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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 303

Santa Monica Daily Press

IT'S PLAYOFF TIME
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE USE YOUR VOTE ISSUE

Conservation voters say logo was misused to deceive SM electorate

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Two environmental organizations are calling for a formal apology after their logos appeared on election materials put out by Santa Monicans for Responsible Growth without the groups' permission.

Both the California League of Conservation Voters and the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters say that their logos were used improperly on election materials that went out last week in support of City Council candidates Richard McKinnon and Ted Winterer.

The California League of Conservation

SEE LOGO PAGE 8

City selected as finalist to improve quality of life

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica will compete against 20 cities for up to $5 million to fund a plan to improve the quality of life for all members of the community within five years.

The concept, called the "City of Wellbeing," snagged a finalist spot in the Mayor's Challenge, a competition put on by nonprofit Bloomberg Philanthropies, which aims to foster attempts to make local solutions to national problems.

The challenge uses cities as Petri dishes, challenging them to identify a problem and create a proposal that not only fixes it at a local level, but has the flexibility to be used in communities across the country.

Five communities will be selected in spring of 2013 to win prizes. One will receive a $5 million grand prize, and four others will get $1 million to further their plans.

Santa Monica's proposal was one of 20 selected out of 305 applicants. Other finalists include San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia.

It was an honor to be part of the high-caliber group, said Mayor Richard Bloom.

"We will be providing something that will help Santa Monica, but will also be a tool that can be used across the country," Bloom said.

City officials worked hand-in-hand with the RAND Corporation to create the proposal, which aims to measure the success of local government based on people's satisfaction with their lives in many arenas, includ-

SEE FUNDS PAGE 10



BALANCING ACT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Derek Nusbaum (right) and Josh Kanan practice slacklining at Santa Monica Beach on an unseasonably warm November Monday. Temperatures reached the upper 80s.

Groups rush to spend cash before election

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The economy may not be great, but you wouldn't know it by the way political campaigns are spending money in Santa Monica.

The City Clerk's Office posted a deluge of last-minute filings by independent expenditure and political action committees that show almost $173,000 spent on mailers, ads, canvassers and other pricey items for the City Council race since Oct. 26.

The vast majority of the cash came from developer-backed group Santa Monicans United for a Responsible Future. The organization put $127,971 behind its slate of candidates, including incumbents Gleam Davis and Terry O'Day, education activist Shari Davis and Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer.

That group has been derided for its development ties, and accused of endorsing slow-growth candidate Winterer simply to besmirch his name.

Although a major expenditure, the group almost offset it with two new contributions from Ocean Avenue LLC, which is connected to the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, and Hines 26th Street LLC, the developer behind the Bergamot Transit Village.

Each gave $50,001, compared to the initial $49,999 they gave at the beginning of the race.

The same slate also received $1,500 each in support from the Santa Monica Firefighters Political Activities for advertisements.

Winterer and fellow Planning Commissioner Richard McKinnon both got support from Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City (SMCLC) and Santa Monicans for Responsible Government (SMRG).

SMCLC pitched in $5,768 for mail for each of its candidates, where SMRG aimed higher with $13,543.68 behind each.

SMRG also managed to recoup much of its payout with a $10,000 contribution from a pilates company in Encino, Calif.

ashley@smdp.com

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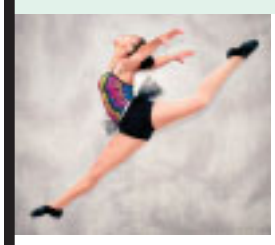
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012

Get out the vote
Citywide
There's plenty at stake this election season. Races for City Council and the Board of Education highlight Santa Monica's ballot, but there's also statewide and county measures and your choice for president in play. For more information on where to vote and election results, visit www.smvote.org.

Skating in the sunshine
ICE at Santa Monica
1324 Fifth St.,
2 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Ice skating by the beach? The annual ICE at Santa Monica rink returns to give locals a taste of winter. For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com/ice.

Serve it up
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 3:30 p.m.
This youth beach volleyball class is intended for ages 7-15. Cost: $18. For more information, visit annenbergbeachhouse.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

Print away
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Learn how to print documents and photos from e-mail, the Internet or from your hard drive during this free class for beginners. For more information, call (310) 434-2608.

Time to giggle
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street
Promenade, 8 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Comedians and writers read aloud their own personal fan fiction. There is a $5 cover charge and a beer and wine bar. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012

Movie time
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
2 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.
Who doesn't love a cat in footwear? Catch this free screening of the animated comedy, "Puss in Boots." For more information, visit smpl.org.

It's in the mind
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Learn how to identify normal changes in memory as we age, get tips on how to maintain and improve your memory and find out about the causes of memory loss during this lecture. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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

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

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



Jobs dwindle during green power debate

NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

DENVER An eerie quiet has settled over the Walker Components plant, which assembles custom cables for a global wind turbine company. Orders are down from earlier in the year and one-third of its employees have been laid off this year.

"At the beginning of this year we just didn't feel we had enough time, and now we've got too much time on our hands," said one of its workers, 25-year-old Calvin Huddleston. "I really thought wind would be a sustainable business."

The wind energy boom President Barack Obama touted as key to his energy strategy has hit a wall in an election-year dispute over taxpayer support for renewable energy.

The government poured billions of dollars into renewable energy, hoping to unleash a wave of good-paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs. But federal spending to support development of green energy has dropped sharply— 75 percent since 2009 — amid tea party criticism that it's wasteful. Congress' failure to extend past December the production tax credit, a wind-energy tax break first signed into law by Republican President George H.W. Bush, has contributed to job cutbacks from South Carolina to Washington state.

"The green bubble is starting to fall apart," said Tom Borelli, a fellow at the tea party group FreedomWorks. "How much longer can we fund things that are not cost-competitive?"

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and Obama prominently collided during the campaign over the fate of the tax credit. Romney has called for its expiration, while Obama supports its renewal. The credit stalled in Congress this summer in the face of opposition from House Republicans, and the last chance to extend it comes in December's lame-duck session. Amid the gridlock, Vestas, the Danish company that Walker Components supplies, closed offices and laid off hundreds of U.S. workers. Wind businesses from South Carolina to Washington state also have cut jobs.

SEE **GREEN** PAGE 9



Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

MAKING THEIR MOVE: **Santa Monica High School's girls' volleyball team opens the playoffs against Palmdale at home today.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Playoff season begins with local flavor

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CITYWIDE With fall in full effect, it's time for some high school playoff action.

CIF-Southern Section playoffs for football, girls' volleyball and boys' water polo begin this week with a number of Santa Monica-based teams making the fields.

Girls' volleyball is up first with three local teams making the cut. Pacifica Christian enters the Division 4A postseason as the No. 1 overall seed after topping the Liberty League. The Seawolves host Duarte, the second place team from the Montview League, Tuesday at 7 p.m. at nearby Crossroads.

Santa Monica's girls begin, also Tuesday, by hosting Palmdale at 7 p.m. Samohi won the Ocean League with Palmdale barely making it into the field as the fourth place team from the Golden League.

New Roads will travel to St. Anthony Tuesday, also in Division 4A. New Roads finished the season as the third place team in the Coastal League. St. Anthony enters as the second place squad from the Santa Cruz League. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Samohi's boys' water polo is the lone local team in the sport's field. The first place finisher in the Ocean League hosts the winner of a wild card match on Thursday at home. The Division 4 game begins at 5 p.m.

Both St. Monica and Samohi qualified for the football playoffs. Both will be in action on Friday. Samohi, the Ocean League winner for the second straight year, hosts Templeton, the third place team from the Los Padres League, in Western Division action. The game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Samohi returns to the playoffs after reaching the semifinals of last year's postseason.

St. Monica football travels to Kern Valley, the second place squad from the High Desert League. St. Monica finished the season No. 2 in the Santa Fe League. The game begins at 7 p.m.

For more information and to follow results, visit www.cifss.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Vote for us

Editor:

The letter to the editor entitled "Making election picks," Nov. 5, is a perfect demonstration of why our school district needs to change. Written by a familiar subset of long-time political insiders, it makes the usual tired, self-evidently false claims about 12-year school board veterans Escarce and Leon-Vasquez' success.

It says, "District test scores have soared under their leadership" and "Santa Monica-Malibu schools are known as some of the best in the state." Really? Samohi's API scores are lower than the majority of similar schools as measured by the California Department of Education. Samohi's API also lags all the major comparison schools as defined by our own school board, often by a hundred points or more.

It says, "Working together, they... are bridging the opportunity gap." Really? With just 6 percent of African-American high school students in the district proficient or better in math, it is hard to see how this could be true. Likewise, less than half of African-American students and just slightly over half of Latino students are proficient on their high school exit exams. This is how bad it really is: African-American achievement in our district is below the despicably low state average.

It says, "These board members and their colleagues are devoted to the support of all students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds." If by this they mean that the board micromanages the superintendent and creates a blizzard of contradictory and disconnected programs, that is true. What is lacking, however, is an overarching, staff-driven plan to incorporate best practices into our district in a powerful, connected, meaningful way.

It says, "They kept state budget cuts as far from the classroom as possible." Really? If that is so, why are SMMUSD's costs for centralized administration more than double Conejo Valley's costs? Our central administration costs $7 million more than theirs, the equivalent of 70 teachers. Why aren't we looking at other districts to find opportunities to reduce our bloat and protect our children?

It says, "They are not afraid to ... have the open, honest conversation about how we can continue to improve our schools." Really? Would that include the implementation of districtwide fundraising? It is difficult to see how a policy that was decided before it ever became public could be considered open and honest. Or that it was implemented in just 26 days over the passionate and widespread objections of the majority of the community, the district's own Financial Oversight Committee, and even those of the Los Angeles Times editorial board.

Our district needs to change. We need fresh ideas. We need transparency. We need disciplined focus on each child's educational success. We need to put the superintendent back in charge and help her build a plan that puts our district where it should have always been: as a credit to our two fine cities and an inspiration to our country.

That's why we are running, that's what we intend to do. On behalf of the children, we ask for your vote, your voice, and your passion to make the changes that need to be made.

Karen Farrer
Craig Foster
Seth Jacobson
Malibu

Pretty pricey

Editor:

As I purchased tickets for a children's program of 50 minutes at the Broad Stage, I was informed there are no kids tickets, no senior tickets! The $15 charge seemed acceptable. Then came the bad surprise; they charge $3, not per order, but per ticket. That is a 20 percent fee when you go to the box office in person.

Outrageous!

Helly Langen
Santa Monica



That Rutherford Guy

John W. Whitehead — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Looking beyond election day

THIS IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR issues that both Obama and Romney have failed to mention during their campaigns. These are issues that aren't going away anytime soon. Indeed, unless we take a proactive approach to the problems that loom large before us, especially as they relate to America's ongoing transformation into a police state, we may find that they are here to stay.

Militarized police. Thanks to federal grant programs allowing the Pentagon to transfer surplus military supplies and weapons to local law enforcement agencies without charge, police forces are being transformed from peace officers to heavily armed extensions of the military, complete with jackboots, helmets, shields, miniature tanks and weaponized drones. What we are witnessing is an inversion of the police-civilian relationship.

Drones. As mandated by Congress, there will be 30,000 drones crisscrossing the skies of America by 2020. These machines will be able to record all activities, using video feeds, heat sensors and radar. Some drones are capable of hijacking Wi-Fi networks and intercepting electronic communications such as text messages.

SWAT team raids. With more than 50,000 SWAT team raids carried out every year on unsuspecting Americans for relatively routine police matters and federal agencies laying claim to their own law enforcement divisions, the incidence of botched raids and related casualties is on the rise. Nationwide, SWAT teams have been employed to address an astonishingly trivial array of criminal activity or mere community nuisances.

Suspect society. Due in large part to rapid advances in technology and a heightened surveillance culture, the burden of proof has been shifted so that the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty has been usurped by a new norm in which all citizens are suspects. This is exemplified by police practices of stopping and frisking people who are merely walking down the street and where there is no evidence of wrongdoing. Making matters worse are Terrorism Liaison Officers (firefighters, police officers, and even corporate employees) who have been trained to spy on their fellow citizens and report "suspicious activity."

Invasive surveillance technology. Police have been outfitted with a litany of surveillance gear, from license plate readers and cell phone tracking devices to biometric data recorders. Technology now makes it possible for the police to scan passersby in order to detect the contents of their pockets, purses, briefcases, etc. Full-body scanners, which perform virtual strip-searches of Americans traveling by plane, have gone mobile, with roving police vans that peer into vehicles and buildings alike — including homes. Coupled with the nation's growing network of real-time surveillance cameras and facial recognition software, soon there really will be nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

USA Patriot Act, NDAA. America's so-called war on terror, which it has relentlessly pursued since 9/11, has chipped away at our freedoms, unraveled our Constitution and transformed our nation into a battlefield, thanks in large part to such subversive legislation as the USA Patriot Act and National Defense Authorization Act of 2012. These laws completely circumvent the rule of law and the constitutional rights of American citizens, re-orienting our legal landscape in such a way as to ensure that martial law, rather than the rule of law — our U.S. Constitution — becomes the map by which we navigate life in the United States.

Schoolhouse to jailhouse track. The paradigm of abject compliance to the state is being taught by example in the schools, through school lockdowns where police and drug-sniffing dogs enter the classroom, and zero tolerance policies that punish all offenses equally and result in young people being expelled for childish behavior. As a consequence, school districts are increasingly teaming up with law enforcement to create what some are calling the "schoolhouse to jailhouse track" by imposing a "double dose" of punishment: suspension or expulsion from school, accompanied by an arrest by the police and a trip to juvenile court.

Overcriminalization. In the face of a government bureaucracy consumed with churning out laws, statutes, codes and regulations that reinforce its powers and value systems and those of the police state and its corporate allies, we are all petty criminals, guilty of violating some minor law. In fact, the average American now unknowingly commits three felonies a day, thanks to an overabundance of vague laws that render otherwise innocent activity illegal and an inclination on the part of prosecutors to reject the idea that there can't be a crime without criminal intent.

Privatized prisons. At one time, the American penal system operated under the idea that dangerous criminals needed to be put under lock and key in order to protect society. Today, as states attempt to save money by outsourcing prisons to private corporations, imprisoning Americans in private prisons run by mega-corporations has turned into a cash cow for big business. In exchange for corporations buying and managing public prisons across the country at a supposed savings to the states, the states have to agree to maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in the privately run prisons for at least 20 years. Such a scheme simply encourages incarceration for the sake of profits, while causing millions of Americans, most of them minor, nonviolent criminals, to be handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism.

Endless wars. Having been co-opted by greedy defense contractors, corrupt politicians and incompetent government officials, America's expanding military empire is bleeding the country dry at a rate of more than $15 billion a month (or $20 million an hour) — and that's just what the government spends on foreign wars.

Rise of the imperial president. During his two terms in office, George W. Bush stepped outside the boundaries of the Constitution and assembled an amazing toolbox of powers that greatly increased the authority of the executive branch and the reach of the federal government. Bush expanded presidential power to, among other things, allow government agents to secretly open the private mail of American citizens; authorize government agents to secretly, and illegally, listen in on the phone calls of American citizens and read our e-mails; assume control of the federal government following a "catastrophic event"; and declare martial law. Thus, the groundwork was laid for an imperial presidency, a state of affairs that continued after Barack Obama's ascension to the Oval Office and one that will likely not improve, no matter who wins on Election Day, unless something is done to restore the balance between government and its citizens.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cause, effect of cultural erosion

EROSION IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN running water takes a piece of the surrounding earth with it. It is a slow process usually, but over time can create a very large impact. For example, the Grand Canyon was created by erosion, and is really a testament to the power of water and time.

Accretion is the opposite. It is the build-up of material that eventually clogs and stops the flow of water, air or light.

The concept of erosion is why I supported the landmark status for Chez Jay. I didn't want to see the history of Santa Monica that is encapsulated at Chez Jay to be eroded with the mad push for growth and development at the cost of our collective memory. I see the city of Santa Monica as being fundamentally changed in slow, and not so slow, ways. The development that is going on, both public and private, is gargantuan for what used to be a sleepy little town on the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

Today we are fast becoming a metropolis.

Each day as I drive from my divorce law office on Pico Boulevard toward Ocean Avenue, I pass an empty lot that will soon be developed, and another lot with a building rising like a Transformer next to the Sheraton Delfina. Turning onto Ocean Avenue there is major development happening at The Village. As I pedal away on the stationary bikes at the Loews Hotel I see the future of the city erupting from the ground. It's scary.

I fear the change that is inexorably happening around me. There is no way to stop it really. Change is a constant in life — I'm just not a big fan — until it's the new norm. Then I usually like it.

But with all change comes loss. Loss of the status quo, loss of our history, loss of our reference points on life. I felt that loss when the Pioneer Boulangerie was demolished. I used to love going there for lunch, and staying all afternoon reading. It was a lifestyle element that is no more. Today we have two restaurants where we had one; that is progress in some ways.

When I checked out the plans for The Village and saw the idealized pictures that are computer generated, I found myself wanting to live there. It looks neat and clean, and has a community feel to it that reminded me of college. Perhaps I'd be really happy living there if I can bring my dog and get one of those low-income apartments.

I imagine the people who will eventually live there will enjoy it. They will bask in the wonderful weather we have here and relish their proximity to the mall and the beach. They wont recognize the change in traffic; it will have always been that way for them. Much like fish don't fear fire, the new residents wont fear the loss of the tranquil, bucolic way of life that is the Santa Monica of yesteryear.

As we move away from small town to mini-metropolis thanks to the influx of new Internet money and software development, we can expect to see the city's coffers swell again. We should demand this from our City Council. The price of our development should at least be a well-stocked cupboard of city resources. The price of our tranquility should be returned to the residents and not pocketed by politicians.

We are seeing our lives change before us. Old businesses are closing like Carlson's and new ones are springing up all around us. We have incubators and co-op office spaces like Cross Campus and CoLoft to thrust us forward into the future as we become known as Silicon Beach.

As our old way of life erodes, a new one is being deposited. I'm hopeful that I will like it, but it is with a twinge of nostalgia and fear for the loss of the old, that I embrace the future.

DAVID PISARRA is a divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

The Q Line

Back to business

Once the dust clears and the election's winners are announced, there's business to attend to in Santa Monica.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City Council and why?

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

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Donation by Arizona nonprofit called 'money laundering'

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. An Arizona nonprofit disclosed Monday that two conservative groups were behind its $11 million campaign contribution to a California organization fighting Gov. Jerry Brown's tax initiative, but the revelation shed little light on who provided the money since those groups don't have to report their contributors.

The California Fair Political Practices Commission, the state's political watchdog agency, termed the donation from Americans for Responsible Leadership the largest case of "campaign money laundering" in state history.

The commission can levy fines but can do nothing to stop any campaign spending the group might be part of, including any ads it may have helped to buy. Meanwhile, California Attorney General Kamala Harris said she would continue investigating to determine whether any laws were broken.

"This is not going to be over on Election Day," she said.

The $11 million donation came in the final weeks of the campaign and gave a boost to a group that is trying to thwart Brown's tax initiative and Proposition 32, which seeks to limit union influence in politics.

The commission took the group to court for failing to divulge the source of its funds, and eventually appealed the case to the state Supreme Court, where state officials argued that it was critically important information that voters needed before they cast their ballots.

In a rare Sunday decision, the California Supreme Court unanimously ordered Americans for Responsible Leadership to disclose who was behind the donation. The group threatened to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court but backed down Monday morning and disclosed it received the $11 million from a group called Americans for Job Security through an intermediary, the Center to Protect Patient Rights. Both are federally registered nonprofits that are not legally required to disclose donors.

Americans for Job Security has been active in the presidential race, pouring millions of dollars into swing states for independent expenditure ads supporting GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and other Republican candidates, and the Center to Protect Patient Rights distributed more than $44 million to more than two dozen conservative advocacy groups during the 2010 midterm elections, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

It reported that the group's president, Sean Noble, is a political operative for the billionaire brothers Charles and David H. Koch, who have given millions to conservative causes. Noble did not immediately return messages by email and phone to his Phoenix-area number from The Associated Press on Monday.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission investigated Americans for Job Security after the group spent $1.6 million on a 2010 referendum campaign there, concluding that "Americans for Job Security has no purpose other than to cover various money trails all over the country," the New York Times reported in 2010.

Federal law allows nonprofits to keep the identities of their donors confidential. But California regulations require donors to be identified if they give to nonprofits with the intention of spending money on state campaigns in the state.

The Arizona group filed an amended state report on Monday disclosing the names of the two groups. It said in a letter submitting the documents to the state commission that it was not acknowledging any wrongdoing.

In a news release following receipt of the letter, the commission said the group's failure to initially disclose the two donors was campaign money laundering.

"This is the largest contribution ever disclosed as campaign money laundering in California history," it said.

The watchdog agency enforces the state's campaign finance and disclosure laws and can issue fines and penalties for noncompliance, although it refers legal violations to law enforcement agencies. The board's chairwoman, Ann Ravel, was appointed by Brown.

Harris, a Democrat, said the Arizona group's admission of the source of its funds, though opaque, is a first step.

"We are going to continue to take a look at this and examine the full scope of the conduct involved," she said.

She said the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the so-called Citizens United case, which allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts on political ads, indicated that protected political speech "is not and should not be thought of to be at the expense of disclosure."

ARL's $11 million donation went to the Small Business Action Committee PAC, which opposes Brown's tax initiative and a separate initiative that would limit unions' ability to collect money for political causes. Because the funds are mingled with other contributions to the Small Business Action Committee, it is not clear how much of the money went to support each of the group's positions on Tuesday's initiatives.

The FPPC sought to perform an audit after California Common Cause filed a complaint. Kathay Feng, president of Common Cause, said the precedent set by the case "is a victory for voters and democracy."

"Though it shouldn't take weeks of legal suits, California voters now have the information they need to make informed choices on Nov. 6," she said in a statement.

During a brief appearance in Los Angeles Monday, Brown did not directly mention the Arizona group but urged activists to knock on undecided voters' doors and make phone calls to overcome the influence of shadowy money in politics.

"We've been up against a lot of money power — money power not only from California but from secret organizations throughout California, throughout America, that want to come and influence voters," he said at a get-out-the-vote rally in a Hispanic neighborhood in the city's San Fernando Valley.

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Study: Stem cells from strangers can repair hearts

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

LOS ANGELES Researchers are reporting a key advance in using stem cells to repair hearts damaged by heart attacks. In a study, stem cells donated by strangers proved as safe and effective as patients' own cells for helping restore heart tissue.

The work involved just 30 patients in Miami and Baltimore, but it proves the concept that anyone's cells can be used to treat such cases. Doctors are excited because this suggests that stem cells could be banked for off-the-shelf use after heart attacks, just as blood is kept on hand now.

Results were discussed Monday at an American Heart Association conference in California and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study used a specific type of stem cells from bone marrow that researchers believed would not be rejected by recipients. Unlike other cells, these lack a key feature on their surface that makes the immune system see them as foreign tissue and attack them, explained the study's leader, Dr. Joshua Hare of the University of Miami.

The patients in the study had suffered heart attacks years earlier, some as long as 30 years ago. All had developed heart failure because the scar tissue from the heart attack had weakened their hearts so much that they grew large and flabby, unable to pump blood effectively.

Researchers advertised for people to supply marrow, which is removed using a needle into a hip bone. The cells were taken from the marrow and amplified for about a month in a lab at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, then returned to Miami to be used for treatment, which did not involve surgery.

The cells were delivered through a tube pushed through a groin artery into the heart near the scarred area. Fifteen patients were given cells from their own marrow and 15 others, cells from strangers.

About a year later, scar tissue had been reduced by about one-third. Both groups had improvements in how far they could walk and in quality of life. There was no significant difference in one measure of how well their hearts were able to pump blood, but doctors hope these patients will continue to improve over time, or that refinements in treatment will lead to better results.

The big attraction is being able to use cells supplied by others, with no blood or tissue matching needed.

"You could have the cells ready to go in the blood bank so when the patient comes in for a therapy — there's no delay," Hare said. "It's also cheaper to make the donor cells," and a single marrow donor can supply enough cells to treat as many as 10 people.

Dr. Elliott Antman of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston who heads the heart conference, praised the work.

"That opens up an entire new avenue for stem cell therapy, like a sophisticated version of a blood bank," he said. There's an advantage in not having to create a cell therapy for each patient, and it could spare them the pain and wait of having their own marrow harvested, he said.

The study was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. Hare owns stock in a biotech company working on a treatment using a mixture of cells.

Juan Lopez received his own cells in the study, and said it improved his symptoms so much that at age 70, he was able to return to his job as an engineer and sales manager for a roofing manufacturer and ride an exercise bike.

"It has been a life-changing experience," said Lopez, who lives in Miami. "I can feel day by day, week by week, month by month, my improvement. I don't have any shortness of breath and my energy level is way up there. I don't have any fluid in my lungs."

And, he said happily, "My sex drive has improved!"

Ex-mayor sentenced in pot dispensary bribery case

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A former California mayor was sentenced to two years in prison Monday for taking thousands of dollars in bribes from a marijuana dispensary owner seeking permission to stay open.

Joseph Serrano, 62, one-time mayor of suburban Santa Fe Springs, could have faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted at trial.

Instead, he reached a plea agreement with prosecutors and pleaded guilty to one count of bribery in July.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Wilson also ordered Serrano to pay $10,000 in restitution to the FBI, which tapped the pot shop owner as an informant in the case.

Santa Fe Springs is a small industrial town about 20 miles south of Los Angeles.

Federal prosecutors said Serrano told the pot shop operator two years ago that he had influence over another council member and he would try to keep the business open.

Serrano asked for $1,500 that he said would be used to pay medical expenses for a sick relative, authorities said.

The marijuana store operator gave Serrano a check and allegedly prepared paperwork to make it appear the money was a loan.

After the first payment, the pot shop operator became an FBI informant and began recording a number of conversations with Serrano. The informant made several payments, ranging as high as $3,000, according to court documents.

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LOGO
FROM PAGE 1

Voters doesn't take positions on Santa Monica races, said David Allgood, political director for the California League.

"It was shocking to see our logo endorsing candidates I've never heard from," Allgood said.

Jonathan Parfrey, president of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, said that his organization had endorsed Ted Winterer alongside Shari Davis, Gleam Davis and Terry O'Day for the council.

The piece made it look as though McKinnon had also received his organization's support, which was untrue.

"The timing of it is highly suspicious," Parfrey said. "Right before the election. Santa Monicans are strongly pro-environmental. You have one candidate saying they received an endorsement, and they haven't. One might say it's a dirty trick."

The Los Angeles group is looking at all legal options, he said.

The three election pieces were put out by Santa Monicans for Responsible Growth (SMRG), an independent expenditure committee that formed this year.

Susan Scarafia, co-chair of SMRG, said Sunday that the organization never intended to put out false or misleading information, and that their political consultant, Sue Burnside, had printed the materials without their approval.

Scarafia and her co-chair, Ivan Perkins, reviewed the materials and sent in changes removing the California League logo because they did not have written permission to include it. She believed they would receive another draft, which never happened.

"She printed what we expressly asked her not to print," Scarafia said.

Burnside acknowledged the error in an e-mail Monday.

"In the haste of preparing final mail pieces ahead of Tuesday's election, I inadvertently printed versions that had not been fully approved and vetted. I regret the oversight and apologize for this unfortunate error. This was my mistake alone, and should not reflect on the candidates referenced in the mailer," Burnside wrote.

Burnside knows both groups, and the idea that it was just a mistake "begs credulity," Parfrey said.

The issue was revealed to the two leagues last week by Barbara Grover, a political consultant working on campaigns for other council candidates.

"I believe SMRG has a responsibility to set the record straight and they have refused to do so," Grover said.

It might have a legal responsibility to do so.

There are no election code provisions regarding the use of logos, but law concerning trademarks, libel and even unfair business practices could potentially come into play, depending on the facts of the case, said Beverly Grossman Palmer, an associate at the Los Angeles lawfirm Strumwasser & Woocher LLP.

"They could be subject to damages in a civil proceeding, even punitive damages if they show that what they have done was done knowingly with the intent to deceive regarding the league's position on these candidates," Palmer said.

The candidates themselves only found out about the problem after the mailers went out. By law, they cannot work with independent expenditure committees putting out materials for them, which has caused many in both local and national elections to raise red flags about the increased use of outside money.

"It's deeply regrettable that SMRG's political consultant chose to put the California League of Conservation Voters logo on their materials without the knowledge of the individuals behind the (campaign)," Winterer said. "It was wrong to do so."

Winterer, who did win the Los Angeles League endorsement, just wants Santa Monicans to go to the polls and vote on the issues, not the drama.

"I hope that voters will not find this last minute distraction confusing, and will vote for me on Tuesday based on my record," Winterer said.

McKinnon said that he had nothing to do with the hangers, and will instead continue the campaign efforts he does have a hand in — phone calls, knocking on doors and e-mail blasts.

"There's money in politics that candidates can't control," McKinnon said. "I'm looking at all of this and it's got nothing to do with me."

The California League sent out an e-mail to its membership to correct the mistake, but the leadership is concerned that the damage may already be done.

The "kerfuffle," as some are calling it, is just one more dust up in a campaign that has been flush with outside funds and the allegedly misleading ads they bring.

Another group, Santa Monicans United for a Responsible Future, caused a stir last week by issuing mailers specific to each neighborhood that read "Ocean Park neighbors support:" and then the name of the candidate.

Some recipients believed that the group was trying to imply that neighborhood organizations had endorsed their slate of candidates, although a spokesperson said that was not the case.

SMRG itself has raised some eyebrows by accepting a $25,000 donation from a computer firm in Nevada and, most recently, $10,000 from a pilates group in Encino, Calif.

Another candidate, Frank Gruber, also accused their paid campaign workers of going door-to-door claiming to be volunteers.

The committee was insistent on transparency throughout, and is dismayed by the recent problems, Perkins said.

"The point was no misrepresentation," he said.

The ruckus has caused some to try to stay above the fray altogether, and keep things truly local.

"The frenzied messaging we are seeing tells us that a lot is riding on this election and big developer money is turning our election into a circus, so we need to talk to our neighbors and neighborhood associations if we want to know what is true versus what is hype," said Tricia Crane, chair of Northeast Neighbors, a local community group.

Unauthorized use of logos isn't unheard of in Santa Monica.

In 2010, the group Santa Monicans for Quality Government released a piece that included logos from the Police Officers Association and Community for Excellent Public Schools without permission from either group.

The two organizations had endorsed all of the candidates on the mailer, however.

ashley@smdp.com

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Ralph Mechur, Mbr., SMMUSD Bd. of Ed.
Pam O'Connor, Council Mbr., Santa Monica
Terry O'Day, Council Mbr., Santa Monica
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Margaret Quinones Perez, Chair, SMC Bd. of Trustees
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"YES on Measure ES provides desperately needed money for our schools. And Sacramento can't take away a penny of it."
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Former CA State Senator

James Conn, Fmr. Mayor, Santa Monica
Gleam Davis, Mayor Pro Tem, Santa Monica City Council
Oscar de la Torre, Mbr., SMMUSD Bd. of Ed.
Jose Escarce, Mbr., SMMUSD Bd. of Ed.
Bobby Shriver, Council Mbr., Santa Monica
Nathaniel Trives, Fmr. Mayor, Santa Monica
Zev Yaroslavsky, LA County Supervisor
Denny Zane, Fmr. Mayor, Santa Monica

Titles for identification only – Partial list

Individuals
Russell Barnard
Joanne Berlin, Mbr., Intercultural Equity & Excellence District Advisory Comm. for Racial Justice
Nishith Bhatt, Steering Comm. Mbr., CEPS
Rueben Brantman
Patricia Braun, Pres., Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council
Raymond Braun, Bd. Mbr., Santa Monica Pier Corp.
Linda Cady, Retired SMMUSD Teacher
Patrick Cady, Retired SMMUSD Teacher
Bruce Cameron
Keryl Cartee-McNeely
Mark Cohen
Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels, Beth Shir Shalom
Dennis Crane, Co-Chair, Measure BB District Advisory Comm.
Lauri Crane, Exec. Comm, CEPS
Cornelia Daly
Shari Davis, Fmr. PTA Council Pres.
Sue Edwards
Catherine Eldridge, Social Services, Westside Regional Center
Rochelle Fanali
Bruria Finkel, Artist
Mario Fonda Bonardi, Architect
Sonya Fox Sultan, Steering Comm. Mbr., SMRR
Elizabeth Gelfand-Stearns, Fmr. PTA Pres., Samohi
Sylvia Gentile
Donna Gentry
Don Girard, College Administrator, SMC
Mark Gold, Chair, SM Task Force on the Environment
Robert Gottlieb, Professor, Occidental College
Mitchell Greenhill, Musician
Frank Gruber, Ocean Park Resident
Mike Gruning
Craig Hamilton, Mbr., SMMUSD Financial Oversight Comm.

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Barbara Inatsugu, Past Pres., League of Women Voters of SM
Jeffery Jarow, Past Chair, BB Citizens Oversight Comm.
Zina Josephs, Sunset Park resident
Harry Keilly
Elizabeth Keller, Chair, Bd. of Trustees Church in Ocean Park
Jennifer Kennedy, Planning Commissioner, SM

"The city's economic stability and low crime rate are directly tied to the quality of Santa Monica's schools. That's why it's critical to pass Measure ES."
– Tom Larmore
Fmr. Chair, SM Chamber of Commerce

Rebecca Kennerly, Chair, CEPS
Michael Klein
Robert Kronovet
Dean Kubani, Dir., Office of Sustainability and the Environment, City of SM
Claudia Landis, Special Education Activist
Thomas Larmore, Past Chair, SM Chamber of Commerce
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Daniel McGee, Mbr., SMMUSD Financial Oversight Comm.
Janet McKeithen, Clergy, Church in Ocean Park
Richard McKinnon, Planning Commissioner, SM
Judith Meister, Fmr. PTSA Pres., John Adams Middle School & Samohi
Debbie Mulvaney, Business Manager, CEPS
Torie Osborn, Community Activist and Ocean Park Homeowner
Grace Phillips
Kathleen Rawson, CEO, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.
Kelyn Roberts, Ocean Park Resident
Maria Rodriguez
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Barry Snell, Small Business Owner
Maryanne Solomon, VP, SM Democratic Club
Arthur Southam
Peter Spelman
Michael Tarbet, Steering Comm., SMRR
Cynthia Torres, Pres., College Decisions, LLC
Natividad Vazquez, College Counselor, SMC
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Winifred Wechsler, Steering Comm. Mbr., CEPS
Frederick Whitlock
Ted Winterer, Vice Chair, Planning Commission
Jesse Zeng, Pres., JC Chinese Cultural Center

IMPORTANT: Even if the State education measures pass, there will be no funding for local school repairs and modernization. Please take the time to vote to the end of the ballot on Measure ES.

Yes on ES
Better, Safer Schools
Santa Monica - Malibu Unified School District

Committee for Better, Safer Schools – Yes on ES, 2118 Wilshire Blvd., Box 806, Santa Monica, CA 90403

GREEN
FROM PAGE 3

Even some Republicans who supported extending the credit, including three of Colorado's four GOP congressmen, were surprised at Romney's opposition. He argues it gave the industry an unfair advantage over its oil and gas competitors.

"In one year, you provided $90 billion in breaks to the green energy world," Romney told Obama at the first presidential debate in Denver.

"Now, I like green energy as well, but that's about 50 years' worth of what oil and gas receives."

The Energy Department recently found that the natural gas and petroleum industries altogether accounted for about $2.8 billion in federal energy subsidies in the 2010 fiscal year and about $14.7 billion went to renewable energies. The figures include both direct expenditures and tax credits.

Environmentalists argue that fossil-fuel industries have been publicly supported since a young federal government levied a tariff on coal imports in the late 18th century.

"Every form of energy has incentives. We're up against 90 years of incentives for other forms of energy," said Peter Kelley, a spokesman for the American Wind Energy Association. "Plenty of people consider tax credits a good, Republican way of fostering business."

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., said the oil industry benefits from billions of dollars in hidden subsidies, like American troops' presence near the Middle East. "We're underinvesting in renewable, 21st century alternative energy, especially in comparison to the Europeans, the Chinese, even the Brazilians," Udall said.

By next year, federal spending on renewable energy will have dropped 75 percent from its 2009 high of $44.3 billion. Part of the shrinkage comes from stimulus programs ending. But part also comes from Congress not wanting to pour more funds into renewables.

"We're entering a brave new world here, a definite lessening of support from Washington," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "There's a substantial fiscal problem, which is real, and the need to restrain domestic budgets."

The turn has spooked the wind industry, which expanded even during the Great Recession. A study for the wind energy association estimated that expiration of the industry's production tax credit would cost 37,000 jobs. And in the past few months, wind manufacturers and developers began cutting back.

Kaydon Corp. announced in October it was closing one of three plants in Sumter, S.C., that makes bearings for wind turbines. LM Wind Power said it was laying off 300 workers at its plant in Grand Forks, N.D., and days later announced it was creating up to 300 jobs at a new factory in Brazil. Katana Summit, a Columbus, Neb., based wind tower manufacturer, said it would close plants in Nebraska and Washington state, laying off nearly 300 workers.

In Colorado, Vestas, the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer, has reduced staff by 20 percent, or about 500 people. On Wednesday, Vestas announced it also was closing a research office near Boulder.

That's hurt Walker Components. Company president Craig Walker invested more than $4 million in the cable assembly plant after Vestas moved to Colorado in 2009 and enlisted his company as a supplier. Now Walker is moving some workers to other plants he owns to avoid cutting more jobs.

"This is not a Solyndra," Walker said, referring to the bankrupt solar panel manufacturer that received $528 million in loan guarantees from the Obama administration. "This is a company that was up and functioning and making money."

Huddleston, who worked his way up from the assembly line to production manager, is an undecided voter.

"It's been very hard for me to decide," he said. But, he added, he may "lean Obama, just for the green side."

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FUNDS
FROM PAGE 1

ing social connectedness, civic engagement, health and work.

It's never been done before, said Julie Rusk, assistant director of Community & Cultural Services with City Hall.

"No city has taken this on as a concept and embedded it in local government, that improving the well-being of residents is a part of city government," she said. "And that's what we're proposing."

City Hall already partners with other government agencies like the schools to open up facilities to residents and conducts a survey every two years to pinpoint areas for improvement.

What they're considering is something a bit different.

Staff proposes working in conjunction with RAND to define the ephemeral concept of "well-being," create Santa Monica-specific criteria and develop tools to both look at existing data and gather new information to create a "well-being index."

Using those results, they will create a plan of action with targets and methods to inform and involve the public. The information will be included in city decision making, policies and programs.

City Hall has already begun a piece with its Cradle-to-Career initiative, which aims to improve outcomes with youth by weaving resources from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Santa Monica College District, City Hall and over 20 nonprofits to create a safety net for Santa Monica children.

If selected as a grand prize winner, Santa Monica would have the resources to expand that model to every sector of the population.

"Certainly young people are the foundation, but this is about reaching all members of the Santa Monica community in a very measurable way," Rusk said.

A team of four from Santa Monica will go to an "ideas camp" next week to hear more about the next phase of the competition. Then city officials and their partners in the community will roll up their sleeves and get to work on the final project.

"This is a really big day for Santa Monica," Bloom said.

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Budweiser seeks removal from 'Flight'

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Denzel Washington's character in "Flight" drinks a lot throughout the film, but his portrayal of a highly functioning alcoholic pilot isn't going down well with brewing company Anheuser-Busch or the distributor of Stolichnaya vodka.

Anheuser-Busch said Monday that it has asked Paramount Pictures Corp. to obscure or remove the Budweiser logo from the film, which at one point shows Washington's character drinking the beer while behind the wheel.

Budweiser is hardly the only alcoholic beverage shown in "Flight," which earned $25 million in its debut weekend and is likely to remain popular with audiences. Washington's character frequently drinks vodka throughout the film, with several different brands represented. William Grant & Sons, which distributes Stolichnaya in the United States, also said it didn't license its brand for inclusion in the film and wouldn't have given permission if asked.

Rob McCarthy, vice president of Budweiser, wrote in a statement to The Associated Press that the company wasn't contacted by Paramount or the production company of director Robert Zemeckis for permission to use the beer in "Flight."

"We would never condone the misuse of our products, and have a long history of promoting responsible drinking and preventing drunk driving," McCarthy wrote. "We have asked the studio to obscure the Budweiser trademark in current digital copies of the movie and on all subsequent adaptations of the film, including DVD, On Demand, streaming and additional prints not yet distributed to theaters."

A spokesman for Zemeckis referred questions to Paramount, which did not return an email message seeking comment.

James Curich, a spokesman for Stoli distributor William Grant & Sons, said the company has a strict code for how the vodka is portrayed in films and is committed to marketing it responsibly. "Considering the subject matter of this film, it is not something in which we would have participated," he wrote in an email.

Despite the companies' dissatisfaction with their inclusion in the film, experts say there is little they can do about it legally.

Trademark laws "don't exist to give companies the right to control and censor movies and TV shows that might happen to include real-world items," said Daniel Nazer, a resident fellow at Stanford Law School's Fair Use Project. "It is the case that often filmmakers get paid by companies to include their products. I think that's sort of led to a culture where they expect they'll have control. That's not a right the trademark law gives them."

Jay Dougherty, a professor at Loyola Law School, said the use of brands in films has generally been protected by the courts, even when the companies aren't pleased with the portrayals. "It wouldn't have been effective as film if we used a bunch of non-generic brands," said Doughterty, who is also the director of the school's Entertainment & Media Law Institute. "In a normal situation, if the alcohol were just there as a smaller part of the movie, they might have created an artificial brand for it."

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Stock market edges up a day ahead of election

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK On the day before the U.S. presidential election, stock indexes managed slight gains in thin trading.

After wavering between small gains and losses, the Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 19.28 points to start the week, closing at 13,112.44 on Monday.

Uncertainty surrounding the election will prevent most investors from making any big moves before it's over, said Randy Frederick, managing director of active trading and derivatives at the brokerage Charles Schwab.

National polls show President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney locked in a tight race. The two candidates are spending the final days of the campaign holding rallies in Ohio and other states considered crucial to winning the White House.

"I honestly think the markets are going to sit here and mark time," Frederick said. "The markets have a tendency to trade sideways before big news events, and nothing is bigger than a presidential election."

Frederick said he believes that no matter who wins, the stock market will likely surge once it's over for the sole reason that investors will know the name of the next president.

But that's assuming there's a winner by Wednesday. If the election comes down to a thin margin in a swing state, the outcome could be delayed for days.

In other Monday trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.06 points to 1,417.26, while the Nasdaq composite index climbed 17 points to 2,999.66. Just 2.9 billion shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange, well below the recent average.

Apple rose $7.82 to $584.62. The company said it sold 3 million iPads in the three days after launching a smaller version, the Mini. Tim Cook, Apple's CEO, said the iPad Mini is "practically sold out."

In the market for U.S. government debt, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.68 percent, down from 1.72 percent late Friday.

There was only one major economic report, a measure of activity among so-called service companies, which employ about 90 percent of the American workforce. The Institute for Supply Management's service-sector index showed growth in October, but at a slower pace than in September, and just short of what economists expected.

In Europe, renewed focus on Greece's economic problems combined with uncertainty over the U.S. election to push markets lower. Germany's benchmark index, the DAX, dropped 0.5 percent, and the CAC-40 in France fell 1.3 percent.

"With the race so close, investors are understandably risk-averse today," said James Hughes, chief market analyst at Alpari, a London brokerage.

Among stocks making big moves:

• Tesla Motors jumped 9 percent after the maker of rechargable electric cars said it was

SEE STOCKS PAGE 14







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Photo-sharing app Instagram expanding to the Internet

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Instagram, the photo-sharing app that was created for mobile phones, is expanding to the Web.

The service will launch Instagram profiles on the Web over the next few days. Previously, users' profiles existed only on Instagram's mobile applications accessed on the iPhone or Android devices. Now, users will have a website with a profile photo, bio and a selection of the snapshots they've recently shared on Instagram.

Instragram, which is owned by Facebook Inc., made its announcement in a blog post Monday.

The layout of the Web profiles is reminiscent of Facebook timelines, except with little text and no ads. Users will have a large cover image that's a collage of their old Instagram shots. Their profile photo is on the right side and their snapshots cascade down the page.

Facebook has insisted since it bought Instagram this year that it will keep it running as a separate service. That still appears to be the case. The Instagram Web pages don't link to Facebook and don't ask users to log in using their Facebook accounts.

Instagram's privacy settings are like Twitter's. Users can either choose to be fully public, so that anyone can see and comment on their photos, or private, such that photos can be seen only to pre-approved followers. Unlike with Facebook's complex, granular privacy controls, there is nothing in between.

Facebook, which is based in Menlo Park, Calif., agreed to buy Instagram in a deal valued at $1 billion in April, before its May initial public offering of stock. Upon closing on Aug. 31, the deal was worth $715.3 million because of Facebook's fallen stock price.

STOCKS
FROM PAGE 13

now producing enough of its Model S cars to generate positive cash flow. Tesla, the brainchild of PayPal billionaire and SpaceX founder Elon Musk, now has two all-electric models on the market, the $109,000 Roadster and the new Model S. The company's stock gained $2.58 to $31.50.

• Stifel Financial said it reached an agreement to buy the investment bank KBW in a $575 million deal. The boards of both companies have already signed off, but shareholders of KBW and regulators must follow suit. KBW's stock leapt $1.17 to $17.47.

• Time Warner Cable lost 6 percent, the biggest drop of any company in the S&P 500. The country's second-largest cable company posted earnings Monday morning that fell short of analysts' predictions. Time Warner reported stronger revenue across most of its businesses but lost 140,000 cable TV subscribers in three months. The company's stock fell $6.24 to $91.93.

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Americans face prospect of status quo Congress

ALAN FRAM
DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON A barrage of negative ads, more than $2 billion in spending and endless campaign stops all come down to this: Americans likely will elect a Congress as divided as the one they've been ranting about for two years.

In Tuesday's voting, Republicans are poised to hold the 435-seat House, with Democrats expected to gain a small handful of seats at best from roughly 60 competitive races but fall well short of the net 25 needed for the majority. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, is poised to wield the gavel again.

Senate Democrats are likely to maintain their narrow advantage as two Republican candidates' clumsy comments about rape and abortion could cost the GOP Indiana and dampens its prospects of winning Missouri — two major roadblocks in the Republican path to the majority.

Republicans hoped the math would work in their favor — Democrats are defending 23 seats, the GOP 10 — but solid Democratic recruits and the close presidential race, added to the GOP candidate stumbles may ensure that Nevada Sen. Harry Reid remains majority leader.

"That's extremely frustrating for what everyone thought was a Republican advantage," Ron Bonjean, a Republican consultant and former top Capitol Hill aide, said of the developments in Indiana and Missouri.

No matter who wins the presidency — President Barack Obama or Republican Mitt Romney — the nation's chief executive will be dealing with a Congress no closer to bridging the ideological chasm and showing no inclination to end the months of dysfunction. Tea party numbers are certain to tick up in the Senate with Republican Ted Cruz heavily favored in Texas and Deb Fischer looking to grab the Nebraska seat.

In the House, the movement that propelled the GOP to the majority in 2010 will be even more emboldened even if a few of the big-name tea partiers lose.

Sal Russo, head of the Tea Party Express, likened the group to the anti-Vietnam War movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s that he said remade the Democratic Party. He envisions the same with the GOP.

"In the sense that the anti-war movement brought out millions of people that had not been involved in politics and they became engaged in a material way," Russo said in an interview as he headed to what he expects will be a victory party for Cruz in Texas.

The Democratic Party, he insists, has never been the same and neither will the GOP after the influx of tea partiers.

When the Senate votes are counted, moderate Republicans and Democrats from Massachusetts and Montana could be gone, leaving the chamber with just a handful of the lawmakers inclined to reach across the aisle. Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine decided to retire earlier this year, frustrated with the partisan gridlock in Congress.

New England's three other GOP senators are New Hampshire's Kelly Ayotte, Maine's Susan Collins and Massachusetts' Scott Brown, now an underdog against Democrat Elizabeth Warren in a race for the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's seat.

"The few Republicans who are in office in New England are an endangered species," said veteran Democratic strategist Dan Payne, who is working for independent Angus King. "Their party has shifted so far to the right."

King is favored to win the three-way race for Snowe's seat.

A Bloomberg poll in September found that 55 percent of Americans said Congress will continue to be an impediment no matter who is elected president. Just 32 percent said Congress would get the message and work together.

Democratic strategist Steve McMahon said he worries that with a divided Congress "we can probably expect hyper partisanship and gridlock everywhere. It seems like Americans can expect more of the same."

The other certainty is neither Obama nor Romney will have much of a mandate based on the razor-thin presidential race and the likelihood that the majority party in the Senate will be nowhere near a filibuster-proof majority.

"Neither candidate will be able to claim that voters endorsed a clear and specific plan for balancing the budget because neither of them offered such a plan," said John J. Pitney, a professor of American politics at Claremont McKenna College.

Republican strategist Terry Holt said a newly elected president who has the will could put their mark on policy and make some significant changes.

"But there is so much ideological division that you will have to risk your political life to get something done in the next Congress," Holt said. "It is an all-or-nothing proposition by virtue of the divided nature of the country. You have to stick your neck out if you're to get anything done."

Weeks before the January inauguration, Congress will have to decide what to do about a $607 billion so-called fiscal cliff: the combination of expiring Bush-era tax cuts and automatic, across-the-board spending reductions to domestic and defense programs. Economists warn that no action will plunge the country into another recession.

"At the end of the day, you have so many ticking time bombs," said GOP strategist John Feehery. "Having just a complete gridlock is not an acceptable solution."

Congress may decide in the lame-duck session to delay the major decisions to early next year, especially if Romney wins the presidency. But they can't put off economic decisions for too long.

"The road to fiscal perdition is a cul-de-sac," Pitney said.

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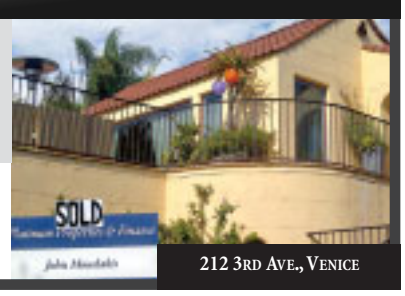
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Study: Vitamins don't lower heart health risks in men

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

LOS ANGELES Multivitamins might help lower the risk for cancer in healthy older men but do not affect their chances of developing heart disease, new research suggests.

Two other studies found fish oil didn't work for an irregular heartbeat condition called atrial fibrillation, even though it is thought to help certain people with heart disease or high levels of fats called triglycerides in their blood.

The bottom line: Dietary supplements have varied effects and whether one is right for you may depend on your personal health profile, diet and lifestyle.

"Many people take vitamin supplements as a crutch," said study leader Dr. Howard Sesso of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. "They're no substitute for a heart-healthy diet, exercising, not smoking, keeping your weight down," especially for lowering heart risks.

The studies were presented Monday at an American Heart Association conference in Los Angeles.

A separate analysis released in connection with the meeting showed that at least 1 in 3 baby boomers who are in good shape will eventually develop heart problems or have a stroke. The upside is that that will happen about seven years later than for their less healthy peers.

The study is "a wake-up call that this disease is very prevalent in the United States and even if you're doing a good job, you're not immune," said Dr. Vincent Bufalino, a Chicago-area cardiologist and spokesman for the American Heart Association.

The findings came in an analysis of five major studies involving nearly 50,000 adults aged 45 and older who were followed for up to 50 years.

The research was published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association, along with the vitamin paper and one fish oil study.

Multivitamins are America's favorite dietary supplement. About one-third of adults take them. Yet no government agency recommends their routine use for preventing chronic diseases, and few studies have tested them to see if they can.

A leading preventive medicine task force even recommends against beta-carotene supplements, alone or with other vitamins, to prevent cancer or heart disease because some studies have found them harmful. And vitamin K can affect bleeding and interfere with some commonly used heart drugs.

Sesso's study involved nearly 15,000 healthy male doctors given monthly packets of Centrum Silver or fake multivitamins. After about 11 years, there were no differences between the groups in heart attacks, strokes, chest pain, heart failure or heart-related deaths.

Side effects were fairly similar except for more rashes among vitamin users. The National Institutes of Health paid for most of the study. Pfizer Inc. supplied the pills and other companies supplied the packaging.

The same study a few weeks ago found that multivitamins cut the chance of developing cancer by 8 percent — a modest amount and less than what can be achieved from a good diet, exercise and not smoking.

Multivitamins also may have different results in women or people less healthy than those in this study — only 4 percent smoked, for example.

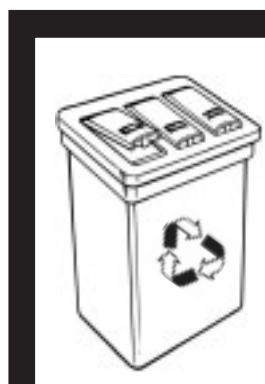
The fish-oil studies tested prescription-strength omega-3 capsules from several companies in two different groups of people for preventing atrial fibrillation, a fluttering, irregular heartbeat.

One study from South America aimed to prevent recurrent episodes in 600 participants who already had the condition. The other sought to prevent it from developing in 1,500 people from the U.S., Italy and Argentina having various types of heart surgery, such as valve replacement. About one third of heart-surgery patients develop atrial fibrillation as a complication.

Both studies found fish oil ineffective.







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TV report: Israel security heads nixed Iran attack

ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM Israel's prime minister ordered the military to go on high alert for a looming attack on Iran's nuclear program two years ago, but backed off following strong objections from senior security officials, a respected Israeli news program reported Monday.

The report exposed a deep rift between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his top security officials over the wisdom of attacking Iran but also indicated that Israel was much closer to carrying out a strike at that time than was previously known.

Channel 2 TV's flagship investigative program "Uvda," or "Fact," reported that toward the end of a meeting in 2010 Netanyahu and his defense minister, Ehud Barak, ordered Israel's military chief and director of the Mossad espionage agency to put the country on "P Plus" status — code for pre-attack mode on Iran.

The report said the officials were shocked. Then-military chief Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi warned that Israel's enemies would notice the measure, which might touch off a war. "This is not something you do if you are not sure you will ultimately want to carry it out," he was quoted by unidentified close associates as saying. "This accordion produces music when you play with it."

Meir Dagan, the Mossad chief at the time, was even blunter, telling the leaders that without seeking formal approval from Netanyahu's Security Cabinet, a decision-making body of government ministers, they were "taking an illegal decision."

"The prime minister and defense minister simply tried to steal a decision to go to war," he was quoted by Uvda as saying. Dagan did not appear on camera, and Uvda attributed his remarks to his "associates."

Israel considers a nuclear-armed Iran to be an existential threat, citing Iranian denials of the Holocaust, its calls for Israel's destruction, its development of missiles capable of striking the Jewish state and its support for hostile Arab militant groups. Tehran says its nuclear program is peaceful and designed to produce energy and medical isotopes, a claim that Israel and many Western countries reject.

Dagan, who stepped down as Mossad chief in 2010, is believed to be the mastermind of Israeli efforts to sabotage the Iranian project. The Mossad is suspected of infiltrating deep into Iran, spreading viruses and assassinating nuclear scientists.

But Dagan has also opposed a full-fledged attack and since his retirement has lashed out openly at the leaders, describing them as warmongers bent on striking Iran at all costs.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said the threat of force must be seriously considered should economic sanctions fail. He recently warned that the world has until next summer at the latest to keep Iran from building a bomb. But analysts have debated whether the Israeli leader would really be willing to order the strike.

Monday's report provided the strongest evidence to date that Netanyahu is prepared to attack, a move that could have dire, far-reaching consequences for the region.

Speaking to the program, Netanyahu did not address the alleged 2010 incident but dismissed any questioning of his resolve.

When asked if he was ready to push the button, he said: "Of course I am, if I have to, I just hope I don't have to."

In stronger language that he typically uses, Netanyahu said Iran was progressing in its quest for a nuclear bomb in order to destroy Israel. He pledged that as long as he is prime minister, he will not allow that to happen.

"We are serious, this is not a show," he said. "If there is no other way to stop Iran, Israel is ready to act."

The program aired almost two months after Netanyahu laid out before the U.N. General Assembly his most detailed plea for global action against Iran.

In his speech, the Israeli leader demonstratively flashed a diagram of a cartoon-like bomb showing the progress Iran has made, pulled out a red marker and drew a line across what he said was a threshold Iran was approaching and which Israel could not tolerate — 90 percent of the way to the uranium enrichment needed to make an atomic bomb.

Israel has systematically built up its military specifically for a possible strike on Iranian nuclear facilities. It has sent its air force on long-distance training missions, procured American-made "bunker-busting" bombs and bolstered its missile defenses.

Still, an attack on Iran would not be easy. Probable targets, including the Natanz and Fordo enrichment facilities south of Tehran, lie some 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from Israel.

Experts believe some of the Israeli warplanes could not make the round trip without refueling in flight. Israel, which has eight tanker planes, can refuel an airplane in flight in a matter of minutes, though it's unclear where the task would take place since much of the airspace in the region is hostile. They would also have to contend with Iranian air defense systems.

A pre-emptive Israeli strike would almost certainly draw a fierce Iranian retaliation toward Israeli population centers. Iranian leaders have even suggested they may strike Israel if they felt threatened by the possibility of an Israeli strike.

Iranian officials did not immediately comment on the Israeli report. But in a newspaper interview on Sunday, Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Salehi, dismissed Israel's capabilities.

"Let them try it if they can - if Israel was ready to strike Iran it would have happened by now," he told the Qatari newspaper Al-Waten on Sunday.

The revelations come ahead of a charged Israeli election season and highlight a broad range of rifts among Israeli leaders and officials.

At the meeting in 2010, Barak said Ashkenazi told him the military wasn't able to carry out the attack. "Ultimately, at the moment of truth, the answer given was that the ability didn't exist," Barak told Uvda.

But Ashkenazi denies that. He was quoted by the close associates as saying he instead told Barak that the military had prepared a viable option and was ready to carry it out but that such a mission would be a strategic mistake.

Barak countered that offering such an assessment was not Ashkenazi's job.

"A chief of staff needs to build the operational capacity. He should tell us professionally if we can operate or not and he can and should give his recommendation, but an operation can go through even if he opposes it," Barak said.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

UCLA isn't getting comfortable atop Pac-12 South standings

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Brett Hundley knows what's going on in the Pac-12 South standings. His fellow UCLA students have told him all about it in the past two days since the Bruins climbed over Southern California to get on top.

But the freshman quarterback has been around Los Angeles long enough to know the crosstown rivalry shouldn't consume him. Even after No. 17 UCLA vaulted past the Trojans in the AP Top 25, the BCS rankings and the division standings, he's only thinking about what's in front of him — a trip to ice-cold Washington State this Saturday.

"Yeah, there has been a lot of people just talking about the SC game," Hundley said. "But I try to remind everybody, they have an opponent who's not us this week. They play, I think, (Arizona State) this week, and we have Washington State this week. That shouldn't even be coming into our heads, and it hasn't. We're preparing for Washington State, and we'll play SC next week, and then we'll focus on SC."

Hundley and his Bruins (7-2, 4-2 Pac-12) are basking in good feelings in Westwood after they routed Arizona 66-10 last weekend for their third straight win, racking up their best record through nine games since 2005. UCLA has risen quickly in Jim Mora's first season, earning bowl eligibility in October and surging ahead of USC (6-3, 4-3) at the latest point in a season for at least a decade.

But the coach says there's no danger of the Bruins overlooking struggling Washington State (2-7, 0-6). After three months of steady progress, Mora is confident his players won't get caught leaping ahead to the city rivalry game that might decide the division title, their season-ending matchup with Stanford — or even their pending postseason plans.

"Well, they haven't been distracted up to this point," Mora said. "They've done a tremendous job of focusing on the here-and-now, the goal that's directly in front of them — and the goal that's directly in front of us now is the Washington State Cougars. That's what we think about."

UCLA could be excused for lingering on last week's win a bit longer, considering it was the school's highest-scoring performance in 15 years. The 56-point blowout of a ranked opponent was among the sweetest moments in the Bruins' mediocre recent history, all the way down to the navy-blue uniforms they debuted to widespread acclaim among the players and fans.

Those special uniforms aren't the only new identity being developed by the Bruins this season. Mora and offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone have built a balanced, tough team that plays up-tempo, versatile football — and it's been enough to get the Bruins into first place.

"I was pleased with it," Mora said of the blowout. "I wouldn't say that I was surprised by it, though. These guys, ever since we got here, have worked extremely hard. When you start to experience some success, I think you get anxious to get out there and do it again, and I felt that through the week. The effort was good, but the effort is expected to be good. That's what we're trying to establish as our standard."

The Bruins have seven regular-season victories for the first time since 2006, and they're in control of their fate for a second straight appearance in the Pac-12 title game. A return would be much better than last season's trip, since UCLA only got that opportunity to get blown out by Oregon because of postseason ineligibility for USC, which beat the Bruins 50-0 and finished two games ahead in the standings.

But first, UCLA must survive probable temperatures in the 20s on the Palouse. Mora is no stranger to frigid Washington winters, but he sees no reason why it will affect his sizzling team or its sunny future.

"That stuff doesn't matter to us," Mora said. "Once you let temperature, environment and the psyche of another team bother you, you've got issues. We don't address it. It doesn't matter to us. It's not in our orbit. We don't care. We're worried about the UCLA Bruins."

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SURF REPORT



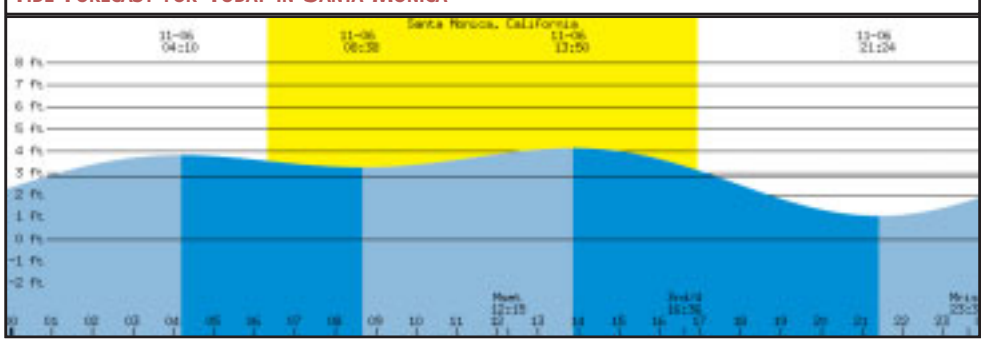
RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 63.3°

SWELL FORECAST
Around waist to chest at west facing breaks, but with NW swell building again later in the day.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SHOULD RUN CHEST HIGH AT WEST FACING BREAKS.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **October 31, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 25 / 3
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Crosslands Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAzerGUY, SBBA

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 or 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 Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A+	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	F	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

A Liar's Autobiography (NR) 1hr 25min
7:30pm & 9:30pm

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

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
1:45pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

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

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

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

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

Hotel Transylvania 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
2:45pm, 7:30pm

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
11:50am, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm

Chasing Mavericks (PG) 1hr 51min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:40am, 2:15pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 5:00pm, 10:05pm

Wreck-It Ralph in 3D (PG) 1hr 48min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

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

Bay (R) 1hr 24min
5:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Ballet in Cinema: Swan Lake (Royal Ballet, 2012) (NR) 3hrs 16min
7:30pm

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

Other Son (Le fils de l'autre) (PG-13) 1hr 45min
5:15pm

Master (R) 2hrs 30min
5:10pm, 8:15pm

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

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Fun Size (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:45pm

Man with the Iron Fists (R) 1hr 36min
11:55am, 2:50pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

Silent Hill: Revelation 3D (R) 1hr 34min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Silent Hill: Revelation (R) 1hr 34min
5:05pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Cloud Atlas (R) 2hrs 44min
11:15am, 3:00pm, 6:40pm, 10:15pm

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

Put your feet up, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A friend whispers in your ear; listen to what he or she has to say. Others find you to be extraordinarily dynamic. Communication comes to the forefront. You might need to get moving with a key project. Tonight: Have fun wherever you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Keep your home life a priority, and do not let others distract you. Some of you will be involved in real estate, whether it is sprucing up your home or making an investment. Tonight: Your instincts guide you with a partner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Mercury, your sign's ruling planet, is about to do a backward jig. As a result, you might sense a difference in your mood and others' as well. A friend continues to act in the most unexpected manner. Tonight: Speak your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your more possessive side emerges, despite everything that is going on around you. A boss or someone you look up to could be quite reactive. Be careful with your word choice; many people are oversensitive. You might want to revisit a recent decision involving your daily life. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You are full of personality and fun. Others do not know how to take your words and actions. A misunderstanding could happen as a result of their assumptions. Know what you want. Rethink what is going on with a situation that involves a romance and/or a child. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back and simply listen. A partner's unexpected actions could be problematic. You might feel cranky because of everything you have to deal with. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Emphasize what is important, and follow through accordingly. A meeting provides support as you continue down your chosen path. You might worry too much and wonder what is going on. Also, information coming in might not be accurate. Trust your instincts. Tonight: Where friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take charge of a situation -- don't act as if you have no choice. You are heading in a new direction despite the comfort of staying in what is known. You might decide that you need feedback from a very gracious partner. Tonight: On top of your game.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen and reach out to someone at a distance who means a lot to you. Do not stand on ceremony if your calls aren't returned. You are entering a period when misunderstandings could happen with greater frequency. Tonight: Detach and tap into your imagination.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level to someone. Listen to what you are saying and also to what is being shared. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening around you. Tonight: Make it romantic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Give up a need to have power. If you just go along with a situation, you will be much happier. Listen to your instincts regarding a personal matter. Do not test others. Tonight: Say "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening in your immediate circle. Start crossing things off your to-do list -- it will help eliminate this feeling of heaviness. You will feel better as a result. Tonight: Put your feet up.

Happy birthday

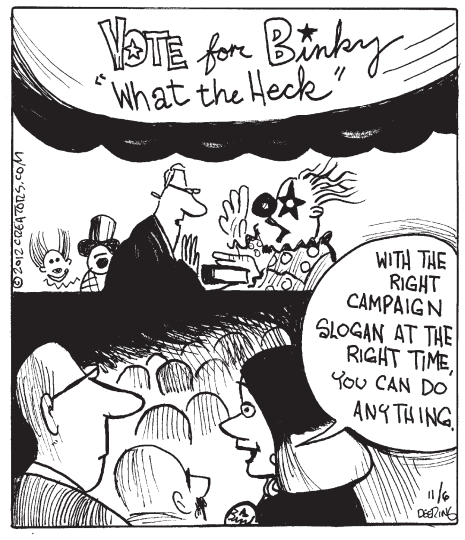
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

Do not expect to be secretive and get away with it this year. In fact, since all eyes frequently will be on you, it will be close to impossible. You become a leader, whether you're at work, in your immediate circle or elsewhere. Use care with your finances, because misunderstandings and problems could stem from there. If you are single, try to be out and about as much as possible, as you'll have no problem meeting people. Take your time getting to know someone. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from sharing a social commitment together. LEO often admires you.

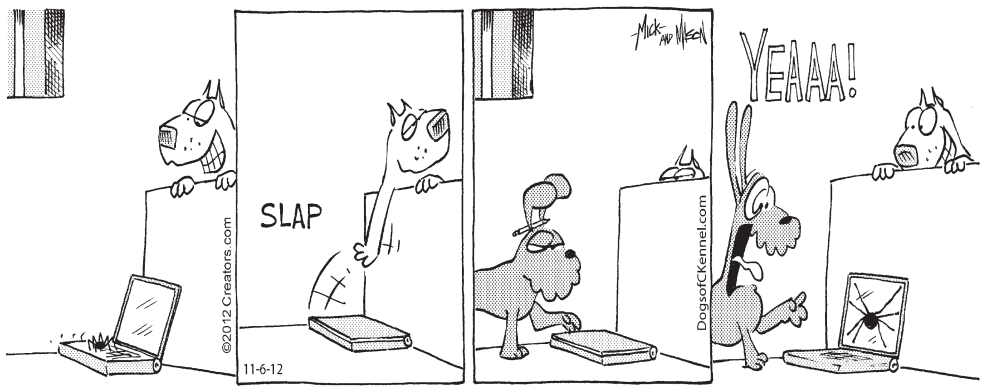
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



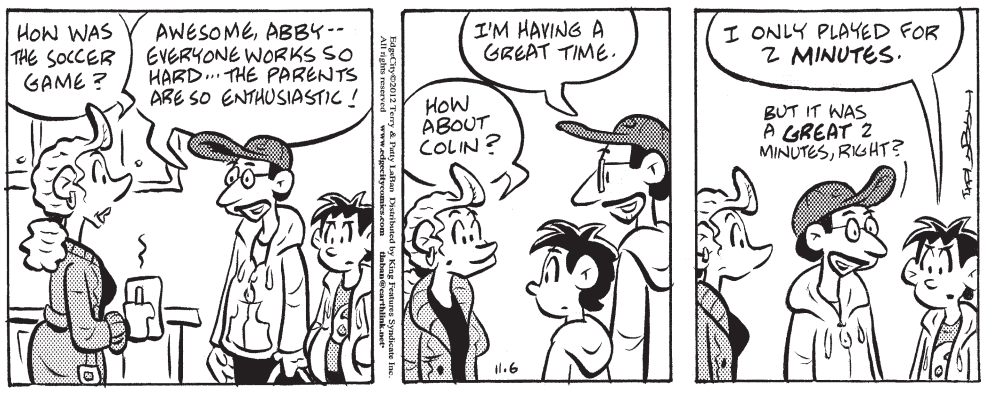
Strange Brew
By John Deering



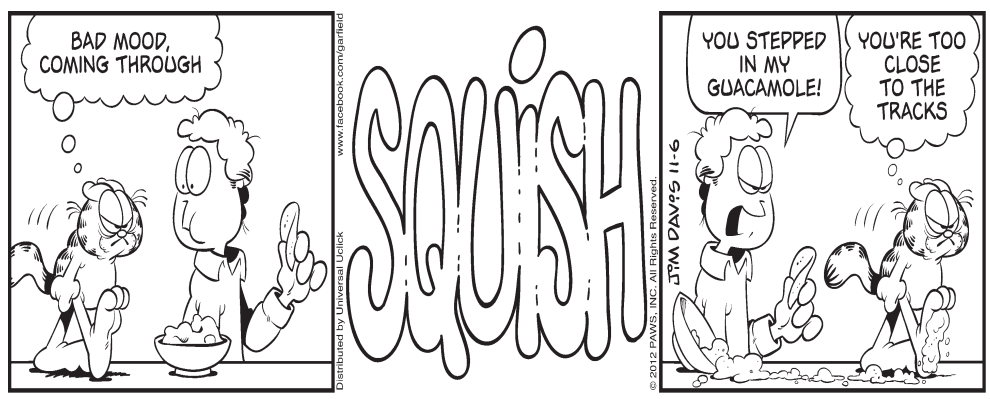
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



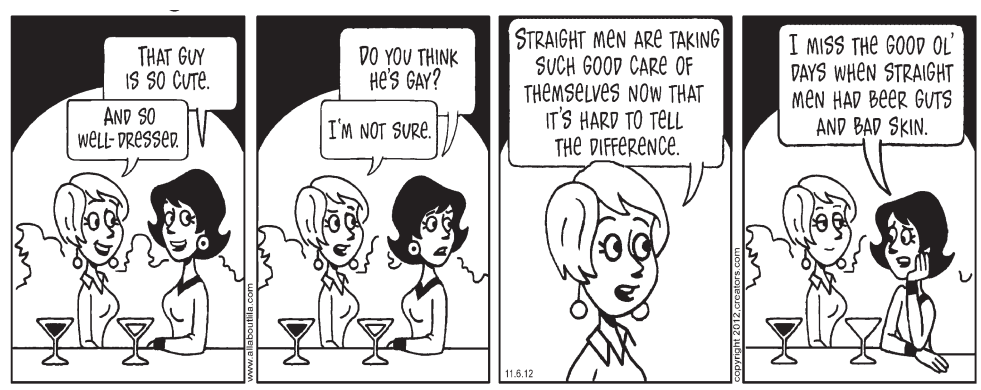
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

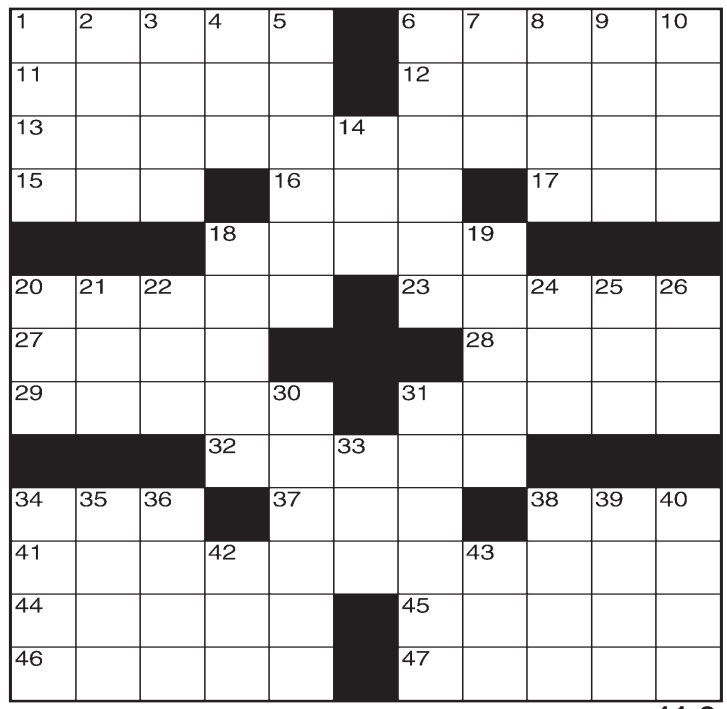
ACROSS
1 Big and clumsy
6 Current of air
11 Cowboy contest
12 Ham's need
13 November event
15 According to
16 Guitar blaster
17 Ave. intersectors
18 Easy two-pointer
20 Campaign contributor
23 Oven feature
27 Blissful place
28 Tempest
29 Doled (out)
31 Clobber
32 Number part
34 Campaign fliers
37 Sermon topic
38 Pasture grazer
41 Busy place on 13-Across
44 Like lambs
45 Furious
46 Bookish, perhaps
47 Board, as a bus

DOWN
1 Open space
2 Ballot count
3 Thought
4 Min. part
5 A lot of campaign rhetoric
6 "Enough already!"
7 Sought office
8 Sums
9 Decree
10 Gifts for kids
14 Rascal
18 Muscularly fit
19 Busy time for fireflies
20 Not a Rep.
21 Poem
22 Tennis need
24 China chairman
25 Shade tree
26 Not a Dem.
30 Mickey's creator
31 Triumph in a landslide
33 Musician's job
34 Stratford's river
35 Pigeon's cousin
36 Commotion
38 Winter wear
39 "Beetle Bailey" dog
40 A question of time
42 Neither 20-Down nor 26-Down
43 Bonanza stuff

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

Yesterday's answer

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



11-6

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/2
4 18 22 38 44
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 11/3
11 14 20 36 39
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/5
7 15 16 17 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 11/5
MIDDAY: 3 7 5
EVENING: 0 9 6

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 11/5
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:41.49

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

■ Valerie Spruill, 60, of Doylestown, Ohio, disclosed publicly in September that she had unknowingly married her own father following the dissolution of her first marriage, which had produced three children. Percy Spruill, a "nice man," she said, died in 1998, and Valerie told the Akron Beacon Journal that she had heard family rumors after that but only confirmed the parentage in 2004 (with DNA from an old hairbrush). After eight years of silence, from embarrassment, she went public, she said, as an example to help other women who come from tumultuous childhoods in which many men are in their mothers' lives.

■ Earlier this year, the National Football League suspended some New Orleans Saints players and the head coach for having a reward system that paid players for purposely injuring opponents. In September, coach Darren Crawford of the Tustin (Calif.) Pee Wee Red Cobras team was suspended when former players reported that the coach ran an apparently similar scheme among his 10- and 11-year-olds, using a cash reward of up to $50 for the "hit of the game" (with last year's top prize going to the boy who left an opposing running back with a mild concussion). At press time, the investigation was ongoing, and no charges had been filed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 - Apartheid: The United Nations General Assembly passes a resolution condemning South Africa's racist apartheid policies and calls for all UN member states to cease military and economic relations with the nation.

1963 - Vietnam War: Following the November 1 coup and execution of President Ngo Dinh Diem, coup leader General Duong Van Minh takes over leadership of South Vietnam.

WORD UP!

climacteric
\ klahy-mak-TER-ik \ , noun;
1. A critical period. 2. Physiology: a period of decrease of reproductive capacity in men and women, culminating, in women, in the menopause.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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VOTE

BILL BLOOMFIELD
Independent Leadership



Six Reasons to Vote Bill Bloomfield for Congress on November 6

1. Free from Political Party Labels

Bill saw that both political parties were failing us, so he became an independent a year-and-a-half ago. He is free from political party labels and party bosses' influence — he'll put people first, not politics.

2. Will Not Take One Penny from Special Interests

Bill knows that the special interests that give millions of dollars to politicians want to gain influence in Washington. Bill is the only candidate in the race who won't take special interest PAC money. Bill will remain independent for us.

3. Working to End Hyper-Partisanship

Bill Bloomfield is one of the co-founders of No Labels, a national movement to end hyper-partisanship and bring sanity to Congress. Bill has been invited to join the No Labels Caucus, which he will be active in once he is elected.

4. Fighting for No Budget, No Pay

Bill is fighting for this commonsense solution to make politicians accountable. If Congress can't pass a budget and all annual spending bills on time, members should not get paid.

5. Bipartisan Leadership to Eliminate the Deficit

Bill is the only candidate who supports the Simpson/Bowles' bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility and Reform Commission Plan as a starting point for eliminating the deficit and creating a stable federal budget.

6. Keep Southern California a Priority

Bill has lived in this district for his entire life and Southern California will always be his home. In Congress, Bill will keep our community his top priority, fight for our jobs, and protect our quality of life.

fix it

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From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
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North of Montana	=	$3,150,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,200,000
South of Wilshire	=	$ 819,500
Sunset Park	=	$1,299,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,816,000

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