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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 16

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE IT'S COLD INSIDE AND OUT ISSUE



MCRIB MARKETING
SEE PAGE 3

SMMUSD: Point Dume charter school plan a bust

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS A group of Malibu parents and teachers that wants to turn Point Dume Marine Science Academy into a charter school lacks a sound financial plan and sufficient experience operating a school, according to a school district report that urges board members to reject the group's charter school application.

The seven-member Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board will decide on Thursday whether to accept the district staff's advice or to permit the Malibu group to move ahead with plans to transform the award-winning campus into a charter school that operates independently from district oversight.

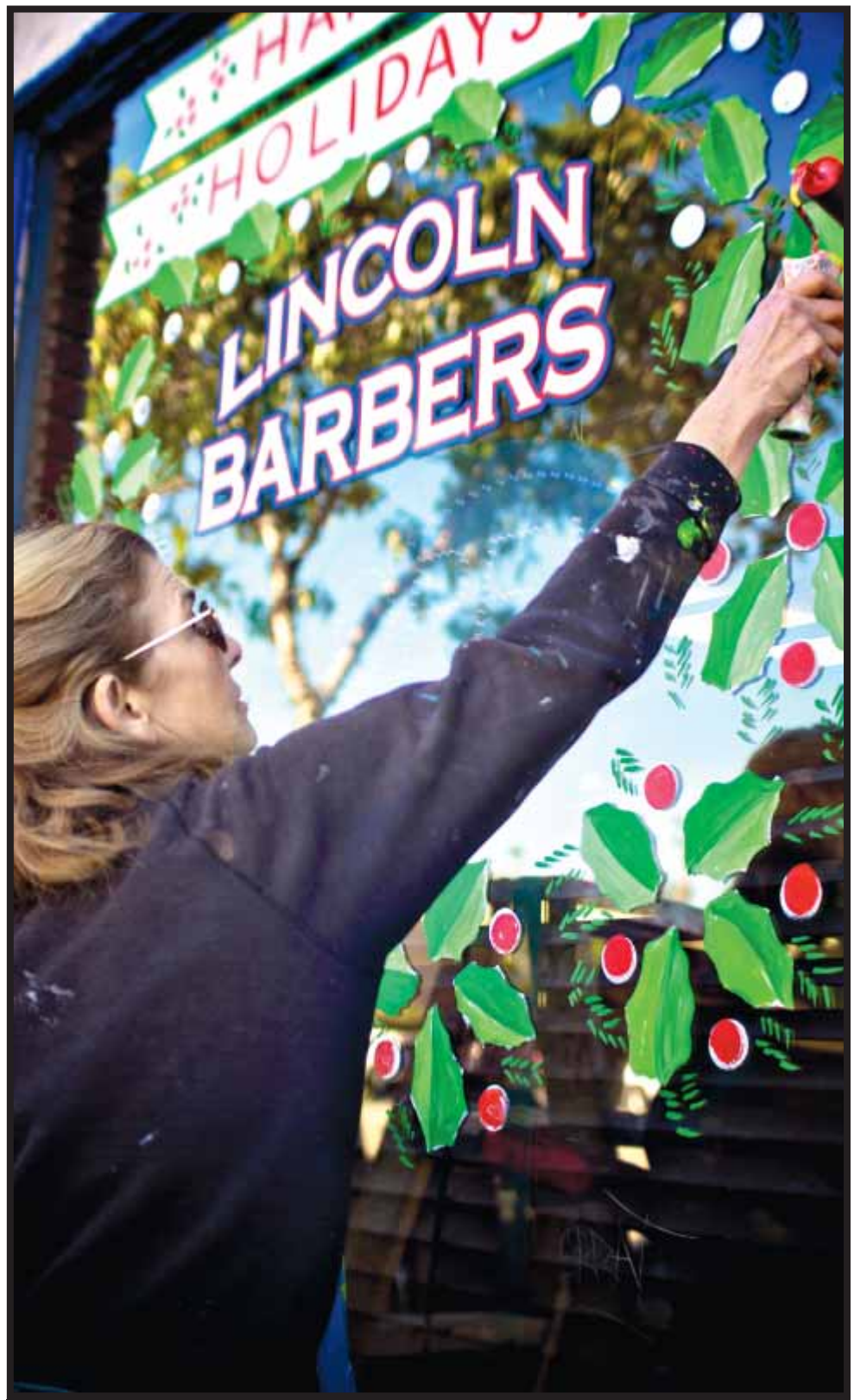
The district's recommendation, signed by Superintendent Tim Cuneo, takes issue with virtually every aspect of the Point Dume group's petition, saying it lacks "a realistic and sound financial and operating plan" and presents an instructional program that "is inconsistent with sound educational practice."

The proposed budget for the campus is $400,000 short of what would be needed to pay for the staff the petitioners expect to hire, the report stated. And the petition also fails to adequately "address the needs of pupils who are not achieving at or above expected levels, students with disabilities, English learners, [and] students achieving substantially above or below grade level expectations," according to the SMMUSD.

Ali Thonson, a Malibu parent and one of the lead petitioners behind the charter conversion effort, on Tuesday said she was disappointed with the district's assessment but believed its views were mistaken. She said she hoped the board would reject the recommendation and approve the charter.

"This is a staff recommendation only, and I am very confident in the type of communication and relationships that we've built with each board member," she said. "I do hope that they give us the time to refute a

SEE CHARTER PAGE 8



HOLIDAY CHEER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *news@smdp.com*

Ellen Korak, a Venice resident, paints festive decorations on the Lincoln Barbers store front, located on Lincoln Boulevard in the Ocean Park neighborhood of Santa Monica, on Monday.

Jewish group's plan to demolish historic apartments blocked

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAN VICENTE BLVD A state appellate court has rejected an appeal from a Jewish group that for five years has sought to demolish a seaside Santa Monica apartment complex, claiming it should be entitled to an exemption from historic preservation laws because it intends to build a home for Jewish refugees on the site.

The group, Or Khaim Hashalom, in 2005 purchased a 28-unit rent-controlled apartment complex located on San Vicente Boulevard near Ocean Avenue and applied for a permit to demolish the structure.

After a review, City Hall in 2006 decided the building, which was designed by architect Stanford Kent and built in 1949-1950, should be granted landmark status and protected, setting up the legal battle.

Or Khaim, represented by land use attorney Rosario Perry, argued its status as a religious non-profit organization should exempt it from having to follow local his-

SEE TERITON PAGE 9

New LA Marathon route unveiled

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES Honda L.A. Marathon organizers announced today a new

"Stadium to the Sea" route for the 2011 race.

Dodger Stadium will remain the starting location and Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica as the finish, but parts of the 26-mile-plus route in between will be reconfigured, including loops through Chinatown and Little Tokyo shortly after the start.

"We believe this marathon course gives runners a unique opportunity to experience the best of Los Angeles," said Nick Curl, chief operating officer of L.A.

SEE ROUTE PAGE 3

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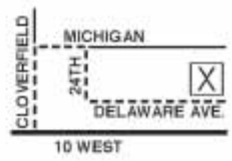
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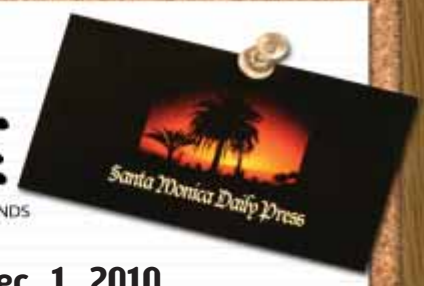
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010

Story time for 2s
Montana Avenue Branch Library, 11:15 a.m.
Bring your toddlers to this six-week story time series. Series ends Dec. 15.

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.

Shaking those holiday blues
Main Library
MLK Auditorium, 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
UCLA psychiatrist Andrew F. Leuchter talks about the holiday blues and practical strategies for coping with them, and how to tell when they've turned into clinical, major depression. This program is free and geared towards an adult and teen audience. Space is limited and on a first arrival basis. This is an event of The Living Room ... a place for adults program series. For more information, visit www.smpl.org or contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600. Library is wheelchair accessible.

Visiting violinist
Main Library
MLK Auditorium, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Grammy-nominated pop violinist CARA-C will perform selections from her album "Clouds of Magellan." Following her performance, CARA-C will offer Q&A and discuss the techniques and inspiration that shaped the album, which has an otherworldly presence, and includes a symphonic and rhythm section backing her solo violin. For more information call (310) 458-8600.

Happy Chanukah!

At first light
Third Street Promenade, 4:30 p.m.
Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels and Cantor Ken Cohen of Temple Beth Shir Shalom will light the first Chanukah candle at the Third Street Promenade to celebrate the Festival of Lights. The ceremony will take place near Wilshire Boulevard.

Eat some seafood
Il Fornaio
1551 Ocean Ave.
This Santa Monica restaurant is participating in "America's Night Out for Gulf Seafood," a nationwide event to support the Gulf Coast and those who work in the seafood industry, which was impacted by the Gulf oil spill. For more information call (310) 451-7800.

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010

Meet the City Manager
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
City Manager Rod Gould will lead a discussion on the state of the economy and how it will impact City Hall's finances. Residents will learn about projects happening in their neighborhood and have the chance to list their funding priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Fax your suggestions to (310) 917-6640. All meeting locations are wheelchair accessible.

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library, 1 p.m.
Meet with others who are concerned about what's happening in the world today. This discussion group breaks down current events. Moderated by Jack Nordhaus.

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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McRibs and the art of artificial scarcity

MELISSA RAYWORTH
For The Associated Press

DOWNTOWN Bradley Chong had a McRib for lunch on Nov. 13. He had another the next day, and the next day, and the next. In fact, he claims to have eaten a McRib practically every day since McDonald's brought back their sauce-laden, processed pork patty earlier this month.

Chong knows his access to the McRib won't last forever. On Dec. 5, it will disappear from the McDonald's near his home in Honolulu and from every McDonald's in America. When will it return? No telling.

Is a McRib shortage to blame? No. McDonald's sells the sandwich year-round in Germany. But despite fans clamoring for it in the United States, McDonald's spokeswoman Ashlee Yingling explains that "it's always been a promotional menu item" available for just a few weeks at a time.

Welcome to Artificial Scarcity, Consumer Edition. The tactic is used so often in American marketing that you might expect consumers to be immune to it.

The Gap sells limited-edition jeans. Thomas Kinkade is big on limited-edition prints. And in recent months, Frito-Lay has been offering "Cheesy Enchilada" Cheetos with the words "Limited Time Only!" printed on the bag. Could that availability be limited by anything other than their desire to grab our attention?

And yet, rather than ignoring the ads or balking at their false premise, consumers enthusiastically encourage the practice by jumping for limited-edition goodies.

How is it that people still get so excited, rather than annoyed, when they're manipulated by the threatened disappearance of something they want?

It's a mix of old instincts and modern challenges, says psychologist Marie C. Gray, who teaches at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.

"Our nervous systems get activated," she says, "and we move into that hoarding, greedy thing even though we know it's not true."

In announcing that the animated film "Beauty and the Beast" would be available on DVD beginning in October, a Disney website uses the phrase "Finally Releasing from the Disney Vault for a Limited Time."

Fans know the drill: When a movie emerges from the "vault," they whip out their credit cards to grab a copy before the company pulls it again from store shelves. It's received as an opportunity, rather than a marketing gimmick.

"There is an element of appealing to scarcity that always works in every human being," says Jayanthi Rajan, who teaches economics and business at Albright College in Reading, Pa.

But why are some campaigns more successful than others in getting people to buy?

Sometimes, it's because we like being in on the joke, says Jim Arnott of West Palm Beach, Fla., who started Facebook's "McRib Moments" page. The McRib campaign "is so tongue-in-cheek," he says, that people are eager to play along.

"I posted on Facebook about doing a 'Smokey and the Bandit' thing, running McRibs over the border to Canada because they don't have McRibs right now," he says. "You wouldn't believe how many people were like, 'I'll contribute.'"

Joining the crowd when a product is getting buzz has its perks. "We want to be a part of something," says Tommy Hintz, who has eaten numerous McRibs in the Tucson area this month. "There's a general need for people to feel connected."

There are other bonuses, too: We may feel less guilty for splurging on something we don't need or we know is unhealthy when we're told it's available only briefly.

Yingling, the McDonald's spokeswoman, points out that many McRib fans associate the sandwich with its original launch in 1981.

Nick DeMond, who lives in Fennville, Mich., remembers assembling McRibs while working at McDonald's as a teenager. These days, he usually eats fast-food just a few times a year. But when the McRib is available, "I'll make a couple extra trips there just to get the sandwich."

Like Bradley Chong and many of those posting on McRib fan pages, DeMond is in his 30s.

"These were things we grew up with — McDonald's, Disney — so it's a revisiting of that," says Marie Gray. "You may be wanting to provide to your children the same experiences you grew up with."

And for those of us who remember an era before just about everything became available overnight, it can almost be a treat to wait for something occasionally.

Still, Americans like nothing more than getting what they want when they want it. Will the day ever come when consumers put limits on their tolerance for "limited time only" goods?

Probably not, says Morris Shapero, who teaches and studies marketing and culture at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"We live in the moment and we're a very futuristic society," he says. "We say, 'Give me what I want and I'll move on to the next thing.'"

When it comes to our shopping habits, he says, "We don't hold grudges."



ROUTE
FROM PAGE 1

Marathon LLC.

"With the addition of Chinatown and Little Tokyo, the Stadium to the Sea course will show runners even more of what makes Los Angeles so great," he said.

The revised "Stadium to the Sea 2.0" route for 2011 passes Los Angeles City Hall at mile 3, Grauman's Chinese Theater at mile 11, the nearby Capitol Records building, the Sunset Strip and Rodeo Drive at mile 17.

Next year's race is set for March 20. Last year marked a major change in the route, which traditionally started and ended in downtown Los Angeles.

The loops through Chinatown and Little Tokyo, at miles 2 and 3, were made possible by eliminating the loop around Dodger Stadium at the start.

The finish will be on Ocean Avenue at California Avenue, three blocks north of the 2010 finish line, giving runners additional recovery space.

Registration for the race at www.lamarathon.com has begun, and organizers expected it to sell out.

The field was capped at 25,000 runners last year.

news@smdp.com

Samohi senior to compete on 'Jeopardy!'

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN A Santa Monica High School senior is one of 15 players selected to compete in this year's "Jeopardy!" Teen Tournament, which will be broadcast nationally beginning Feb. 17, 2011, according to representatives with the trivia game show.

Carlee Jensen first found out that she was selected when her family arranged a scavenger hunt with the letters of "Jeopardy!" scattered throughout their apartment.

"Once I spelled out the letters in the right order, I couldn't believe it. It was months since my audition, and I assumed that I wasn't picked. I was thrilled," Jensen said.

If Jensen wins the grand prize, she will receive $75,000. The second place winner receives a minimum of $50,000, and the third place winner receives a minimum of $25,000. Semifinalists receive $10,000, and contestants eliminated in the first round receive $5,000, said Susie Eun, a spokeswoman for "Jeopardy!"

The episodes will be taped on the Sony Pictures Television lot in Culver City, Calif., Dec. 6-7.

Jensen has been a fan of "Jeopardy!" for as long as she can remember.

"I'm really looking forward to every aspect of the game and experiencing the competition," she said.

Jensen is managing editor her high school newspaper, The Samohi, and was a former intern with the Santa Monica Daily Press. She works part-time as a coffee barista. She is also a member of her high school's academic decathlon team

"It's like being in intensive 'Jeopardy!' boot camp," she joked.

Jensen plans to use her earnings towards college and set aside some money to travel with her family. She would like to major in sociology and attend law school.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Kevin is tops

Editor:

There is no question in my mind that Kevin McKeown should be our next mayor. Kevin is an absolute gift to our city. Kevin has proven over and over again that he is friendly, thoughtful and accessible. He cares deeply about our city and its constituents. My favorite thing about Kevin is that he knows what's important to people here: they love the ocean, the lifestyle, and they love their animals. Kevin, without a doubt, champions those causes for us. Of course he should be mayor! Sheesh, that's a no-brainer.

Jennifer Conrad
Santa Monica

Conflict resolution

Editor:

Every time I read an article like "SMC defends professor accused of violating ethics for SMRR" (Page 1, Nov. 27-28), I wonder where all the watchdogs are for the big violations. Should, for example, a Congress member whose spouse's income depends on war contracts be allowed to vote on a bill permitting a president to declare a war? Isn't that a conflict of interest?

And on a smaller scale (but not as small as the SMC case), when one of our council members receives enormous donations from a corporation, should that person be allowed to vote on a request from that corporation to change a regulation so it could increase its monetary gain?

Isn't that a conflict of interest?

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica

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wrench, airplane propeller, ore bucket, steam boiler, portable x-ray machine, cotton
chopper fertilizer, street sweeper, cattle-roping apparatus, spark plug, galoshes, casket-
lowering device, clothes wringer, dietail car coupling, riding saddles, and so on
and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
that each and every one of the wonderful innovations mentioned here came
from the mind. The mind of an African American. By supporting minority
education, you keep open the possibility of tomorrow's great ideas.
Because of all the things that the human mind has created,
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to be created. And that possibility is
a terrible thing to waste.

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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Maintaining love by managing money

IT'S SHOCKING HOW MANY COUPLES have silly fights over money. The solution is rather simple. Behind all of this drama are the real issues of valuing your partner's time, and whether or not you're a fair person.

That's right. This should be simple stuff to deal with but, with all those love chemicals going off, it's hard to be objective. The answer is simple, get "The Envelope." Now this isn't some product that's advertised on late night television, although it probably should be. Just get an envelope, which you and your partner put equal sums of money in. Then, in order to pull money out of the envelope, you both have to write down on a sheet of paper what you purchased, and replace that money with a receipt with your name on it.

So what is a household item? Anything the two of you agree to share the expense of. Delivery food, dinner out as a couple and groceries are all good stuff for that envelope. Spa treatments, dry cleaning, beer out with a buddy, are not in that envelope. Where it gets more interesting is when the money runs out fast, and you both have to put in equal amounts to refill the envelope.

The biggest benefit of the envelope is that you'll both be dealing with a shared reality based on facts. The facts are that the envelope will either have money in it, or it will have receipts. When everyone knows what they're spending their money on, both parties will know the real value of that expensive dinner, and will both appreciate it that much more. Now there's also an option to say to the other person: "I'm inviting you out to dinner" and then pay from outside of the envelope. When that happens, it becomes a real treat.

The envelope works well when both parties are bringing in income, but what happens when one of them isn't working? It works just the same, except one person puts money in that envelope and sets a budget based on the household's requirements. So if you're a new couple, and are wondering how to get off on the right foot, and may or may not be living in the same place, then set up an envelope in both houses.

Because roles are expanding, and are no longer gender specific, we need to get away from traditional theories. The basic element that's being traded is time. You see, time is what a person puts into all activity. Time is the one thing that's gender neutral. Society today already hires the best person for the job, or they'll go out of business. So the paycheck you demand in the market is based on an unbiased value society will pay for your time.

Let's assume my wife's an attorney who'd invested time and money to get a degree from Harvard, and she bills out at $600 an hour. Let's also point out that I didn't graduate elementary school, partied a great deal and now dig ditches for $8 per hour, and it takes me 75 hours to make $600. It makes more sense to have my wife work for $600 per hour while I take care of the children, clean the house and cook the meals.

When my wife comes home, is it fair to ask her to work at home because I've been working all day digging ditches for $8 per hour, and I am much more tired then she is? No, it's not fair because I respect my wife, and value the choices she made with her time. You see, for whatever reason I didn't figure out a way to get society to value my time more. By not going to college and racking up credit card debt. By not spending years working 20 hour days to get experience in a profession society values, I enter the relationship with my wife having a very serious deficit of time invested in me.

I decided that building a $600 per hour career in the future was less important than traveling, or getting a degree in what society calls a hobby. If people do it for free, it's most likely a hobby. The years I spent finding myself, backpacking and partying around the globe came at a cost. The way I spent my time has hurt my ability to demand money for my time from society, and it's only fair that she makes the decisions when it comes to spending the fruits of her time. If I were not married to such a wonderful woman who allowed me to stay home, I'd be working all day digging ditches and coming home to a life of cooking and cleaning alone.

DAVID ALSABERY is thinking about the wonderful trips he has taken around the world. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.



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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Your column here

Jon Coupal

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Free speech now forbidden

PHILOSOPHERS HAVE PONDERED AND debated the question of "what is true?" for eons. Now, thanks to the bureaucrats at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), we have our answer: The truth is whatever CARB says it is, and those who utter forbidden opinions to the contrary will be punished.

Sounding like something from George Orwell, CARB is poised to adopt a regulation that literally "forbids" and "penalizes" opposing views. The resolution, which CARB dubs, "prohibition on false statements," is frightening in that it would actually sanction communications to the agency during hearings or in the presentation of studies that CARB disagrees with. Apparently, CARB's legal staff missed that whole bit on the First Amendment. In America, we don't jail people for making "counter-revolutionary statements."

Not surprisingly, it is usually the crackpot dictator forbidding dissent who plays fast and loose with the truth. CARB's regulations which have so devastated the trucking industry were based on a discredited report by a "Dr." Hien Tran, a CARB researcher who mail ordered his PhD from a phony university. However, even when it was discovered that Hien Tran had falsified his qualifications, CARB refused to fire him and stood by his study — a study that now even CARB itself admits overestimated pollution by more than 300 percent. If you are waiting for CARB to apply its new proposed rule to itself, don't hold your breath.

That CARB seeks to squelch dissent before it even begins is not surprising. In the wake of Proposition 23's defeat, CARB is chafing at the bit to fully implement California's one-of-a-kind "global warming solution" law known as AB 32. The last thing the agency wants is to have to contend with contrary views about complex issues — notwithstanding the fact that the so-called "consensus" on climate change has become much less of a consensus since the days of Al Gore.

Moreover, it is not just the science of climate change to which CARB has an allergic reaction to competing views. In attempting to measure the true cost of AB 32 on California's economy, any suggestion that "green jobs" won't be the miracle cure claimed by CARB and the investors behind Green Tech will be met with a reaction similar to that of a vampire to a crucifix.

Despite its lack of economic expertise, CARB and its allies are committed to a vision of California unhinged from reality. They believe that imposing price hikes during a recession will lead to this new "green jobs" economy. But that myth has already started to unravel with the closure of model green business, Solyndra's first factory. Solyndra, a solar panel manufacturer, had once been hailed by the CARB cheering section as an example of many more green manufacturers to come. Yet despite hundreds of millions in subsidies and the support of the governor and President Obama, the Solyndra closure illustrates how even green manufacturers have difficulty competing under our state's crushing burden of high taxes and endless red tape.

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION HERE IS WHETHER AN EFFORT BY CREDIBLE ECONOMISTS, TAXPAYERS, CONSUMERS OR BUSINESS INTERESTS TO INFORM CARB THAT PRICE INCREASES DURING A RECESSION ARE BAD FOR THE ECONOMY WILL BE MET WITH 'PENALTIES' FOR FAILING TO LINE UP WITH THE 'TRUTH' AS DECREED BY CARB.

The important question here is whether an effort by credible economists, taxpayers, consumers or business interests to inform CARB that price increases during a recession are bad for the economy will be met with "penalties" for failing to line up with the "truth" as decreed by CARB.

CARB's Chairwoman, Mary Nichols, is now proceeding "full speed ahead" with AB 32 implementation, effectively flooring the accelerator as she and her agency drive our economy over the cliff. "Forbidding" people from saying this may not be a good idea right now is the equivalent of Mary Nichols putting her hands on her ears and saying "la la la I can't hear you la la la," as taxpayers and business owners scream that she stop.

[Final note: The first hearing on CARB's proposed regulation was scheduled for Dec. 1. According to CARB's website, the hearing has now been postponed until next year. Moreover, the proposed regulation providing for "penalties" for false information has been removed from CARB's website.]

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

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Optimism for '11 pushes consumer confidence higher

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Americans' confidence in the economy rose to a five-month high in November, showing increased optimism for the first half of next year.

The report offered some comfort to the nation's retailers during the holiday shopping season, but shoppers still remain downbeat as they grapple with a high unemployment rate. Moreover, the latest report on housing, released Tuesday, showed that home prices weakened in September.

The Conference Board, a private research group based in New York, said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index rose to 54.1 in November, up from a revised 49.9 in October.

The November reading is the highest since June, when the index stood at 54.3 just as the economy's recovery started to lose momentum. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected 52.0.

It takes a level of 90 to indicate a healthy economy, which hasn't been approached since the recession began in December 2007.

One component of the index, how Americans feel now about the economy, rose to 24.0, up from 23.5. The other gauge, which measures how American feel about the economy over the next six months, rose to 74.2, up from 67.5 last month.

"Consumer confidence is now at its highest level in five months, a welcome sign as we enter the holiday season," Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said in a statement. "Consumers' assessment of the current state of the economy and job market, while only slightly better than last month, suggests the economy is still expanding, albeit slowly. Hopefully, the improvement in consumers' mood will continue in the months ahead."

Others were less optimistic.

"The rise in consumer confidence in November is not consistent with a sustained acceleration in consumption growth at a time when income growth is weak, the unemployment rate is high and a double dip in house prices is underway," said Paul Dales, U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

He added that the rising stock market appears to offset the increase in gas prices toward $3 a gallon.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 45.07, or 0.5 percent, to 11,007.42 in morning trading Tuesday as investors shrugged off the Confidence Report and focused on the latest housing data and Europe's debt struggles spreading to Portugal, Spain and Italy.

The Consumer Confidence index, which measures how respondents feel about business conditions, the job market and the next six months, has recovered fitfully since hitting an all-time low of 25.3 in February 2009. By October 2009, it had risen to 48.7 and has since hovered in a tight range between the mid-40s and the high 50s. May 2010 was the only month when the index topped 60.

Economists watch confidence closely because consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity and is critical to a strong rebound. The improved confidence mirrors an increase in spending in November, fueled by early discounting on holiday goods that lured shoppers into stores.

Preliminary results for the Thanksgiving weekend also showed a solid start to the holiday shopping season. Americans, however, are still cautious about spending and are sticking to budgets amid job worries. And the worry is that shoppers will procrastinate even more this holiday season compared with last year as they wait until the last minute for the best deals.

There have been some encouraging signs. Americans' income rose 0.5 percent in October, boosted by a 0.6 percent rise in wages and salaries, according to a government report released last month. That was after incomes didn't rise at all in September.

At the same time, the pace of layoffs is slowing. Initial jobless claims dropped by 34,000 to a seasonally adjusted 407,000 in the week ending Nov. 20, the Labor Department said. Claims have fallen in four of the past six weeks.

But the housing market is worsening, after an uptick in the spring helped by government subsidies. The report from a widely watched housing price index underscored the deterioration, as it showed home prices are falling faster in the nation's largest cities. It also said a record number of foreclosures are expected to push prices down through next year.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index fell 0.7 percent in September from August. Eighteen of the cities recorded monthly price declines.

The Conference Board's index, based on a random survey mailed to 5,000 households from Nov. 1 to Nov. 19, showed that worries about jobs eased, but concern remains high.

Those stating jobs are "plentiful" increased to 4.0 percent from 3.5 percent, while those saying jobs are "hard to get" edged up to 46.5 percent from 46.3 percent.

Consumers were also a little more positive about future job prospects. Those expecting fewer jobs in the months ahead declined to 18.8 percent from 22.3 percent, while the percentage expecting more jobs rose to 15.5 percent from 14.5 percent. The proportion of consumers expecting an increase in their incomes increased to 10.6 percent from 9.7 percent.

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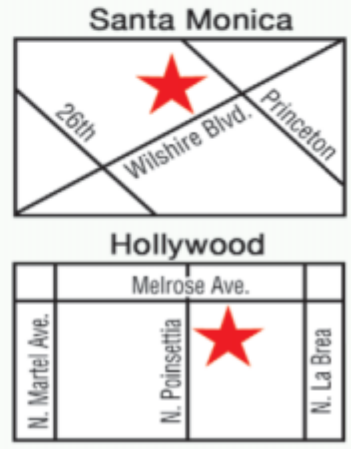


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Tiny house movement thrives despite real estate bust

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

GRATON, Calif. As Americans downsize in the aftermath of a colossal real estate bust, at least one tiny corner of the housing market appears to be thriving.

To save money or simplify their lives, a small but growing number of Americans are buying or building homes that could fit inside many people's living rooms, according to entrepreneurs in the small house industry.

Some put these wheeled homes in their backyards to use as offices, studios or extra bedrooms. Others use them as mobile vacation homes they can park in the woods. But the most intrepid of the tiny house owners live in them full-time, paring down their possessions and often living off the grid.

"It's very un-American in the sense that living small means consuming less," said Jay Shafer, 46, co-founder of the Small House Society, sitting on the porch of his wooden cabin in California wine country. "Living in a small house like this really entails knowing what you need to be happy and getting rid of everything else."

Shafer, author of "The Small House Book," built the 89-square-foot house himself a decade ago and lived in it full-time until his son was born last year. Inside a space the size of an ice cream truck, he has a kitchen with gas stove and sink, bathroom with shower, two-seater porch, bedroom loft and a "great room" where he can work and entertain — as long as he doesn't invite more than a couple guests.

He and his family now live in relatively sprawling 500-square foot home next to the tiny one.

Shafer, co-owner of the Tumbleweed Tiny House Company, designs and builds miniature homes with a minimalist style that prizes quality over quantity and makes sure no cubic inch goes to waste. Most can be hooked up to public utilities. The houses, which pack a range of amenities in spaces smaller than some people's closets, are sold for $40,000 to $50,000 ready-made, but cost half as much if you build it yourself.

Tumbleweed's business has grown significantly since the housing crisis began, Shafer said. He now sells about 50 blueprints, which cost $400 to $1,000 each, a year, up from 10 five years ago. The eight workshops he teaches around the country each year attract 40 participants on average, he said.

"People's reasons for living small vary a lot, but there seems to be a common thread of sustainability," Shafer said. "A lot of people don't want to use many more resources or put out more emissions than they have to."

Compared to trailers, these little houses are built with higher-quality materials, better insulation and eye-catching design. But they still have wheels that make them portable — and allow owners to get around housing regulations for stationary homes.

Since the housing crisis and recession began, interest in tiny homes has grown dramatically among young people and retiring Baby Boomers, said Kent Griswold, who runs the Tiny House Blog, which attracts 5,000 to 7,000 visitors a day.

"In the last couple years, the idea's really taken off," Griswold said. "There's been a huge interest in people downsizing and there are a lot of young people who don't want to be tied down with a huge mortgage and want to build their own space."

Gregory Johnson, who co-founded the Small House Society with Shafer, said the online community now has about 1,800 subscribers, up from about 300 five years ago. Most of them live in their small houses full-time and swap tips on living simple and small.

Johnson, 46, who works as a computer consultant at the University of Iowa, said dozens of companies specializing small houses have popped up around the country over the past few years.

Before he got married, Johnson lived for six years in a small cabin he built himself and he wrote a book called "Put Your Life on a Diet: Lessons Learned from Living in 140 Square Feet."

"You start to peel away the things that are unnecessary," said Johnson, who now lives in a studio apartment with his wife. "It helps you define your priorities with regard to your material things."

Northern California's Sonoma County has become a mini-mecca for the tiny house industry, with an assortment of new businesses launching over the last few years.

Stephen Marshall, 63, worked as a building contractor for three decades before the real estate market tanked three years ago. That's when he jumped into the tiny house business, starting Petaluma-based Little House On The Trailer.

His company builds and sells small houses that can serve as stand-alone homes equipped with bathrooms and kitchens, and others he calls "A Room of One's Own" that can be used as a home office or extra bedroom. Many of his customers are looking for extra space to accommodate an aging parent or adult children who are returning home, he said.

He said his small houses, which sell for $20,000 to $50,000, are much cheaper than building a home addition and can be resold when the extra space is no longer needed. His company has sold 16 houses this year and aims to sell 20 next year.

"The business is growing as the public becomes aware of this possibility," Marshall said. "A lot of families are moving in with one another. A lot of young people can't afford to move out. There's just a lot of economic pressure to find an alternative way to provide for people's housing needs."

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CHARTER
FROM PAGE 1

lot of the misinformation that is in the staff findings."

She said her group has received commitments for $500,000 in annual gifts to Point Dume that would make up for any shortfall the district has noted in the school's three-year budget plan.

Her group is prepared to appeal the SMMUSD board's decision to the Los Angeles County Office of Education and then to the State Board of Education if necessary, she said.

The Malibu group submitted its charter conversion petition in October after citing concerns the district may close Point Dume because of declining enrollment and state budget cuts could negatively affect the quality of the school's programs.

In urging the board to deny the petition, district staff took issue with those motivations.

"Petitioners' fears are unfounded and do not provide a basis for the conversion of the school to charter status … . To the contrary, the district has committed extensive funding and support to the school site far beyond what the school site generates in per pupil funding," the report stated.

Above what the state provides in education dollars, the SMMUSD receives money from the city of Santa Monica, the city of Malibu, the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, the district-wide PTA and voter-approved parcel taxes. It is likely to get a new boost beginning next year from Measure Y, the recently approved Santa Monica sales tax increase.

According to the district, Point Dume would lose out on its share of these revenue enhancements if converted to a charter, leading to reduced services and resources at the school.

But Robyn Ross, a past president of the Point Dume PTA and another lead petitioner, said while the group didn't rely on any of the district's revenue enhancements to come up with a budget, it's possible the potential charter school could have a claim on some of the funding sources the district claimed would be off limits.

"We do feel like we would be entitled to some of [them] because we would still be a public school and that's what the money is intended for," she said, though she added Point Dume does not plan to ask for a share of money raised from Measure Y.

I DO HOPE THAT THEY GIVE US THE TIME TO REFUTE A LOT OF THE MISINFORMATION THAT IS IN THE STAFF FINDINGS."

Ali Thonson,
Lead petitioner for Point Dume charter conversion effort

She said the charter school's proposed budget also did not include funds raised by the Point Dume PTA, which typically pays for school programs including art and music and covers the salaries of teacher aides.

Outgoing school board president Barry Snell said he expects the petitioners' proposed budget plan to be front and center as the board weighs its decision on Thursday.

"Financial issues have always been an area of concern," he said.

Addressing the petitioners' statements that Malibu locals could raise hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to support the school, he said: "I realize that this is an area of our community that is wealthy, but I also believe that we have to [base our decision on] the petition."

Snell declined to say which way he was leaning but called the charter school petition "the biggest public school issue since the opening of Malibu High School."

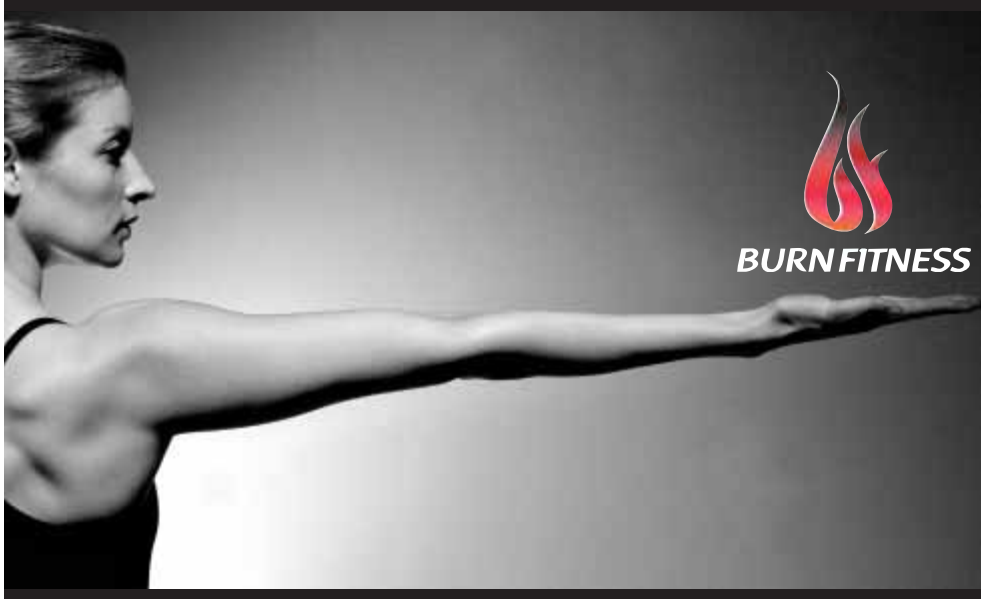
"It'll be an interesting meeting, but at this point I still haven't made a decision," he said.

For her part, Thonson said charter school supporters plan to continue to make their case to the school board.

"We're in the process of preparing responses right now and we absolutely intend to reach out to board members," she said. "I really do believe that this is something that they have taken the time to educate themselves about … . I really hope that that will continue within the next few days."

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

STILL STANDING: **A state appellate court ruled against a Jewish group that was seeking to overturn landmark status for the Teriton apartments on San Vicente Boulevard in Santa Monica.**

TERITON
FROM PAGE 1

toric preservation rules.

But in a unanimous decision issued in November, a three-judge panel from the Second Appellate District, Division Three, disagreed, saying no exemption was warranted because the property had continuously been operated as a for-profit apartment building.

In the decision, Justice Richard D. Aldrich wrote that "to qualify for the exemption from historic preservation ... the property must be 'noncommercial,' i.e., used for the religious institution's mission and not for profit, before the religious institution seeks to invoke the exemption."

The decision upheld an earlier ruling by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant. The City Council also previously denied the group's attempt to win an exemption.

"I believe this resolves the litigation," Alan Seltzer, Santa Monica's chief deputy city attorney, said on Tuesday. "The attempt to exempt the property from historic landmark laws has been rebuffed."

Perry did not return a call seeking comment by deadline Tuesday, but he earlier told the Metropolitan News-Enterprise that he intended to petition the California Supreme Court for review.

> **"THE ATTEMPT TO EXEMPT THE PROPERTY FROM HISTORIC LANDMARK LAWS HAS BEEN REBUFFED."**
>
> **Alan Seltzer,**
> Chief deputy city attorney

The building in question consists of two- and three-story structures arranged in a pinwheel plan around courtyards. During hearings to determine the building's landmark status, proponents said it was one of just two remaining buildings in the Los Angeles area that exhibit the unique pinwheel design.

Tenants in the building, including a number of senior citizens who would have been evicted if Or Khaim's plans had moved ahead, also opposed the demolition.

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‘Runway’ designer does T-shirts for World AIDS Day

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK There’s a reason Mondo Guerra shared his story about being HIV positive on the reality show “Project Runway.” It’s just at the time, he wasn’t quite sure what it was.

In hindsight, though, Guerra thinks he was compelled to do it because “now I have the ability to bring attention to a cause,” he says.

“Things happen for a reason,” he adds. “Now that this is my life now, it has brought some opportunities. I think it’s inspired a lot of other people to be courageous and step forward.”

He also can raise money for AIDS research in a new partnership with online retailer Piperlime. Mondo, a “Runway” fan favorite this season, designed two limited-edition T-shirts to launch Wednesday, to coincide with World AIDS Day.

For each shirt sold, $20 will be donated to amFAR, an organization that focuses on AIDS research.

One shirt shows a tree with a single heart hanging from a branch and the other features a colorful skull in the Day of the Dead theme that dominated Guerra’s final collection on the TV show.

The Mexican tradition of Day of the Dead isn’t about death at all, he says, it’s about celebrating the memory of loved ones. “I think it’s a smart choice to use this for this cause.”

The T-shirts are for women, though Guerra notes, “They actually printed a male version in extra small just for me.”

Fair Isle and plaid keep gift trends in the family

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK The list of gifts can be short this year: Fair Isle knits, plaid anything, pea coats, flannel shirts, maybe some skinny-leg cargo pants or something in red.

That should cover everyone from grandpa to the kids. It’s the rare occurrence this holiday season that some of the biggest fashion trends transcend demographics.

“Now that communication is so much faster, trends are quicker and everyone has access to them,” explains Nina Garcia, fashion director at Marie Claire. “All these trends get adapted quickly to men’s, women’s, children’s, and the trends from the celebrities and runways are generalized so quickly for the broader market.”

It helps that many of this year’s “trends” are largely adaptations of classic, iconic holiday looks, adds Nicole Fischelis, vice president of ready-to-wear at Macy’s. Yet there is a feeling of newness because there feels like more of a high-fashion influence over it all, she says.

“We have a huge statement in plaid — we have special shops for plaid this year. There’s the button-down shirt for men, and the sleeveless quilted vest for women. The Fair Isle, the argyle, the snowflake are always a part of things, too, but these trends are global. You saw so much Nordic from Dolce & Gabbana and (Jean Paul) Gaultier, and rescaled Fair Isle. There is a trickle down from that to every part of the store,” Fischelis says.

At Gap, you’ll find a few common threads among all its collections, from Baby Gap to Gap Body. They include faux fur, plaid and sparkle.

Normally, womenswear takes its own trajectory, says Simon Kneen, creative director of Banana Republic, but women’s and men’s styles in stores right now are simpatico — especially among the wintery Fair Isle knits.

“I think it’s all part of a larger sportswear influence this year — the feeling of outdoors, the coziness of cardigans, the need for warmth,” Kneen says. “As a shopper, it should be easier. You’re looking for uniqueness for everyone, and you can still have that, but when you find these sorts of patterns, you really find the fun of holiday gifts. Who doesn’t want the aspiration of playing in the snow or on the mountaintop?”

At Kohl’s department stores there are two stories to tell: Fair Isle and utility, which includes the pea coats and cargo pants, as well as work boots and two-pocket flannel shirts.

“In most cases, we merchandise by gender and classification, but as the customer walks the floor this holiday, she’ll see recurring ideas,” says David Hacker, Kohl’s vice president of trend and color.

Some years there have been broad color themes or a must-have item that works across categories, but it’s unusual when bona fide trends reach so many people, he says. “The stars have aligned for this. It doesn’t happen all the time. ... This year is about these genderless ideas.”

Not that everyone should wear these styles the same way. In fact, says Garcia, who also is Target’s style adviser, they shouldn’t.

“It’s all about the mixing and matching and how you wear things based on your personal style,” she says. “It would be funny to see your husband, your child and yourself all wearing the same trend at the same time, but, trust me, cargo pants will look different on everyone in the family.”

Or, take the plaid shirt. Dad might wear it in a neutral color, loose and layered over a long-sleeve waffle T-shirt, while mom’s should be more fitted in a pretty color — perhaps lavender or yellow — or she can wear it as a tunic over leggings, Garcia suggests. “It’s the same trend but interpreted very differently.”

And, Macy’s Fischelis wonders if, at least for the holidays, the family could be a little matchy-matchy while they have the chance? “I think it’s fun to have one theme. It’s what you do around the dinner table, why not do it while you’re all gathered around the Christmas tree?”

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This year marks the fourth year the City of Santa Monica Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum will be participating as an official toy drop off site. The Cemetery is located at 1847 14th Street (Corner of 14th Street and Pico Boulevard.) across the street from Santa Monica College.

Donations of <u>new</u> unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Cemetery business office beginning November 22 and continuing through December 20. Toys may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. Please call (310) 458-8717 for additional information.

Also during this holiday season the cemetery will be displaying a 30 foot living pine tree in the lobby of the mausoleum. The purpose of the tree is to allow individuals and their families and friends the opportunity to visit the mausoleum and to hang an ornament on the tree in memory of a loved one that has passed away. The cemetery will provide the ornaments which can be personalized. At the end of the holiday season, the tree will be planted on the grounds of the cemetery as an everlasting memory.

The holiday season can be a very difficult time for many people who have experienced the death of a loved one. In an effort to make this time a little bit more bearable and offer hope for the future, the Cemetery staff would like to extend an invitation to the Community to participate in the Tree of Life program

<u>The tree and ornaments will be available December 1 through December 23* during the follow schedule:</u>

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. | Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

* Thursday, December 23 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum is owned and operated by the City of Santa Monica and is located at 1847 14th Street (corner of Pico Boulevard and 14th Street) in Santa Monica.

For additional information, please contact the Cemetery Office at (310) 458-8717.

www.smgov.net/woodlawn

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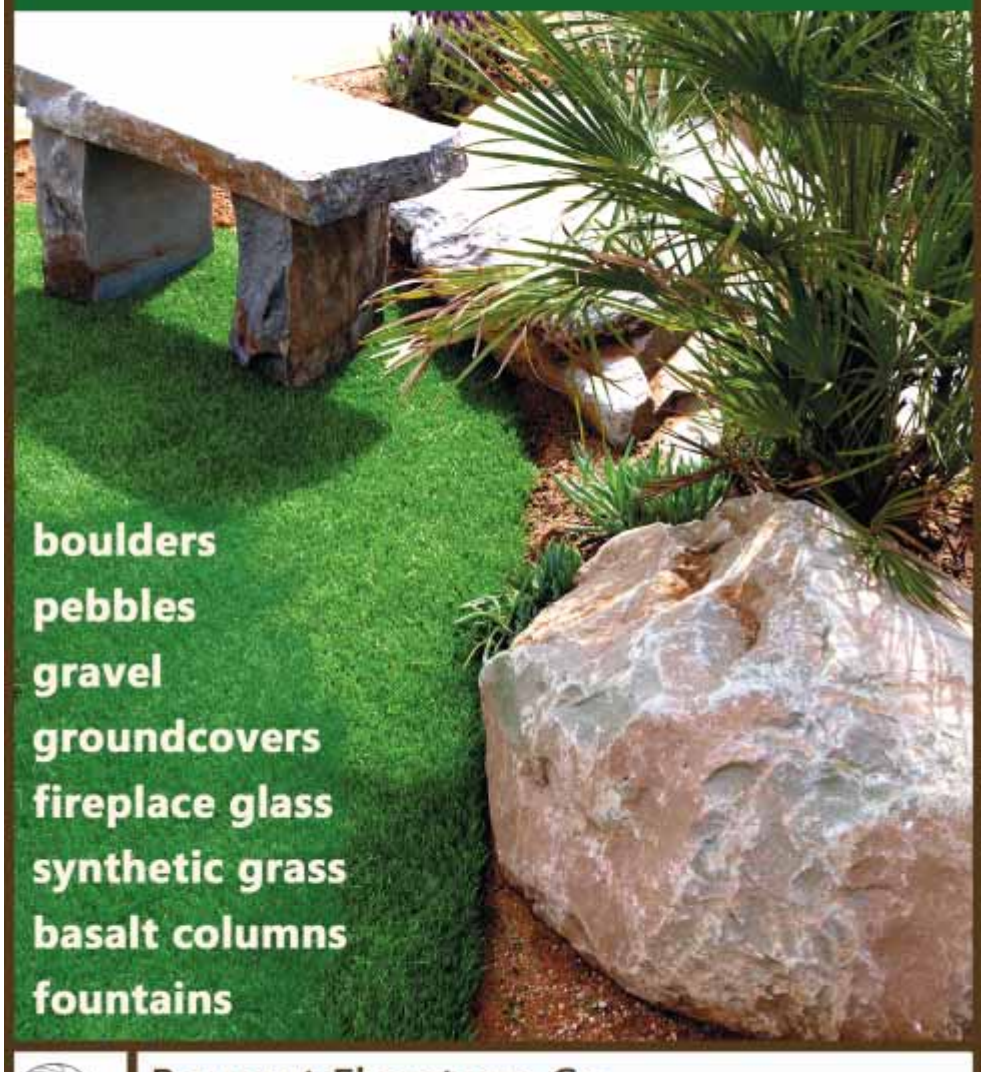
NOTE: ICE at Santa Monica is a community-driven outdoor ice skating rink that is open to the public throughout the season. We welcome large groups to book private events in our cabanas, but cannot close the rink for individual buy-outs during regular rink hours. If you are interested in booking a buy-out party before or after rink hours, please contact Event Coordinator Jillian Tomasula.

To book an event, please email events@iceatsantamonica.com or call (310) 710-8913.

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STATE BRIEFS

BAKERSFIELD, Calif.

2 arrested in shootout with Bakersfield officers

A Bakersfield police officer is recovering after he was shot in the leg while responding to a report of fighting and gunshots.

Police say a bullet went through Officer Christopher Messick's upper leg during the shooting around 4 a.m. Sunday. He was treated and released from a hospital.

Police have arrested 23-year-old David Sebastian Rosas and an unidentified 17-year-old boy on suspicion of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and conspiracy in the shooting.

Bakersfield police Sgt. Mary DeGeare tells The Bakersfield Californian the two began firing at Messick and his partner, Robert Woods, after the officers responded to gunfire at their home.

She says they may have mistaken the officers for a group of men they had fought with earlier and who had vowed to return to their home.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLFLOWER, Calif.

Van stolen in SoCal had costly show dogs inside

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies are looking for four valuable show dogs in a white cargo van stolen from a motel parking lot in Bellflower.

Sgt. Daniel Gillespie says the van was stolen between 11 p.m. Monday and 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. He didn't know if the two Akitas and two corgis were in carriers or loose in the vehicle.

Dog owner Kristina Rickard of Bella Vista in Northern California pleaded for the return of the dogs and told Fox TV Los Angeles that they are worth about $500,000. She and the dogs were in town to take part in a dog show at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Gillespie says investigators believe the target of the theft was the van. He says what happens next will depend on how the thief decides to deal with the dogs.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Calif crossing guard beaten in front of kids

Officials say a man and woman beat a Southern California school crossing guard and stole her stop sign and whistle while astonished kids looked on.

Investigators say the 59-year-old female crossing guard was helping about 20 children across the street in the Florence area of south Los Angeles when she tried to stop an SUV on Monday afternoon.

Sheriff's Capt. Mike Parker says the crossing guard told the driver he must stop but the couple got out of the SUV and beat the crossing guard before fleeing with her stop sign and whistle.

Deputies arrested 27-year-old Jose Hernandez and 20-year-old Vanessa Del Pilar Martinez.

Officials did not know if the couple had been arraigned and the district attorney's office was not immediately able to find information on the case Tuesday.

AP

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.

Man suspected of ramming officer pleads not guilty

A Novato man has pleaded not guilty to backing his vehicle into a San Rafael police officer while driving under the influence.

Marin County prosecutors say 43-year-old Guillermo Garcia Rodriguez entered the plea on Tuesday to a felony count of driving under the influence causing injury and a misdemeanor count of driving without a license.

Authorities say Rodriguez was headed toward a DUI checkpoint Wednesday when he stopped his Ford Explorer, put it in reverse and rammed into Officer Christopher Sweeney's motorcycle while trying to avoid the checkpoint.

Sweeney — an eight-year veteran of the force — was parked at a gas station with other officers a short distance before the checkpoint.

He was treated for sprains and bruises.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Court overturns conviction in LA Skid Row killings

A federal appeals court has overturned the conviction of a man accused in the notorious Los Angeles Skid Row Stabber slayings.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on Tuesday ordered a new trial for Bobby Joe Maxwell, saying his 1984 conviction for the murders of two Los Angeles transients was based largely on the false testimony of an "infamous" jailhouse snitch.

Maxwell was charged with the 1978 and 1979 murders of 10 people in Los Angeles' Skid Row section. A jury convicted him of two of the killings after his cellmate, Sidney Storch, testified that Maxwell confessed to the murders. Maxwell was sentenced to life in prison.

But the federal appeals court said Storch's testimony was unreliable because he was a habitual liar.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Somali woman in terror money case to stay in jail

A Somali-born woman in San Diego who is accused of routing money and people to a terrorist organization in her native country will remain in jail for now.

Nima Ali Yusuf appeared briefly Tuesday in U.S. District Court, where she waived her right to a custody hearing and agreed to remain in jail with the option of arguing for her release at a later date.

She is among seven people of Somali descent indicted nationwide in recent weeks and accused of conspiring to provide support to the organization al-Shabab.

The al-Qaida-linked militia is trying to overthrow the African nation's transitional government and install a strict brand of Islam.

Prosecutors say the 24-year-old permanent U.S. resident sent about $800 to al-Shabab and tried to recruit fighters for the group.

AP

EPA fines West's largest toxic waste dump $300,000

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. A vast toxic waste dump at the center of a birth defects controversy in Central California has been fined more than $300,000 for allowing cancer-causing chemicals to leach into the soil, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday.

Residents near the Kettleman Hills dump previously expressed concerns that the largest hazardous waste dump in the West was linked to a high rate of birth defects among children.

However, state health officials said they have not identified a common cause of the problems in the Central California community.

EPA officials said Chemical Waste Management was being fined because the dump failed to clean up soil tainted with PCBs. The facility is one of just 10 dumps nationwide that handles polychlorinated biphenyls, a now-banned transformer fluid.

"Companies charged with safely disposing of society's most toxic materials need to rigorously follow the protective laws established to secure both the public safety and public trust," said Jared Blumenfeld, the EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest.

The landfill is near Kettleman City, an impoverished San Joaquin Valley farm town where 11 cases of cleft palates and other birth defects have been reported since 2007.

EPA officials did not immediately say whether the disposal problems had any ties to health risks but noted the company is in the final stages of completing a study about human health or environmental risk of PCBs migrating off-site.

New Calif. AG set to play prominent political role

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The first woman and minority elected to be California's top law enforcement officer promised Tuesday to push to change the way the state punishes criminals, work to protect the environment and pursue predators she said are victimizing people who have lost their jobs.

Kamala Harris, who will become attorney general in January, embraced the national leadership role she said often comes with California's size and willingness to seek new paths. Harris, who is currently San Francisco district attorney, will take over from fellow Democrat Jerry Brown, the governor-elect.

She pledged to put a new emphasis on rehabilitating and diverting criminals from prisons in an era of budgetary limits. California must end a cycle where about seven of every 10 released inmates soon winds up back behind bars, she said on the same day the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on whether California should sharply cut its inmate population to improve prisoners' medical and mental health care.

"This revolving door has to be shut," Harris said in her first news conference after narrowly defeating her Republican opponent. "There has to be some leadership around that, and I intend to be that kind of leader."

Harris said her victory is evidence that voters are willing to try a different approach to punishing criminals. Her opponent, Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, had portrayed himself as tougher on crime, in part because of Harris' personal opposition to the death penalty.

Voters recognized that the state can "be tough on crime and be smart on crime," she said, promising that as attorney general she plans nothing less than helping to reform the criminal justice system.

She promised to continue Brown's emphasis on combating global warming and enforcing environmental protections. She said she will also rally local law enforcement officials to fight financial predators she said have been targeting Californians who realized the American dream of home ownership, only to lose their jobs and then their houses.

In those areas and more, California can be a national leader, Harris said.

"As a daughter of California, I pride myself and us living in a state that has always been known as the source of change. So goes California, goes the rest of the country," Harris said. "We are the place that has the courage to invite new approaches, always in search of innovation."

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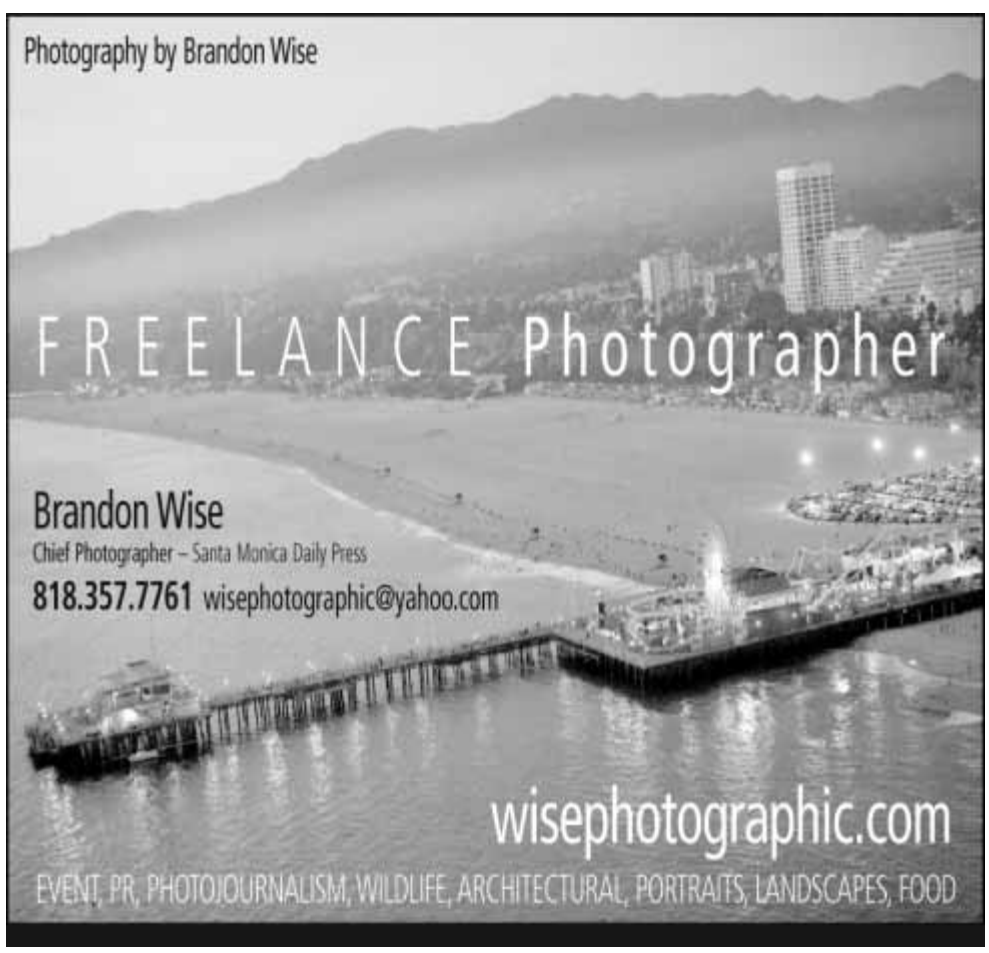
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Home prices falling faster in most metro areas

BY JANNA HERRON
AP Real Estate Writer

NEW YORK Home prices are falling faster in the nation's largest cities, and a record number of foreclosures are expected to push prices down further through next year.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index released Tuesday fell 0.7 percent in September from August. Eighteen of the cities recorded monthly price declines.

Analysts say high unemployment, tight lending standards and millions of foreclosures will weigh on home prices.

"Unemployment is still high, people are afraid of losing their homes and credit is hard to get," said Maureen Maitland, vice president of S&P indices.

Still, Americans are gaining more confidence in the broader economy, a new report Tuesday showed. The Conference Board, a private research group based in New York, said consumer confidence rose to a five-month high in November.

Yet the housing market remains depressed.

Among the cities in the Case-Shiller index, Cleveland recorded the largest decline. Prices there dropped 3 percent from a month earlier. Prices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, which had been showing strength this year, also dropped in September from August.

Washington and Las Vegas were the only metro areas to post gains in monthly prices.

The 20-city index has risen 5.9 percent from their April 2009 bottom. But it remains nearly 28.6 percent below its July 2006 peak.

And home prices have fallen in 15 of the 20 cities in the past year.

Prices in Tampa, Fla., fell to their lowest point since 2003. Portland, Ore., Charlotte, N.C., Miami are also near their low points since the U.S. housing market collapsed in 2006.

Prices were on the upswing in many cities from April through July, mostly boosted by government tax credits which have since expired. Job worries and record high foreclosures are dampening buyer demand and weighing on prices.

The national quarterly index, which measures home prices in the nine U.S. census regions, dropped 2 percent in the third quarter from the previous quarter.

Wis. high school student dies from self-inflicted gunshot wound

BY TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MARINETTE, Wis. A 15-year-old student who held about two dozen students and a teacher hostage for several hours in a classroom at a Wisconsin high school died Tuesday at a hospital from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said.

Sophomore Samuel Hengel shot himself after police stormed a classroom at Marinette High School on Monday night, said police chief Jeff Skorik. Hengel, of Porterfield, had been holding most of the students and their social studies teacher hostage for several hours. No one else was wounded.

The teenager allowed one of his hostages free a short time after he took over the classroom after the girl's mother tried to call her daughter and couldn't reach her, said Principal Corry Lambie. Five more of his hostages were let out after about six and a half hours, and finally the other students and their teacher Valerie Burd emerged unharmed.

The terrified high schoolers trapped in the classroom worked desperately to keep their captor calm by chatting and laughing with him about hunting and fishing. Student hostage Zach Campbell said the gunman seemed depressed, but he didn't think he meant his classmates any harm.

"I didn't know really what to think. I was just hoping to get out alive," Campbell said Tuesday on CBS' "Early Show." "He didn't want to shoot any of us."

Campbell told The Associated Press that six of the gunman's close friends were in that class.

Authorities also said they did not know what might have motivated the boy who made no demands or requests during the standoff.

"As far as what caused this, it seems to be a mystery," Skorik said. "We have not been able to identify anything that precipitated this incident."

Skorik said the suspect fired three shots immediately before police entered the room, but he had also fired at least two or three shots before that. He shot into a wall, a desk and equipment in the room, but he was not aiming at any students, Skorik said. The shooter was carrying a 9 mm semi-automatic and a .22 caliber semi-automatic, and he had additional ammunition in his pocket and a duffel bag with more bullets was found at the scene, the chief said. A knife was also found in the room, he said.

A bomb-sniffing dog was brought in to check the building for explosives and none were found, the chief said. He said it was not clear where the boy got the weapons or how he sneaked them into school.

The shooter entered the classroom, where he was a student, at around 1:30 p.m., Skorik said.

Marinette Schools Superintendent Tim Baneck said the student started class without any weapons. He then asked to use the restroom, and when he returned he was carrying the duffel bag containing the two guns and ammunition, Baneck said.

It wasn't until more than two hours later that the principal learned that neither the teacher nor any of the students from the class had been seen, Skorik said. He went to investigate and was threatened by the shooter to "get out of here," Skorik said. Lambie said the classroom was dark and locked so he used a key to enter and that's when the teen pointed a gun at him and told him to leave. The principal said he left and was able to take one of the students with him.

Campbell said the class was watching a movie when the gunman shot the projector, then fired a second round. He had two handguns and refused to let anyone leave, Campbell said. He demanded everyone dump their cell phones in the center of the room. When the gunman's own cell phone rang, the boy snapped it in half, Campbell said.

He wasn't interested in talking with the teacher and told her to be quiet, Campbell said. But the gunman chatted with his fellow students, who tried to keep him talking about how he hunted and about fishing. Students even got the gunman to laugh,

Senate shuns push for elimination of pet projects

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON By a sizable — but dwindling — margin, the Senate on Tuesday voted in favor of allowing lawmakers to keep stocking bills with home-state projects like roads, grants to local police departments and clean-water projects.

But with the House set to tumble into GOP hands and anti-earmark reinforcements coming to the Senate in January, the window seems to be closing on the practice.

Tuesday's 39-56 tally rejected a GOP bid to ban the practice of loading spending bills with so-called earmarks — those parochial provisions that lawmakers deliver to their states — but it appears the curtain is coming down on the practice.

Most Democrats and a handful of Republicans combined to defeat the effort, which would have effectively prohibited the Senate from considering legislation containing earmarks like road and bridge projects, community development funding, grants to local police departments and special-interest tax breaks.

The tally, however, was a better showing for earmark opponents, who lost a 29-68 vote earlier this year. Any votes next year should be closer because a band of anti-earmark Republicans is joining the Senate. "More like 45 or better," said earmark opponent Jim DeMint, R-S.C.

Earlier this month, Republicans bowed to tea party activists and passed a party resolution declaring GOP senators would give up earmarks. House Republicans have also given up the practice, but most Democrats say earmarks are a legitimate way to direct taxpayer money to their constituents.

Seven Democrats voted with all but eight Republicans to ban the practice.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Tuesday that Democrats had made the earmarking process far more transparent than it previously had been under GOP control of Congress. The reforms include requiring lawmakers to document every project they seek and receive.

"I believe I have an important responsibility to the state of Illinois and the people I represent to direct federal dollars into projects critically important for our state and its future," Durbin said.

Critics say that peppering most spending bills with hundreds or even thousands of earmark projects creates a go-along-get-along mindset that ensures that Washington spending goes unchecked.

President Barack Obama supports a ban as well, but hasn't fought earmarks in the past two years as Democrats controlling Congress enacted two cycles of appropriations bills studded with them.

Opposition from Senate Republicans leaves Senate Democrats as the only faction of Congress in a position to try to save the practice of earmarking. But their position doesn't seem very strong, since House Speaker-in-waiting John Boehner, R-Ohio, has vowed that no earmark-laden bills will pass after Republicans take over the House.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky had long been a strong supporter of earmarks — they were a big issue in his 2008 campaign — but reversed course shortly after the GOP's big win in the midterm elections.

McConnell's move headed off an internal party battle over earmarks and came after an election cycle in which prolific earmarkers Robert Bennett, R-Utah, and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, lost bids to win the GOP nod for their re-election. (Murkowski subsequently won a rare bid as a write-in candidate.)

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., sponsor of Tuesday's measure, says GOP support will likely increase as old-timers leave the Senate. And GOP moderate Olympia Snowe of Maine — facing a potential challenge from the right should she seek re-election in 2012 — switched in favor of the ban after supporting earmarks in a vote in March.

"A lot of the earmarkers are leaving," Coburn said. "And I think people are going to be looking over their shoulders in 2012 a little bit. This isn't the last time we're going to have that vote."

Estimates vary, but earmarks went from more than 1,300 projects worth nearly $8 billion in 1994 to a peak of nearly 14,000 projects worth more than $27 billion in 2005, according to Citizens Against Government Waste, a watchdog group that opposes the practice.

Democrats also say they've cut back the number and cost of earmarks by half. Some watchdogs dispute that, but there's universal praise for reforms that made the process more transparent for outsiders to track a "pay-to-play" system in which lobbyists and corporate executives showered lawmakers with campaign funds in exchange for earmarks.

Coburn said earmarks can create "a conflict of interest that benefits just those we represent from our states or just those who help us become senators. All we have to do is look at campaign contributions and earmarks, and there is a stinky little secret associated with that."

Supporters picked up new help from Democrats Michael Bennet and Mark Udall of Colorado, Bill Nelson of Florida, and Mark Warner of Virginia. At the same time, eight Republicans who were who opposed the ban in a vote in March now have joined with earmark opponents, including Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, and Snowe.





City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Extension of Interim Ordinance No. 2250 (CCS) to December 31, 2012 Clarifying the Scope of the Prohibition of New Construction Within a Five Hundred Foot Radius of Another Construction Project and Establishing the Maximum Length of Time that Projects Can be Delayed**

APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica
LOCATION: Citywide

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following proposed text amendment:

Extend Interim Ordinance No. 2250 (CCS) which was adopted on February 26, 2008 and extended by Interim Ordinance No. 2256 (CCS) and Interim Ordinance 2279 (CCS) to clarify that only one single new construction project is allowed within a five hundred foot radius in the City's multi-family residential districts, to clarify that exempt projects under construction are considered in applying the prohibition on new construction, and to establish the maximum length of time that projects subject to the construction rate program can be delayed. Interim Ordinance No. 2250 (CCS) would be extended up to and including January 31, 2012 and would expire after that date unless extended.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010 AT 6:30 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Construction Rate Program
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Barry A. Rosenbaum, Senior Land Use Attorney at (310) 458-8336. Interim Ordinance 2250 (CCS) and the Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at http://www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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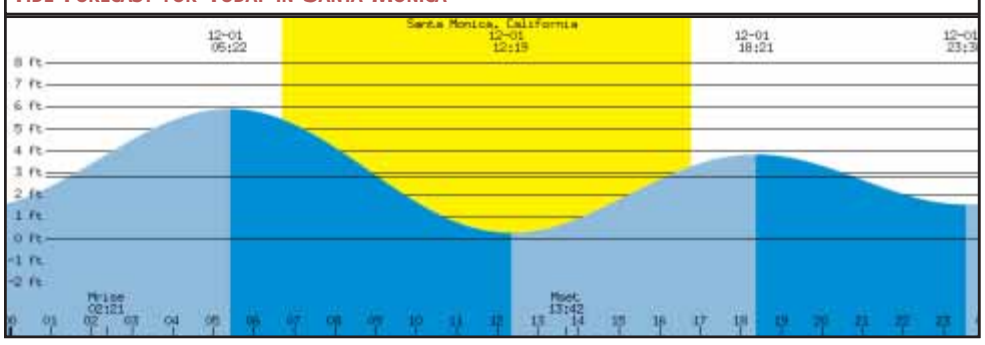
Swell Forecast

Looks rather small as well.

Long Range Synopsis

We could see wind swell increase to chest high around west facing breaks, but sloppy and storm driven.

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 Alina 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 Don 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 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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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.

FIFA

US eyes 2022 World Cup with big hopes for soccer

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK As Americans celebrated the Fourth of July in 1988, a present arrived from Zurich: The World Cup was headed to the United States for the first time.

"The richest land in the world simply cannot be allowed to remain a blank spot on the world map of soccer any longer," Hermann Neuberger, president of West German soccer's governing body, said at the time.

More than two decades since that watershed 1994 World Cup, the global game is now very much a part of the country's sports landscape. There's a national team that's played in six straight World Cups, three television networks that are pretty much all soccer, constant additional exposure on ESPN2 and a growing league preparing for its 16th season — albeit one still struggling to gain attention in a market dominated by the NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA.

Bidders promise another burst of explosive growth if FIFA's executive committee awards the 2022 tournament to the United States when it votes Thursday in Zurich. Australia, Japan, Qatar and South Korea are the competition.

"We've got all of the infrastructure in place, and it's extraordinary infrastructure, which allows us to focus on growing the game and using the World Cup to do that in the United States and have the U.S. become an important part of the global community in this," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think it changes the economics in a positive way for FIFA and other associations."

The 1994 World Cup transformed FIFA's business side.

Names on the backs of players' jerseys?

It started in the U.S.

Corporate tents?

First made in America.

All-Star teams and relentless promotion?

Ditto.

Much of soccer has never seen anything like Dallas Cowboys Stadium, with its 50-yard-wide video screen hovering above field, 10,000 club seats and 300 luxury suites ringing five levels — the expensive seats alone just about match the 20,224 total capacity of Portsmouth's Fratton Park.

Hard to compare that with those in the original bid presented by the U.S. 22 years ago, which included such antiques as Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Md., John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia and Palmer Stadium in Princeton, N.J.

FIFA's technical report says attendance at a U.S. World Cup could average 76,000, breaking the record of 68,991 set in 1994. It says there is medium legal risk because of a lack of government guarantees, which would require federal legislation after a bid is awarded.

"Clearly for us, there is nothing that we could do in the United States, whether it be our federation or Major League Soccer, that would be more important than having the World Cup here in our country," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said.

"Hosting the World Cup in the U.S. is by far the biggest opportunity for our league to capitalize on the growing interest for the sport and ultimately convert that interest to a deeper connection with our league, our clubs and our players."

Gulati and his delegation have spent months lobbying the 22 voters. They'll bring along a group for the final presentation that includes former President Bill Clinton, Attorney General Eric Holder, actor Morgan Freeman, national team star Landon Donovan, former women's team star Mia Hamm and her husband, former Boston Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra.

"It's an election," Gulati said. "And in some sense, in elections you never know where you are until the very last minute, until the vote is taken. There's not accurate polling, per se. So we'll continue to work until the last minute."

FIFA also is selecting the 2018 site that day, picking from among England, Russia, Spain-Portugal and Belgium-Netherlands.

USSF officials hope to one day have a team that wins World Cups, a league that produces clubs as strong as Manchester United, Barcelona and AC Milan — likely the three most popular teams in the United States.

This year's World Cup averaged 2,288,000 households and 3,261,000 viewers on English-language U.S. television, up from 1,735,000 homes and 2,316,000 four years ago. The final was seen by 15.55 million on ABC and another 8.82 million on Spanish-language Univision — well above the 14.3 million average audience for baseball's World Series but a fraction of the 106.5 million that watched this year's Super Bowl.

"We're no longer sitting around trying to explain it to them," said Chuck Blazer, the FIFA executive committee member from the U.S.

MLB

Dodgers trade INF Theriot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS The Los Angeles Dodgers have traded infielder Ryan Theriot to the St. Louis Cardinals for pitcher Blake Hawksworth.

The deal was announced Tuesday.

Theriot hit .270 with 29 RBIs last season while with the Chicago Cubs and Dodgers. The Dodgers are close to signing free agent infielder Juan Uribe, making Theriot expendable.

The right-handed Hawksworth went 4-8 with a 4.98 ERA in 45 games last season.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Monster (R) 1hr 49min
7:30pm
Discussion following with writer/director Patty Jenkins and producer Mark Damon.

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
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:10pm, 9:00pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:00am, 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 3:25pm, 5:40pm, 6:40pm, 9:00pm, 9:55pm

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, 10:35pm

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

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
10:30am, 1:15pm, 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

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

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

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
10:30am, 1:45pm, 4:55pm, 8:30pm

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

Faster (R) 1hr 38min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Love and Other Drugs (R) 1hr 53min
10:50am, 1:35pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
10:40am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
12:25pm, 3:00pm, 5:35pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

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

Easy does it, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ All is not what it seems, as you wake up in perhaps an overly serious mood. Communication flourishes with a boss or someone you look up to. You might not need to agree, but listen well. Your instincts serve you well. Tonight: Where people are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Focus on a matter that is tripping you up. Touch base with a respected, intellectual friend or associate. Consider ways of moving this boulder from your life once and for all. There just might be a way. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Where others hit a roadblock, you move right around it. Tap into your ingenuity more frequently. You'll get acknowledgment for all that you shoulder, but perhaps you might want to delegate or find some other way to lighten the load. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Resist pushing so hard. Know that sometimes taking time off is quite necessary for your health and well-being. News creates yet another perspective, though you still don't have all the facts. Tonight: Close to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You can keep conversations steady and not let emotions plunge to the "dark side" with others carrying on. Note a tendency to look at matters far differently from in recent years. How much do you feel that this attitude is coloring your life? Tonight: A dear partner or friend knows how to entice you into joining him or her.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Be more tuned in to what is needed. Trust that you have what it takes if you slow down some and connect on a more meaningful basis. An argument or a situation in your personal or domestic life could take a lot of time. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Though still serious, you draw many into your camp. Interruptions seem like the name of the game. Be upbeat in how you proceed with another person. Keep asking questions. There is a meeting point. Tonight: As you like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Resist trying to get control of a situation, as uncomfortable as it might be. Realize what happens when you push too hard to get your way. Many people will distance themselves from you. Use your intuition with a money matter. Tonight: It is as you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ How you see a situation and what you do with it could change. Others have firm ideas about what is workable, which you may or may not agree with. Look at reorganizing your finances. Tonight: Only where people are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach out for new information. The unexpected tosses established plans to the wind. Express your willingness to find the path through today's maze. You could be delighted in the end. Tonight: A must appearance that could go late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others seek out your perspective. The wise Aquarian will let others know that your view is nothing more than that -- your view. Trust in your ability to let go of a barrier or relationship issue that might be causing problems. Tonight: Let your imagination lead; you follow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Direct dealings continue to be the only path that works. How you handle someone and the choices you make could cause a change in the dialogue. Go with an associate's or partner's suggestion. Tonight: Don't delay making a call.

Happy birthday

This year, you make waves wherever you go. Enjoy the spotlight, though understand with it comes responsibilities. Admirers tend to be very observant. Pressure builds financially. You might want to cut back, revamp your budget or perhaps consider a second job. You can create exactly what you want. If you are single, you'll have multiple suitors. Choosing the one who will help create the type of relationship you desire also will be important. If you are attached, look to socializing more or taking up a key cause together. Discussions about money might be a bit too animated. Count on LIBRA.

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



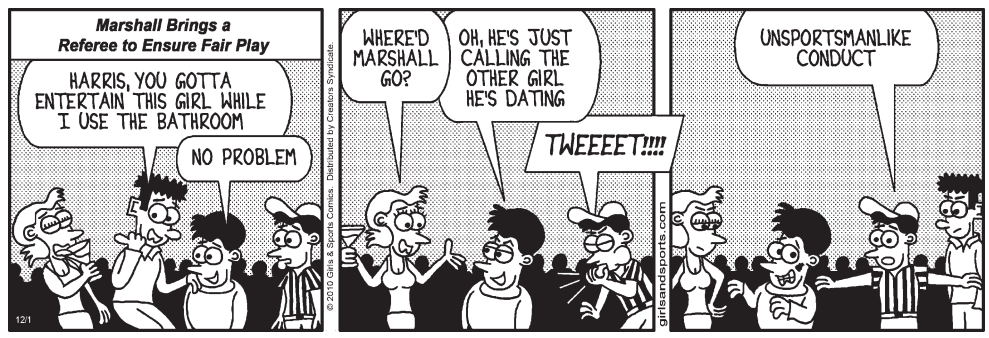
MYSTERY PHOTO

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



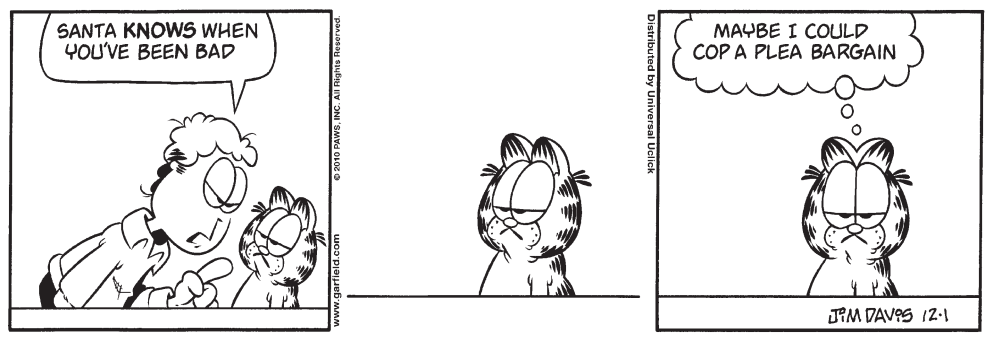
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



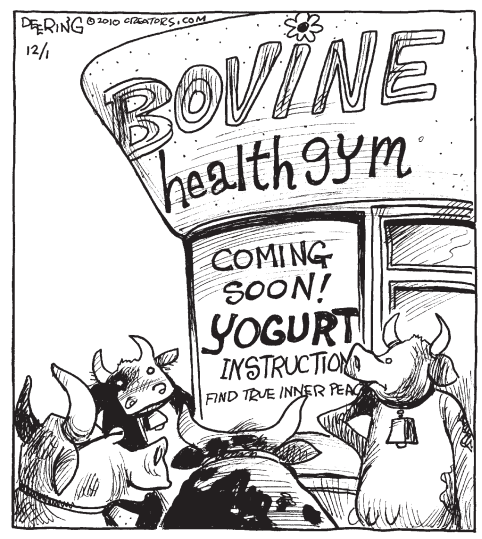
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

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

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

"Seniors!
Do You Know
The Jealously
Guarded Secrets
Banks Hide
From You That
Could Cost You
Thousands?"

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Retain
5 "— Cheatin' Heart"
9 Broadway orphan
11 Carried
12 Was furious
13 Clear
14 French friend
15 Made broader
17 Alley game
19 Ethane, for one
20 Inclined
21 Soggy
22 Grammar topic
24 Buddy
26 "To Autumn" poet
29 Slip preventer
30 Appeal result
32 Naive
34 Bastille Day season
35 Worked, as a trade
36 Bit of gossip
38 Slow tempo
39 Prefix with surgeon
40 Peepers
41 Ready for business

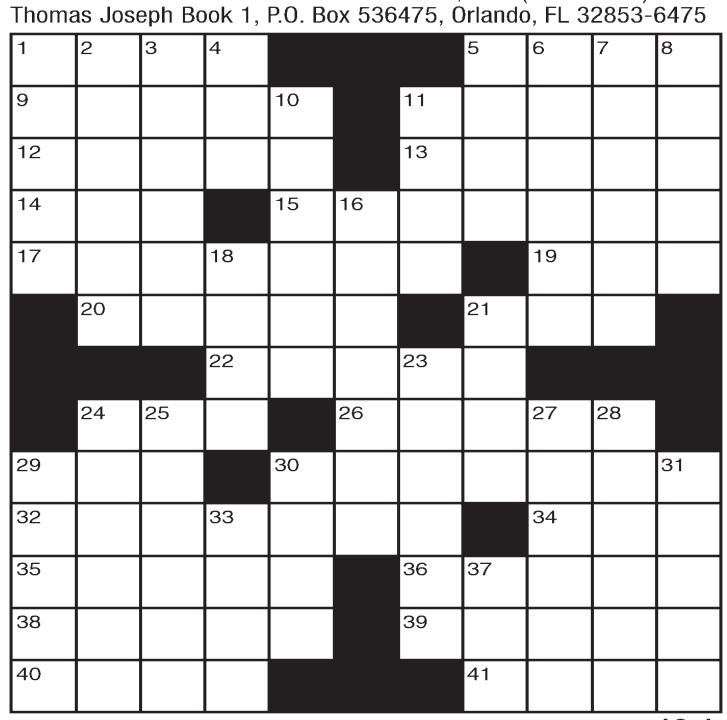
DOWN

1 Gold measure
2 Canine coat
3 Car part
4 Diner dessert
5 Days gone by
6 Marigold color
7 Kick out of office
8 Marsh plants
10 Hubble and Moses
11 Nap sacks
16 Gas pipes
18 One of the Fab Four
21 Dress in
23 Boards
24 Successfully exploit
25 Dress
27 Busy
28 Lampoon specialty
29 Syrup choice
30 Make over
31 Admit
33 Tripod trio
37 "The Matrix" hero

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

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



12-1

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.

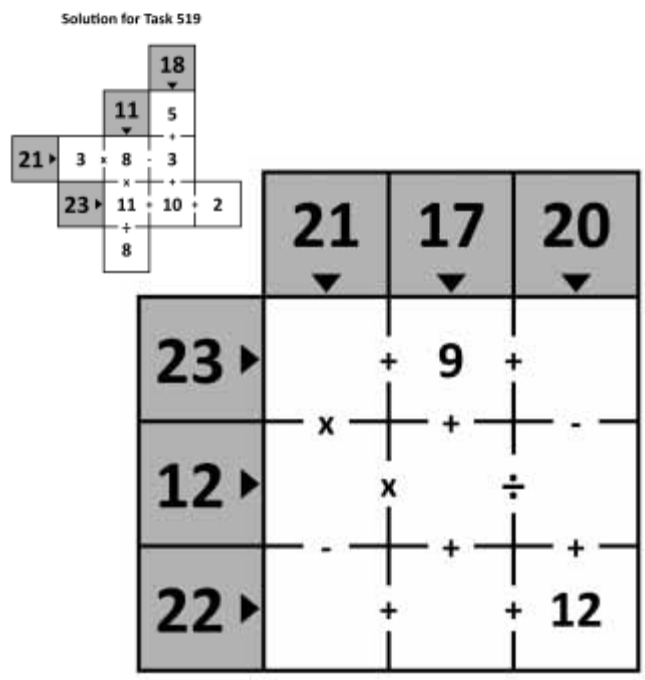
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

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:

3, 3, 4, 4, 6, 9, 11

Solution for Task 519



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 5 9 34 43 47 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $52M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 17 18 24 37 Meganumber: 5 Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 5 8 14 30 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 2 1 EVENING: 7 2 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 06 Whirl Win 2nd: 10 Solid Gold 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1:47.67

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

■ The investigative journalism website ProPublica.org, curious about the workers being hired in the mortgage industry's massive, rushed re-examination of home loans previously foreclosed upon but which may have been processed illegally, began scouring the classified ads in October and November. Result: Though most employers "preferred" college graduates with credit-industry experience, it was clear from the entry-level wages offered that many were accepted only with high school educations, with at least some barely familiar with the concept of mortgages. (One staffing agency, offering $10 to $12 an hour, sought a "Supervisor of Foreclosure Department," but that position, also, required only a high school diploma.)

■ Life Imitates 100 Sci-Fi Movies: At a conference in Vancouver in October, University of California, San Francisco researcher Charles Chiu disclosed that a never-before-detected virus that partially wiped out a monkey colony in a lab in Davis, Calif., recently appeared to have "jumped" from its species onto a human scientist at the facility. However, Chiu and his research team said there is "no cause for alarm at this time."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1925 World War I aftermath: The final Locarno Treaty is signed in London, establishing post-war territorial settlements.

1934 In the Soviet Union, Politburo member Sergei Kirov is shot dead by Leonid Nikolayev at the Communist Party headquarters in Leningrad.

1941 World War II: Fiorello La Guardia, Mayor of New York City and Director of the Office of Civilian Defense, signs Administrative Order 9, creating the Civil Air Patrol.

1955 American Civil Rights Movement: In Montgomery, Alabama, seamstress Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat to a white man and is arrested for violating the city's racial segregation laws, an incident which leads to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

WORD UP!

lilliputian
\ lil-i-PYOO-shuhn \ , adjective;
1. Extremely small; tiny; diminutive. 2. Trivial.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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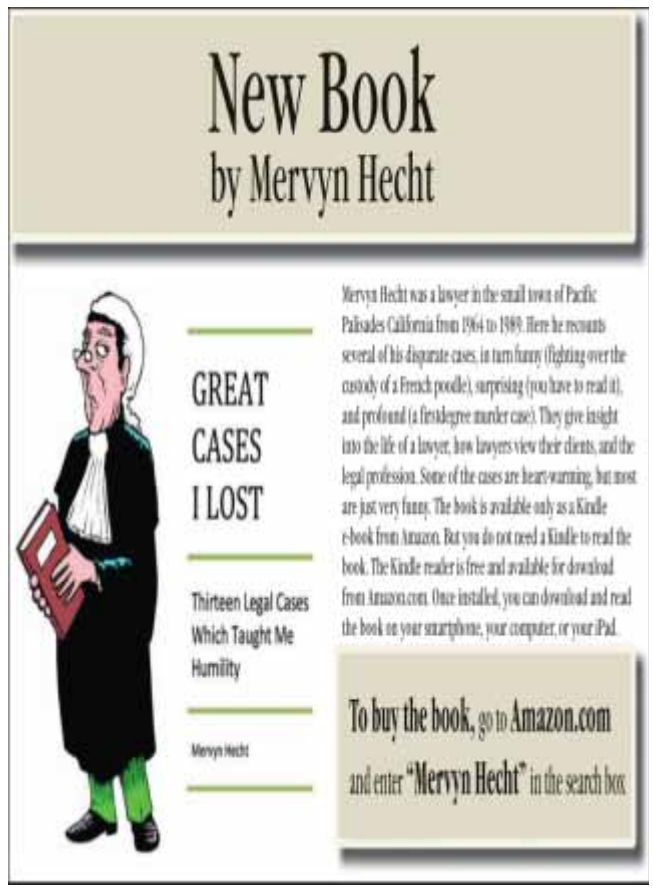
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