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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 300

Santa Monica Daily Press



LEAF BLOWERS BEWARE
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE **RIDE, BABY, RIDE** ISSUE

Former TV chef pleads no contest to soliciting murder

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN L.A. A former Food Network chef pleaded no contest Tuesday to soliciting two Santa Monica homeless men to kill his wife, authorities said.

Juan-Carlos Cruz, who hosted "Calorie Commando" and "Weighing In," entered his plea on the day a hearing was set to begin to determine if there was enough evidence to require him to stand trial, said Jane Robison, press secretary for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Cruz, 48, is facing up to nine years in state prison, with sentencing set for Dec. 13 before

SEE **PLOT** PAGE 11

Group dodging campaign disclosure

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Despite rigorous campaign disclosure rules in Santa Monica, it's still unclear who is backing the group responsible for the most controversial campaign mailer of the election season so far — the recently formed Santa Monicans for Quality Government (SMQG).

The group, which filed a "statement of organization" with the City Clerk on Oct. 12, was responsible for a flier that went out to Santa Monica households last week featuring four candidates for City Council: Gleam Davis, Pam O'Connor, Terry O'Day and Bob Holbrook beneath the banner, "Who do our police officers and firefighters trust to protect us?"

The flier drew criticism from the local police and fire unions, who said the so-called "slate mailer" misrepresented their endorsements by using their logos without permission and omitting one of the five candidates the groups endorsed in the council election — incumbent Kevin McKeown.

Though candidates for local offices and local political organizations that spend

SEE **MAILER** PAGE 11



WHAT A JOURNEY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Cyclist Iris Klein rides down to the Santa Monica Pier as she finishes her cross-country ride on Route 66 on Tuesday afternoon. Klein began the ride in Chicago as part of her BIKE4THECURE, which aims to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

A kink in Civic Center joint-use plans

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI A partnership between City Hall and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to renovate and expand Santa Monica High School with new athletic and arts facilities has hit a snag, with the initial $57 million for the project in limbo because of a provision in state law that governs Redevelopment Agency finances.

City Hall lawyers say they're looking into finding a way around the problem but haven't yet come up with a solution.

The City Council allocated the $57 million for the project, known as the Civic Center Joint-Use Project, last November, but so far none of the money has been spent on planning efforts.

The delay in dispersing the funds has to do with a technicality of Redevelopment Agency code.

Under California law, redevelopment agencies, which raise money through higher property taxes in redevelopment zones, are required to "pass through" a portion of their funding to school districts.

In Santa Monica, the redevelopment agency has passed through amounts ranging from $1.3 million to $2.7 million annually to the school district in the past five years, according to SMMUSD Chief Financial Officer Jan Maez.

The pass-through money, though, would be reduced or eliminated under state law if the district starts spending the $57 million earmarked for the Samohi expansion.

That's a problem, Maez said, because the pass-through money is being spent to pay a debt obligation the district incurred in order to occupy its headquarters.

(Only a portion of the pass-through money is a windfall for the district, Maez said. Forty-three percent of it simply replaces funding the state would otherwise transfer to the district, while the other 57 percent is an add-on to the district's budget used for capital projects, she said.)

"I'm optimistic that there is a resolution and we have a lot of motivation on both the district and the city's part to resolve it," Maez said of the issue. "People want to find a resolution to this, it's clearly not something that one or the other of us is using to

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 11

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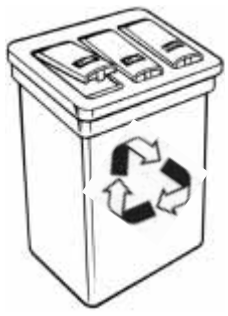
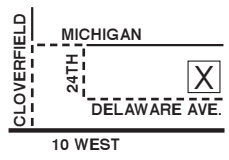


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Sullivan Dituri Real Estate Presents
Your Local Sports Schedule

St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL				
Oct 28	JV/Var	St. Paul	SMCHS	5/6:00pm
BOYS FOOTBALL				
Oct 30	JV	Bell-Jeff	SMC-Corsair Field	4:00pm
Oct 30	Var	Bell-Jeff	SMC-Corsair Field	7:00pm
CROSS COUNTRY				
Oct 30	Var/JV	League Finals	Santa Fe Dam	8:00am

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS WATER POLO				
Oct 28	Var	Hank Vallencamp II Tournament		TBA
Oct 29	Var	Hank Vallencamp II Tournament		TBA
GIRLS TENNIS				
Oct 28	Var	North Torrance		2:30pm
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL				
Oct 27	Var	Culver City	Culver City	3:15pm
Oct 27	JV	Culver City	Culver City	4:30pm
Oct 29	Var	Varsity Redondo Union Power Classic Tournament		3:15pm
Oct 30	Var	Varsity Redondo Union Power Classic Tournament		3:15pm
BOYS FOOTBALL				
Oct 28	Frosh	North Torrance		3:00pm
Oct 28	JV	Morningside		5:00pm
Oct 29	Var	Morningside	Morningside	7:00pm

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010

Creative costumes
Main Branch Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
With Halloween just around the corner, last-minute costumes will be hard to find. Join author of "Glue and Go Costumes for Kids," Holly Cleeland, at the Children's Activity Room for inspiration needed to make your own unique Halloween costumes. Three lucky attendees will win costumes made during the demonstration.

Cult classic
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
Calling all Donnie Darko fans. Director Richard Kelly is expected to provide live commentary throughout the entire film. "Donnie Darko," which barely broke even at the box office, has gone on to develop a large cult following and positive reviews. The film follows Donnie Darko, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, as he explores the meaning of life.

Super fresh
Downtown Santa Monica
Arizona Avenue and Second Street
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Get the freshest fruit and produce available at the weekly Farmers' Market. A variety of prepared foods will also be available.

Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010

You got mail
Main Branch Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Learn the basics of e-mail in the computer classroom on the second floor. This workshop will cover how to attach files, manage contacts and other email-related questions. To register, visit the Reference Desk or call Telephone Reference at (310) 434-2608.

'Loveland'
Santa Monica PLayhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Actress turns grief into hilarity in "Loveland." What's so funny about death? Plenty, if you're award-winning writer/performer, Ann Randolph, renowned for transforming horror into humor. For information, call (310) 394-9779.

Fall fashion
Jeanie Madsen Gallery
1431 Ocean Ave., 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Fashion designers Jeanie Madsen and Elizabeth Ulibarri will showcase their designs in the Rock N' Roll charity fashion show. Up-and-coming jewelry designer Amber Thayer will also make her dubut. All proceeds will go to Lifeline Charter School. Admission is $20. For more information visit, jeaniemadsengallery.com.

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.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

New leaf blower enforcement takes effect Thursday

Gardeners who violate the Santa Monica's ban on motorized leaf blowers will have another set of eyes watching them come Thursday when the Office of Sustainability and the Environment take over enforcement.

Originally banned in the early 1990s, motorized leaf blower restrictions were difficult and costly to enforce due to the requirement that the violation be directly observed by a sworn police officer. Residents complained that officers would not arrive in time to catch gardeners red-handed.

To improve enforcement, the City Council adopted changes to the ordinance to allow city staff to issue administrative citations to leaf blower operators, landscaping companies, property owners and/or property managers.

Bi-lingual inspectors will initially focus on public education about the ordinance and about alternatives to using motorized leaf blowers for removing debris from landscapes quickly and economically.

"Beyond the noise and the annoyance, leaf blowers pose multiple health risks to the community and the operator," said Dean Kubani, director of City Hall's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. "These devices are so inefficient they emit more pollution than a car and blow a mix of fine particles into the air we breathe. Our education-driven enforcement plan should make Santa Monica a little healthier as well as quieter."

In what belies commonly held perceptions on air pollution, an individual gas powered leaf blower, those often used by professional gardeners, emit 500 times the level of hydrocarbons than a modern automobile, Kubani said, citing figures from the California Air Resources Board. The added air pollution is significant and affects tens of thousands of healthy and vulnerable Angelenos, especially troubling asthmatics and allergy sufferers.

With a muzzle velocity up to 150 miles per hour, blowers further impact air quality by blowing fine particles of fertilizers, pesticides, and other contaminants up from the ground into the air, Kubani said.

Noise is also a serious issue, a gas-powered blower creates up to 70 decibels of noise at 50 feet. Reducing noise pollution continues to be a high priority for homeowners and renters alike, especially those with small children, or individuals with home offices. Noise from blowers also scares local wildlife, especially birds, Kubani said.

Gardeners are urged to use alternatives like push brooms, rakes, and manual leaf sweeping machines. Leaf vacuums may be an option for larger properties. Hosing surfaces is prohibited.

No person shall operate any motorized leaf blower within the city. A leaf blower is defined as any motorized tool (gas, electric, battery powered) used to propel fallen leaves, grass clippings and debris for removal. Infractions may be punishable by substantial fines to property owners, property management companies, landscape companies and/or individual operators.

To report violations provide an address, date and time of the violation. City staff will follow-up with reported violations in addition to being out in the community educating gardeners and property owners.

Reporting Options:
GO System: www.smgov.net/go
E-mail: environment@smgov.net
Telephone: (310) 458-4952
Website: www.sustainablesm.org/leafblower

DAILY PRESS

Indie Spirit Awards returning to SM Beach

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Spirit Awards honoring independent film are going back to the beach.

Organizers said Tuesday the honors next Feb. 26, the day before the Academy Awards, will once again be handed out at an afternoon ceremony along the beach in Santa Monica.

The Spirit Awards had moved to an evening event in downtown Los Angeles last winter to mark the 25th anniversary of the show, which honors lower-budgeted films made outside the Hollywood studio system, such as 2009's big winner, "Precious."

The Feb. 26 ceremony will air later that night on IFC.

Group asks governor candidates to ditch negative ads before election

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

LONG BEACH California gubernatorial candidates Meg Whitman and Jerry Brown were placed on the hot seat during a joint appearance at a women's conference Tuesday when they were asked to pull their attack advertising a week before Election Day.

The campaign has grown increasing caustic over the past month, with negative ads constantly filling television screens throughout the state.

Brown, the Democrat, said he would agree to air only an ad in which he talks directly to the camera about his plans to lead the state — if Whitman, the Republican, agreed to do the same.

"Let's be clear, if she takes her negative ads down ... I'll take mine off, no question. We'll do it together," he said to loud applause.

Whitman demurred.

"Here's what I'll do: I will take down any ads that could even remotely be construed as a personal attack. But I don't think we can take down the ads that talk about where

SEE **ADS** PAGE 10



SCHOOLS FIRST

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Tim Cuneo at his last State of the Schools conference on Monday. Cuneo, along with City Manager Rod Gould, reviewed recent test scores that show local students are making the grade, and spoke about the need for a strong partnership between City Hall and the school district.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Do your homework

Editor:

Santa Monica voters have five City Council seats to fill in November's election, and 15 candidates vying to fill them. The top three candidates from the 10 running for four-year terms and the top two of the five running for two-year terms will join the two members whose terms are not expiring at this time. These council members will be responsible for guiding the city through the ongoing economic challenges and the next phase of the LUCE. No matter how many City Council candidates you vote for, there will be five winners.

There are people who are not satisfied with the list of candidates and have chosen to recommend that we only vote for a few candidates. Their baffling claim is that it will strengthen your vote if you choose only three candidates instead of five. All it will do is to make sure you don't take part in choosing all of the council members.

You may not have enough "favorite" candidates to choose five. Choose your favorites and rank the rest. Choose the ones that most closely match what you value in your representation. The local media have worked hard to ensure that we have a lot of information to rank the candidates. We have a wide range of experience living in Santa Monica – from less than two years to over 60. If Measures Y and YY are important to you, you may want to vote for a candidate who feels the same way you do about these measures. If traffic and parking matter to you, look at what the candidates have to say and decide whether or not it makes sense to you. You can also include endorsements from people and organizations you trust.

It's more work to do all of your homework, and you may have to hold your nose for part of your voting. It's worth doing if you want to avoid the possibility of your absolute least-favorite candidate making decisions that affect you.

Valerie Griffin
Santa Monica

Going off the deep end

Editor:

The Daily Press went off the deep end in opposing Measure RR ("Endorsements," pages 4-5, Oct. 22) which enjoys widespread community support and was endorsed by Mayor Bobby Shriver and every single member of the Santa Monica City Council! Measure RR will add common sense eviction protections for renters in multi-family apartment buildings. It will not affect single-family homes or condos and there is no reason to believe that property values will be negatively impacted. In fact, like good schools, Measure RR will help keep property values high by protecting neighborhoods and the overall quality of life in Santa Monica. Measure RR is so clearly reasonable that no ballot argument was even filed against it! Measure RR is good for families, good for seniors, good for neighborhoods, and good for Santa Monica. Measure RR is the last measure at the end of the ballot. Please remember to vote yes on Measure RR.

Bruce Sultan
Santa Monica





Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Use common sense when it comes to legalizing marijuana

EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT PROPOSITION 19, the initiative that would legalize and tax marijuana sales in California. The question is simple: Does it make any sense to legalize marijuana?

The arguments being presented seem to miss the important facts. Today, it's legal to not hire people who use tobacco products. Tobacco and marijuana consumers are not a protected class in the eyes of the law. The courts have already determined that, as an employer, you don't have to hire people who smoke marijuana, even for medical reasons.

Supporters and opponents debate how much money it will generate, but I say that's not really important. What is more important is the fact that the entire drug trade in California will take a major financial loss, and so will the organized crime it created. That means our police will have to deal with less criminals. With less drug dealers that sell all of the hard drugs on the street the entire market for hard drugs will shrink.

This is Marketing 101. Companies like Best Buy carry products like the Apple iPod and iPhone, not because they'll make a bunch of profit on Apple products, but because they'll make ten times more profit selling you the car chargers, carrying cases and other accessories for those products. You might even buy a refrigerator or television while you are in the store. If the drug dealers stop selling high-demand products like marijuana, less people will be exposed to the other items the drug dealer sells. The total number of drug dealers in North America will be reduced. When was the last time you purchased illegal alcohol?

With the number one product sold by the illegal drug industry able to be purchased legally at your corner pharmacy or convenience store, the illegal drug industry will shrink. This will result in massive savings by law enforcement. It also will reduce the total number of people who will destroy their lives, and the lives of those around them, due to hard drug addiction. Any profits made from taxing marijuana will be dwarfed by the social and financial savings that will be gained from the decrease in drug addiction and drug crimes.

When you add in the fact that narco-terrorists control the North American drug market, then taking money away from them will reduce illegal immigration. Since the cartels that are destroying Mexico are forcing hard working people to flee to the safety of America, our cost of illegal immigration will drop, since more immigrants will be able to build a future in their home country.

The fact is the entire United States military is not able to stop the 800 percent growth of heroine production in Afghanistan. In 1919, we amended the United States Constitution in order to abolish alcohol and in 1933 we voted to pass another amendment to reverse that law because banning alcohol created a powerful illegal organized crime movement that took over our country.

When you take into account the fact that 93 percent of the world's heroine comes from Afghanistan, money that supports the terrorists will also be negatively impacted as well. Less money for the Taliban means we spend less money fighting the terrorists, and that means lower military spending.

Raising the bridge is not the only solution to the problem. We can also lower the water. This is not some grand new experiment. The 21st Amendment worked. In countries that have already done this, the results were that they have lower overall drug use. Even marijuana use dropped in countries that legalized it. Believe it or not our country prospered when marijuana was legal in the United States.

Seventy-three years ago, in August 1937, marijuana became illegal at a federal level. The entire industrial revolution and the boom of the United States into a global superpower happened when people could legally smoke marijuana whenever and wherever they wanted. The reasons why it was made illegal had to do with the business interests of a few powerful people, and not because it was causing America problems.

We all know about Al Capone but can you name a famous marijuana dealer before 1937? Today the names of the drug gangs that make a living selling marijuana are household names. A family member with the LAPD recommended not to list their names for my own safety but suffice it to say all of them make money on the sale and distribution of marijuana. Like Al Capone these groups have grown every year and become more powerful. In the end it was legalization that weakened organized crime and allowed our law enforcement agencies to win the war instead of winning battles.

Marijuana is not the gateway drug, but the dealers themselves are the gateway to hard drugs. So stop thinking small and understand the larger impact of allowing marijuana to remain illegal. Think about all of the costs illegal marijuana has by increasing the use of truly dangerous and addictive drugs, and all of the money that will end up in the hands of evil, dangerous people. How many people will not drink alcohol and kill their spouse. This is time to think globally and learn from our mistakes. The war on drugs has failed. It's time to do something that has been proven to work. It's time to lower the water because raising the bridge is not working.

DAVID ALSABERY is a Republican with some common sense. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All's well that ends well

FOR FOUR YEARS, I'VE BEEN A CITIZEN journalist covering politics and pop culture in Santa Monica as a transplanted Bostonian. My artistic approach was to find space between Ralph Wiley and Charles Bukowski; and my philosophical approach was to try to capture Art Buchwald's longevity. Since you're reading the final installment of "Word In Edgewise," I've failed on that second one. But I know my body of work will compare well against the greats whose legacy I sought to honor — 900 carefully chosen words at a time.

I would have been kicked out of journalism school, if I'd ever attended, because I would have called my professors frauds every time they advised me to move on to a different question whenever a subject is jerking me around. Only jerks get jerked around, and I'm nobody's jerk. I have an Adlai Stevenson-esque level of commitment to the truth, so I'm prepared to wait for my answers until hell freezes over. At times, that makes me difficult to defend and impossible to support — a perceived character flaw I've learned to accept.

While the opinions of its columnists don't necessarily reflect the views of any publication, the columnist has an obligation to represent that publication well. I haven't always lived up to that responsibility in my private life and for that, I owe an apology to all the people on the Daily Press team who have sweated and toiled and smiled and dialed to keep me in paper and ink since 2006. I'm sorry, everybody.

That said, I am most proud of my work exposing the negligence of our City Council and its decades-long abdication of the responsibility to enforce the city ordinance that is the Development Agreement with the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, covering one of the Sisters' 15 hospitals: Saint John's Health Center. And I won't apologize for breaking the story about the corruption in the political party that put most of those council members in place. My readers deserve to know the truth about their politics and their politicians.

The truth is that representatives from Saint John's have been lying to me since I attended my first community outreach meeting last August. I wrote then that my BS antennae had been activated, and it's been working overtime ever since; though now its more of a BS divining rod that keeps pulling me past the offices of Harding, Larmore, Kutcher, & Kozal, past the desks of Brad Misner and Eileen Fogarty in the Planning Department and straight into City Council chambers — where seven chairs are occupied by individuals who are probably guilty of one count of gross negligence for every 12-month period which has passed without a written review of, and determination of good faith compliance with, the Saint John's development agreement.

There is no dispute about the facts on which these charges are based. State law and Municipal Code require the council to review annually, thus be intimately familiar with, any and all development agreements with the city — not just Saint Johns' — and both require an annual determination of good faith compliance. Thanks to great reporting in this newspaper, we know that no such review had ever taken place before this year (for proof that your City Council has no knowledge of the agreement at all, ask about the Parking Operations Plan for the North Subterranean Parking Garage and watch for seven blank stares). Also reported in this newspaper, no such determination of good faith compliance has ever been made. In preparing the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), Planning Director Fogarty and her department had conducted what they called a thorough review and produced a big, beautiful, three-ring binder that claimed all development agreements were up to date and in compliance as of last November. She's singing a different tune now.

When I found out this column wouldn't be running any more, the front page headline in Santa Monica's newspaper of record read, "Several developers still out of compliance," and the editorial page said, "Time to get tough on DAs." The way I see it, if I had been wrong about anything I have reported, the record would have been corrected by now. The fact that it hasn't means we're on to something. This story has gotten the people's attention and I know I had something to do with that — as well as the recent re-review that revealed the truth to Ms. Fogarty and directly contradicted what was in her magic binder. Now the time has come for me to move on so that wherever this story goes, I can give it the respect it deserves in the form of a book-length exposé.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure to have this one-sided conversation with you. If I've done my job as an artist, I've made you care about something you didn't care about before through the stories I chose to cover in this column and the words I used in the process — and maybe even showed you something unexpected along the way. It's up to you now. You will only get the journalism and politics that you insist on, in Santa Monica and beyond, and I hope I've inspired you to demand more from your government and your journalists. Even though it seems scary, never forget that some things are more important than being afraid.

KENNY MACK thanks you, loves you, and will never be silent. Next year, he's launching a website dedicated to citizen journalism at www.TheCitizensPost.com and he can still be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

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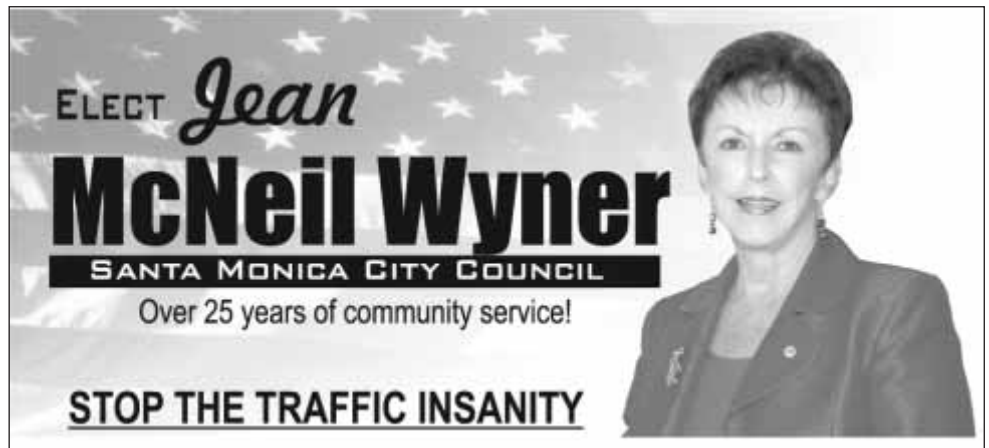
Upset at the ballot box

With Election Day nearly upon us, we couldn't help but wonder if there was an upset in the making in the Santa Monica City Council races.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Which incumbent council member do you think is most vulnerable to being upset by a challenger? And if so, which challenger do you think has the goods to pull off a victory?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**


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TRANSPORTATION

American auto makers make gains in overall quality

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT The most problem-free cars and trucks are made by Honda and Toyota, but U.S. automakers Ford and General Motors are closing the gap in quality, according to an annual survey by Consumer Reports magazine.

Ford and GM continue to narrow the disparity that once separated Asia-based automakers from their Detroit rivals. Large overhauls of American car companies in the last few years have resulted in fewer brands and better vehicles from Detroit.

For the third year in a row, Toyota's Scion had the fewest problems of any brand in the survey. It was followed by Porsche, Acura, Honda, and Nissan's Infiniti luxury brand. The Toyota brand ranked sixth, down from third last year. It was followed by Subaru and Volvo. Lexus, which had been a top finisher in past years, fell to ninth. Ford was 10th, but rose from 16th the previous year.

Consumer Reports rankings, released Tuesday, are widely used by buyers shopping for cars and trucks. The magazine ranks No. 3 on the list of information sources used by Americans to pick vehicles, topped only by brand loyalty and recommendations from friends and family.

Scion, Toyota's youth brand, was tops because it sells just three models, the xD hatchback, xB wagon and tC coupe. Those models haven't been revamped recently. As a result, they have fewer reliability problems, said David Champion, senior director of auto testing for Consumer Reports.

Toyota generally fared well in the survey despite recalling more than 10 million vehicles worldwide for safety problems including sticky gas pedals, floor mats that can trap accelerators and brake fluid leaks.

"Toyota's taken a slight knock from the issues with their recalls," Champion said.

He said the magazine's survey asks owners to ignore recalls unless they have experienced a problem, easing the impact. Toyota's luxury brand, Lexus, has expanded its model lineup and the quality has slipped, he said.

The survey of about 960,000 of the magazine's subscribers also restored recommended ratings for eight recalled Toyota brand models.

Toyota in January recalled 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. due to sticky gas pedals, including the 2009-10 RAV4 crossover, 2009-10 Corolla, the 2009-10 Matrix hatchback, the 2005-10 Avalon, the 2007-10 Camry, the 2010 Highlander crossover, the 2007-10 Tundra pickup and the 2008-10 Sequoia SUV models.

It stopped selling the models until the vehicles on dealer lots were fixed. When sales were halted, Consumer Reports yanked the recommended ratings.

Champion said Honda is the top manufacturer for reliability, with the Honda and Acura brands consistently at the top of the survey due to a continued emphasis on quality.

Champion said the Dearborn, Mich.-based Ford has several individual models that have better quality than Toyotas. Ford's quality resurgence was led by the Fusion midsize sedan, which outranked Honda's Accord and Toyota's Camry, two of the most reliable cars on the road. Ford's improvements began five years ago and have continued, Champion said.

TECHNOLOGY

Google executive surprised more users don't choose ads

DAN PERRY
Associated Press

JERUSALEM Google's global privacy counsel says he's surprised by how few people choose to control what ads are steered their way — a tool which the Internet search giant launched, albeit with minimal fanfare, over the past year.

Paris-based global privacy counsel Peter Fleischer said Tuesday that the tool — which enables users to prevent targeted ads or alter the parameters used to steer ads their way — was visited by tens of thousands of people per week.

That's a tiny fraction of the user base of the world's largest search engine.

"I have to say I am puzzled about why more people don't use more of the privacy controls," said Fleischer, speaking at a round-table with journalists at a privacy conference in Israel.

"It's a question that we ask ourselves. ... Is it that people feel comfortable with the status quo? Possibly."

He also said Google was hoping to get the word out about such privacy initiatives.

Google targets ads based on fields of interest it identifies in users, as evident in the "cookies" left behind on their Web browsers — virtual footprints showing which sites were visited. Thus it identifies preferences not with an individual or even IP address — which would presumably have greater value to advertisers — just the particular browser.

Under the relatively new "ads preference manager" a user can wipe out these cookies or alter the subject areas that were identified.

"You can say, 'You've been showing me ads for sports — I actually want travel,'" Fleischer said.

The facility is reachable by searching for "ads preference manager," by clicking on "ads by Google" buttons.



REAL ESTATE

Foreclosures push home prices down across U.S.

ALAN ZIBEL
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON Home prices are falling further, suggesting a bottom hasn't been reached in many metro areas.

Millions of foreclosures are expected to pour onto the market in the coming years. That's likely to force prices down and hurt even cities that had begun to rebound. Investigations into banks' foreclosure paperwork could further deter buyers and weigh down prices.

The past few months have been the worst time in a decade for the housing market. Few people have bought homes, and among the small pool of buyers, many have purchased foreclosures and other distressed properties.

The impact was apparent Tuesday when Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller released its latest index for home prices in 20 major U.S metro areas. The average price for all markets fell 0.2 percent in August and 15 cities posted declines.

But the foreclosure problem is far from over. A "shadow inventory" of homes on the verge of foreclosure is bound to force prices lower well into next year. About 2 million loans are in foreclosure, and another 2.4 million borrowers have missed at least 90 days of mortgage payments, according to LPS Applied Analytics.

"It's like a never-ending supply" of homes, said Daniel Alpert, managing partner at the New York investment bank Westwood Capital. He expects prices to fall another 10 percent over the next year — and not improve much after that.

Most troubled homeowners are concentrated in cities that have already been battered by the housing bust. One in 15 homeowners in Las Vegas received a foreclosure notice in the first half of the year, according to foreclosure listing service RealtyTrac Inc. In the Fort Myers, Fla. metro area, the ratio was one in 20; in the Phoenix metro area it was one in 23.

"If you're going down the hill, you tend to keep going down the hill," said Mark Fleming, chief economist at real estate data firm CoreLogic.

In Las Vegas, prices have fallen 57 percent from the peak four years ago. They are now at the lowest point since spring 2000. In August, they ticked up slightly — 0.1 percent — according to the Case-Shiller report.

Investors buying properties to sell or lease have helped to stabilize the nation's worst housing market. Demand is also coming from retirees, said Paul Bell, a real estate agent with Prudential Americana Group in Las Vegas, who noted that 45 percent of the city's buyers are paying cash

That's "helping to contribute to a floor" in the city's home prices, Bell said.

Some markets are doing relatively well. Chicago, Washington and New York have been showing consistent price increases since spring, though the pace of those increases faded over the summer. In the nation's capital, the large number of federal employees and government contract workers have kept the economy strong. New York has seen fewer foreclosures than other cities.

California may offer the most complex housing picture. Even though the state's major cities have started to show weakness, prices are well above the bottom of spring 2009.

The San Francisco area's home prices have surged more than 21 percent since then. Prices in San Diego have risen nearly 14 percent and had increased for 15 consecutive months before falling in August.

WALL STREET

Stocks make modest gains

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Mixed earnings reports and a stronger dollar helped stocks finish about where they started Tuesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average wavered within a 100-point range as traders attempted to parse the direction of the economy amid a drop in home prices, a batch of weak earnings reports and a slight rise in consumer confidence.

Stocks started the day with losses after disappointing results from Texas Instruments Inc., U.S Steel Corp., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. Du Pont, one of the 30 companies that make up the Dow average, fell 1 percent even though it beat estimates. Investors have been having high expectations this season with three out of every four companies besting analyst estimates.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.41 points, or 0.1 percent, to 11,169.46. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.02 to 1,185.64, while the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index rose 6.44, or 0.3 percent, to 2,497.29.

The 30 stocks in the Dow were split down the middle, with half falling and half rising. Microsoft Corp. rose 2.8 percent to lead the index, while Procter & Gamble fell 1.1 percent as the measure's laggard.

A gain in consumer confidence this month helped stocks pare their losses and then edge higher in afternoon trading.

"The consumer confidence numbers were encouraging," said Bernie McSherry, vice president of strategic initiatives at Cuttone and Co. It's a sign shoppers "may be reaching into their wallets heading into the holiday shopping season."

Ford Motor Co. and Coach Inc. were among the few bright spots in the big batch of earnings reports released Tuesday.

Shares of Netflix Inc. rose $10.78, or 6.4 percent, to $177.62 amid rumors that the company may be a target of an acquisition by Apple Inc.

Traders were moving out of riskier assets as the dollar strengthened. A stronger dollar makes stocks and commodities more expensive because they are priced in dollars. The dollar rose against Japan's yen and the euro Tuesday.

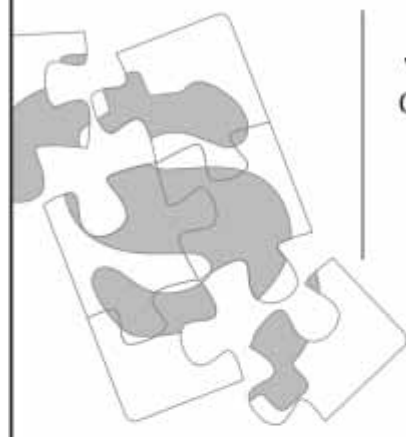
Home prices slid in August, renewing concerns about the health of the housing market. Fifteen of the 20 cities measured in the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index saw price declines.

Bond prices fell slightly. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.64 percent from 2.56 percent late Monday.

Consoliated trading volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 4.2 billion shares.

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Virginia Avenue Park
Thelma Terry Community Room
2200 Virginia Avenue

November 30, 7 p.m.
Cosponsored by Friends of Sunset Park
Grant Elementary School Auditorium,
2368 Pearl Street

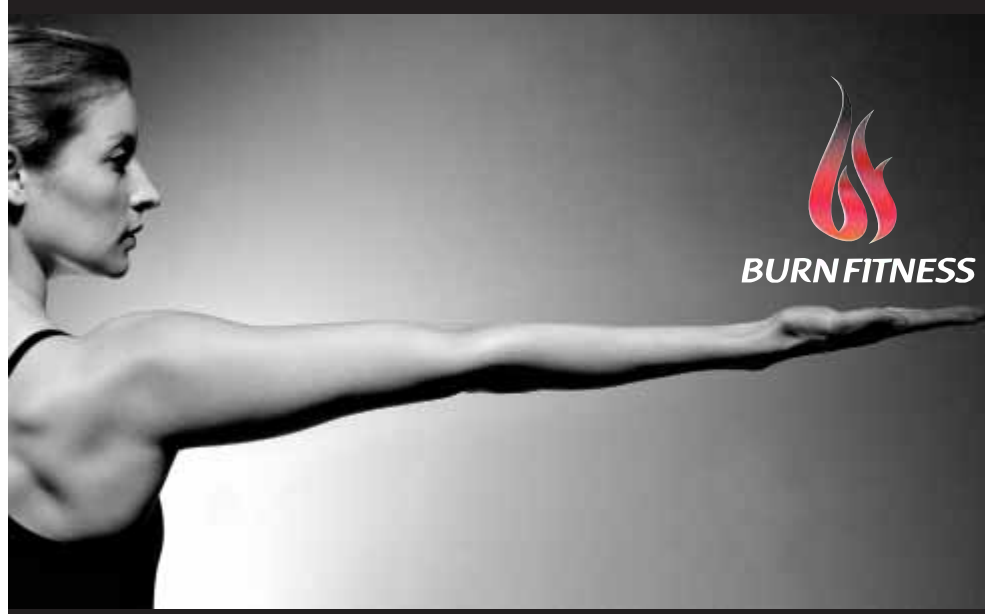
December 2, 7 p.m.
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Whitman tries to engineer another turnaround

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman says California needs a turnaround specialist with business experience to lift the nation's most populous state out of its economic despair and streamline its bloated bureaucracy.

Yet in perhaps her most high-profile turnaround attempt, Whitman says she fell short and conceded defeat well before her contract was up. Her experience at FTD, the iconic floral company, provides a parallel from the business world with what Whitman acknowledges she will inherit if voters elect her governor Nov. 2 — a troubled state beset with outdated and ineffective systems.

Whitman, the Republican nominee, has spoken often about her decade-long tenure at eBay, where she became a corporate star in an era of ever-growing resources. But she rarely mentions her only other job as a chief executive officer, during the mid-1990s at the flower-delivery company, now FTD Group Inc.

She quit over what she called investors' unrealistic goals, telling them, "This company is not fixable, at least not by me," Whitman writes in her book, "The Power of Many."

She calls her tenure there "probably the most frustrating and, ultimately, least successful executive experience of my career."

A former board member, however, says Whitman may be undervaluing her contributions at FTD and credits her with launching its turnaround.

Whitman was brought into FTD in early 1995 by her former colleagues at the investment firm Bain Capital, where she began her business career. The goal was to help FTD transition from a member-owned nonprofit cooperative association to a profitable corporation.

She said she was under intense pressure and unrealistic expectations from the company's new owners to transform an antiquated behemoth into a 21st century leader in the floral business.

It's a situation that is similar to what the next governor of California would face. California has struggled to emerge from the Great Recession, which has led to a steep drop in tax revenue and multibillion-dollar budget deficits for several years. The next governor is expected to face an immediate $12 billion budget deficit.

Whitman and others have worried about the state losing its competitive edge, its college and university systems declining, and its public school system continuing a downward trajectory unless major changes are made. At the same time, the political atmosphere in Sacramento has become highly polarized, leading to gridlock.

Whitman was named president of the former flower shop cooperative in late 1995 and became CEO shortly afterward at a time of intense competition in the industry. Her short-lived predecessor had slashed the work force, leaving employees in a sour mood.

From the day she arrived at FTD, Whitman writes, "I could see that it was full of lovely people — lovely, angry, unhappy people."

"Morale was terrible, remaining staff were paranoid, and the investors who bought the company had no idea why I couldn't just snap my fingers, cheer everyone up, and get them motivated to help us grow," she wrote.

One former staffer, Peggy Thompson, who was Whitman's executive secretary at FTD, agrees morale was low. She says Whitman gave the illusion of a "fresh-start," changing the dress code to business casual and moving executives out of the corporate offices.

But Thompson faulted Whitman for a detached managing style, rarely interacting with her rank-and-file employees. She came across as cold and disinterested, Thompson told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from her Michigan home.

"It was pitched as, 'This is change,' but it never really materialized, because she still was segregated from everybody. She sat in the corner ... never meshed with anybody else," Thompson said. "It was the pretense of making it all less formal and more integrated, less stodgy and more of that type of thing."

If she is elected governor, Whitman would inherit another dispirited work force, after months of furloughs that have cut state workers' pay by nearly 15 percent, severe cuts to some state agencies and sustained public criticism over the costs of their pensions, which Whitman would seek to reduce dramatically.

Whitman also has pledged to cut about 33,000 state positions if elected and has pilloried public employee unions during her campaign.

But just as government can't be reformed overnight, Whitman's tenure at FTD, while tumultuous, set the company on a path to future success, says Steve Pagliuca, a managing partner at Bain Capital and FTD board member while Whitman was CEO.

"I'll say in retrospect, I would say she's probably undervalued her contribution. It was a tough time," said Pagliuca, a co-owner of the Boston Celtics who ran as a Democrat last year for the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's seat. "It had to get a different kind of accounting, it had a set of shareholders, it had management change. She put a lot of things into place."

Those included better products and marketing, a technology overhaul and greater efficiencies, he said.

"I credit her with starting the turnaround of this company. ... It became a public company, it became a very successful public company, so it was a successful turnaround."

Whitman signed an employment agreement for five years with an annual salary of $250,000, but left after less than two years, earning about $550,000 in total compensation.

Among the frustrations Whitman experienced was an effort to relocate some parts of FTD's Detroit-area operations closer to her family's Boston home. The board rejected that plan and later opted to move to the Chicago area, where it already had some operations.

Thompson, her former assistant, said Whitman spent a lot of time working out of Boston and "spent as little time in Detroit as she possibly could."

Whitman has promoted her business experience as the main reason California voters should support her in November. Her tenure running a troubled company is one gauge of how she might fare running the world's eighth-largest economy.



ADS
FROM PAGE 3

Governor Brown stands on the issues," she said.

Whitman said she needs to tell Californians about Brown's record as governor from 1975 to 1983 — and she then proceeded to attack it.

"People need to know where I stand. And also Jerry Brown has been in politics for 40 years and there's a long track record there. And I want to make sure that people really understand what's going on here. And I'm not doing it in a mean-spirited way," she said.

Her answer prompted loud boos from the largely female audience at first lady Maria Shriver's annual women's conference. At times, the audience response drowned out the candidates, who were being questioned by "Today" show host Matt Lauer about the negative tone of the race.

Lauer played moderator in a conversation between the candidates and outgoing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and initially, the crowd appeared to be on Whitman's side, cheering loudly for her when she appeared.

Schwarzenegger was seated onstage between the two candidates and grinned widely during much of the sometimes awkward exchange over whether the candidates would agree to pull their negative ads. The Republican governor declined to endorse either candidate.

Lauer's call for a truce received sustained applause from the crowd, and he was forced to reiterate it after first receiving noncommittal responses.

Brown initially parsed his answer, saying that "sometimes negativity is in the eye of the beholder," but then reversed course when the crowd booed.

Whitman, a billionaire who has spent $142 million of her personal fortune on her race — most of it blanketing the airwaves with TV spots — first talked about the negative race without making a pledge.

"What I have found very challenging, and I'll be honest about it, are the personal attacks. The things that I have been called in this campaign — it's not fair to the voters of California," she said.

That comment was likely a reference to a leaked recording of a private conversation in which a Brown campaign aide called Whitman a "whore" for allegedly cutting a pension deal with law enforcement unions to get their endorsement. The recording surfaced after Whitman struggled to overcome a scandal over her forced revelation that she had an illegal immigrant housekeeper for nine years, who she says she fired last year when she learned the maid was illegal.

Brown's campaign exploited that incident shortly afterward in an attack ad that features an image of a lie detector test.

"Meg Whitman didn't tell the truth about not voting or about how long she lived in California. She got caught in insider deals at Goldman Sachs. She changed her story about physically abusing an employee. She campaigned as tough as nails on immigration knowing her housekeeper of nine years was undocumented," it says in part.

Brown's campaign has also attacked Whitman's corporate record and her proposal eliminate the capital gains tax, which it said would "rip a hole in the state budget."

Whitman's campaign has also aggressively attacked Brown in TV ads, including some that distort his record and position on the death penalty, education reform and his records as mayor of Oakland and as governor. Whitman's campaign has used selected facts to inflate unemployment, spending and taxes during Brown's tenure.

While Whitman has vastly outspent Brown during the campaign, the Democrat has been buoyed in recent weeks by nearly $24 million in spending from union-backed independent expenditure committees, largely for negative advertising.

Brown's campaign reiterated his pledge to pull all negative ads later Tuesday, while Whitman's campaign issued a statement calling on Brown to campaign on the issues.

"Our campaign is going to continue to advertise Meg's positive vision for California, while also running fair and truthful ads that highlight Jerry Brown's long record on the issues," spokeswoman Sarah Pompei said in the statement.

After three previous debates, Tuesday's event was the candidates' last appearance together before the Nov. 2 election.

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SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 1

stonewall the project at all. It's just part of what we have to figure out."

At City Hall, Chief Deputy City Attorney Alan Seltzer said a meeting is planned to discuss the joint partnership in early November. He declined to discuss possible options for allowing SMMUSD to access the $57 million in redevelopment money.

"People are still committed to addressing the issue of funding the [Civic Center Joint-Use Project]. The work is to identify how to address the pass though," he said.

While few details were available, officials said the dilemma has not delayed groundbreaking, since planning has been ongoing even without spending the $57 million.

In order to temporarily sidestep the issue, the City Council this month approved $1.1 million for SMMUSD to conduct planning, design and environmental review work related to the project out of a non-redevelopment agency budget.

> **"I'M OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE IS A RESOLUTION AND WE HAVE A LOT OF MOTIVATION ON BOTH THE DISTRICT AND THE CITY'S PART TO RESOLVE IT."**
>
> **Jan Maez,**
> SMMUSD chief financial officer

Officials said that money, though, would ultimately come out of the original $57 million committed to the project.

nickt@smdp.com

PLOT
FROM PAGE 1

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge H. Chester Horn.

As part of a settlement, an attempted murder charge is expected to be dismissed when Cruz is sentenced, Robison said.

Cruz has been jailed on $2 million bail since his arrest May 13 by Santa Monica police, who were contacted by two men who said Cruz had hired them for $500 to kill someone.

The pair agreed to assist the Santa Monica Police Department, whose detectives learned the murder-for-hire method, the time and place the intended victim was to be killed and the terms of payment, Santa Monica police Sgt. Jay Trisler said earlier.

TMZ.com reported that Cruz's wife was suicidal because she could not have children but could not kill herself because of her religious beliefs. Authorities believe Cruz was going to have his wife killed as an act of mercy and then take his own life.

news@smdp.com

MAILER
FROM PAGE 1

$1,000 or more on campaigns are required to file financial disclosure statements under a Santa Monica ordinance, SMQG has so far avoided disclosing to the public who has donated to the group.

Reached on Tuesday, SMQG President Fred Huebscher declined to provide a list of his donors but insisted his organization has followed all applicable campaign disclosure laws.

He also defended the flier that used the public safety associations' logos.

"The mailer is telling the complete truth," he said, pointing out that it didn't make the claim that the four listed candidates were the only candidates endorsed by the unions.

"The only reason those logos were there was because it clearly shows they're endorsing these people. There's no intent to mislead [voters] to believing it's coming from the police officers" and firefighters associations, he said.

As to the SMQG financial disclosure requirements, Huebscher said the group is registered with the California Secretary of State's Office and will file required disclosures with that office, not with the Santa Monica City Clerk's Office. He said the state office is the appropriate place for the group to file, particularly because the group plans to play a role in elections outside of Santa Monica.

Filing paperwork to open a SMQG committee with the City Clerk's Office, he said, was a mistake. It has since been shut down.

While less stringent than Santa Monica's campaign finance laws, state rules for "slate mailer organizations" set by California's Fair Political Practices Commission required groups to file disclosure forms with the Secretary of State by Oct. 21 "if payments of $500 or more [had been] received or made to produce a slate mailer" for the Nov. 2 election.

By deadline Tuesday, no financial disclosure forms for SMQG were available on the Secretary of State's website.

Huebscher also declined to state how much his group had raised in donations or spent on campaign literature.

"It's not my job to direct you where to find the information, and it's certainly not my job to give you the information," he told the Daily Press. "We have filed the reports with the appropriate authorities and it's out of our hands."

Huebscher, who is the president of the Hermosa Beach-based consulting company The Political Scientists and is running the campaigns of Gleam Davis and Pam O'Connor, said neither of those candidates are involved with SMQG, though both paid to be included on the organizations' fliers.

Meanwhile, the group Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, on Tuesday filed a complaint with City Hall about SMQG's financial disclosure practices.

City Clerk Maria Stewart said she planned to meet this morning with City Attorney Marsha Moutrie to discuss the complaint. For his part, Huebscher dismissed SMCLC's gripe as baseless. (SMCLC has endorsed three candidates for City Council, none of which appeared on the SMQG mailer).

nickt@smdp.com





Latin leaders question move to legalize marijuana

PEDRO MENDOZA
Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia The leaders of several Latin American nations on the front lines of the battle against drugs said Tuesday that a California ballot measure to legalize marijuana would send a contradictory message from the United States.

The Nov. 2 election in California was a key topic as Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hosted the presidents of Mexico and three other countries at a one-day summit.

Santos said that if Californians approve Proposition 19, it would require reviewing the principles that have long underpinned efforts to combat drugs in Latin America with support from Washington.

"How can I tell a farmer in my country that if he grows marijuana, I'll put him in jail, when in the richest state of the United States it's legal to produce, traffic and consume the same product?" Santos said in an interview broadcast Sunday by the Colombian radio station Caracol.

Officials in President Barack Obama's administration have said the federal government will continue to pursue its counter-drug policies and that they are looking at options for responding to the measure, which would conflict with federal laws classifying marijuana as an illegal drug.

Santos discussed the issue during a meeting on Monday with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, who confirmed Washington's opposition to legalizing marijuana and pledged to keep up counter-drug cooperation with Colombia.

"It's confusing for our people to see that, while we lose lives and invest resources in the fight against drug trafficking, in consuming countries initiatives like California's referendum are being promoted," Santos said during a speech Tuesday.

"If we don't act consistently in this matter, if all we're doing is sending our citizens to prison while in other latitudes the market is legalized, then we should ask ourselves: Isn't it time to revise the global strategy toward drugs?"

Santos' position was echoed by Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who didn't directly mention the California vote but said: "It's not possible to face (drug trafficking) effectively from our national borders in an isolated manner."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Calderon said the California ballot initiative reflects a "terrible inconsistency" in U.S. drug policy.

"They have exerted pressure and demanded for decades that Mexico and other countries control, reduce and fight drug trafficking, and there is no discernible effort to reduce the consumption of drugs in the United States," Calderon told the AP.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters that U.S. officials "understand it's an issue of concern. We understand obviously that what is being proposed for California may be in conflict with federal statute, and we'll work through those issues depending on what happens next week."

Other presidents attending Tuesday's summit of the Tuxtla Group included Porfirio Lobo of Honduras, Alvaro Colom of Guatemala and Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica.

Chinchilla also described the California measure as "a contradictory message in the anti-drug fight" in an interview with Caracol.

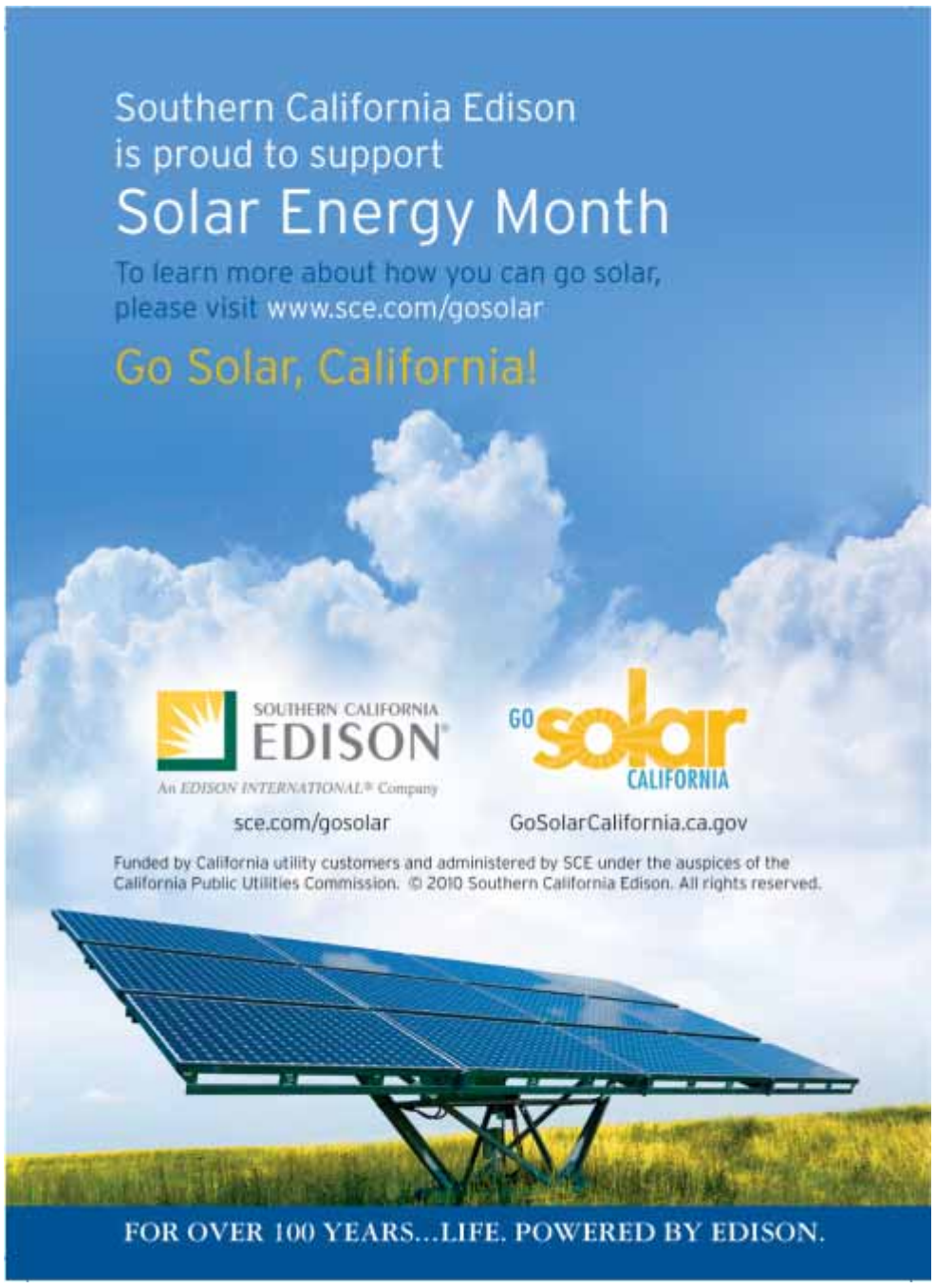
She said it "would put at risk, sincerely, the consistency of the anti-drug fight," and noted that Central America is confronting a wave of violence unleashed by drug traffickers.

"If we think that each country on its own is going to successfully face this problem, we're very wrong," she said.

California's Proposition 19 would legalize recreational marijuana use and allow adults 21 and older to possess up to an ounce of marijuana. Residents could cultivate marijuana gardens up to 25 square feet (2.3 square meters) on private property. City and county governments would decide whether to allow and tax sales of the drug.

Recent polls have shown support for Proposition 19 sagging among voters. A survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that the proposition was backed by 44 percent of likely voters while almost half said they would vote against it. The telephone poll conducted from Oct. 10 to 17 had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

How the measure fares may hinge on turnout among younger voters, who heavily favor the proposition in polls.









Republicans get help from outside groups to raise funds

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON A year ago, two top Republican strategists sat down for lunch at the venerable Mayflower Hotel, five blocks from the White House, calculating how to exploit the voter anger they had seen erupt at Democratic town hall meetings that summer.

Today, the money-raising success of the GOP-allied attack led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Karl Rove-inspired American Crossroads has stunned opponents and even its own architects. It's one big slice of the estimated $3.5 billion expected to be spent on this year's campaigning, a record for a midterm election.

Financed to a great degree by undisclosed donors — and helped by a new Supreme Court ruling — the deep-pocketed groups have become a dominant part of this election's narrative. They have reversed past pre-eminence by Democratic outside groups. And they have become a prototype for elections to come.

Their effort has been a major factor in the $264 million in spending so far in this election by outside groups — organizations separate from the political parties and candidates.

Rove, who was President George W. Bush's top political adviser, and the two Mayflower lunch partners — former GOP Chairman Ed Gillespie and Steven Law, a veteran of Capitol Hill and the Chamber of Commerce — worried that the Republican Party alone would be no match for President Barack Obama's superb fundraising.

"Clearly there was a tremendous amount of grass-roots energy building — a grass-roots prairie fire that was building in intensity," Law, now the Crossroads president, said in an interview. "We felt that one of the things we could do was pour gasoline on that."

If voters seemed angry, so was corporate America. Obama led Congress into passing health care and financial regulation overhauls and pushed for climate legislation, all of which angered the business community.

In the end, the advantage held by the GOP outside groups helped neutralize the financial edge enjoyed by the Democratic Party over the Republican Party. Together, they all have contributed to an explosion of concentrated political advertising — perhaps $1 billion worth — that rivals the annual ad spending on cereal by Kellogg's or on drugs by Viagra maker Pfizer Inc.

In the past few days, Democratic-leaning groups led by labor have begun to weigh in with their own money, anxious to match the GOP effort on the ground and on the air. Aided by more than $4 million from America's Families First Action Fund, a group gathering large donations to support House candidates, Democratic allies have managed to stay virtually even with Republican groups during the past six days, according to an Associated Press analysis of Federal Election Commission data.

The GOP plan Rove, Gillespie and Law designed was ambitious. It would require the various Republican constituencies to unite behind one economic message. The conservative movement's biggest donors would have to pony up for a midterm election with sums that would have to match or exceed their giving during presidential elections. And the groups would have to align their spending, selecting their targets and becoming almost a parallel Republican Party.

This election has emphasized the use of nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations in politics — a trend that is not new but has gained attention by the sheer size of the spending. The groups are not required to disclose their donors, adding an element of secrecy that Obama and Democrats have denounced.

The $264 million in outside group spending reported to the Federal Election Commission as of Tuesday already exceeds outside spending in the 2008 presidential year and is four times the outside spending seen for the 2006 midterms. Moreover, actual spending could be far higher because the reports cover only spending on communications. There is no accounting for get-out-the vote field operations by conservative and liberal groups.

The money comes amid a new landscape in campaign finance created when the Supreme Court, in a case known as Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission earlier this year, opened the way for corporations and unions to spend money in elections.

'Zombies' descend on NYC

DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK As if the morning commute wasn't odd enough, intrepid New Yorkers trying to make their way to work on Tuesday had to battle past hordes of the walking dead.

Two dozen zombies, their clothes spattered with fake blood, were staggering up and down the block outside Madison Square Garden. Downtown, others shuffled across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Some pedestrians looked startled or amused by the ghost-white actors with bruised-looking eyes. Some people ignored them entirely. Others whipped out their cell phone cameras.

Horror movie fan Linda Emery was thrilled to see the creatures.

"I'm into zombies, anything with zombies," said the 58-year-old home care provider from Brooklyn. It made a change from her usual commute.

"You see a lot of stuff, but not this stuff," she said.

Erik Machado, an audio engineer heading to work in New Jersey, was unfazed and passed by the scene with nary a glance at the nightmares walking around.

"Gotta commute, gotta go where I gotta go," the Queens resident said.

The stunt was part of a campaign in 26 cities worldwide promoting the Halloween premiere of the AMC television series "The Walking Dead." The show is being broadcast outside of the United States on Fox International Channels.

At one point, about 15 zombies crawled on the roof, hood and trunk of a parked, off-duty taxi.

Taxi driver David Pollack managed to escape from the horde, scrambling out of the back seat, playing along with the drama of it all.

"I think I'm going to be walking over the George Washington Bridge and heading over to Jersey, hopefully they haven't gotten there yet," he said.

He added, "I'm a tough New Yorker, but I don't mess with zombies."

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #3014 – FURNISH AND DELIVER ONE (1) NEW AND UNUSED MINI REAR LOAD REFUSE PACKER UNIT.

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 11, 2010 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) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@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

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
REPLACEMENT HOUSING PLAN
FOR 520 COLORADO AVENUE, SANTA MONICA

Step Up on Second ("SUOS") is preparing for the demolition and redevelopment of the property at 520 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, California. One (1) building containing sixteen (16) non-rent controlled residential boarding units will be demolished to develop approximately 24 new affordable rental housing units using funds from the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Monica (the "Agency"). Approval of a replacement housing plan for this property is scheduled for consideration by the City Council and Agency Board on November 9, 2010.

SUOS and the Agency have prepared a Replacement Housing Plan in accordance with State Law.

The Replacement Housing Plan has been prepared pursuant to California Relocation Assistance Law and California Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Guidelines. It describes the assistance and benefits that are being made available to persons who must relocate in order to allow the project to move forward.

The Replacement Housing Plan is available for review at the following location:

Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Monica
1901 Main Street, Suite D
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Alternate Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the Replacement Housing Plan by 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 2, 2010 to the Redevelopment Agency at the address listed above.

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Arizona goes overseas for lethal injection drug supply

AMANDA LEE MYERS & ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Associated Press

FLORENCE, Ariz. Facing a nationwide shortage of a lethal injection drug, Arizona has taken an unusual step that other death penalty states may soon follow: get their supplies from another country.

Such a move, experts say, raises questions about the effectiveness of the drug. But it also may further complicate executions in the 35 states that allow them, as inmates challenge the use of drugs not approved by federal inspectors for use in the U.S.

Arizona said Tuesday that it got its sodium thiopental from Great Britain, the first time a state has acknowledged obtaining the drug from outside the United States since the shortage began slowing executions in the spring.

"This drug came from a reputable place," Chief Deputy Attorney General Tim Nelson said. "There's all sorts of wild speculation that it came from a third-world country, and that's not accurate."

Nelson said the state revealed the drug's origins to let the public know that its supply is trustworthy and to dispel rumors. However, he did not name the company that manufactured it.

Without assurances of the drug's quality, many questions will be raised, including its effectiveness and how it should be handled, and would serve as a basis for lawsuits, said Deborah Denno, a law professor at Fordham University.

"The impact could be huge," Denno said. "The source of the thiopental is critical."

A federal judge in Arizona blocked the Tuesday execution of convicted killer Jeffrey Landrigan because the state obtained the drug from a previously unidentified overseas source. The judge questioned whether it might be unsafe.

Landrigan's lawyers contend he could be suffocated painfully if the sodium thiopental doesn't render him unconscious. In lethal injections, sodium thiopental makes an inmate unconscious before a second drug paralyzes him and a third drug stops his heart.

Hospira Inc. of Lake Forest, Ill., the sole U.S. manufacturer of the drug, has blamed the shortage on unspecified problems with its raw-material suppliers and said new batches will not be available until January at the earliest.

There are no FDA-approved overseas manufacturers of the drug.

The limited supply has also directly affected executions in California, Kentucky and Oklahoma, and may affect executions in Missouri, which says its supply of sodium thiopental expires in January.

California officials say they acquired a dosage of 12 grams in September with a 2014 expiration date. But there was some dispute about the source. Hospira said its remaining supplies expire next year and California could only have obtained it elsewhere.

The state prison system would not address the discrepancy. "The state obtained the sodium thiopental lawfully from within the United States," Terry Thornton, a corrections spokeswoman told The Associated Press.

Ohio, which spends about $350 for the drug for each execution, ran out of the amount prescribed by state procedures just three days before a May 13 execution. The state obtained enough in time but won't say where.

A few weeks ago, Kentucky's governor held off signing death warrants setting execution dates for two inmates because the state is almost out of sodium thiopental. The state's lone dose expired Oct. 1.

Officials say they have tried unsuccessfully to get the drug from other states, and have gotten calls from states looking for it.

In August, an Oklahoma judge delayed the execution of Jeffrey Matthews when the state tried to switch anesthetics after running out of its regular supply in August. Matthews was convicted of killing his 77-year-old great-uncle during a 1994 robbery.

Oklahoma finally found enough sodium thiopental from another state, but the court-ordered delay continues.

The controversy could end if Hospira resumes making the drug next year as indicated, or states could switch to another drug.

At least 15 states, including Arizona, Florida, Missouri, Texas and Tennessee, might be able to switch drugs without a new law or administrative process, death penalty expert Megan McCracken said.

In Arizona, officials say U.S. District Court Judge Roslyn Silver's order should be lifted because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1985 that Food and Drug Administration approval isn't necessary for the drugs to be used specifically for executions.

The state filed a motion with the Supreme Court, and was awaiting word Tuesday on whether it can proceed.

The delay, prosecutors say, is one reason the public has lost some faith in the criminal justice system.

"We're 20 years in and we're not arguing over guilt or innocence," said interim Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley, whose office prosecuted Landrigan in the 1989 killing of Chester Dyer during a robbery. "We have lawyers fighting lawyers."

In recent years, lethal injections have run into high-profile problems, including botched executions.

Ohio and Washington have switched from a three-drug method to a single, powerful dose of sodium thiopental. The change helps avoid litigation over pain that inmates could suffer from the second and third drugs if they haven't been knocked out.

The switch doesn't affect the drug's administration, which has led to a number of fumbled executions, including a September 2009 procedure in Ohio in which the governor stopped an execution after two hours when officials couldn't find a usable vein.

The issue will come down to whether an overseas version of sodium thiopental would be equivalent to what the FDA has approved here, said Ty Alper, associate director of the death penalty clinic at the University of California-Berkeley.

"It really opens the door to Eighth Amendment challenges that go to the heart of whether executions work the way they're supposed to," he said, referring to the amendment about prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment.

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Authorities: Terror suspect left telling Internet trail

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK When Abdel Hameed Shehadeh arrived at Kennedy Airport in early 2008, he was carrying a one-way ticket to Islamabad and a backpack with a sleeping bag inside.

He was briefly interviewed by federal agents and sent on his way — gone, but not forgotten. The very same day, New York Police Department detectives began surfing the Internet for information about him.

Authorities say the police department's Intelligence Division investigators found a treasure trove of evidence against Shehadeh that help make the homegrown terror case against him. The evidence, they say, also offered more proof that the Internet has become an incubator for extremism, and demonstrated how a special NYPD unit identifies and tracks cyberthreats.

Shehadeh, 21, failed to get into Pakistan. The New Yorker was arrested last week in Hawaii on charges he made false statements. He was in federal custody and was expected to eventually appear in federal court in New York. No date was set.

There was no immediate response to a message left Tuesday with Shehadeh's attorney in Honolulu. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn declined to comment on Tuesday.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told reporters on Tuesday that Shehadeh was an example of "a homegrown individual who wants to do us harm." The department "has been aware of this young man for a while," Kelly added. "I do think this arrest made us safe."

The NYPD investigative unit was formed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — part of the department's strategy for homeland security that has resulted in the redeployment of about 1,000 officers to counterterrorism duty. Many of the unit's members are foreign-born and fluent in languages like Arabic and Farsi.

The NYPD assisted in another case earlier this year in which two men were arrested at Kennedy on charges they wanted to travel to Somalia to get terror training. Investigators allege they were radicalized in part by other Americans preaching violent jihad over the Internet.

In Shehadeh's case, the NYPD investigators discovered that he had created a radical roadmap with websites that posted speeches by al-Qaida leaders including Abu Yahya Al-Libi and Ayman al-Zawahiri, authorities said.

A criminal complaint says he also put up a photo of himself wearing a keffiyeh headdress, another snapshot of a man holding a sign reading "Jihad is Our Way," videos of Osama bin Laden and a recording titled "Benefits of Jihad in Our Times." One of his sites had "a montage of still images of jihadist fighters under the heading, 'What is the least we can do?'" the complaint said.

In one militant missive, investigators say he wrote: "My brothers of the revolution of Islam, I am with you as long as you keep struggling. Trust me, there are many brothers and sisters in America that are ready to speak up. They just need a push."

The investigators followed Shehadeh's Internet footprints to business records showing his site emanated from two Staten Island addresses.

Federal agents search home of missile systems expert

BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON Federal agents on Monday searched and removed materials from a suburban Boston home owned by a missile systems expert who worked for the U.S. defense contractor Raytheon.

The home is owned by Richard M. Lloyd, the former Raytheon Co. employee, and Lori Lloyd, public records show. Agents from the FBI and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau removed several boxes of items from the home and placed them in a van.

U.S. attorney's office spokeswoman Christina DiIorio-Sterling wouldn't comment on the reason for the search of the home in Melrose, a city of about 30,000 residents just north of Boston, but said there was "no immediate threat to the community."

Lloyd also had been stopped at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City while trying to board a flight with a Raytheon laptop computer that had information that he was not authorized to have, according to a federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not allowed to speak about the case.

Raytheon spokesman Jon Kasle confirmed Lloyd formerly worked at the Waltham, Mass.-based company, which recently was awarded a $47 million Army contract for Jackal passive infrared defeat systems as part of an effort to respond to combat emergencies, but he wouldn't say when Lloyd left, how long he worked there or what he did.

A message left Monday at a phone number listed for Lloyd wasn't immediately returned.

A biography of Lloyd on the website of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics identifies him as a one-time manager of the Warhead Lethality Group of the Raytheon Co. Electronic Systems Division and as author of the 1998 book "Conventional Warhead Systems Physics and Engineering Design."

Lloyd also is listed on Amazon.com as the author of "Physics of Direct Hit and Near Miss Warhead Technology." According to his author's page on Amazon, Lloyd has extensive hands-on experience with advanced state-of-the-art interceptor missiles and has served as principal investigator on missile projects.

Public records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office list Lloyd as the holder of five patents, including one issued June 1 for a "mine counter measure system," described in part by the patent office as "a method of destroying mines in a minefield buried under the surface."

Lloyd also is named as the holder of a patent for a "wide area dispersal warhead."

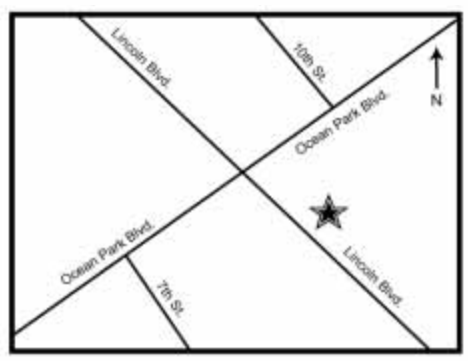
Spokesmen for the Boston office of the FBI and ICE referred questions to the U.S. attorney's office..

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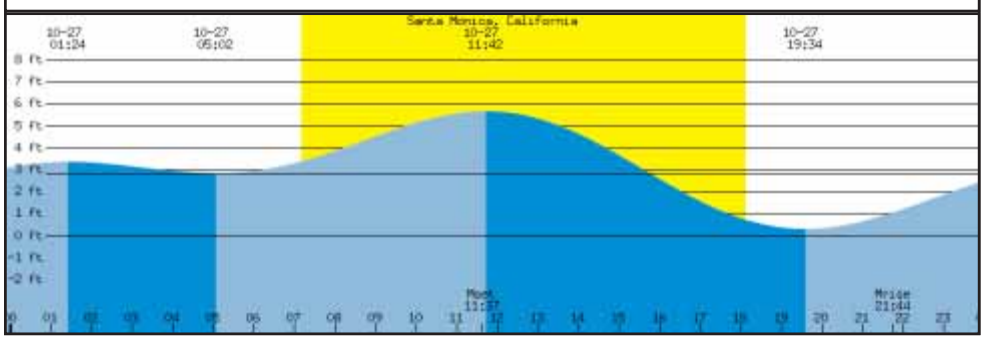
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NW should back off to chest+ as southern hemi drops to the waist high range.

Long Range Synopsis

NW should back off further to waist to chest high. Southerly energy looks smaller, around waist high.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **October 19, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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 Lechusa and Las Alise 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.	D	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	C	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	B	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	C	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	F	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	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.	F	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	B	F
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.	B	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	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.

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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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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Ducks have rough road to title

JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

Oregon appears to be hurtling toward the national title game, No. 1 in the polls, No. 2 in the BCS, overwhelming teams with an intimidating blend of speed and depth.

But between the Ducks and their first national championship stands the hardest part of the season: a five-game gauntlet of tough teams, all vying to be the one to knock the Ducks off.

Let up even for a moment and everything Oregon has accomplished this season will go up in a puff of dust, just like it did for Alabama and Oklahoma the past two weeks.

"You can get knocked out in the seventh round," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "All you can do is be ready to battle each week and make it to the eighth round."

The first seven rounds have been relatively easy for the Ducks (7-0, 4-0 Pac-10).

Oregon has the nation's best offense at a staggering 569.14 yards a game and is tops in scoring at 55.4 points — nearly seven more than the next closest team. The Ducks won their first seven games by an average of 39 points and have done it quickly and efficiently, ranking 114th in time of possession at 26.28 minutes per game.

The road figures to get tougher from now on, though, starting Saturday at No. 24 Southern California.

The Trojans, despite sanctions and a subsequent lack of depth due to defections, are still plenty talented. Their defense has struggled at times, but seems to be gaining momentum under new coordinator Monte Kiffin. The offense has been good since a shaky start to the season, led by maturing sophomore quarterback Matt Barkley.

"USC is the most talented team in our league, by far," Kelly said.

But get by the Trojans and the schedule doesn't get much easier. A look at the Ducks' next few games:

• Saturday, at USC. The Trojans had been the Pac-10's dominant team, winning seven straight conference titles heading into last season. Oregon ended that run last Halloween in a game the fans dubbed Fright Night, a 47-20 rout at Autzen Stadium that was fourth-ranked USC's worst since 1997. The Trojans would love to return the title-ending favor.

• Nov. 6, vs. Washington. The Huskies have been inconsistent this season, beating USC and Oregon State, getting routed by Nebraska and Arizona. Washington's defense will likely have a hard time matching up with the Ducks — 98th in total defense — but quarterback Jake Locker has the arm and legs to keep the Huskies in the game.

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #3015: FURNISH AND DELIVER LOOSE EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE ENGINE

- Submission deadline is November 12, 2010 at 3:00 PM PT.

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) 458-8281 or by e-mailing your request to Monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
- **http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm**

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

This was our message in the 1970's...
Some things just don't change

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Over the years, we've had a lot of experience insuring food distributors, property owners, restaurants, professional offices, and clothing companies - the full gamut of both services and manufacturing companies from A to Z. Well, almost the full gamut – we're still looking for our first zipper company.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Tomorrow (NR)
7:30pm

Get Low (PG-13) 1hr 40min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Legend of the Guardians 3D: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (NR) 1hr 30min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:25pm

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Catfish (NR) 1hr 34min
12:10pm, 2:35pm, 4:55pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm

Easy A (NR)
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:05pm, 9:20pm

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

Life As We Know It (PG-13)
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Social Network (NR)
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Jackass 3D (NR)
11:40am, 12:40pm, 2:10pm, 3:10pm, 5:40pm, 8:10pm, 10:30pm

Red (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm

Paranormal Activity 2 (NR)
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm

Hereafter (NR)
12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Never Let Me Go (R)
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Nowhere Boy (R) 1hr 37min
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Waiting for Superman (PG) 1hr 42min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger (R) 1hr 38min
1:40pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Town (NR)
12:50pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Secretariat (PG)
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Social Network (NR)
12:10pm, 3:15pm, 6:10pm, 9:15pm

Red (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Paranormal Activity 2 (NR)
12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

Pay your bills, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving, though you could see a lot change quickly. Understanding evolves to a new level once you process a situation that makes you and others angry. Know when to keep your own counsel. Tonight: Head on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Deal with your finances directly. You could find that someone wants to spend your money for you. Do you know how to say no? Start practicing. Boundaries are important. Understanding evolves late this afternoon. Though you might feel pressured, others respond. Tonight: Chat over munchies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You feel empowered and energized in the daytime. Get an early start, if possible. An idea you have been tinkering with might draw some interesting comments. Share this idea and allow others to express themselves freely. Tonight: Gather and pay your bills.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Seize the moment and do some much-needed reflecting, brainstorming and decision-making. Timing is such that by the end of the day, you will feel energized and ready to deal with whatever is needed. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and don't hold back in a meeting or a group discussion any longer. Someone you share with thinks his or her ideas are better. Though you might not be OK with each one of this person's brain children, a sounder interaction and better plan evolve. Tonight: Some much-needed private time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to back off from a situation or change your direction. The problem lies in that you are a leader. Be careful how you move away from a commitment. Schedule a meeting for late this afternoon. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information and facts. Be willing to adapt to a needed change that comes out of nowhere. Use care with spending. Pressure builds late in the day. You need to make an important appearance. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Discussions need to be on an individual level. The unexpected pops in from out of left field. Don't take any unnecessary risks, as they could backfire. Late afternoon, detach and gain more insight. Attempt to walk in another's shoes. Tonight: Listen to great music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others insist on dominating. Be smart, and don't fight city hall. Use care with a domestic matter that could turn quirky. Relax; the time will come to have a needed discussion. Your instincts guide you with a key person. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Remain easygoing with those you deal with on a daily basis. You might want to redesign your schedule or become more independent. Postpone discussions until late afternoon. Your creativity surges. Be willing to try another approach. Tonight: Sort through offers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your imagination sometimes is difficult to rein in. Try to use it to expand your knowledge. Play amateur psychologist, and try to walk in another's shoes. Revise your opinions, and clear out some judgments that don't work. Tonight: Run a couple of errands on the way home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your instincts will guide you with a domestic or personal matter. Your reactions might surprise you. Visit with an intriguing individual late today. Encourage swapping ideas and opinions. Tonight: Let go and enjoy.

Happy birthday

This year, you swing from being intensely personal to quite detached. Both avenues of self-expression are you. Just be in tune with your needs. You might want to travel, go back to school or explore an opportunity to expand your mind. Many of you will travel and/or draw a foreigner into your life. This experience also will open up your thinking. If you are single, be open to a very different type of person. After all, your present type hasn't worked so far! If you are attached, be willing to walk in your sweetie's shoes. Try to imagine what it is like being him or her. Accept rather than criticize. CANCER helps you see the other side.

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



MYSTERY REVEALED!

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

Reader Amber Cisneros correctly identified this photo of the Dragon ride at the Santa Monica Pier's Pacific Park. She will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

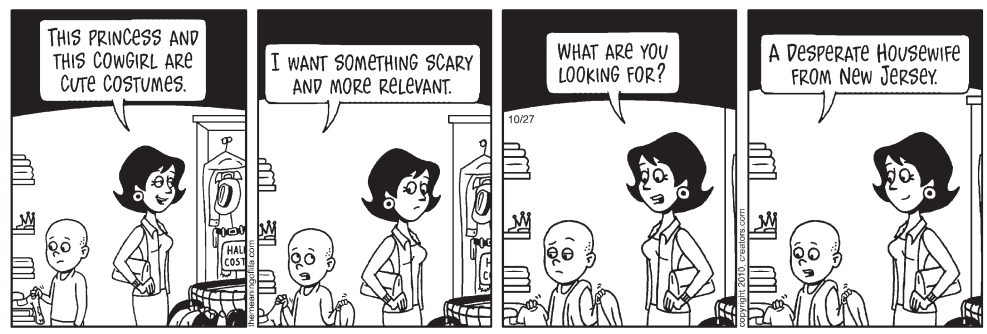
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



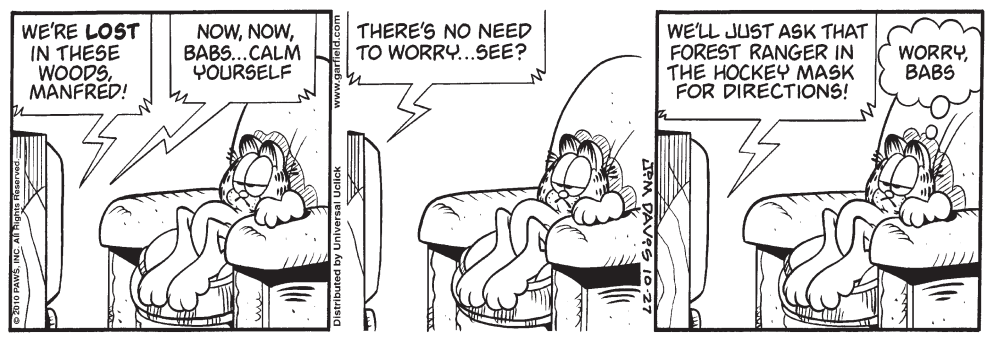
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



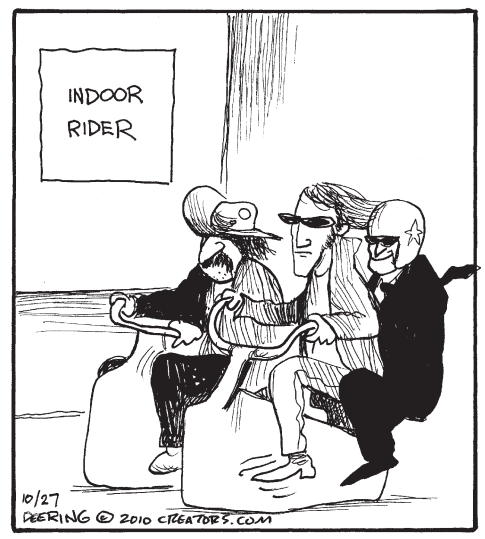
Garfield

By Jim Davis



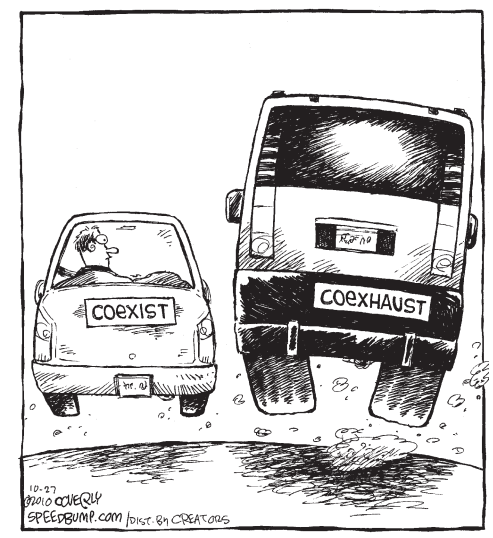
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

SOLUTIONS TO 10/26/10 PUZZLE

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

SOLUTIONS TO 10/23/10 PUZZLE

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

"Attention Seniors with Retirement Savings!"

"Retirees Make These Mistakes Losing Thousands of Dollars"

A nationally known financial expert says many seniors who have savings accounts make these mistakes, costing themselves and their families thousands of dollars! They risk their retirement security, increasing the chance they could outlive their money. This is true whether they handle retirement savings themselves, or with help from a professional! Are you needlessly losing thousands of dollars? Find out NOW, by getting this eye opening FREE report that reveals retirement savings secrets that banks and insurance companies don't want you to know!

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CALL NOW, before it's too late!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Layered mineral
5 Bigwigs
11 Burden
12 "Let me in!"
13 Snack
14 Swift
15 Wee worker
16 Trapper's item
17 Past plump
19 Letter before psi
22 Evil spirit
24 Feel faint
26 Neighborhood
27 "SportsCenter" network
28 Bakery buys
30 Mythical trio
31 Twisty turn
32 17-syllable poem
34 Printed matter
35 Singer Tormé
38 Bogie's love
41 Letter before gamma
42 Change gradually
43 Spoken
44 Restaurant fixtures
45 Capital on a fjord

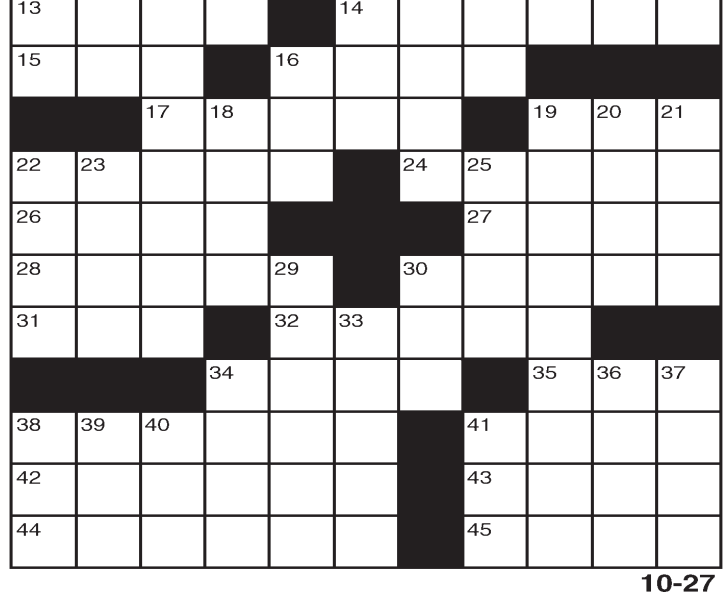
DOWN

1 "— Lisa"
2 Privy to
3 Store patrons
4 Bat wood
5 Snouts
6 Bobbing goals
7 Borscht veggie
8 Low number
9 Vase item
10 Bond, for one
16 Signing need
18 Dinghy or dory
19 Outfit suppliers
20 Aspiration
21 Tourist stops
22 Appointment
23 Historic times
25 Feeble
29 Put away
30 In shape
33 Wheel connectors
34 Statuesque
36 List-ending abbr.
37 Composer Edouard
38 Track act
39 One of Frank's wives
40 Pipe material
41 Halloween cry

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

Yesterday's answer

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



10-27

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.

• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.

• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.

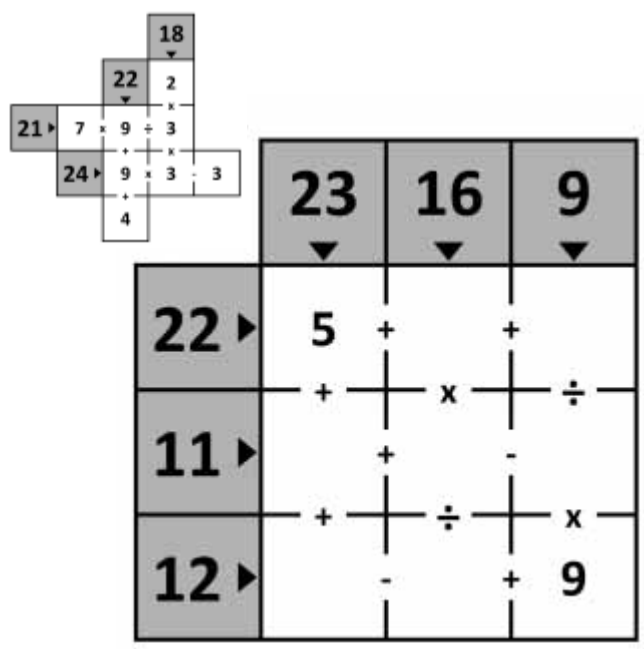
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

5, 8, 8, 9, 9, 10, 10

Solution for Task 514



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 7 18 32 53 Meganumber: 18 Jackpot: $118M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 3 13 15 16 25 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 7 17 18 26 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 6 8 EVENING: 3 9 0

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 06 Whirl Win 2nd: 04 Big Ben 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1:40.05

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

■ Among the Medicare billings only recently discovered as fraudulent (after being paid): (1) Brooklyn, N.Y., proctologist Boris Sachakov was paid for performing 6,593 hemorrhoidectomies and other procedures over a 13-month period -- an average of 18 every day, 365 days a year (and 6,212 more than the doctor who billed the second-highest number). (2) Two Hialeah, Fla., companies, "Charlie RX" and "Happy Trips," between them billed Medicare $63,000 for penis pumps -- including a total of four to the same patient (by the way, a woman).

■ In October, the award-winning London theater company Duckie announced plans for a June 2011 production, "Lullaby," at the Barbican Pit, that would feature music and performances so soothing that patrons will be encouraged to attend in pajamas and lounge overnight in bed-seats, with an early morning shower included in the ticket price of 42 pounds ($66). Producer Simon Casson noted that, irrespective of the play, it is almost impossible to find overnight facilities in central London for that price.

TODAY IN HISTORY

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.

1995 Latvia applies for membership in the European Union.

1995 Former Prime Minister of Italy Bettino Craxi is convicted in absentia of corruption.

1997 October 27, 1997 mini-crash: Stock markets around the world crash because of fears of a global economic meltdown. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummets 554.26 points to 7,161.15. For the first time, the New York Stock Exchange activates its "circuit breakers" twice during the day eventually making the controversial move of closing the Exchange early.

WORD UP!

eke
\ EEK \ , transitive verb;
1. To gain or supplement with great effort or difficulty -- used with 'out'.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101252759 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/07/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE ODD COUPLE . The full name of registrant(s) is/are: PATRICIA LATHAN 2005 21ST #2 SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:PATRICIA LATHAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/07/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/06/2010, 10/13/2010, 10/20/2010, 10/27/2010.

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North of Montana	$ 2,999,000	$ 1,345,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 1,730,000	$ 674,450
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11687 Montana Avenue #208
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934 2nd Street #3
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