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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 313

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

GOING BLUE?
SEE PAGE 3

THE BALLS IN THE AIR ISSUE



COOL OPENING

Skaters from California's Gold perform during the opening of ICE at Santa Monica on Wednesday night.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

City Council approves taxi franchises

Move drastically reduces number of cabs on Santa Monica streets

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL In a move that will dramatically reduce the number of cabs on Santa Monica streets, the City Council Tuesday awarded five taxi franchises and put a cap on the total number of cabs operating within the city at 250.

The council also unanimously approved a fare structure with maximums set for trips to regional airports. Cab companies will still be able to offer discounts or special deals, something which Mayor Bobby Shriver lobbied hard for and was accepted by his colleagues as a way for cab companies to differentiate themselves and compete in the new, closed market.

Those who received a franchise are: Bell Cab Co., Independent Taxi, Metro Cab Co., Taxi Taxi and Yellow Cab Co. Metro and Taxi Taxi are based in Santa Monica.

Cab operators were selected by a City Hall committee with preference given to those companies that had the financial capability, business plan and experience to provide quality service, said Don Patterson, who oversaw the selection process for City Hall.

The new franchise structure, which must be finalized by a second reading by the council, is expected to take effect Jan. 3, 2011 with cab companies given six months to meet requirements to operate a certain number of ultra-low and super-ultra-low emission vehicles.

Cab companies not awarded a franchise will no longer be able to pick up passengers in Santa Monica after that date.

"We are pleased our successful business model has been approved by the city," said Ayman Radwan of Taxi Taxi. "We are extremely happy that we will be able to continue serving our community."

SEE CABS PAGE 12

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Trio of local teams advance in playoffs

BY PATRICK HOURIHAN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE The first round games of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section girls' volleyball playoffs were played on Tuesday night, with several Santa Monica-area teams in participation. Second round games of the state tournament will be played tonight.

Santa Monica High School (14-8), No. 1 seed from the Ocean League, swept San Gorgonio (6-10), with game scores of 25-15, 25-14, and 25-10.

The Vikings, who were ranked No. 6 in CIF-SS Division 3-AA, will next play Lancaster High School (23-3), the No. 2 seed from the Golden League. The game is scheduled for a 7 p.m. start and will be played in Samohi's North Gym.

Lighthouse Christian Academy (12-4) beat California Academy of Math and Sciences (8-7) by a score of 3-0. It was a close match for the No. 2 seed from the Coastal League of CIF-SS Division 5-AA. CAMS, No. 3 from the Delphic League, fought hard in all three games — losing with scores of 27-25, 25-23, and 25-21.

The Lighthouse Saints, ranked No. 9 in CIF-SS Div. 5-AA season-ending polls, will next play tonight at Santa Monica College. The game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., and Head Coach Stephanie Sommer's team will face the girls from Lone Pine High School (23-3). The Lone Pine Eagles, No. 1 seed from the Desert Mountain League, haven't lost since Sept. 17 and are on a 19-game win streak.

No. 1 seed from the Heritage League, Pacifica Christian High School (20-7), also won their first round game, beating No. 4 seed from the Montview League, Duarte High School (9-14). Pacifica Seawolves' first-year head coach Billy Allen led the girls to a 3-0 overall match score win, with game scores of 25-16, 25-17, and 25-13.

Pacifica will next face Desert High School (17-4), the No. 2 seed from the High Desert League. The game is scheduled for a 7 p.m.

SEE PLAYOFFS PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010

Veterans Day

Celebrate Route 66
Santa Monica Pier, 8:30 a.m.
Come celebrate the 84th anniversary of the world-famous Route 66 with a day of activities, including a Veteran's Day recognition ceremony, a classic car show, and on-stage interviews with Route 66 icons. Runners with the Gumpathon will also be there, finishing the last leg of their transcontinental run across the legendary highway. For more information call (310) 458-8900.

Meditate for your health
Santa Monica Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m.
In this guided meditation, participants engage in a process that is very restful and rejuvenating and that may free old emotions and thoughts lodged in the body and/or mind. In addition, participants learn to use this meditation in their everyday lives. It is also fun and has immediate as well as long-term benefits. Free, must be at least 50 years old to attend. For more information call (310) 458-8644.

Cook booked
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third St., 7 p.m.
Emmy Award-winning host of Food Network's "East Meets West" and James Beard Foundation's Best Chef of the Northeast, Ming Tsai presents his new book of simple and healthy dishes. Admission is free.

Friday, Nov. 12, 2010

Friday night football
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica High School's football team hosts the final game of the regular season against Hawthorne at Corsair Field. Samohi is playing for its playoff life.

Ice, Ice, baby
1324 Fifth St.
12 p.m. — 10 p.m.
It's that time of year again. ICE at Santa Monica is back. Skate to your hearts desire — or at least until the rink closes for the night — everyday until Feb. 25. Admission and skate rental is $10. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

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



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Analyst says budget deficit at $25.4B

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO California's nonpartisan legislative analyst reported Wednesday that the state's budget deficit has grown to $25.4 billion, including a $6.1 billion shortfall in the spending plan Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed just weeks ago.

The deficit includes a $19.3 billion gap for the 2011-12 budget year that runs through June 2012, legislative analyst Mac Taylor said, more than a fifth of the $86.6 billion general fund spending plan approved on Oct. 8.

Fixing the state's structural deficit will entail "unavoidably painful sacrifice" for Californians who have already weathered successive years of massive cuts, Taylor said.

Gov.-elect Jerry Brown will be forced to confront the problem when he is sworn into office in January. He faces a constitutional deadline to present a balanced budget just a week later.

A spokesman for Brown, Evan Westrup, said Wednesday the Democrat will be "diving deep" into the budget when he returns from vacation next week. "Our transition team is closely reviewing the report and will closely consider its findings moving forward," Westrup said.

Much of the gap in the current budget year was foreseeable when lawmakers approved the 2010-11 budget in October, more than 100 days late. The spending plan was filled with gimmicks, cost shifts and about $3.5 billion in federal funding that won't materialize.

Taylor said that budget also relied on putting aside nearly $800 million less for prison medical care than is possible and $400 million in Medi-Cal savings that are impossible because of the late budget and current costs, Taylor said.

"The temporary nature of most of the Legislature's 2010 budget-balancing actions and the painfully slow economic recovery" will also affect next year's spending plan, he said.

Fixing the state's structural budget deficit will be even harder now, as lawmakers have already slashed the programs that account for more than half the state budget — education and Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for the poor. There are restrictions on how much more can be cut from each.



SIGNING DAY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School basketball players (L-R) Bianka Balthazar, Moriah Faulk and Kristina Johnson sign their National Letters of Intent on Wednesday at Samohi. Balthazar will attend Long Beach State, Faulk will play for UCLA and Johnson will go to University of Pacific.

Local cancer patient lobbies NFL to go blue

BY PATRICK HOURIHAN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Following the second annual "Pink-ification" of the National Football League last month, one spokesman for the Santa Monica-based Prostate Cancer Foundation asks, "Where's the blue? What about men with cancer?"

Vice President of Communications for the foundation, Dan Zenka — who is also a stage-four cancer patient — met with executives at the NFL on Wednesday to discuss an initiative to raise awareness on prostate cancer. Just one day after concluding his seven-week radiation therapy treatment, Zenka delivered more than 3,400 signatures to the league from the foundation's online petition asking for awareness parity.

"We appreciate the quick response from the NFL," said Zenka. "It has done a stellar job in supporting the breast cancer cause and we're hoping the NFL will give prostate cancer equal playing time on the field."

Anna Isaacson, director of Community Programs for the NFL, agrees there is always room for raising more awareness; but she also believes the NFL has contributed to the cause and will continue that in the future.

"The NFL has been working closely with the American Urological Association Foundation (AUA) for the past two years on the 'Know Your Stats' campaign, an award-winning initiative that will continue to grow in scope and visibility," Isaacson said in an e-mail. "At the NFL, we are proud of our work in support of prostate cancer and men's health issues. We look forward to building upon this work in the future, just as we have enhanced our breast cancer campaign over the course of many years."

The AUA and the NFL teamed up in 2008 to encourage all men, age 40 and older, to talk with their doctors about prostate cancer. That year, the league began offering prostate cancer screenings for retired players conducted by the foundation. This fall, they took their message to the grassroots level with more than 500 local events at hospitals across the country, said Isaacson.

Together, the NFL and AUA have encouraged nearly 170 million fans and loved ones to "Know Their Stats." This commitment extends to the highest levels of the National Football League, including two recent public service announcements featuring Commissioner Roger Goodell urging men to know their risks of prostate cancer, Isaacson said.

Zenka was diagnosed with cancer last April and prior to his diagnosis, he had no visible symptoms — the only indicator of

SEE **BLUE** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Renewable energy holds the key

Editor:

Isn't it time we start this country on a new direction that encompasses preserving its natural resources and focusing on sustainable, renewable solar, wind, etc., energy sources for its energy needs? How else are we to maintain this beautiful land and boost the economy with more jobs?

Jayne Pitchford
Santa Monica

Cancel the contract

Editor:

My family and I have been in Ocean Park since 1986. We were here before the jets. Only prop planes flew overhead. What about the rights of my family and the other thousands of families who are subjected to this outrage known as SMO?

This multi-year process of hiring consultants, lawyers, meetings with FAA bureaucrats and yada yada is bogus. Those of us who live under the pollution, noise, and threats of these aircraft are tired of this go-nowhere-circus. Cancel the contract and shut the airport down and let the chips fall where they may. Bureaucrats are never going to care about the harm they are causing. Never.

And for all you rich Hollywood types who use our neighborhood as a parking lot for your giant flying toys and call yourselves "environmentalists," shame on you. Use airlines flying out of LAX like the rest of us plebes. You wouldn't subject your families to this outrage – not for a minute.

K. Zompa
Santa Monica

Bike stores share responsibility for safety

Editor:

I am amazed at the riders I see on bikes totally unsuitable for them; too large, or too small, which brings up control. And, the responsibility of shops to sell bikes that fit the person so that they are both comfortable and safe. They don't seem to care as long as they sell!

The recent vogue for track bikes is certainly a factor. They have no brakes! You can only stop the bike by back pedaling. One needs training and leg strength. But, they are cute and colorful, so they sell. I've been hit by a young rider who couldn't stop.

Another problem is people who ride with the wrong kind of footwear or none. They can't control a bike with flip-flops and it's dangerous for bare feet. They don't wear helmets to protect their heads from concussion in a fall.

Parents even have babies on their backs in packs, risking serious injury or death. And, a lifetime of guilt for their stupidity. But, bring that to their attention and you get a mouthful of venom.

I believe you could actually sue a store for selling an unsafe bike, and there are safety standards.

I was the one who actually brought bike lanes to Santa Monica when the council did nothing to provide safety. I put up petitions in all the bike stores and got over 500 signatures. The council pays attention to votes.

Paul Leaf
Santa Monica



Your column here



Sarah Mosko — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

America's addiction to oil caused Gulf of Mexico spill

AS THE NATION RECENTLY PASSED THE SIX month anniversary of the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, which launched the worst oil spill in U.S. history, it seems a fitting time to reflect on who's ultimately responsible and what lessons should be learned. After all, the Gulf coast's ecology and economy are far from recovered, and the Obama administration just lifted a moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling on Oct.12.

During the three anxious months before the oil gusher was capped in July and Americans were assimilating prognostications that the Gulf region's fishing and tourism industries might never recover, both BP (British Petroleum) and the federal government were under fire in the public's mind and in the media for both allowing the disaster in the first place, and for their response to it once underway.

However, glaringly absent then, and still today, has been general public awareness that it is ultimately the energy-intense American lifestyle and attachment to fossil fuels that give companies like BP and our government the implicit go-ahead to pursue oil at the risk of the very kind of calamity that enfolded in the Gulf.

Unless you're a physicist or energy wonk of some sort, hearing that the average yearly per capita energy consumption in the United States in 2008 was 337 million Btu probably tells you little about your energy footprint. Knowing that a Btu is an energy standard equivalent to 252 calories — about what's contained in a Snickers candy bar — is probably of little help either.

That's why professor of physics Richard Wolfson of Middlebury College has been giving demonstrations for the last decade which impart a real gut-level, hands-on feel for the energy it takes to support the typical American lifestyle.

His demonstration is simple but ingenious. A volunteer is asked to turn a hand crank which, through a geared system, drives an electric generator connected to two 100-watt incandescent light bulbs.

The upshot is that a typical person can turn the crank fast enough to light one 100-watt light bulb, but not two. To add to the muscular feel for the effort required to turn the crank, Wolfson points out that it takes roughly the same energy output as doing deep knee bends at a rate of one per second.

The lesson is that the energy or work output of a human body is about enough to keep just a single 100-watt bulb lit. Wolfson conceptualizes this amount of energy output — 100 watts — as one human "energy servant."

The question then posed is how many such energy servants does it take to power the typical American lifestyle?

Answering this requires some simple math, starting with the yearly energy consumption of 337 million Btu per capita which is equivalent, in more familiar units, to 99,000 kWh (kilowatt hours). Dividing this by the number of hours in a year tells us that an American typically consumes energy at an average rate of 10 kW which is equal to 100 human energy servants (i.e. 100 x 100 watts).

This is Wolfson's message: The average U.S. resident enjoys a lifestyle requiring the equivalent of 100 personal energy servants cranking away 24/7.

This is just one person's share of what it takes to heat, cool and light our homes, fuel our cars, cook and refrigerate our foods, and run our home appliances plus that individual's portion of the energy that makes possible the many shared benefits of our society that do not show up on home gas and electric bills — like the energy used to grow and transport foods to market and to produce all manufactured goods.

AMERICANS DESERVE BLAME FOR FAILING TO CONSERVE ENERGY FAR MORE THAN WE DO AND FOR NOT DEMANDING OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY THAT THE NATION CONVERT RAPIDLY TO RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES LIKE, SOLAR, WIND, BIOMASS AND GEOTHERMAL.

It's obvious that a person is not drawing on 100 energy servants all the time. For instance, it takes roughly 750 energy servants to keep a typical gasoline car traveling at a speed of 50 mph compared to, say, two energy servants to power a 40-inch television. But, 100 is the number of energy servants working day and night on one's behalf when energy consumption is averaged around the clock.

The high standard of living Americans enjoy only partly explains their high energy consumption. Europeans enjoy a similar standard of living but use the equivalent of only 49 energy servants. The world average is fewer than 25 energy servants per person.

A century ago Americans consumed energy at less than one-third the current rate.

The American lifestyle, still powered more than 85 percent by fossil fuels, has much to do with the BP oil disaster: After all, BP was just doing for us the dirty work of finding a new cache of energy servants.

Americans deserve blame for failing to conserve energy far more than we do and for not demanding of both the government and industry that the nation convert rapidly to renewable energy sources like, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal. Failure to do so could mean the unthinkable, that the Gulf oil spill will soon enough fall to second or third place among the worst oil disasters in U.S. history.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Helping make change for Cash

"A HEALTHY BABY" IS THE NEAR-AUTOMATIC response of every pregnant woman when asked what she's hoping to have. It's why women take prenatal vitamins, abstain from sushi and alcohol and just about everything else that brings them pleasure, and submit to a battery of tests, sometimes for 36 straight weeks, that help guarantee the finger and toe count at birth will be no more or less than 20. It's also why the first thing they do after ensuring the regularity of their newborns' tiny heartbeats is stare for days, weeks, months and sometimes years at the marvels that are their vibrant little bundles of love.

That being said, most women still take it for granted that their babies will be just fine, because most of them are. Unfortunately, however, some of them are not.

"It's like you've spent years planning for a trip to Italy," my friend Stephanie explained to me using the famous analogy by a mom with a disabled child. "You book your flights and hotels, you plan your itinerary down to the restaurants and sightseeing stops.

"But when you get off the plane, it turns out you're actually in Holland. Of course Holland is a lovely country, too. It just wasn't what you expected."

When Stephanie's son Cash was born five years ago, he was a little peanut barely longer than the length of a dollar bill. After spending the first several weeks of his life in and out of hospitals, desperately sick and unable to eat or regulate his body temperature, he was diagnosed with an unnamed genetic abnormality on his X chromosome [46, Y, der(X)t(X;X)(p22.33;q28)], which is a rare or even unique condition that has caused an overall development delay, hypotonia (low muscle tone), autism and asthma.

While the doctors knew (and still know) next to nothing about his condition, they said Cash would never walk or talk. Stephanie never believed them, and with good reason. Cash took his first independent steps last month (although unlike toddlers who take their first steps and are walking altogether shortly thereafter, like everything else with Cash, the progress is much slower), and within the last week said "Mommy" for the very first time using sign language.

Cash is also now injected daily with growth hormones since he doesn't naturally produce them, and he recently (and thankfully) developed enough strength in his lungs to be able to cough and sneeze (before which time he suffered from pneumonia about every other month).

Cash is an irrepressibly adorable kid. With his soft brown eyes and kissable lips, he's endlessly lovable, and Stephanie is the first to acknowledge that there are plenty who have it worse.

But when you meet him you know immediately he's a far cry from other 5 year olds. And that fact can be trying, but Stephanie insists she's fine 60 percent of the time, more than fine 20 percent of the time, and spends the other 20 percent of the time in a darker place.

His family isn't looking for a miracle cure, mostly because there just isn't one.

"Cash is who he is," Stephanie says matter-of-factly, albeit with a faintly sad, different kind of deeply serious love that only some parents ever have to understand, and that most parents, the ones with the healthy kids, never really have to think about.

Nevertheless, instead of accepting the unknown of his condition and the snail's pace of his progress, Cash's family wants to make his life better. Which is why the decision has been made to take him to India this winter for stem cell treatments.

Stem cells give Stephanie hope in a way that she's never previously allowed herself, at least since Cash was a newborn. Still, she's managing her hope with reasonable expectations. She hopes to bring Cash home with a better quality of life, maybe potty trained, and maybe with a core stability that can lead to increased and better communications. She's not trying to fix him, because rationally, she understands there's no fix for a chromosome.

Cash will need to be in India for two months for the initial treatment, with additional future treatments planned. The total cost is expected to exceed $100,000, which, of course, isn't covered by insurance.

What most parents expect before meeting their children and live through after their births is that the love brought about by the experience of the life they created — no matter the number or quality of their chromosomes — is always exceeded infinitely.

To express your good wishes and learn how to make a donation to support the infinite possibilities in Cash's life, please search for Change for Cash on Facebook. All funds will go directly to his therapy.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

The Q Line

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Down to the wire

City Council incumbent Bob Holbrook leads challenger Ted Winterer by a slim 121 votes with less than 6,000 mail-in votes remaining to be counted.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Who are you rooting for 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) 458-7737 ext. 102.**



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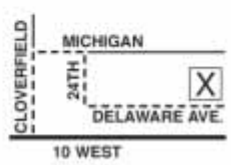
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A trivial evening of trivia

"WAR," ACCORDING TO ITS HYPE, IS A feisty comedy about war, but it's no "M*A*S*H." And it isn't about war. In fact, it isn't even a comedy. It's a series of angry tirades set in an Irish pub. (But it isn't "The Iceman Cometh," either.)

"War" consists of 16 people all talking at the same time and making a helluva lot of noise while they compete in an endless trivia contest and hurl expletives and abuse at each other. And in between, the primary abuser, George, (Tim Cummings) goes home and bullies his wife. He is a viciously angry man, but fortunately the scenes in his kitchen are largely unintelligible — whether due to the placement of the kitchen upstage right, above the pub set, or bad acoustics, or just bad delivery is hard to determine. To give the actors the benefit of the doubt, I'll say it's bad acoustics because none of the six women in the play is understandable, no matter where they stand to deliver their lines.

Another deterrent to understanding the dialog is the uncertain Irish brogues that flash on and off throughout the performance.

As for the trivia contest itself, that might at least have been an engaging diversion for the audience if any of the 50 questions made any sense to American theatergoers. Instead, they deal with obscure Irish soccer players, a 50-year-old British scandal (who was the second woman in the Profumo-Keeler affair?), and various musical "stars" nobody ever heard of.

In addition to Cummings, who actually does a good job with his loathsome character, Andrew Leman must be credited with bringing the quizmaster to witty and sparkling life.

Roddy Doyle, who wrote this play in 1989, is a well-respected Irish author; he has written numerous short stories for The New Yorker and won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1993 for "Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha." "War," however, is not a ha ha ha.

Director Sean Branney manages his large cast imaginatively, using the center aisle of the theater for exits and entrances and the lobby beyond, which is presumably filled with additional tables of trivia players. (The quizmaster periodically shouts out to them, and the waitress chases back and forth collecting their answers after each round and delivering fresh bottles of Guinness.)

In the end, all the passion fades as each winning player goes home with his prize: a new electric teakettle. And George, presumably, goes home to bully his wife some more.

Is this what it's all about, Alfie?

This production of "War" plays in repertory with John B. Keane's pub play "The Field," Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Dec. 12 at The Banshee, 3435 West Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank. Call (818) 846-5323 for tickets and schedule information.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Hulu on way to double revenue

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Online video site Hulu is on pace to generate more than $240 million in revenue this year, more than double the $108 million in 2009.

The announcement Wednesday comes about five months after Hulu launched a $10-per-month subscription plan called Hulu Plus, which allows consumers to watch entire back seasons of shows from NBC, Fox and ABC such as "30 Rock," "Glee," and "Modern Family."

CEO Jason Kilar said, however, that most of the site's revenue still comes from advertising. He said Hulu attracted 352 advertisers in the third quarter, including all the country's top 25.

Kilar did not touch on profitability when he disclosed the revenue figures at a conference in San Francisco. In June, he told The Associated Press that Hulu had posted net income for two straight quarters and expected to do so again in the three months through June. He did not say then how much the earnings were.

Hulu is jointly owned by General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal, Fox owner News Corp., ABC owner The Walt Disney Co. and Providence Equity Partners.

At the NewTeeVee Live conference, in comments that were streamed online, Kilar highlighted several ways that Hulu was trying to make ads more effective.

The site allows viewers to choose which ads they'd like to watch; polls them about their purchasing intentions; gives them the choice of watching longer ads in exchange for fewer interruptions later; and promotes other shows that are favored by fans of the show on the screen.

Ads on Hulu are 55 percent more effective than ads on traditional TV channels when measuring whether consumers remembered the brand and the message shown, he said. That means advertisers get more for their money, and content owners will eventually be paid more, he said.

"We think that brand advertisers, in time, will be far less willing to pay for the waste that they've actually paid for over the last 60 years," Kilar said. "So this will be disruptive to existing brand advertising services and in the process, significant value will be created."

Research firm eMarketer estimates that U.S. revenue from advertising attached to online videos will grow 48 percent this year to $1.51 billion and another 43 percent to $2.15 billion next year.



New film continues tradition of destroying Los Angeles

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES This city has the worst luck.

Through decades of disaster films, Los Angeles has been targeted by aliens, toppled by temblors, sunken by tsunamis, leveled by lava, and a rogue tornado once took out the Hollywood sign.

And so it will be that calamity again strikes the City of Angels in the new sci-fi film "Skyline," opening Friday, followed by another bout of destruction early next year in the movie "Battle: Los Angeles."

What is it about L.A. that invites such repeated devastation?

"People love watching Los Angeles get destroyed," says "Battle: Los Angeles" director Jonathan Liebesman. "It's nice to screw up the great weather."

But there's so much more to it than that.

The city is home to Hollywood and the movie business, so the artists who write about, direct and execute mass destruction in Los Angeles are often intimately familiar with the territory.

Production designer Jackson De Govia — who helped blow up the Beverly Center shopping mall and decimate Wilshire Boulevard's museums in 1997's "Volcano" — says he loves trashing his own city on film.

"One of the funnest things you can do in movies is blow stuff up," says De Govia, who also pulverized Nakatomi Plaza in the original "Die Hard." "And if you're blowing up your hometown, and that hometown is Los Angeles, it's even better, because who hasn't wanted to do that at times?"

L.A. is a city filled with internationally recognized landmarks — the Hollywood sign, the Capitol Records building, City Hall and the skyscrapers of downtown — which make for "convenient cinematic shorthand," says Craig Detweiler, director of the Center for Entertainment, Media and Culture at Pepperdine University.

"It allows the scale of the disaster to strike everybody," he says. "Everybody recognizes the Hollywood sign. It's like, 'Oh, that's big.'"

Apart from its landmarks, L.A. is a popular disaster-movie locale because of its geography. Sitting in a seismic zone on the western edge of the continent, it is surrounded by beaches, mountains and deserts. In real life, the city is subject to floods, fires, earthquakes and big waves, so seeing freeways collapse or Santa Monica swallowed up by the sea (as in "2012") isn't such a stretch.

"L.A. can have these multiple functions as an apocalyptic disaster place because it's on the verge between urbanism and nature," says Leo Braudy, a University of Southern California professor and author of "The Hollywood Sign: Fantasy and Reality of an American Icon." "There's a sense of the precariousness of human habitation over this potentially eruptive nature."

Los Angeles is also a city many people love to hate, notes American Film Institute historian Bob Birchard: "L.A. and certainly Hollywood have been associated in some people's minds as a hotbed of the devil's work, so that underlying element is part of the genre."

That notion isn't just implied in 1996's "Escape from L.A.," it's stated: Los Angeles becomes known as the "island of the damned" and "a deportation point for all people found undesirable or unfit to live in the new moral America."

Birchard says the first disaster film was "The Lost World" in 1925, in which London was destroyed. New York took its first on-screen beating in 1933's "King Kong."

Since Los Angeles didn't rise to prominence until after World War II, it wasn't a popular site for annihilation until 1952's "War of the Worlds."

Since then, the city has been subject to all kinds of disasters, both natural and otherworldly, in films such as "Earthquake" with Charlton Heston, "Superman" with Christopher Reeve, and more recently "Terminator," "Independence Day," "The Day After Tomorrow" and "2012."

Ultimately, heaving destruction on Los Angeles shows Hollywood's sense of humor, sense of optimism and a real love for its sunny, palm-lined home.

Greg Strause, one of the filmmakers behind "Skyline," says the alien-invasion flick was inspired by the breathtaking view from his Marina del Rey condo. The invaders' first target? Movie studios.

"It's a strange coincidence that the motherships, they descend on all the studios first," he says with a laugh. "One's in Culver City. One's in Century City... Those aliens, they have peculiar tastes."

"We barbecue all of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills," adds co-director Colin Strause.

The destruction was achieved digitally at the Strause brothers' own visual-effects firm, Hydraulx. The company also did special effects for "Battle: Los Angeles," another alien-invasion tale as seen through the eyes of one Marine platoon in L.A.

De Govia and his team lovingly rebuilt almost the entire Miracle Mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard at three-quarter scale for the destruction scenes in "Volcano." They also built the Beverly Center in miniature. Then they blew everything up.

A longtime L.A. resident, he's been moved — literally — by other disaster films set in the city.

He wanted to buy a home near the reservoir in the Hollywood Hills, but decided against it after seeing "Earthquake," in which the reservoir's dam breaks and floods the neighborhood below.

"It's always in your mind," he says. "Dams do break. We see it in movies all the time."

But regardless of the on-screen devastation, there are always a few survivors in these films, along with a message of hope, which USC's Braudy relates to the West Coast's spirit of optimism — yet still another reason for Hollywood to choose L.A. when doing digital disaster.

"It's kind of hedged, but there's always hope: Hope for change, hope for resurrection," he says. "It's an odd kind of Western optimism: We're going to start over again, like a phoenix rising from its own destruction."

It's cathartic to see people triumph over tough challenges, and it's fun because it's all pretend. Los Angeles may be in ashes, but step outside the theater, and there it is in all its gilded glory.

"L.A. is good at playing itself in film. It's a familiar face," says Detweiler. "Just as we expect Will Smith to rescue the day, we expect L.A. to get blown up and somehow miraculously reappear in the next summer blockbuster."

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Man claims massive emerald was stolen

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A California businessman who insists he is the rightful owner of the mysterious Bahia Emerald testified Wednesday that he was swindled out of the 840-pound rock by the same people he'd made previous deals with, including one for a 50-pound emerald that he still owns.

Under questioning from his attorney, Anthony Thomas said that months before he paid $60,000 for the Bahia Emerald, he paid $20,000 for four smaller stones, including the 50-pound gem that has come to be known as the Thomas Emerald.

He said he also paid the same group $74,000 to polish and otherwise prepare the other emeralds for delivery to him.

Thomas says he believes the sellers lied and told him the Bahia Emerald was stolen after they discovered its true value. An often-quoted appraisal puts that value at nearly $400,000, and some others have put it much higher.

Superior Court Judge John A. Kronstadt, who will decide the gem's true owner, is to rule on Thomas' claim after testimony in his trial is concluded. After that, Kronstadt will consider other claims, including one from a group of people who say they paid $1.3 million for the stone.

Since it was dug up in Brazil in 2001, the Bahia Emerald has traveled a mystery-shrouded journey.

It was stored for a time in a bank vault in New Orleans that flooded during Hurricane Katrina. It was reported to have been held in Idaho at one point. It was also stored in a warehouse in the Los Angeles suburb of El Monte before it disappeared from there. In 2008 authorities seized it in Las Vegas, where it was about to be put up for sale. They now have it under lock and key, awaiting Kronstadt's ruling.

During cross-examination Monday, lawyers for other claimants pressed Thomas to acknowledge he was little more than a tourist when he had himself photographed with the emerald in Brazil in 2001. They also cast doubt on his story that he ever had a bill of purchase for the emerald, which he says was lost when his Northern California home burned down in 2006.

Thomas held fast to his story, saying a former friend and consultant, Ken Conetto, collaborated with the emerald's sellers to cheat him out of the stone. Conetto, who once had a competing claim for the stone, has since settled it with some of the others.

On Wednesday Thomas testified that it was Conetto who persuaded him to buy the smaller emerald for $20,000 and the Bahia for $60,000. He said those were the prices the Brazilian sellers offered and he never tried to negotiate them down.

"I think you should buy it, I think it's worth every penny," he said Conetto told him.

Initially, Thomas said, he had no idea the Bahia Emerald was as valuable as it was. He said at one point he considered giving it to his brother to cut up and use in his business building decorative waterfalls for high-end homes.

"But after I saw it, I liked it and wanted to keep it for myself," he said.

STATE BRIEFS

RIVERSIDE

Police: Slain officer likely shot with own gun

A police officer was likely shot to death with his own gun as he struggled with a suspected truck thief, police said Wednesday after arresting a career criminal for the weekend attack.

"There's a good possibility" that Officer Ryan Bonaminio was shot with his own weapon, Detective Ron Sanfilippo said during a news conference.

The gun was found during a search Wednesday morning following Tuesday night's arrest, he said.

Police said that Officer Ryan Bonaminio may have been disarmed after pulling over the driver of a stolen big-rig cab on Sunday night. The suspect had jumped from the truck and ran into a park with the 27-year-old Bonaminio chasing him on foot when the officer was shot.

They gun may have been fired at least three times, Sanfilippo said but declined to discuss other details.

The killer fled after the shooting. During the manhunt, Riverside officers staffed a phone bank around the clock that took calls from around the state, Sanfilippo said. Also, some $400,000 in rewards were offered for information.

However, it was a fingerprint found in the abandoned truck cab that finally identified the suspect, Sanfilippo said.

More than a dozen officers, including members of the Inland Regional Apprehension Team, and FBI agents descended on the Riverside Target shopping center at about 8 p.m. Tuesday and arrested Earl Ellis Green, a 44-year-old who was paroled in February 2009 and lived in nearby Rubidoux, police said.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Man denies charges of forcing teen prostitution

An ex-felon has pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles to charges of kidnapping two teenage girls and forcing them into prostitution

Prosecutors say Leroy Bragg entered pleas Wednesday to 10 counts of human trafficking of a minor, kidnapping, soliciting for a prostitute under 16 and other charges.

The 34-year-old Bragg was arrested in September and remains jailed on $1.3 million bail.

He originally was charged with kidnapping a runaway 13-year-old girl but prosecutors added new charges that he also kidnapped a 14-year-old runaway from Upland.

One girl's father claims his daughter was given drugs and was tattooed with Bragg's mark.

District attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says more charges could be filed if additional victims are found.

AP

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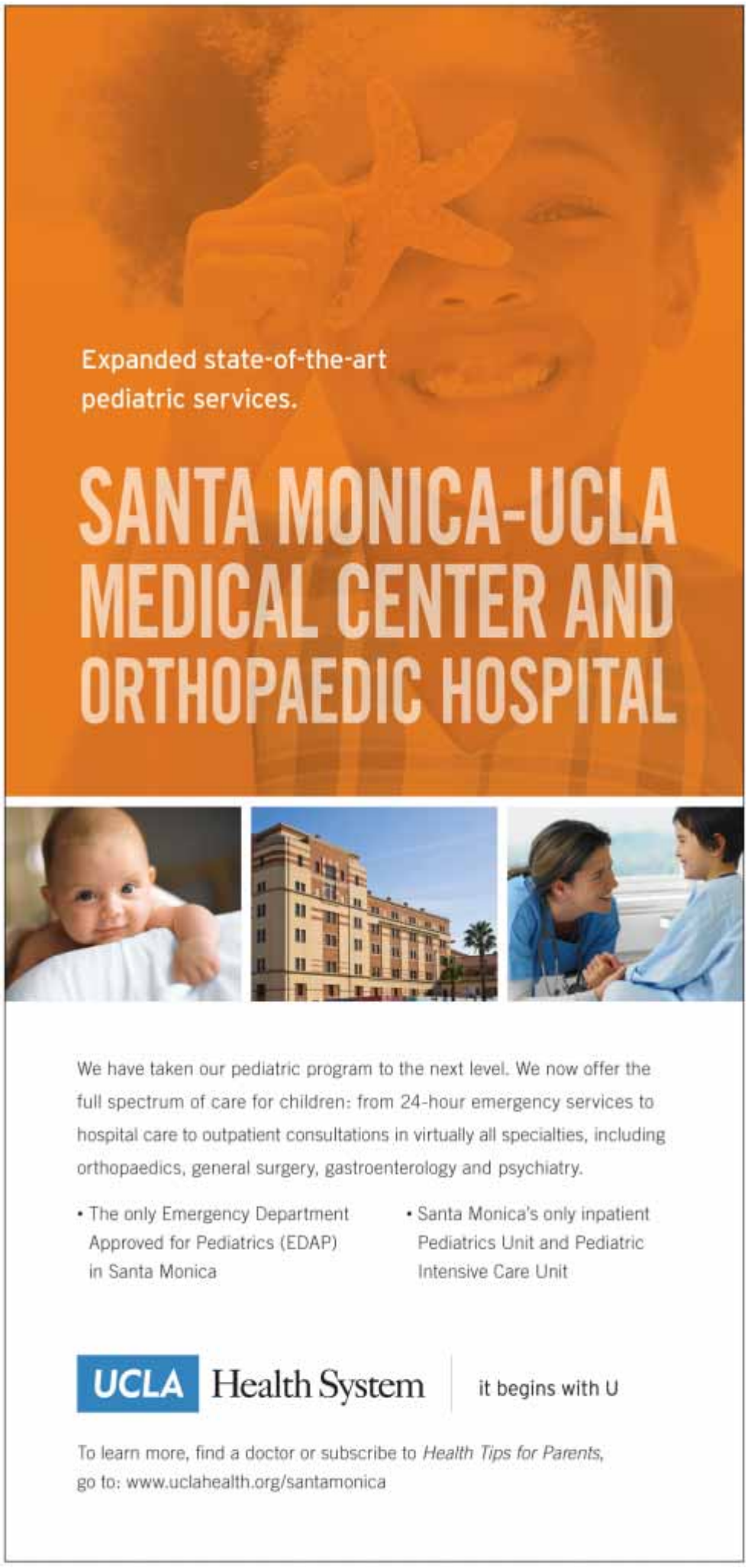
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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

GOT IT! **Santa Monica High School's Sarah Krenik prepares to set the ball to a teammate on Tuesday against San Gorgonio at Samohi. The Vikings won the CIF-SS first round playoff game.**

PLAYOFFS
FROM PAGE 1

start and will be played at the Crossroads High School's gym.

Unfortunately, one local team was eliminated from the first round — St. Monica High School (11-3) lost to Thatcher High School (10-3). It was a very tough-fought match for the senior-heavy Mariners; they took Duarte to extra points in the first two games, but ultimately lost with scores of 27-25, 28-26, 25-21.

Head coach Allison Rivera will look to rebuild during the off-season, and will come out next season with some fresh faces.

The winning teams of tonight's second round CIF-SS games will advance to the quarterfinals, to be played on Saturday. Semifinal games will be played next Tuesday, Nov. 16. And the championship finals are set to be played at Cypress College over two days next weekend, Nov. 19 and 20.

news@smdp.com

BLUE
FROM PAGE 3

something wrong was a near doubling of his prostate specific antigen (PSA) readings from his previous year's annual exam. He underwent removal of his prostate in June. But, post-surgery pathology reports showed that he had advanced stage-four metastatic disease, and is currently undergoing a multi-year treatment plan in hopes of one day being declared cancer-free.

"With 218,000 new cases projected for prostate cancer this year, and more than 32,000 American expected to die from this disease in 2010, prostate cancer is to men, in incidence and mortality, what breast cancer is to women," Zenka said. "Yet, the NFL hasn't made as strong a commitment to supporting the cause. We need our grandmothers, mothers, daughters and our grandfathers, fathers and sons. What better forum to get the word out than American football?"

The American Cancer Society estimates prostate cancer will kill about 32,050 American men this year, compared with 40,230 Americans who will die of breast cancer, almost all of them women. Colon and rectal cancer will kill about 51,370 Americans.

"There are expected to be more new cases of prostate cancer but fewer deaths this year than breast cancer," Zenka said. "Prostate cancer can be detected by finger exams and blood tests — and early detection and treatment gives a man an excellent chance of survival."

Also, the National Cancer Institute reported over a three-year span, from 2007-09, they spent an average of $291.8 million on research for prostate cancer compared to $581.5-million on breast cancer over the same three years despite the institute's own claim that prostate cancer is estimated to have more new cases a year than breast cancer.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation, headquartered in Santa Monica at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue, is the world's largest funder of prostate cancer research. Since their founding in 1993, the foundation has raised more than $415 million for research, supporting more than 1,500 projects at nearly 200 institutions around the world.

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CABS
FROM PAGE 1

The proposal for a franchise structure came after the Task Force on the Environment in 2006 recommended the development of an ordinance that creates a franchise system awarding licenses to companies whose cars meet certain emission and mileage standards. A study by Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates followed two years later, finding that at the time, there were 412 cars operated by 55 companies in the city.

That number grew to 522 permitted cabs, all for a city that has about 91,000 residents.

City officials felt the number of cabs was too high, creating gridlock Downtown while contributing to global warming. They were also concerned that drivers were not able to make a living wage because of too much competition. Some drivers were said to be making only $24,000 annually for working six days a week.

Dozens of cab company operators and drivers fearful of losing their jobs crammed into the City Council Chambers Tuesday, pleading with elected officials to start the franchise selection process over, alleging it was flawed and lacked transparency.

Groups representing Armenian-Americans said the process discriminated against cab companies owned by Armenians. Others called on the council to give more weight to local companies as opposed to those based in Los Angeles with multiple franchise licenses, increasing the likelihood that drivers from these companies will spend more time outside Santa Monica, leaving residents and visitors without enough cabs to get them around town. Many operators pleaded with the council to allow more cab companies to operate within Santa Monica. As part of the agreement, cab companies are required to have 50 cabs in service at all times.

"We're still in shock," Vrej Alvandian, president of Beverly Hills Cab Co. said following the council's vote. "We thought the council was going to throw out the staff's recommendation and start over. … I can't believe it."

Taxi cab rates approved by the City Council, to take effect Jan. 3, 2011

- $2.85 flag drop (first 1/9th mile);
- $0.30 for each additional 1/9th mile ($2.70 per mile);
- $0.30 for each 37 seconds waiting/delay ($29.19 per hour).

FARES FOR AIRPORT TRIPS HAVE BEEN CAPPED AS FOLLOWS:
- North of I-10 to LAX: $45;
- South of I-10 to LAX: $35;
- Santa Monica to Bob Hope Airport: $75.

ANNUAL FRANCHISE FEES TAXI COMPANIES MUST PAY:
- $5,000
- Annual low-emission/ Wheelchair vehicle permit fee: $1,200
- Annual non-low-emission/ Wheelchair vehicle permit fee: $1,800
- Annual driver permit fee: $150

While the council did not want to increase the number of franchises awarded, it did increase the total number of cabs allowed to operate in the city.

Initially city staff proposed a cap on cabs of 250, with each of the five franchises operating 50. However, after considerable debate the council directed city staff to come back in the next few weeks with a new cap of 300, awarding each of the five franchises 10 more cabs for a total of 60 each, but city officials said the extra cabs would be optional.

That was in large part a response to Taxi Taxi's plea to be allowed to operate more than 50 cabs given that it currently has a fleet of over 60 and would therefore have to layoff drivers. While Taxi Taxi currently has more cabs than will be allowed, the other four who won franchises will have to bring up the number of cabs they operate to comply with the new rules.

"I don't think it's fair to downsize a company that's been working so hard to grow in a sustainable way," said Wendy Radwan of Taxi Taxi.

Councilmembers Terry O'Day and Gleam Davis agreed with Radwan.

"I applaud the desire for equity, but the price of this equity feels too high for me," Davis said of doling out 50 cabs for each franchise. "It doesn't feel like equity to me to tell one company to reduce one-sixth of its business and tell others they get to increase their business."

"To be the only company to have to cut its current level out of those recommended, and to be a local company, that gives me pause," O'Day said.

Councilmembers were also not pleased with city staff's recommendation to set the senior/disabled fare discount at 10 percent, and called on city staff to identify other financing options to increase that discount.

Councilman Richard Bloom said the council's decision was difficult, knowing that some cab drivers would be laid off and companies forced to close. However, the need for a better system outweighed that concern.

"It was a given, by the very nature of what we did here tonight, that this would be disappointing to a large number of taxi operators currently serving the public because we decided at the outset that we had too many taxis in the city and had to reduce the fleet," Bloom said. "At the same time we want to build up the standard of living for those working in this trade. There was a trade off. There are winners in this process and there are losers."

Bloom, who met with represenatives of the cab companies, said complaints that the process was not fair or that there was discrimination in selection were unfounded. He said city staff could have provided more information during the course of the process, "but no matter what staff would have done there would have been controversy.

"This is a very positive step and an important one for our city."

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Bypassing county fees may cost banks

CURT ANDERSON & MICHELLE CONLIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK It used to be that every time a bank sold a mortgage, the county land recording office received a fee. It wasn't much — $30 or so — but then real estate boomed in the 1990s and banks pooled millions of mortgages into securities that investors bought and sold.

One mortgage transaction became a dozen or more, and the tab grew ever larger. So the banks came up with a way around the fees. And now they are fighting to avoid perhaps tens of billions of dollars in penalties that have added up over the years.

In 1997, when the banks' burgeoning business in mortgage securities was clashing with the unwieldy nature of written forms, the industry created its own alternative, an electronic system that would track the ever-changing ownership of home loans.

The banks formed a private company called Mortgage Electronic Registry Systems Inc., or MERS. Its motto: "Process loans, not paperwork." It has registered more than 65 million loans, three out of every five on the market.

MERS' owners are all the big mortgage companies, including Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase and GMAC. They are all facing a foreclosure-fraud investigation launched by all 50 state attorneys general, and all took government bailout money after the financial meltdown in 2008.

Counties complained about the lost revenue after MERS was implemented, but they rarely tried to challenge the new way of doing business. Now, three years after the housing crash and two months after allegations that some banks submitted fraudulent documents to foreclosure courts, every aspect of the nation's mortgage machine is under scrutiny.

Two lawyers in Reno, Nev., have filed suit in 17 states alleging that banks cheated counties out of billions of dollars. In Virginia, a lawmaker has asked the state's attorney general to investigate MERS over its failure to pay recording fees. And everywhere elected officials and class-action lawyers turn, the back-office procedures of MERS are being called into question.

The lawsuits challenge MERS' authority to act on behalf of banks or other investors that own a mortgage. With so many loans registered to MERS, it's a claim that goes to the heart of the mortgage-fraud scandal.

With MERS ostensibly keeping track of who owns what, counties still get their paperwork and fees the first time a mortgage is filed. Typically, that county fee is rolled into the closing costs homeowners pay when they buy a new home.

MERS is "an admitted fee-avoidance scheme," says Robert Hager, the Nevada lawyer who, along with his partner Treva Hearne, is filing the suits against MERS and its bank owners, including the government-backed mortgage-finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie and Freddie provide a low-cost flow of funding to the nation's mortgage markets by buying mortgages from lenders, packaging them into securities and then selling them to investors.

The suits were filed in California, Nevada and Tennessee and 14 undisclosed states where the cases are still under court seal. Hager and Hearne chose the states because their laws allow what are called false claims suits, in which citizens can take legal action against companies that may have cheated the government.

The suits allege that by privatizing public records, MERS enabled banks to circumvent American property law and bypass the counties' fee and paperwork requirements, costing billions of dollars in lost revenue over more than a decade. MERS says its process is legal, and that the fees are not required under its system.

"These are local fees for service; if no service is needed or requested, no fee is appropriate," MERS spokeswoman Karmela Lejarde said in an e-mail.

Assuming each mortgage it tracks had been resold, and re-recorded, just once, MERS would have saved the industry $2.4 billion in recording costs, R.K. Arnold, the firm's chief executive officer, testified in 2009. It's not unusual for a mortgage to be resold a dozen times or more.

The California suit alone could cost MERS $60 billion to $120 billion in damages and penalties from unpaid recording fees.

The liabilities are astronomical because, according to laws in California and many other states, penalties between $5,000 and $10,000 can be imposed each time a recording fee went unpaid. Because the suits are filed as false claims, the law stipulates that the penalties can then be tripled.

When MERS was created, some county recorders recognized the potential for lost revenue. "It smelled like it could be a scam from hell," said Gary Ott, the county recorder in Salt Lake County, Utah.

From the beginning, many county officials were uneasy about the idea. But most were loath, and lacked the resources, to take on the financial industry. Those who did complain to legislators and reporters say they had a hard time getting anyone to take notice.

"People blew whistles, but a lot of people weren't paying attention," says Christopher Peterson, a University of Utah law professor who has written extensively about MERS and has consulted with Hager on the lawsuits in California and Nevada. "It's not like MERS makes good TV."

A few county recorders did take bold stands. In one prominent case, Edward Romaine, then the recorder of deeds for New York's Suffolk County, refused to accept MERS recordings. He argued that not only would the county lose out on fees — $1 million in one year alone — but that MERS failed to even maintain a clear chain of title on a property. He got backing from New York's attorney general.

MERS sued Suffolk County in 2001. The suit went all the way to New York's highest court, where MERS won on appeal. The court found that a county clerk lacks the authority to refuse to record MERS transactions.

MERS, which does business out of a suburban Washington office building, has about 40 employees. But according to the company, it operates by appointing "certifying officers" and "vice presidents" who work for about 3,000 mortgage companies or their vendors, such as law firms, to sign documents on behalf of MERS.

Several of these "officers" have gained infamy as robo-signers who said they signed as many as 1,000 foreclosure affidavits a day without verifying the accuracy of the information. The robo-signers testified in depositions that even though they had been named as executives of MERS, and signed mortgage documents in that capacity, they were given no MERS training, had no idea where MERS was located, had never received compensation from MERS, and had never communicated with MERS in any form.

The lawsuits over county fees are not the first suits to be filed against MERS. As the recession deepened in 2007 and home values plummeted, lawsuits challenging bank foreclosures also alleged that MERS had no legal right to act as a middleman for banks, or other investors, who actually own the mortgage. Recent court documents have shown how mortgage notes are often lost, casting doubt on who actually owns the mortgage and possibly blighting the chain of title on the property. So far, rulings on these challenges have been mixed. But the red flags were enough to cause JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon to stop using MERS for foreclosures in 2008.

Legal experts say the new attack, focusing on the issue of county fees, may have a better chance of success than the foreclosure challenges because of the recent revelations about robo-signers and fraudulent foreclosure documents.

County recorders say they're not opposed to moving out of the world of wet ink and into the world of digital tracking. It's that they feel local government should be doing the tracking, not a private entity like MERS.

They also say important principles are at stake.

"We do want to preserve the integrity of our public records. That is our top priority," says Kay Wrucke, recorder in Martin County, Minn. "If it's not in the public record, how can you know whether the title is clear on a home?"

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Federal officials want graphic warnings on cigarette boxes

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Va. Corpses, cancer patients and diseased lungs are among the images the federal government plans for larger, graphic warning labels that would take up half of each pack of cigarettes sold in the United States.

Whether smokers addicted to nicotine will see them as a reason to quit remains a question.

The images are part of a new campaign announced by the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday to reduce tobacco use, which is responsible for about 443,000 deaths per year.

"Some very explicit, almost gruesome pictures may be necessary," FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This is a very, very serious public health issue, with very, very serious medical consequences," such as cancer, heart disease, strokes and lung diseases.

The share of Americans who smoke has fallen dramatically since 1970, from nearly 40 percent to about 20 percent, but the rate has stalled since about 2004. About 46 million adults in the U.S. smoke cigarettes.

In the same period, the average cost per pack has gone from 38 cents to $5.33. Much of those increases are from state and federal taxes.

It's unclear why declines in smoking have stalled. Some experts have cited tobacco company discounts or lack of funding for programs to discourage smoking or to help smokers quit.

The new prevention plan is part of a law passed in June 2009 that gave the FDA authority to regulate tobacco, including setting guidelines for marketing and labeling, banning certain products and limiting nicotine. The law doesn't let the FDA ban nicotine or tobacco.

The FDA is proposing 36 labels for public comment. They include phrases like "Smoking can kill you" and "Cigarettes cause cancer" and feature graphic images to convey the dangers of tobacco.

"It acts as a very public billboard because you all of the sudden are reading something about lung cancer from that pack behind the cash register, whereas before you were just reading 'Marlboro,'" said David Hammond, a health behavior researcher at the University of Waterloo in Canada, who is working with the firm designing the labels for the FDA.

Some of the labels include a man with a tracheotomy smoking a cigarette, a cartoon of a mother blowing smoke in her baby's face, rotting and diseased teeth and gums, as well as cigarettes being flushed down the toilet to signify quitting.

The agency will select the final labels in June after reviews of scientific literature, public comments and results from an 18,000-person study. Cigarette makers will then have a year and three months to start using the new labels.

The new warning labels are to take up the top half of a pack — both front and back — of cigarettes and contain "color graphics depicting the negative health consequences." Warning labels also must constitute 20 percent of advertisements.

In recent years, more than 30 countries or jurisdictions have introduced labels similar to those proposed by the FDA. The U.S. first mandated the use of warning labels stating "Cigarettes may be hazardous to your health" in 1965.

While it is impossible to say how many people quit because of the labels, Hammond said every source of evidence suggests that the labels do spur people to quit.

Canada introduced similar warning labels in 2000. Since then, its smoking rates have declined from about 26 percent to about 20 percent. How much the warnings contributed to the decline is unclear because the country also implemented other tobacco control efforts.

The labels should shock people and be effective in deterring smokers, but how much is the question, said Marvin Goldberg, the Bard professor of marketing at Pennsylvania State University.

"There's no silver bullet. Will this wipe out smoking? No, but it will put a dent in it," Goldberg said.

Graphic labels "are tremendously effective," said Stanton Glantz, a tobacco researcher at the University of California at San Francisco. He said the argument that the warning labels are offensive, so people ignore them, has been cooked up by cigarette companies.

If that were true, the tobacco industry wouldn't be fighting them so hard, Glantz said.

Reynolds American Inc., parent company of the nation's second-largest cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds, is reviewing the labeling plan. But spokesman David Howard said the legality of the new labels is part of a pending federal lawsuit filed by the company, No. 3 cigarette maker Lorillard Inc. and others.

The tobacco makers in the suit had argued the warnings would relegate the companies' brands to the bottom half of the cigarette packaging, making them "difficult, if not impossible, to see."

Anti-tobacco advocates are applauding the federal campaign and the new warning labels.

"This is going to stop kids from starting to smoke ... and it's going to give smokers a strong incentive to quit smoking," said Patrick Reynolds, grandson of R.J. Reynolds and executive director of the Foundation for a Smokefree America. Reynolds' father, brother and other relatives died from smoking-related illnesses.

Smokers themselves were skeptical that the labels would have much effect.

"I don't think they're going to be a deterrent at all for people who already smoke. Most people start smoking when they're young, and I don't think they're going to think about the effects," said 27-year-old Zak Hoffman of Cincinnati, who has been smoking since he was 14.

"I think more tax increases would have more of an effect than scare tactics," said 20-year-old Gina Gatano, a student who works at a downtown Cincinnati coffee shop.





Stock market makes small gains before economic summit

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks posted meager gains Wednesday as traders remained cautious ahead of a global economic summit where the U.S. is likely to face pushback from other nations over its economic stimulus plan.

Major indexes were down for much of the day but managed to edge higher by late afternoon. A report showing a sharp decline in first-time claims for unemployment benefits helped support stock prices. A jump in oil prices lifted shares of energy companies including Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips.

An announcement from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York detailing the Fed's plans for its upcoming bond-purchasing program helped bring stock indexes somewhat higher in the mid-afternoon. The Fed's program, announced last week, is aimed at encouraging borrowing and spending by keeping interest rates low.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.29, or 0.1 percent, to close at 11,357.04. The Dow had been down as many as 92 points earlier in the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 5.31, or 0.4 percent, to 1,218.71, and the Nasdaq composite rose 15.80, or 0.6 percent, to 2,578.78.

Stocks were held in check for most of the day ahead of a summit of world leaders coming up Thursday and Friday in South Korea. The plans by the Federal Reserve to push interest rates lower has brought protests from Germany, China and other countries. They say the U.S. is trying to lower the value of the dollar, which would give an advantage to U.S. exports in global markets at the expense of those from other nations.

Uri Landesman, president at Platinum Partners, said Wednesday's pause on Wall Street is natural for a market that has been climbing nearly unchecked since early September. Major indexes have all touched highs for the year in recent days.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note edged down to 2.65 percent from 2.66 percent late Tuesday. Oil rose $1.09 to $87.81 a barrel, and gold edged down to just below $1,400 an ounce.

In corporate news, General Motors Corp. said it earned $2 billion in the third quarter. The big profit came at the right time for the automaker. It is set for an initial public offering next week after struggling through bankruptcy and a government bailout. Shares of rival Ford Motor Co. rose 3.5 percent following the strong earnings report from GM.

European indexes slid as worries grow about debt problems in Ireland. The FTSE 100 fell 1 percent, Germany's DAX index dropped 1 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 1.5 percent.

Survey: 10 percent of American children have ADHD

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA A government survey says 1 in 10 U.S. children has ADHD, a sizable increase from a few years earlier that researchers think might be explained by growing awareness and better screening.

ADHD, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, makes it hard for kids to pay attention and control impulsive behavior. It's often treated with drugs, behavioral therapy, or both.

The new study found that about two-thirds of the children who have ADHD are on medication.

The estimate comes from a survey released Wednesday that found an increase in ADHD of about 22 percent from 2003 to the most recent survey in 2007-08. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention interviewed parents of children ages 4 through 17 in both studies.

In the latest survey, 9.5 percent said a doctor or health care provider had told them their child had ADHD. The earlier study found that fewer than 8 percent of kids had been diagnosed with it.

Researchers calculate about 5.4 million kids have been diagnosed with ADHD, which suggests that about 1 million more children have the disorder than a few years earlier.

Scientists don't have clear answers about why there was such a significant increase. Study lead author Susanna Visser of the CDC suggests greater awareness and stepped-up screening efforts as part of the explanation.

"Regardless of what's undergirding this, we know more parents are telling us their children have ADHD," Visser said.

One expert found it hard to believe that so many kids might have ADHD. "It sounds a little high," said Howard Abikoff, a psychologist who is director of the Institute for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity and Behavior Disorders at New York University's Child Study Center.

Other studies have suggested more like 5 percent of kids have ADHD, and there are no known biological reasons for it to be on a recent increase, he added.

Abikoff noted the CDC study is based on parents saying that a health care provider told them their child had ADHD, but it's not known who the health-care provider was or how thorough the assessment was.

ADHD diagnosis is a matter of expert opinion. There's no blood test or brain-imaging exam for the condition. Sometimes reading disabilities or other problems in the classroom cause a teacher or others to mistakenly think a child has ADHD, he said.

The CDC study noted an increase in diagnoses was seen in kids of all races and family income levels, and across all regions of the country except the West. The survey covered 73,000 children.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 62°

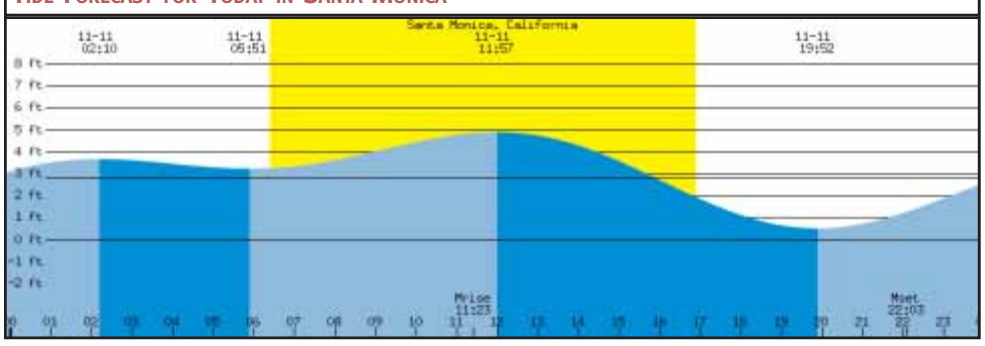
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, about waist+ at west facing breaks. We could though see some swell late in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see the next NW swell, bringing waist to chest high waves to 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 **November 3, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 16
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 23 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 16 / 18

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	D
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	B	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (branch location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	C	A+

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Pac-10 bowl picture still developing

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

PHOENIX Except for Oregon at the top and Washington State at the bottom, the Pac-10 has played out just like its coaches predicted, a win-one, lose-one trade off by teams unable distinguish themselves from one another.

But this year of parity could hurt the conference at the box office. All this beating up on each other could leave the Pac-10 with a potentially grim bowl picture.

Certainly, Oregon playing for a national championship would give the conference its chest-thumping moment. After that, though, the Pac-10 is facing a longshot to fill its six-bowl allotment and might have just four teams playing in the postseason.

And, if things play out right — or is it wrong? — the conference's second-best team, Stanford, could end up playing in the lower-tier Alamo Bowl instead of the more lucrative Rose Bowl.

"The biggest thing is that it's close," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said. "I've felt that every game is like the Super Bowl and we've just beat each other up."

Stanford figures to lose the most from this season of counterpunching.

The seventh-ranked Cardinal (8-1, 5-1) have clearly been the second-best team in the Pac-10, arguably the best one-loss team in the country.

But because of their loss to Oregon in Eugene, the Cardinal would need Oregon to lose two of its final three games to win the Pac-10. The way the Ducks have steamrolled opponents, losing even once doesn't seem all that likely, and that would certainly knock Stanford out of the Rose Bowl.

Any other year, Stanford would be in line to replace Oregon in the Rose Bowl if the Ducks get to the national championship game.

Problem is, the Rose Bowl is obligated to take a non-automatic qualifying conference team if one makes the BCS but not the title game. That leaves the Cardinal needing No. 3 TCU or No. 4 Boise State to lose a game and miss the BCS or play in the national title game, which would require No. 2 Auburn to lose or fall back in the BCS standings and no other one-loss team moving up.

If none of these seemingly longshot scenarios play out, Stanford will find itself at the Alamo Bowl facing the Big 12's No. 3 team.

"The BCS, we can't control it," defensive back Michael Thomas said. "If we take care of our business and win the rest of our games and go 11-1, we'll end up in a better bowl. We're just doing the best we can."

So are the rest of the teams, but it may not work out for some of them.

Arizona is the only other conference team that's already bowl eligible. The No. 18 Wildcats, despite last week's lopsided loss to Stanford, are 7-2 overall and 4-2 in conference, likely headed to the Alamo Bowl if Stanford doesn't get bumped down.

Washington never quite lived up to expectations behind quarterback Jake Locker and needs to win its final three games to become bowl eligible, which may be a longshot considering the Huskies have lost three straight.

Sanctions have taken USC out of the bowl picture.

The rest of it is a little more murky.

Cal (5-4, 3-3) would seem to have the best shot at getting a postseason bid, needing to beat Oregon, Stanford or Washington to become eligible. Of course, the Bears have been on a win-big, lose-big pattern this season, so it might come down to that last game against the Huskies to get into the Holiday or Sun Bowl.

Oregon State (4-3, 3-2) could take a big step toward becoming bowl eligible this weekend by beating 1-7 Washington State. After that, it gets tougher to get the bowl-clinching sixth victory; USC, Stanford and rival Oregon close out the season.

UCLA would seem to have a more realistic shot.

The Bruins (4-5, 2-4), coming off a win over Oregon State, are also two wins shy of becoming bowl eligible, but have a less grueling closing schedule, with games against Washington, Arizona State and USC left.

"Certainly, there's a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel but we have to focus only on Washington," UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel said.

Arizona State's bowl chances took a hit over the weekend with a wild 34-33 loss at USC.

Because two of the Sun Devils' (4-5, 2-4) wins are against FCS programs, they need to win their final three games or win two, ask the NCAA for a waiver and hope there aren't enough winning teams to fill contracted bowl slots.

With games against Stanford, UCLA and Arizona left on the schedule, it might be tough to even get the two wins.

"They understand where they're at and they understand what's left in our season," Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson said of his players.

So do the rest of the conference's teams, even if the outlook doesn't look so great.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Cinema Italian Style
Basilicata Coast to Coast (NR) 1hr 40min
Malavoglia (NR) 1hr 34min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

Town (R) 2hr 5min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Life As We Know It (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Secretariat (PG) 1hr 56min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:10pm

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

Due Date (R) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Saw 3D (R) 1hr 30min
10:20am, 12:40pm, 3:05pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hr 1min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Jackass 3D (R) 1hr 34min
10:00am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Hereafter (PG-13) 2hr 6min
10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:05pm

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

Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (R) 1hr 52min
1:30pm, 4:50pm, 8:10pm

Conviction (R) 1hr 47min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:10pm

Welcome to the Rileys (R) 1hr 50min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger (R) 1hr 38min
1:55pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Due Date (R)
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hr 1min
10:30am, 1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:10pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Red (PG-13) 1hr 38min
10:45am, 1:25pm, 4:10pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

For Colored Girls (R) 2hr
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

Paranormal Activity 2 (PG-13) 1hr 31min
10:35am, 12:50pm, 3:05pm, 5:25pm, 7:50pm, 10:20pm

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

Get into weekend mode, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Opportunities emerge if you follow your intuition, especially when dealing with others. A sudden insight tosses you into thought. Take your time, as all this could be changing your plans and your perspective. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ It might take quite a bit of perspective to understand what is going on. You could be overwhelmed by everything that drops on your plate and the unpredictability of others. Learn to flex and wave goodbye to rigidity. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating could bring forth some startling insights that might encourage thinking through a community or professional matter. Be willing to listen more to a close friend or loved one. Tonight: A cozy get-together where there is music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You discover how difficult it can be to juggle many different interests. Expert opinions, as well as news from a distance, could be quite startling. Defer to others who might have a stronger sense of direction. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others seem to be the source of energy and plans. Though you might not feel like you can put your feet up, you certainly don't need to push so hard. Your ability to synthesize ideas needs to come into play. Tonight: Consider starting your weekend early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity pinnacles, as does the ability to intrigue others. Use this combo to increase your audience and pull with a key matter. A child or new friend could play a significant role in your day. Let go of being meticulous. Tonight: Head home. Everyone needs some quiet time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ If you can lie back or work from home, all the better. You will have the energy to flex with some surprising events or news. You have a soft and caring manner that intrigues a loved one. This person cannot get enough of you! Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep communication going, even if you have a moment of feeling shocked and without words. This situation will encourage greater ingenuity and creativity. Make calls; encourage opinions. Be open, and respect different ideas. Tonight: Make it early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Curb a need to possess at this moment. You really don't need to live like the Joneses. Opportunity strikes out of the blue. A friendship could take an interesting turn. Tonight: Strut on out the door.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Though you might need to negotiate an insight or event, you radiate with happiness and directness. Someone you care a lot about demonstrates that his or her feelings are mutual. Learn to relax a little more. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take your time dealing with a personal matter, especially as it is interfering with your daily routine. Your instincts could be unusually correct regarding a money matter. Still, curb wild risking! Tonight: You are coming into your own element.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Note that at present you are best among groups of people. How you push your agenda and the choices you make might be guided by your entourage more than you realize. A meeting could evolve into a social happening. Tonight: Only as you like it.

Happy birthday

This year, you open up to a very different style and way of approaching matters. Keep conversations moving at an even clip, and don't get bogged down in the details. Observe a tendency not to express your depth and feelings. Understand that perhaps this type of withholding impacts your relationships. If you are single, you easily could meet two people of interest simultaneously. One could be more exciting than the other, who will be more stable and secure. Take your time deciding if you want to make any type of commitment and to whom! If you are attached, the two of you become more deeply united on goals and key pastimes. Re-create your first date or your first few encounters. Let romance build. AQUARIUS can be challenging.

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



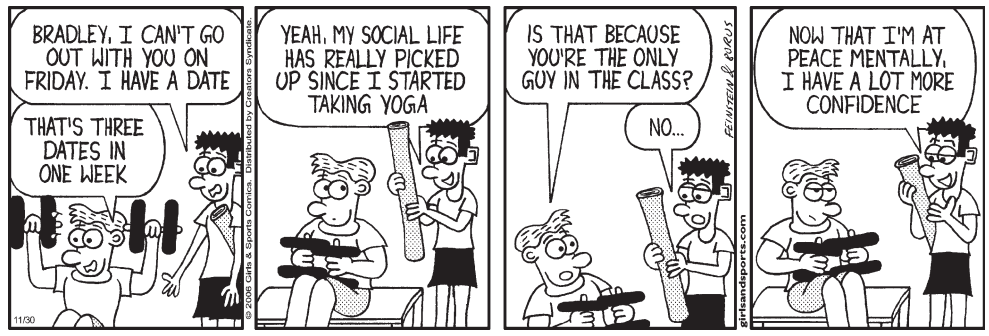
MYSTERY PHOTO

File photo

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.

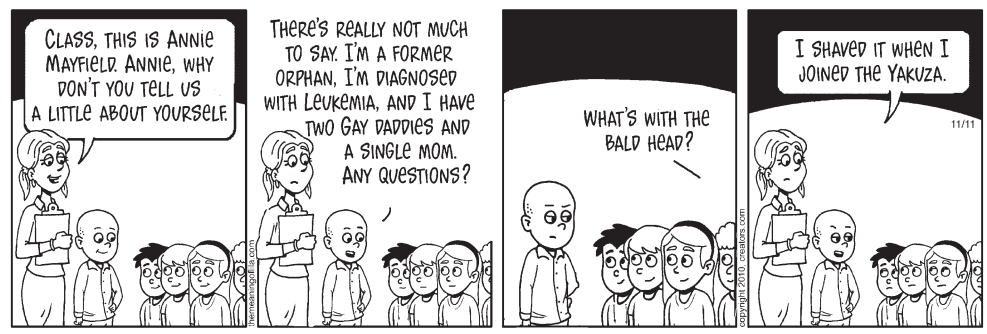
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



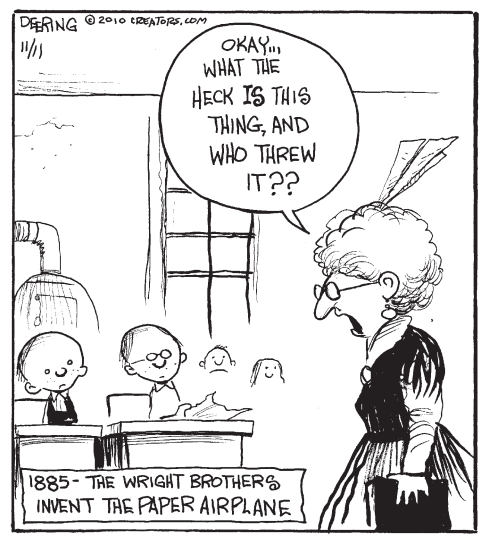
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Nessie's home
5 Muskrat's home
10 Barber-shop sight
12 Caravan critter
13 "Divine Comedy" author
14 Bowl
15 Refrain syllable
16 November 11 honoree
18 Luxurious fabric
20 Bar cubes
21 "I smell —!"
23 Acquire
24 Single
26 Amorous archer
28 Preserve
29 Thick slice
31 Justice Fortas
32 Hedge used as a fence
36 Presidential act
39 Valuable rock
40 "Cats" creator
41 Blazing
43 Musical speeds
44 Stylist's spot
45 Lock
46 Old salts

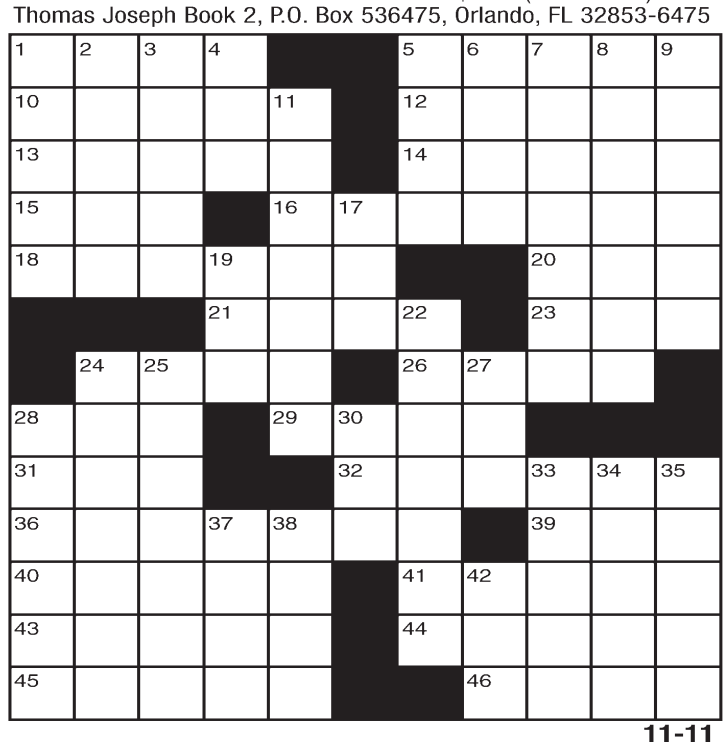
DOWN

1 Big-screen buy
2 Chicago airport
3 Venice sight
4 Sold-out show
5 "Get lost!"
6 Merchandise
7 Map-maker Vespucci
8 Threats
9 Mercury, for one
11 Idolizes
17 Greek vowel
19 Moving truck
22 Riot queller
24 Office gizmo
25 Former
27 Diamond stat
28 TV host Dick
30 Hosp. worker
33 Magician's cry
34 Blunder
35 Prom crowd
37 "Clumsy me!"
38 "How sweet —!"
42 Diet no-no

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

Yesterday's answer

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11-11

ARITHMO™

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

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

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

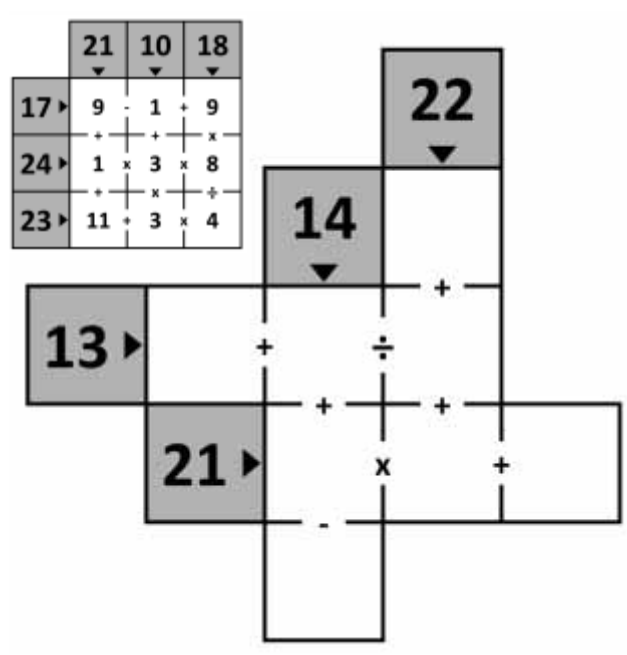
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1017



DAILY LOTTERY

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Fantasy 5: 2 18 23 26 27

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 9 8 EVENING: 2 4 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 07 Eureka RACE TIME: 1:41.81

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

■ Obese patients with an array of symptoms known as "prediabetes" have seen their insulin sensitivity improved dramatically via "fecal transplants," i.e., receiving the stool of a thin, healthy person into the bowel, according to researchers led by a University of North Carolina professor. Researchers said the strangers' implants were significantly more effective than those of a control group, in which a person's own feces was implanted. (News of the Weird has previously reported on success in treating certain gastrointestinal infections by stool transplants that contain the bacteria Clostridium difficile.)

■ Two University of Sydney researchers reported recently that the food-acquisition "strategy" of the brainless, single-cell slime mold appeared to resemble one of the strategies familiar to us so-called brain-containing humans, specifically, making a selection only after comparing it to readily available alternatives. Furthermore, Japanese researchers who mapped the slime mold's search for food found that its nuclei are arranged in a pattern that is seemingly just as logically helpful in food procurement as the service arrangements are in Tokyo's acclaimed railway system. (In October, the Japanese researchers were awarded a satirical "Ig Nobel" prize by the Annals of Improbable Research.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1880 Australian bushranger Ned Kelly is hanged at Melbourne Gaol.

1887 Anarchist Haymarket Martyrs August Spies, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer and George Engel are executed.

1887 Construction of the Manchester Ship Canal begins at Eastham.

1889 Washington is admitted as the 42nd U.S. state.

1911 Many cities in the Midwestern United States break their record highs and lows on the same day as a strong cold front rolls through.

WORD UP!

ullage
\ UHL-ij \ , noun;
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Announcements

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive proposals for a blade computing chassis and storage area network. RFP's are due to the SMMUSD Purchasing Office, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, California 90404 on or before Thursday, 11/18/2010 at 2:00 pm at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened. Each proposal must be sealed and labeled with RFP title, number and due date. Contact Hunter Gaines at hunter.gaines@parsons.com or (310) 954-2273, for information.

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For Lease!
317 Marguerita Avenue
5 Bed, 3.75 Bath
$10,900 / Month
North of Montana!
Roosevelt School District
Lagoon Pool & Spa
Open Sunday November 14th
From 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from ALL Agents from ALL Companies Listed for Sale As of Late October 2010

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$1,975,000	$2,350,000
North of Montana	$3,172,500	$1,345,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,700,000	$729,000
South of Wilshire	$799,000	$569,000
Sunset Park	$1,190,000	$508,000
Ocean Park	$1,382,450	$884,900

Statistics Updated Every Monday

Featuring Your Home First

- To find out how I get your home 500% more exposure online on over 100 websites
- To find out the most up-to-date Santa Monica real estate information
- For a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

Visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com



$639,000
Please Call for Private Showing



Price Reduction!
Open Sunday, November 7th
2:00pm - 5:00 pm



$409,000
Open Sunday, November 14th
1:00pm - 4:00 pm



$469,000
Open Sunday, November 14th
From 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



516 San Vicente #102
$724,999



934 2nd Street #3
$939,000



2454 4th Street # 6
Over Asking Price

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