talkative. 2. Full of excessive talk; wordy.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1750/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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

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

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

L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1195, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1195/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 12760 Matteson Ave #8 1+1 $925/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $750 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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

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North of Montana	$2,897,500	$1,349,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,887,000	$913,500
South of Wilshire	$859,000	$599,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,500	$542,000
Ocean Park	$1,599,000	$1,049,000

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