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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 10



Santa Monica Daily Press

LESS SALT, PLEASE
SEE PAGE 11

We have you covered

THE YUP, YUP ISSUE

A new mayor for Santa Monica?

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After an election that saw Santa Monica's City Council incumbents sweep their way back into office, don't expect any policy shifts in 2011. But be prepared, observers say, for some early contention on the dais.

Once members are sworn in for their new terms Dec. 7, the council's first order of business will be to select a mayor.

Bobby Shriver, who was picked by his colleagues for the post just six months ago, may think he's in a good position to win an extension, considering a normal mayoral term is two years and the same decision-makers as last time will be making the call.

But, as some recall, Shriver was picked only after multiple rounds of voting failed to produce a majority, and even then won the job by only a 4-3 vote.

And now, a couple of new dynamics are in play that could further threaten his claim to the mayoral sash.

Here's a rundown of the factors likely to affect the outcome:

BLOOM FOR ASSEMBLY?

First, there's the terribly kept secret that Councilman Richard Bloom is extremely likely to run for State Assembly in 2012. Bloom, who was first elected to the council in 1999, wasn't a factor in the mayoral discussion back in May. But taking the mayoral reigns for the next two years figures to give him a boost during a potential 2012 campaign, prompting many observers to consider him a prime candidate to seek the post.

A reliable member of the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights voting block, Bloom is likely to get support from at least a couple of members of his party, though getting the nod from Kevin McKeown and Terry O'Day, SMRR members who last time around helped elect Shriver, a non-SMRR member, is less certain.

Bloom has twice served as mayor in the past, which may make some fairness-minded council members wary of giving him a third term, especially since McKeown, a 12-year veteran of the council and the top vote-getter in November's election, has yet to be selected mayor.

Reached this week, Bloom didn't dispel any rumors about a possible Assembly run. But he declined to speculate about who would be selected mayor.

"I think the council isn't due to address this issue until December and the discussion is premature," he said. "We don't even know what the results of the election are yet."

(The election is set to be certified on Nov. 30. At press time the race for one council term was still too close to call, with incumbent Bob Holbrook holding onto a 55-vote lead over challenger Ted Winterer.)

O'CONNOR OUT OF THE RUNNING

Despite having been Shriver's main competition six months ago, one member of the council who won't factor into the mayoral discussion is Pam O'Connor.

O'Connor this week said she's not interested in being mayor, mainly because she's in line to become the president of the Southern California Association of Governments, a regional planning body that draws its members from the ranks of local government leaders in six Southern California counties, in May.

"I couldn't be mayor and president of SCAG at the same time," she said. "That would be too much."

A POLITICAL DECISION?

It goes without saying that selecting a mayor is a political decision. But one former mayor, Denny Zane, this week said he believes the choice should have more to do with collegiality and cultivating a sense of fairness than with establishing alliances.

Every council member, he said, should eventually get a chance to be mayor.

"Fairness should drive the decision," he said. "It certainly should drive it far more than the personal ambitions of any one council member, especially if that person has already been mayor a few times."

He added: "I think fairness would argue

SEE MAYOR PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: **Dr. Melinda Braskett examines patient Thomas Luchik at the new UCLA Food and Drug Allergy Care Center on Tuesday. The center is on Arizona Avenue.**

UCLA opens allergy center

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Aiming to provide state-of-the-art testing and treatment for food and drug allergies, UCLA Health System this month announced the opening of a new allergy center in Santa Monica.

The facility, located at 1245 16th St., provides a variety of unique services in allergy care, including skin testing for penicillin allergy. It's also the only facility in the Los Angeles area that offers a desensitization program for patients who are allergic to aspirin.

"Most allergy centers focus on food or drug allergies," said Dr. Melinda Braskett, the center's medical director. "We're unique in that we have them together under one roof with a dedicated staff that can provide the best possible care to patients with these conditions."

Braskett said about 6 percent of children and 3 percent of adults suffer from high-risk food allergies, while about 7 percent of the population reports having an allergic reaction to penicillin and 10 percent of

SEE CENTER PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010

Yoga on deck
Nordstrom
Santa Monica Place, Level 3, 9 a.m. — 10 .m.
Say "namaste" to Nordstrom's new "Yoga on the Deck" series, every Wednesday. This is a free series that Santa Monica Place and Nordstrom would like to provide to all you yoga fans out there! Meet on Level 3 and take in the views of the ocean!

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

Feast for the financially strapped
St. Monica Catholic Church
725 California Ave., 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Once again the St. Monica Catholic community will provide a full Thanksgiving dinner for an expected 1,000 guests who are struggling this time of year. The dinner is followed by a clothing boutique in the Trepp Center located across from the church. Donations and volunteers needed. For more information, call (310) 566-1531.

Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010

Happy Thanksgiving!

Volunteer for turkey day
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
What would a Thanksgiving be without turkey? For those who are less fortunate, the community comes together every year to provide a Thanksgiving feast. The celebration relies entirely on donations from the community. Volunteer chefs line up outside the Civic to deliver up to 300 hot roasted turkeys. To volunteer, call (310) 394-3153. You can help by cooking a turkey and donating it to the cause.

Friday, Nov. 26, 2010

Snapshots of L.A.
Carousel Hippodrome, Santa Monica Pier
The Santa Monica Pier welcomes the Los Angeles Photography Project for a two-month exhibition inside the historic Carousel Hippodrome from Nov. 4, 2010 to Jan. 4, 2011. The exhibit is free and open during regular Carousel operating hours and closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Los Angeles Photography Project is a consortium of California-based artists with a continuing mission to produce photographic work in and about the city and county of Los Angeles. In this exhibit, all of the photographers have used their own approaches and photographic techniques in terms of capturing the essence of the Santa Monica Pier and surrounding areas.

Time and space
Robert Berman Gallery
Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave.
Robert Berman Gallery is pleased to present the work of French artists Marc Fichou and Lauren Marsolier. In an exploration of the time-space continuum, Fichou creates in space literal compositions of what has happened in time. Admission is free. For more information call (310) 315-9506. The exhibition runs through Dec. 31.

Get trunked
Tala
1302 Montana Ave., 6 p.m.
A must-see this Black Friday is the Aaron Basha Trunk Show, hosted by Tala on Montana Avenue. The upscale jewelry store will kick off the season with this international traveling trunk show. The unveiling of these one-of-a-kind pieces is making a rare appearance in Southern California. On top of presenting this unique Aaron Basha Collection, Tala will be offering 20 percent off the entire store.

Black Friday
Santa Monica Place
Head to Santa Monica Place for Black Friday sales. Spot Santa around the property and get your picture taken with him from 11 a.m. — 3 p.m. Enjoy Motown Carolers from 8 a.m. — 10 a.m. and The Fleet Street Band from 12 p.m. — 2 p.m. Visit the Get Gifted Lounge next to the Concierge for ideas and inspiration, special savings guides, filled with great deals and offers, holiday trends and fabulous gift ideas.

On a mission
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 10 p.m.
The nation's No. 1 touring improv show comes home to the theater that bears its name. The Mission IMPROVable Show is the fastest and funniest improv show you've ever seen. Come see the show that's delighted audiences across the country for the last nine years.

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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RON-RON IN THE HOUSE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The Lakers' Ron Artest is shown around by Jacques Farasat during the grand opening of Bay Cities Kitchens Baths & Appliances on Monday.

Judge considers monitor for Bell

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A Superior Court judge on Tuesday gave officials of the scandal-ravaged suburb of Bell two weeks to provide the names of three independent outsiders they would allow to keep watch over how they spend taxpayers' money.

Superior Court Judge Robert H. O'Brien, who told Bell to produce the names by Dec. 3, indicated he would rule at that time on whether a monitor is needed for the blue-collar suburb of some 40,000 people.

State Attorney General Jerry Brown's lawyers submitted their own list Tuesday of three fiscal experts Brown would be satisfied to have monitor Bell.

If O'Brien decides a monitor is needed, and Bell officials and Brown's office can't agree on one, the judge himself could pick from the two lists.

Brown has pressed Bell to appoint an independent monitor since shortly after the Los Angeles Times reported in July that officials in the modest city, where one in six people live in poverty, were paying themselves huge salaries.

Four of the five members of Bell's part-time City Council were paid about $100,000 a year. Former City Manager Robert Rizzo had a total compensation package of $1.5 million a year when numerous perks like vacation, insurance and other benefits were added to his $787,637 annual salary. The police chief was paid $457,000 a year, and the assistant city manager received $376,288 a year.

Since the scandal broke, the police chief, city manager and assistant city manager have been fired and one of the four highly paid council members has resigned. The other three are the subject of a March 8 recall, and all four face criminal charges of misappropriating millions of dollars in public funds.

Auditors from the state controller's office have concluded the city illegally collected nearly $7 million in taxes from residents, misspent millions more in bond money and misused state gas tax funds.

Although new city administrators say they have made great strides to end the corruption, Brown has said an outside monitor is crucial to restoring faith and accountability.

The names of potential monitors he submitted to the judge included that of Steven Gourley, a securities lawyer, former mayor of Culver City, former director of the state Department of Motor Vehicles and former deputy commissioner of state corporations.

Others were Robert P. Mosier, who has been a court-appointed fiduciary in state, federal and bankruptcy court cases, and David J. Pasternak, a professional receiver and bankruptcy custodian.

Bell's interim city attorney, Jamie Casso, said the City Council plans to call a special meeting next week to come up with its list of names.

"They're OK with a monitor subject to certain limitations," he said, adding city officials do have concerns about granting access to attorney-client records or meetings legally closed to the public.

"You run the risk that if you waive that privilege to one individual, then arguably you waive it to all," he said.

Postal Service fined for SoCal safety hazards

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Postal Service has been fined $220,000 for unsafe conditions at a Los Angeles-area mail processing facility.

The Labor Department announced Tuesday that an OSHA inspection in June found electrical hazards at the Los Angeles International Service Center. The Carson facility has 488 employees.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration found 16 safety violations ranging from inadequate training to shock hazards.

The Labor Department says that nationwide, the Postal Service has received some 640 health and safety violations in the past five years.

Richard Maher, a spokesman for the Postal Service in Southern California, says employee safety is a priority and the agency will review OSHA's concerns and make necessary changes.

UCLA researcher gets package containing blades

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES An official says a primate researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles, has received a package containing razor blades and threatening messages.

UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton said Tuesday the package was sent earlier this month to David Jentsch, a psychologist and neuroscientist who does research on rodents and primates.

The Animal Liberation Front on Tuesday released a statement saying it had sent razor blades covered in AIDS-infected blood to Jentsch and one of his researchers.

It was not known if the blades Jentsch received were contaminated. No one was injured and the other researcher had not received any packages.

UCLA researchers have been the target of several recent attacks. Last year, Jentsch's car was set ablaze.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Playing political games

Editor:

Many years ago I received a letter shortly before Election Day, lamenting that candidates were always addressing the interests of tenants or landlords, but that nobody addressed the interests of Santa Monica's homeowners. That's why the authors of this letter had formed the "Homeowner's Slate" to represent the unique interests of homeowners on the City Council.

The letter clearly implied that the "Homeowner's Slate" was unconnected with tenants or landlords. Yet a little research on my part (which I'm sure many voters did not bother to do) revealed that the "Homeowner's Slate" was the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights slate.

With that lie, SMRR lost all moral rights to ever again criticize any group's political dirty trick.

Thomas M. Sipos
Santa Monica

Accident waiting to happen

Editor:

I keep reading complaints in your paper about pedestrians walking on the bike path south of the Santa Monica Pier. This is entirely the fault of our overpaid and incompetent traffic engineers.

About three years ago the city fixed the bike path and temporarily re-routed the bikes onto the walkway and removed all the "no bikes" signs from the turnoff at Bay Street to the pier. The path has long been fixed but they never replaced the signs. This has created a very dangerous situation for bikes and walkers, especially children, dogs and the elderly. This is an accident waiting to happen, and the city surely should be sued. The only sign still there is just south of the turnoff that clearly shows arrows when you're going north, pointing for pedestrians to go left onto the bike path and for the bikes to go right onto the walkway!

After almost getting hit by a bike by Casa del Mar, I called and asked city staff to replace the "no bike" and "no pedestrian" signs. Of course I was ignored. There are two large bike rentals just south of the pier along the walkway and probably our greedy city cares more about making tourist dollars and taxes than the safety of bikers and walkers. The bike rentals could stay there, but should tell their customers to walk their bikes onto the bike path. There needs to be large bike-only and pedestrian-only signs there again, otherwise someone will be seriously hurt.

Marty Sampson
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lt. Gen. Dirk Jameson (ret.) — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Doing the right thing

AT THIS TIME OF THANKSGIVING, WE are reminded how people came together, shared resources, shared opinions and worked together to form and protect our nation.

During my long career in the U.S. Air Force I was at the very sharp end of the spear that defended our nation, rising to deputy commander-in-chief and chief of staff of U.S. Strategic Command.

During that time, going back to the Reagan years and before, the U.S. methodically and relentlessly carved out a process for understanding and reducing strategic nuclear arms — in order to increase our national security.

Many have forgotten or did not live through those times during the Cold War when the numbers of nuclear weapons and delivery platforms were escalating at a tremendous rate and costs were ratcheting up at an ever-increasing pace.

It was courageous of political leaders in those perilous times to begin talking to our heavily-armed enemy, the Soviet Union, to find paths to lower numbers of nuclear weapons, lower cost burdens, and greater security for our country and the world.

Since those efforts took root, real progress has been made, the numbers of very deadly weapons are dramatically lower, costs have dropped, and our security vis-à-vis the former Soviet states is far stronger.

Today we have a good treaty ready to take force and continue the progress on numbers, costs, and national security.

The New START Treaty that is presently before the Senate contains verification and transparency measures — that will allow our inspectors inside Russian strategic nuclear facilities, as well as create stability between our forces.

Without New START, we will reintroduce uncertainty into the U.S.-Russia strategic relationship. Over the length of the Cold War, we learned that uncertainty breeds mistrust, costly worst-case planning, and risk. New START reduces uncertainty by locking in the size of each side's arsenal and providing for onsite verification. The resulting improved strategic stability that will come with New START will make it possible for both sides to pursue agreements on tactical nuclear weapons and proliferation.

Without ratification, we will be left with the requirement to spend our limited resources and money on weapons we don't need to counter a force structure that could be verifiably reduced under the treaty.

Without New START our national security institutions will need to devote more resources to monitoring Russian strategic forces, by satellite and other means; we will also be forced to plan for scenarios we should not need to. This will involve spending money were we don't need, and worse, it could mean taking away money from programs and systems that our war-fighters actually do need.

OVER THE LENGTH OF THE COLD WAR, WE LEARNED THAT UNCERTAINTY BREEDS MISTRUST, COSTLY WORST-CASE PLANNING, AND RISK. NEW START REDUCES UNCERTAINTY BY LOCKING IN THE SIZE OF EACH SIDE'S ARSENAL AND PROVIDING FOR ONSITE VERIFICATION.

What stands in the way? An ever more vague, disingenuous, and ill-advised raising of the bar for political support. The very same questions that have been asked and answered about missile defense, verification, and stewardship of the nuclear enterprise are brought up again and again in the face of iron clad analysis and billions of added dollars. These "red herrings" are presented wrapped in ever more demanding commitments from future legislators that no arms control treaty past or future could meet.

As this treaty is pushed off with no deadline and no path to prevent an already developing cooling of U.S., Russia relationships, Cold War nuclear realities echo in my head saying to senators, "Do the right thing!"

LT. GEN. JAMESON (RET.) is a former deputy commander and chief and chief of staff, U.S. Strategic Command who had responsibility for all ICBM strategic nuclear forces. He is a member of the Consensus for American Security www.securityconsensus.org.



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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is it patriotic to pay taxes?

RECENTLY I SAW AN ARTICLE WHERE A bunch of millionaires want to let the Bush Tax Cut lapse. This makes no sense to me. If they want to give extra money to the government, absolutely nothing is stopping them from doing it right now. Please feel free to give as much you feel is your patriotic duty.

Why would these people try to tell us it's patriotic to pay more taxes? Our founding fathers were a bunch of gun-toting religious types, who started a revolution to not pay taxes. The Civil War was fought over the South not paying the taxes demanded by the North. If anything, it's patriotic to throw tea into Boston Harbor to protest taxes. Our founding fathers purposely did not allow an income tax in their lifetimes.

Yet here we are asking the question, is it patriotic to pay taxes? It is patriotic to follow the law, and paying your taxes is required in order to be a patriotic American. Buying war bonds is patriotic. Petitioning your elected officials to lower taxes is downright American.

Democratic representative Charles Rangel worked for the government his entire life. He was just told by Congress that he has to file correct taxes and pay his back taxes for the last 17 years. Keep in mind this is the man that is on the Tax Payer Ways and Means Committee, and sets our tax policy. You and I get no such treatment, and are at the mercy of whatever the IRS tells us, or we'd face jail time like Wesley Snipes is facing for three years of tax issues. Can you tell me why every Congressman is not audited every year to make sure they're not taking bribes?

Unfortunately, we have a bigger issue at hand. In the end we have two ways of seeing the United States. One group believes that we need to require the rich to pay more taxes. That group believes that it is unfair that someone else was allowed to get rich, and feels those people need to pay a larger share of their income. The other group believes that we all should equally pay for our fair share of what we consume in America; that taking away the incentive to become rich taxes away the spirit that makes Americans wealthy in the first place.

You really saw this dynamic play out in our recent elections in Santa Monica. In a special election in May, over 12,000 people voted to raise money for the schools. In the end, most of those 12,000 people did not give their own money to get the schools the $6 million they asked for. Right after the election I chided those who did not join me in donating money to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. My hat is off to those folks who managed to put up some lemonade stands and raise $1.5 million. They understand you don't need the government to pay for things. As a community, we can donate of our own free will.

That's the problem. If you believe in choice, then you believe we all have a choice to raise money for our schools. And if you aren't able to raise money for your school, then most likely the voters don't value what the schools are doing. You need to ask the question: What should the schools do in order to attract the community's money? That's how you'll solve this problem. When the community believes that the money is being well spent, they'll have more of a tendency to vote for it. When we as Californians voted for billions of dollars in infrastructure repair, enough of us believed that it was a good idea to spend the money for those projects. Right now many people believe the teachers unions are preventing us from having good schools.

Mayor Menino of Boston recently said: "When a principal of one of the struggling schools accepted a grant from ExxonMobil to give teachers small bonuses when their students excelled, the unions took us to arbitration." It essentially killed the bonuses.

It's this type of behavior from the unions that's causing a great number of voters to become disillusioned with the current group who have hijacked our school systems.

Another reason the voters are upset is they're starting to realize that union employees make more money then they do, and they are not held to the same work ethic and standards as those of us in the private sector face. People like Democratic Congressman Charles Rangel. Most employers in the private sector had to take up to a 25 percent pay cut to keep their companies open while the public sector faced no similar hardship.

If you're one of those people who believe we need more money right now for our government, by all means don't take any deductions this year and send more money to our government. No one is stopping you. You have a choice, but don't force other people to pay for things they don't value.

We have fundamental problems in the way we use our taxes. Before we keep raising taxes we really should take a moment and fix the holes in the gas tank first.

DAVID ALSABERY can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com

The Q Line

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Tough on taxis?

The City Council recently awarded five franchises to taxi companies, dramatically reducing the number of cabs in the city. Starting Jan. 3, 2011, only the five companies with franchises will be able to pick up people in Santa Monica.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you believe franchising is the way to go? Are you worried about not being able to catch a cab?

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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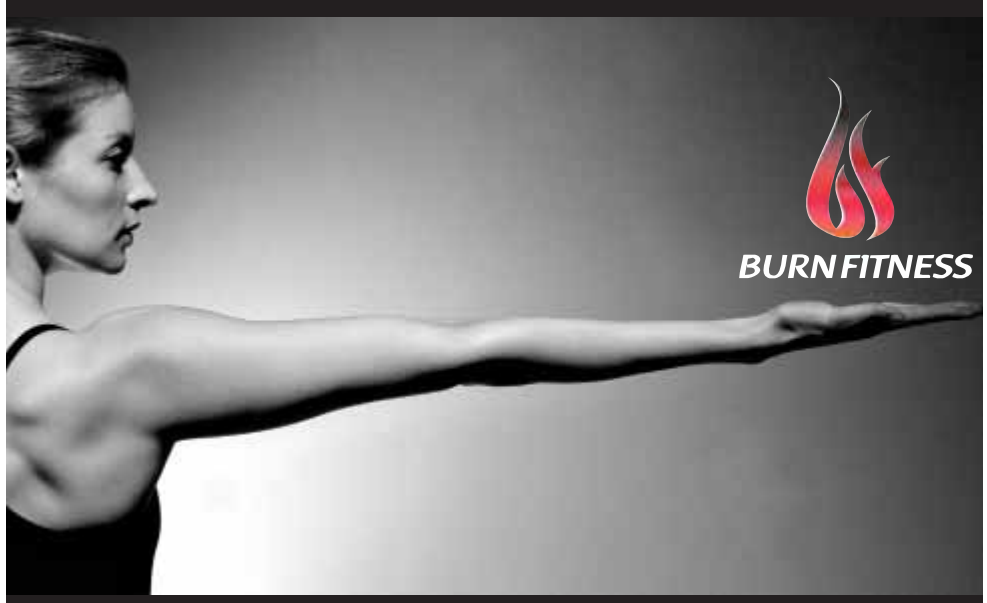
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ECONOMY

Obama promotes auto industry success in Indiana

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

KOKOMO, Ind. President Barack Obama promoted the revival of the U.S. auto industry Tuesday, taking his pitch to the heart of the Rust Belt where a bruising economy has taken its toll on Democrats.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden toured a rebounding Chrysler transmission plant in this hard-hit industrial city, holding it up as a symbol of the "hope and confidence" of a better economy even while millions are still unemployed and hurting.

"We're coming back," Obama said. "We're on the move."

The visit represents the White House's new focus on showcasing the results behind his administration's politically contentious economic stimulus and the bailouts of Chrysler and General Motors.

The economic message, however, was overshadowed by North Korea's surprise shelling Tuesday of a South Korean island, a provocation that added another complication to Obama's recent foreign policy challenges.

And in a sobering development that underscored the president's economic difficulties, the Federal Reserve lowered its outlook for the economy through 2011, citing worse-than-expected growth.

Obama made sure to embrace a new Commerce Department report that the economy grew slightly faster last summer than first thought, benefiting from stronger spending by U.S. shoppers and improved overseas sales of U.S. goods. He called the news welcome and then promised, "We're going to keep on making it grow faster."

The trip to Kokomo, a city Obama visited during his 2008 presidential campaign, came a week after GM's initial public stock offering, a turnabout sign for the bailed out automaker.

"We made the decision to stand with you because we had confidence in the American workers, and today we know that was the right decision," the president said.

For Obama, the visit was also a chance to promote the $800 billion economic stimulus he pushed through Congress in the early days of his presidency.

Before touring the plant, Obama stopped at a fire house of the Kokomo Fire Department, which the White House said was able to rehire nine firefighters with help from stimulus money.

The presidential motorcade also stopped at an elementary school where Obama greeted cheering, screaming children. The Kokomo-Center Township Consolidated School Districts received more than $12 million in stimulus money, the White House said.

"I shook his hand!" one delighted child said.

"I got trampled," said another.

Obama went out of his way Tuesday to engage with the public, an apparent effort to correct what he has said was his failure to explain his policy decisions to Americans.

At one point, he stopped at a small bakery to order pumpkin rolls, apple fritters, cinnamon rolls and doughnuts. The White House says the husband-and-wife owners received a $140,000 loan from the economic stimulus to buy the former doughnut shop. It opened nearly a year ago.

Despite signs of recovery, the economy is growing too slowly to reduce the nation's unemployment, which stands stubbornly at 9.6 percent, and Obama and his fellow Democrats felt the repercussions in this month's midterm elections.

In Indiana, Democrats lost a Senate seat and two House seats and were driven into the minority in the state legislature.

Democrats also suffered major losses in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois — all states that Obama carried in his 2008 presidential run. Michigan and Ohio elected Republican governors and placed control of the state legislatures in GOP hands. Illinois filled Obama's former Senate seat with a Republican.

Those are signs of the enormous challenge facing Obama over the next two years. Unless the economy shows dramatic improvement, incremental gains such as stabilizing the auto industry or recouping much of the money used to bail out giant financial firms are not big political winners.

"The auto progress not withstanding, it doesn't solve every problem that we've had," senior White House adviser David Axelrod said in an interview Monday. "There's no panacea, no silver bullet. Until we get that momentum going to the point where we can fill in that huge hole the recession created, people are going to be frustrated."

GM has given the administration some bragging rights, at least for now.

The company launched one of the largest initial public offerings in U.S. history last week, more than a year after it was pushed into bankruptcy by the Obama administration and two years after the Bush administration propped it up with billions of dollars in loans. All in all, the taxpayers' stake totaled about $50 billion.

Declared one of "America's fastest-dying towns" by Forbes magazine in 2008, Kokomo hit bottom in June 2009 when unemployment in that midsize city in north-central Indiana reached 20.4 percent. Unemployment is still higher than the national average, but it dropped by nearly 8 percentage points to 12.7 percent in September.



WALL STREET

Korean conflict, European worries weigh on stocks

MATTHEW CRAFT & PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Stocks fell Tuesday as a flare-up of tensions between North and South Korea combined with downbeat news on the economy gave investors plenty of reasons to sell ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. The dollar and gold rose as investors sought safe places to park money.

North Korea and South Korea exchanged artillery fire, killing at least two South Korean marines. That came as investors were already concerned that a bailout of Ireland may not be enough to contain Europe's debt crisis. Borrowing costs for Portugal and Spain rose, leading Spain to trim the size of a debt sale.

In the U.S., sales of previously-owned houses dipped 2.2 percent in October. Also, Federal Reserve officials became more pessimistic and lowered their outlook for economic growth for the next year.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 142.21, or 1.3 percent, to 11,036.37.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 17.11, or 1.4 percent, to 1,180.73. The Nasdaq composite index fell 37.07, or 1.5 percent, to 2,494.95

The clash between North and South Korea was one of the most dramatic between the two rivals since the end of the Korean war. Fifteen South Korean soldiers and three civilians were injured in the artillery exchanges.

The escalating tensions came shortly after the reclusive North Korean regime claimed to have a new uranium enrichment facility and six weeks after the country's leader Kim Jong Il anointed his youngest son as his heir apparent.

The showdown between the two countries raises tensions in Asia, but was seen as less of an immediate danger in the U.S. Traders said the showdown was seen by many as an excuse to pare back exposure to risk ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday. Trading is expected to be light Wednesday as people leave early. Markets will be open for an abbreviated session on Friday.

"Investors don't want to go into the holiday with any lingering doubts," said John Derrick, director of research for U.S. Global Investors. "The tensions in Korea just gave them another excuse to sell."

Hewlett-Packard Co. was the only one among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones industrial average to rise. Shares gained 2.2 percent after the technology company beat Wall Street's expectations for revenue and income thanks to strong corporate spending.

Energy shares led the decline as the price of crude oil fell. Chevron Corp. fell 2 percent, while ExxonMobil Corp. lost 1.7 percent.

A widening probe into insider trading was still weighing on financial shares Tuesday, a day after FBI agents raided the offices of three hedge funds. JPMorgan Chase & Co. was the worst-performing major bank with a 2.3 percent decline, followed closely by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. with a 2 percent fall.

In other gloomy news on the economy, the Federal Reserve lowered its forecast for growth through next year. In a report releasing minutes from its last meeting Nov. 3, the Fed predicted that the economy will grow only 2.4 percent to 2.5 percent this year. That's down sharply from a previous projection of 3 percent to 3.5 percent. Next year, the economy will expand by 3 percent to 3.6 percent, the Fed said, also much lower than its June forecast.

The darker view helps explain why the Fed decided at its meeting earlier this month to launch another round of stimulus. The central bank plans to buy $600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months in an effort to lower interest rates and spur more spending.

Treasury prices rose, sending their yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 2.79 percent, down from 2.80 percent late Monday. That rate is a widely used benchmark for business and consumer loans including mortgages.

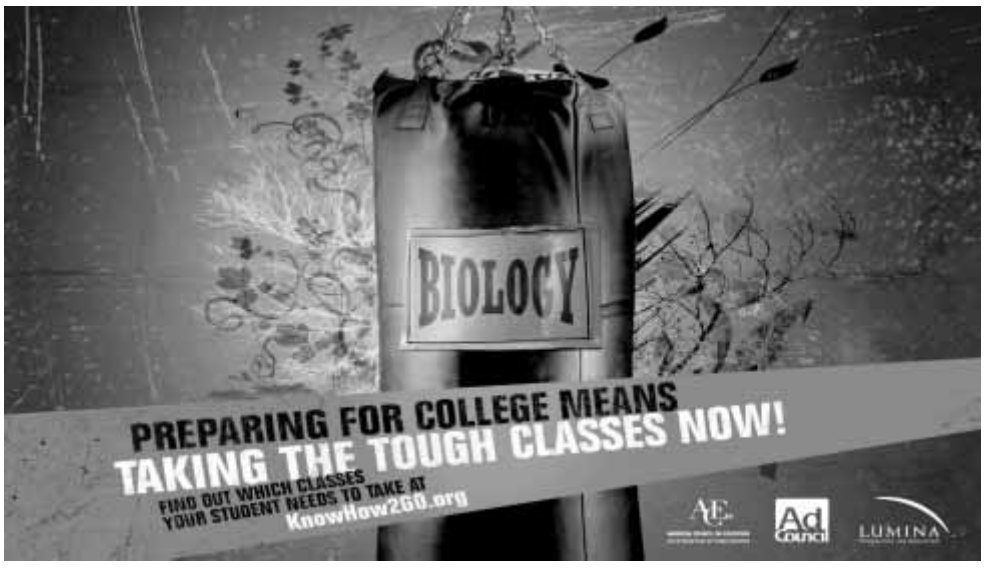
The dollar rose 1.3 percent against an index of six other currencies and the euro fell 1.8 percent against the dollar. Gold rose 1.5 percent to $1,377.60 an ounce.

The VIX, a measure of volatility in U.S. stock prices, jumped 14 percent to 21. The index had been steadily falling since May 20 when it went as high as 45, its highest level of the year.

Among gainers was retailer J. Crew Group Inc., which is being taken private in a $3 billion deal with two investment firms. Shares rose $6.34, or 17 percent, to $43.99.

Wednesday will bring an unusually large amount of economic data since several reports that normally come out Thursday are being moved up because of the holiday. Reports are due out on weekly claims for unemployment benefits, durable goods and personal income.

Falling shares outpaced rising shares by four to one on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was 1 billion shares.





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CENTER
FROM PAGE 1

asthma sufferers have an allergy to aspirin.

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"The idea was to take the Food and Drug Allergy Care Center and put it in a setting where we could take care of children and their parents because allergies are very often inherited," said Dr. Alan Fogelman, executive chair of UCLA's Medicine Department. "Our vision is this will become a model for how we treat diseases that are in common in families."

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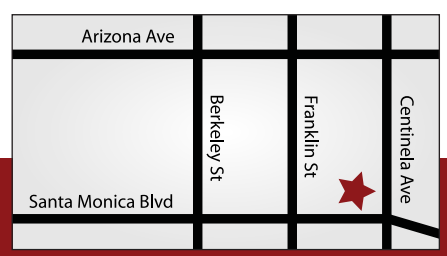
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MAYOR
FROM PAGE 1

that [Shriver or McKeown] should be mayor or that they each should be mayor for a year."

McKeown, while popular among voters, wasn't nominated for the job in May. At times he has appeared to have a strained relationship with several of his colleagues, including some members of SMRR.

This week McKeown said he plans to make a case for himself come December.

"Other than me, everyone on the council who's been elected for more than three weeks has already been mayor, most of them multiple times," he said in an e-mail. "Residents have been asking me since the election if finally, after 12 years, I'll now be mayor, since I was the top popular vote-getter for the second election in a row."

WHAT WILL O'DAY DO?

When it comes to handicapping the mayor decision, the most important person may be O'Day, the newest council member who isn't himself likely to be nominated for the job. Back in May, faced with a decision of whether to support O'Connor or Shriver, he cast what was considered the decisive vote for Shriver — a move that cost his fellow SMMR member the position.

Many observers expect that this time around it will come down to a choice between Shriver and Bloom, a decision that may be harder for O'Day to make, especially because Bloom last year nominated O'Day to fill a vacant seat on the council, paving the way for his appointment. Will O'Day again break party ranks to back Shriver? Or will he side with Bloom, who may be on his way up the political ladder?

It's likely that in the weeks ahead O'Day will be getting pressure from both sides. If he's leaning in either direction, or thinking about a third option, he's not saying.

"I haven't made any commitments," he said on Tuesday. "I think our mayor has done a great job in the short time he's had … I think he deserves the chance [to continue], but that doesn't mean he'll have the votes either."

O'Day also noted he owes special consideration to a possible mayoral bid from Bloom.

"Richard has been mayor in the past and has a great deal of experience to contribute to the role, and I think he'd be a great mayor for the upcoming year or two," O'Day said.

nickt@smdp.com







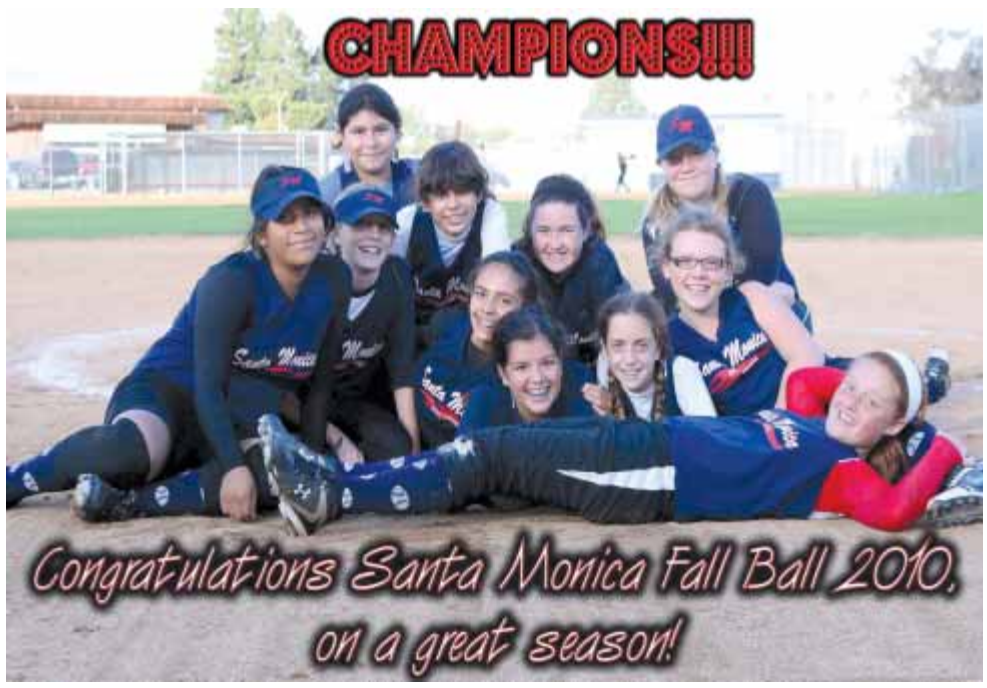
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Gulf rig victims' kin feel left out

BRIAN SKOLOFF &
HARRY R. WEBER
Associated Press

JONESVILLE, La. Roy Wyatt Kemp's family is waiting for his headstone, black marble engraved with the deer and ducks he loved to hunt. The grave, however, lacks a body.

Seven months after the fateful Gulf of Mexico explosion that triggered one of history's worst environmental disasters, the 27-year-old rig worker's family knows very little beyond the fact that he never came home. Did he survive the initial blast? Did he suffer? Could he have been saved?

"I wonder every day what happened to my son. I don't think it will ever leave me," said his mother, Peggy.

Without a body, without answers and with only limited financial and emotional support, Kemp's family and relatives of the 10 other workers who died on the BP-leased rig are left to wonder whether the oil giant's promise to "make things right" applies to everyone but them.

From the small towns of central Mississippi to the cotton fields of central Louisiana to the cattle farms of southern Texas, relatives of the men, in interviews with The Associated Press, bemoaned that so much of the public focus has been on the oil spilled rather than the lives lost.

"There hasn't been anybody associated with BP, Transocean or any of them that has sat down and really tried to give you their condolence and tell you what took place," Peggy Kemp said.

As criminal investigations, congressional hearings and finger-pointing mount, the families of the dead want detailed explanations from BP and its partners of exactly how their loved ones perished in the April 20 disaster that ultimately spewed 170 million gallons of crude into the Gulf.

They want accountability for negligence. And they want the world to know that their loss cost them much more than a paycheck.

Thanksgiving will be tough for these families.

The holiday was drilling supervisor Jason Anderson's favorite. He would have turned 36 on Monday. His wife wants to know why the companies cut corners.

"I don't expect anybody to love my husband as much as I love him, and I don't expect anybody to feel the same loss, but I expect them not to let money and dollar signs be above someone's life and someone's family," Shelley Anderson said.

Jason Anderson began preparing a will in February and kept it in a spiral notebook. It sunk with the rig.

BP and its partners on the doomed Deepwater Horizon say they are not indifferent to the families' suffering. When asked to respond to the relatives' claims, the oil giant provided a one-sentence statement saying it extends its "deepest sympathies to the families and friends who have suffered such a terrible loss."

Transocean, the company that owned the rig, has been paying out money to dependents. It also reached long-term settlements with three families and set up a charitable fund that distributed $130,000 to all the families in July. It said it wants to reach "amicable resolutions" with the remaining relatives.

Perhaps the companies' most poignant tribute to the dead was the decision to imprint 11 stars on the well's final cap.

None of the men worked directly for BP — nine worked for Transocean and two for M-I Swaco, a unit of the oil field services firm Schlumberger. However, BP was leasing the rig and it was the majority owner of the well that blew. The families report receiving no compensation from BP and say they have had little contact with the company beyond condolences offered at a May memorial service.

Most of the families said the money they received falls well short of compensating them for their losses.

Seven weeks ago, M-I Swaco ended support payments and health insurance for Michelle Jones, wife of mud engineer Gordon Jones, she said. A day after learning about The Associated Press' planned story, the company told the Jones family it would resume payments but did not say anything about health insurance, said Gordon Jones' brother, Chris.

The mother of Blair Manuel, the other M-I Swaco employee killed in the explosion, also said the company cut off payments.

In a statement, Schlumberger said it has provided financial support to the families and is "continuing to do so." Both families say that, as of last week, they had received no further support payments from M-I Swaco.

Because the deaths happened on the high sea, a 1920s law could limit the companies' liability to their workers' lost earnings rather than their families' pain and suffering.

Transocean filed a federal court petition May 13 seeking to limit its liability, arguing it didn't cause the disaster and shouldn't be responsible for injuries or losses. The petition listed relatives of the dead as potential claimants.

Shelley Anderson learned of the petition the day after Transocean CEO Steve Newman came to her house a few weeks after the explosion to offer condolences.

After the petition, she said, "I knew he wasn't being sincere."

Transocean said it filed the petition at the instruction of its insurers to preserve coverage.

Hardest of all for the families is the lifetime loss of love and support.

Courtney Kemp and daughter Kaylee, who turned 3 a few days before the explosion, would count the days until her husband returned home from the rig.

"That was probably the hardest thing, telling her that daddy wasn't coming home. It's a lot for a little girl to handle," the widow said.

Michelle Jones' 6-month-old son Max, born three weeks after the explosion, never saw his father, Gordon. The Baton Rouge, La. man had arrived for his 21-day stint on the rig the day before the blast.

Six of the 11 dead had been scheduled to get off the rig the day after the explosion, after spending three weeks aboard. They were Kemp of Jonesville, La., Adam Weise of Yorktown, Texas, Karl Kleppinger of Natchez, Miss., Shane Roshto of Liberty, Miss., Donald Clark of Newellton, La., and Dewey Revette of State Line, Miss.

Also killed were Anderson of Midfield, Texas, Manuel of Gonzales, La., Aaron Burkeen of Philadelphia, Miss., and Stephen Curtis of Georgetown, La.

At 22, Roshto was the youngest of those who died. His wife filed a lawsuit after the explosion that said she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Kleppinger's grandmother, Barbara Thornhill, said of Thanksgiving without her grandson, a veteran of the first Gulf War, "We'll just miss him and know that he's in a good place."

Weise's mother, Arleen, now looks after her son's Texas home, where the heads of deer and snake skins the avid hunter collected adorn the living room wall. Outside sits her son's souped-up Ford F250 truck with its supersized tires below an elevated frame. The mother reached an undisclosed settlement with Transocean, but has received nothing from BP.

Food companies go easy on salt

DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK The makers of Butterball turkey, Twinkies and Wonder Bread have agreed to use less salt in some products as part of a national campaign against high blood pressure.

New York City health officials announced Tuesday that six more big food companies, including Butterball and Hostess, had joined an effort to cut salt levels in packaged foods by 25 percent over the next five years.

The city and other health departments and medical groups across the country are trying to persuade the nation's food manufacturers to voluntarily use less salt. To date, 22 have signed on to the initiative.

Also joining Tuesday were pretzel and chips maker Snyder's of Hanover, the sausage maker Premio, the tomato and bean packer Furmano's and Delhaize America, which operates 1,600 East Coast supermarkets.

Everyone needs at least some salt, but most Americans consume double the recommended daily amount. Too much salt can lead to high blood pressure, which can be deadly.

By some estimates, cutting the nation's salt intake by the initiative's goal of 20 percent could prevent thousands of deaths each year.

Food manufacturers are traditionally wary about tinkering with tried-and-true recipes, and the initiative asks for subtle changes in product lines that could lose salt without a big effect on taste.

"It's not even about products that taste salty ... A lot of it is about hidden salt," said Dr. Sonia Angell, director of the health department's cardiovascular disease prevention program.

She noted that a muffin can have as much salt as a bag of potato chips.

"It's very difficult to figure out which products have high salt without looking at the ingredients," she said.

Butterball is cutting salt in deli meat and hot dogs.

Delhaize, which operates the Food Lion supermarket chain, is reducing salt levels in frozen pizza, cereal and butter. Premio is cutting salt in raw sausage. Snyder's already meets the program's target for its line of pretzels, but will now cut salt in some potato chips.




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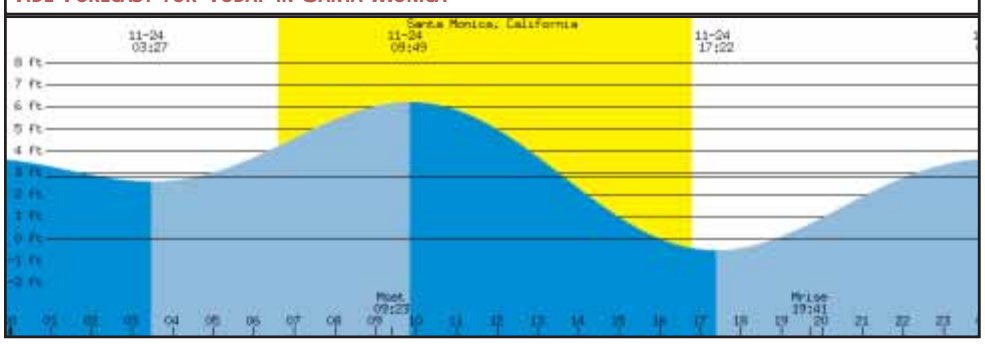
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 16, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 16 / 25

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Texas' Josh Hamilton easily takes home AL MVP award

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Josh Hamilton thought back to the days when his career was derailed by drugs and alcohol.

"I would say a 99 percent chance that this would never happen," he said. "I mean, honestly, I think a lot of people would agree with that."

In one of baseball's most inspirational turnarounds, the Texas Rangers outfielder was a runaway winner of the American League's Most Valuable Player award Tuesday. Hamilton received 22 first-place votes and 358 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Former Cincinnati Reds teammate Joey Votto was voted the NL MVP a day earlier.

Hamilton overcame eight trips to rehabilitation for addiction to lead the major leagues in batting average (.359) and slugging percentage (.633) and help the Rangers reach their first World Series. He had 32 homers and 100 RBIs despite missing time nearly all of September because of two broken ribs.

After going on the disabled list in 2001 while in the minors, he became addicted to alcohol and cocaine. He didn't play from 2003-05.

"I do reflect. If I didn't reflect, 'I' might start sneaking in there, a little ego might start sneaking in there, and that's one thing I don't want to happen," Hamilton said. "So I do reflect and I think about where I was at my lowest time."

Teammate say his story motivates them.

"It's awesome, everybody makes mistakes in their lives and everybody deserves a second chance," Rangers teammate David Murphy said before voting was announced. "A lot of people don't take advantage of that second chance. But he took it and he ran with it."

After voting was concluded, Hamilton was selected MVP of the AL championship series win over the Yankees. Overall, he hit .190 in the postseason with five homers and nine RBIs

"There were other guys around the league who had great years, but seeing Josh, what he was able to do, it's pretty impressive," teammate Michael Young said. "You don't see guys go three-month stretches where they hit .400, it's just too difficult to do."

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Unstoppable (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Due Date (R) 1hr 35min
10:45am, 4:05pm, 9:40pm

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
9:30am, 11:00am, 12:50pm, 2:15pm, 4:10pm, 5:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 10:50pm

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
10:30am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:40am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Unstoppable (PG-13) 1hr 38min
10:45am, 1:25pm, 4:05pm, 6:35pm, 9:15pm

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
10:40am, 1:10pm, 3:45pm, 6:20pm, 9:00pm

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

Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (NR) 1hr 52min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Fair Game (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Cool It (PG) 1hr 28min
4:40pm, 10:15pm

127 Hours (R) 1hr 33min
12:50pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:55pm, 10:15pm

Queen of the Lot (R) 1hr 54min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
10:05am, 1:25pm, 4:45pm, 8:10pm, 11:30pm

Due Date (R) 1hr 35min
10:45am, 1:15pm, 3:45pm, 6:20pm, 9:00pm

Faster (R) 1hr 38min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm, 11:25pm

Love and Other Drugs (R) 1hr 53min
10:50am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:40pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
9:50am, 12:25pm, 3:00pm, 5:35pm, 8:15pm, 10:45pm

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

The world is your oyster, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might feel as if you have given enough at this point. The instinct to play ostrich might not be too out of whack. An associate or family member could be depressed or difficult. Let this person's issues go, for now. Tonight: Happiest at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ An adamant disagreement is just that, but it doesn't mean you cannot talk to the other party or even enjoy him or her. You simply don't see eye to eye with this person. A work-related matter might be exhausting. Use your ability to pace yourself. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Curb a need to be possessive or in control. First, it won't work for you ultimately. Also, you will note how much contradiction surrounds a key issue. Trying to resolve it will take the ability to see the validity in all suggestions. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others are challenging and controlling. These traits might have nothing to do with you but with them. A difficult issue at home seems heavier than it really is. Know that it is resolvable, and approach it accordingly. Tonight: Let go. The world is your oyster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Know when to close your door at the office or screen your calls at home. Everyone needs some private time, especially you at this juncture. Use your ability to sort and distance yourself. What you are feeling might be justified. Do check it out. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and don't allow others to distract you. You might wonder what to do with a difficult child or loved one. This person keeps rebelling. If you sense nefarious activity, you probably need to pull back and observe. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ It appears responsibilities are dropped on you out of the blue. You could have a lot more on your plate than others realize. Listen to a family member, even if he or she is on the warpath. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance, especially if you haven't been in contact for a while. You could be more negative than you need to be. Revise your thinking, do needed research and ask pertinent questions. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Feelings run deep, for better or for worse. Someone feels too strongly for your taste about a business dealing. You realize there is an issue with a financial involvement with this person. Try to back out gracefully. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ It might be wise to lessen the friction between you and another person. Consider letting a strong need to be in control of a situation blow over. Soon enough you will be chilled out and able to handle this matter. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ After hitting enough obstacles in your daily routine, you might want to run home. But you will tough it out. Be careful, because frustration and antagonism come forward. You don't want to express your feelings inappropriately. Tonight: Put your feet up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Much changes far too quickly for your taste. Clearly, you cannot convince others -- in a meeting or one on one -- of the rationality in your thinking. Let your creativity flourish in areas where they are appreciated. Tonight: Fun and games.

Happy birthday

This year, you discover unusual success when relating to people individually. They respond as you might not have dreamt possible. A touchy area will clearly be around funds -- yours and theirs. Stay as clear as humanly possible. A long-term friendship could become difficult this year. You will have a choice. If you are single, your ability to relate closely allows a great deal of closeness. A powerful relationship could develop. If you are attached, the two of you gain from one-on-one time. CANCER bottom-lines your issues.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

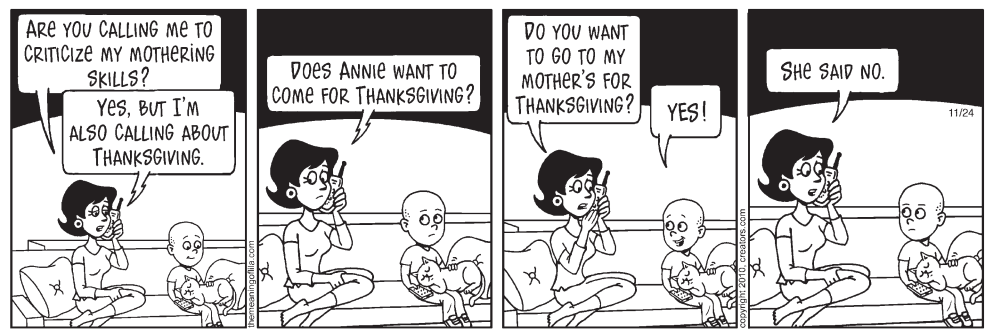
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



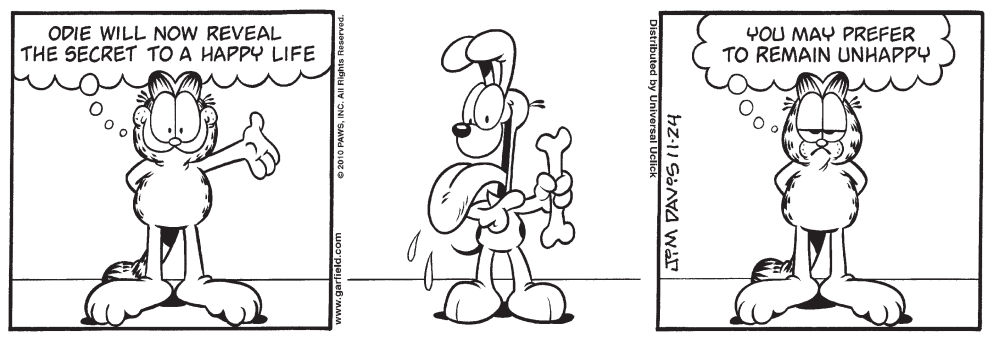
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



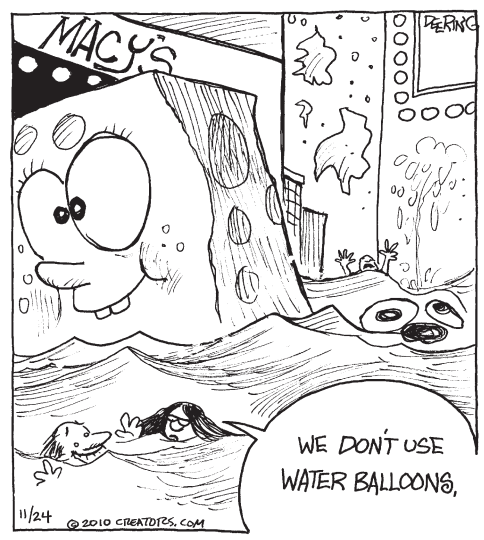
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

"Attention Seniors with Retirement Savings!"

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Informal eatery
5 Long looks
11 Ellipse
12 Five-time Derby winner
13 Peach centers
14 Blow one's top
15 Blond shade
16 Urban fleet
17 Wipe clear
19 Balloon fill
22 Deserve
24 Dog topper
26 Like the Sahara
27 To be, to Balzac
28 Like some jackets
30 "Non-sense!"
31 Race part
32 Ham it up
34 It may be furrowed
35 Hold up
38 Fix
41 Arbor climber
42 Plummer of film
43 Machu Picchu native
44 Thanks-giving staple
45 Like some wines

DOWN

1 Nightclub of song
2 Rara —
3 Begetting
4 Golfer Ernie
5 Long stories
6 His job's in "Jeop-ardy!"
7 Play makeup
8 Lamb's dad
9 Important time
10 Lawn material
16 Jazz fan
18 Take the bus
19 Getting together
20 Mystique
21 Worry
22 Shopping haven
23 Huron neigh-bor
25 Take it easy
29 Mock
30 Comics punch sound
33 Eel variety
34 Vault setting
36 In the past
37 Abacus part
38 Informer
39 Outback bird
40 Hole number
41 By way of

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15			■	16				■	■	■
■	■	17	18				■	19	20	21
22	23				■	24	25			
26				■	■	■	27			
28				29	■	30				
31			■	32	33				■	■
■	■	■	34				■	35	36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

11-24

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

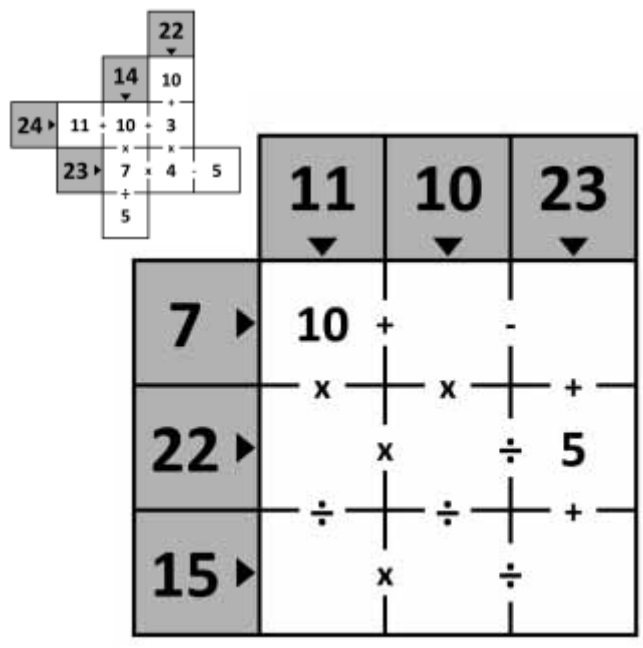
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

6, 9, 9, 10, 10, 11, 12

Solution for Task 518



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 7 14 31 51 54 — Meganumber: 35 — Jackpot: $34M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 11 30 35 46 47 — Meganumber: 15 — Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 3 5 7 10 13

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 3 8 — EVENING: 4 1 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 08 Gorgeous George — 2nd: 03 Hot Shot — 3rd: 02 Lucky Star — RACE TIME: 1:47.97

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

■ (1) Ms. Rajini Narayan's lawyer told the court in Adelaide, Australia, in September that she killed her husband by accident after intending only to torch his penis for alleged infidelities. The lawyer said she might have lost control of the gasoline she was holding when her husband said, "No, you won't (burn me), you fat dumb bitch." (2) In May, when a fox terrier answered a call of nature in the yard of notoriously lawn-fastidious Charles Clements, 69, in Chicago, Clements confronted the dog's 23-year-old owner. That led to mutual bravado, which continued even after Clements pulled a gun. The dog-walker was killed immediately after shouting (according to witnesses), "Next time you pull out a pistol, why don't you use it."

■ Convicted sex offender David Parkhurst, 27, was arrested in October in Palm Bay, Fla., and charged with sexual contact with a 15-year-old girl. According to police, when they asked her about any "physical characteristics" of Parkhurst's body so that they could substantiate her story, she said only that he had a "Superman-shaped shield" implant on his genitals (which was later verified).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 Lee Harvey Oswald is murdered by Jack Ruby in the basement of Dallas police department headquarters. The shooting is broadcast live on television.

1963 Vietnam War: Newly sworn-in US President Lyndon B. Johnson confirms that the United States intends to continue supporting South Vietnam both militarily and economically.

1965 Joseph Désiré Mobutu seizes power in the Congo and becomes President; he rules the country (which he renames Zaire in 1971) for over 30 years, until being overthrown by rebels in 1997.

1966 A Bulgarian plane with 82 people on board crashes near Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

1966 New York City experiences the smoggiest day in the city's history.

WORD UP!

mithridate \ MITH-ri-deyt \ , noun; 1. A confection believed to contain an antidote to every poison.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Real Estate
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Upscale assisted living community is looking for caregivers to assist elderly residents with activities of daily living. Must have a love for seniors and a great attitude. Schedule may include working on weekends and holidays. Experience preferred must have clear criminal background and be drug free. Various shifts are available. If interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

Upscale retirement community is looking to fill part time positions in its dining services department. Positions available include, cooks, dishwashers, and servers. Must be at least 18yrs old, and have clear criminal background. Pre-employment drug test required. Love for seniors and a great attitude are a must. If interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #26 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 18 single, $1025/mo $750 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

615 MIDVALE, 2+1.5 Townhouse style. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, tile countertop, wood and carpet floor. W/D hookups, parking, no pets. $2350/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $995 and up $750 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 1, 1bdrm/1ba $1075/mo. stove, fridge, time/carpet,floors ceiling fan blinds, parking, laundry, no pets. $75 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

SM. $995, single apt Stove, regif, all utilities incl., hardwood floor, 1 year lease (310)395-5212

SM. ADJACENT Ocean View large 2+2, top of hill, private drvway/sundeck 2 parking, $2095 (310)390-4610

VENICE 714 1/2 Indiana Ave. 2 bedroom 1 bath lower, unit stove, ceiling fans tile hardwood floors laundry gated entry, small pet OK with deposit $1595 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 3 Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $850/mo (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	$3,250,000	$1,285,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,599,000	$791,000
South of Wilshire	$679,000	$499,000
Sunset Park	$1,090,000	$534,500
Ocean Park	$1,399,900	$842,000

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