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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009
Volume 9 Issue 17



Santa Monica Daily Press

POMEGRANATES FOR PEACE
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE STAY HEALTHY, SANTA MONICA ISSUE

City Hall, restaurants grease way to biofuel

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN French fries might clog arteries, but the grease and oil in which they cook can at least power the ambulances for trips to the hospital.

While City Hall isn't necessarily promoting heart diseases, it is encouraging local restaurants to deposit used fats, oils and greases at refuse collection sites throughout Downtown, turning waste into fuel for biodiesel vehicles.

The recently launched program partners City Hall's Solid Waste Management Division with GeoGreen Biofuels, a new Los Angeles-based company that has placed 200-gallon containers at five parking structures in Downtown where restaurants are welcome to drop off used oils and greases at no cost. GeoGreen then picks up the filled containers and takes them to its new plant in Vernon where the oil is transformed into biodiesel, which participating restaurants can then purchase at wholesale cost.

"Our goal is to make something that is beneficial to restaurants," Myesha Jones, the business assistant in the Solid Waste Management Division, said.

Bins are set up at parking structures on the 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks of Second Street and the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Fourth Street. City officials said the program is meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change and curb the growing number of clogged sewers.

City Hall previously offered smaller 50-gallon containers to businesses who wanted to recycle oils and greases. The waste however was not converted to biofuel, Wes Thompson, the recycling coordinator, said.

He estimates that businesses in Santa Monica go through about 450,000 gallons of oil every year.

Joel Rubin, the director of sales and mar-

SEE GREASE PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WORKING IT OUT: **Students at Lincoln Middle School practice touch football during physical education class on Tuesday.**

Students boost fitness results

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Kids attending local schools boosted their scores in the latest statewide physical fitness test, though fewer than half passed all six portions of the test, according to results released this week by the California Department of Education.

Known as FITNESSGRAM, the test gauges students' abilities in six athletic areas including aerobic capacity, upper body strength and flexibility. Since 1996, the state's board of education has required California's fifth, seventh and ninth graders to take the test annually.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students in all three grades posted better scores during the 2008-2009 school year compared with scores from the previous year.

The results released Monday showed 47.7 percent of SMMUSD fifth graders were in the "healthy fitness zone" in all six areas, compared with 42.9 percent last year. In the seventh grade, 37.8 percent of students passed all parts of the test compared with 34.7 percent the year before and 49.3 percent of ninth graders passed all sections of the test, up from 41 percent.

Compared with statewide figures, a greater percentage of SMMUSD students scored well on the test. Just 29.1 percent of the state's fifth graders, 34.1 percent of seventh graders and 37.9 percent of ninth graders passed all portions of the test last year.

"I don't think there's any cause for joy in the fact that we're better than the state," said Patricia Nolan, who chairs SMMUSD's advisory committee on health and safety, though she added, "It's encouraging that in most of the categories there's been improvement."

Ben Allen, a school board member, agreed that while the progress is a good sign, the fact that nearly two-thirds of the district's seventh graders failed in at least one area underscored the need for improvement.

"These scores are still unacceptably low," he said.

Allen said he hoped community interest in improving the district's fitness performance would lead to more parent participation on the district's health and safety advisory committee, which has had long-standing vacancies.

Dona Richwine, the district's nutrition specialist, said a wellness policy that's been in place since 2007 has helped improve students' on-campus eating habits and could have contributed to the district's improved fitness results. One focus of the new policy

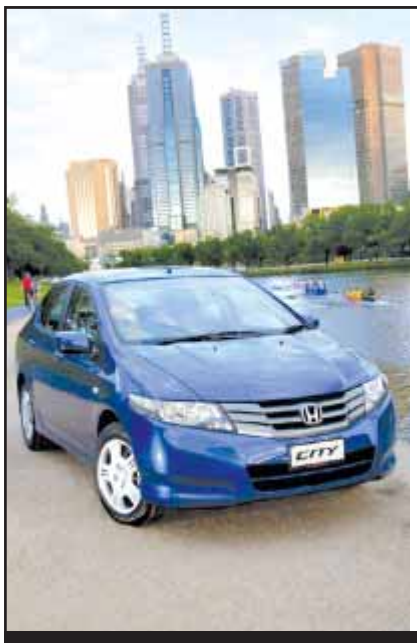
SEE FITNESS PAGE 10


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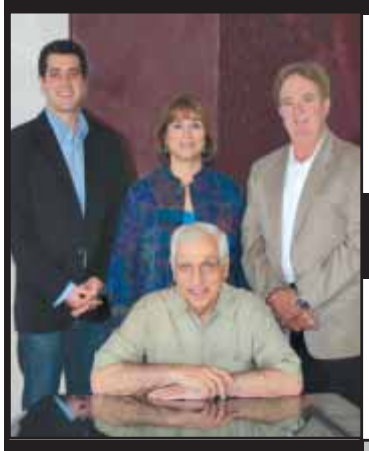
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a lesson and dance on a 3000 square foot floor. Learn the waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle, various Latin dances and other dances by request. No partner is required. Parking is available next door.
Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Heal yourself
Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Experience peace and wellness while cleansing and energizing your body through pranic healing. Master Choa Kok Sui has worked successfully with ailments ranging from asthma, arthritis, cancer, addiction, depression and phobias. It is an effective no-touch healing technique that increases the body's own ability to heal itself. As you allow your body to absorb divine love and divine energy, you will regain mental clarity, joy, happiness and peace of mind. Everyone is welcome for free, no appointment necessary.
Call (310) 883-8371 for more information.

Kicking it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon with guest speakers.
Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

Giving back
Fred Segal
500 Broadway, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Meet stars and designers at this sustainable shopping event hosted by Rachael Leigh Cook. Enjoy cheesecake, burgers, cocktails, beer and music while previewing exclusive luxury and eco-minded brands and collections. The suggested admission for each guest is a newly-wrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots, at least $10 in value.
Call (888) 338-3301 for more information.

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Come for a review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad, moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Discussion is free.
Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Sexy, fun fitness
Isabelle's Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Get the best work-out of your life learning how to pole dance. Pole dancing will make you stronger at every level, from your body to your sense of self-esteem, and it will help you get in touch with your sensual you.
$39 covers two hours. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Preschool story time
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
Bring your child every Thursday morning to story time, especially kids ages three to five. Call (310) 829-7081 for more information.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

Free treatment for toys

The staff at the Institute for Spine and Sports Care is offering patients free chiropractic services to new patients free of charge in exchange for $20 to $30 worth of food or toys to support the Westside Food Bank and the Los Angeles Fire Department's Spark of Love toy drive.

The deal applies to all new patients for the month of December and includes first-day services such as a complete health history and orthopedic, neurologic exam and a report on the findings. Patients are encourages to mention the food/toy drive when scheduling their first appointment.

The following food items are needed:

- Peanut butter
- Cans of soup, tuna, pork and beans, stews, meats or fruits
- Pasta, pinto beans, lentils and macaroni and cheese
- Hot and cold cereals
- Fruit juice
- Baby foods

The Westside Food Bank has distributed nearly four million pounds of food to the food assistance programs of 65 Westside social service agencies, according to staff with the institute. Visit www.westsidefoodbankca.org for more information.

The Spark of Love toy drive provides a new unwrapped toy or sporting good to a child who otherwise would go without a gift this holiday season.

DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE

SMPD: 'Click It or Ticket'

Make sure everyone in the family gets home safely this holiday season by buckling your seat belt every trip, day and night.

That's the message that the Santa Monica Police Department is telling drivers as part of the 2009 holiday Click It or Ticket mobilization. Officers will be out in force looking for anyone – driver, passenger or child – not properly restrained.

Given the years of public awareness campaigns, including hundreds of Click It or Ticket highway signs, no warnings will be given out. The Click It or Ticket campaign relies on heavy enforcement and education as a means to help save lives on California's roadways.

"There is absolutely no question that seat belts save lives," said SMPD Chief Tim Jackman. Currently, California has a seat belt usage rate of 95.4 percent, but that still means over 1.5 million people in the state are not buckling up, police said.

DAILY PRESS



LIT UP Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Jose Ramirez repairs Santa Monica Liquor's vintage neon sign on Tuesday.

'Precious,' 'Last Station' lead Spirit Award noms

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES The urban drama "Precious" and the Leo Tolstoy period piece "The Last Station" each earned a leading five nominations Tuesday for the Spirit Awards honoring independent film.

The two acclaimed movies will compete for best feature film with the romance "500 Days of Summer" and the immigrant dramas "Amreeka" and "Sin Nombre."

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" also earned a best-actress nomination for newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, who plays an illiterate Harlem teen rising above a life of incest and abuse, and a supporting-actress slot for Mo'Nique, who plays her mother. The movie also grabbed honors for director Lee Daniels and screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher.

Helen Mirren had a best-actress nomination for her role as Tolstoy's wife in "The Last Station," while Christopher Plummer earned a supporting-actor honor as the aging Russian author in the drama centered on a struggle over his estate. Filmmaker Michael Hoffman received directing and screenplay nominations for "Last Station."

The Spirit Awards will be presented March 5 on Santa Monica Beach, two days before the Academy Awards, in a ceremony airing on the Independent Film Channel.

Though many low-budget films competing for Spirit Awards never gain traction for the Oscars, notable contenders often go on to earn nominations for Hollywood's top honors. Last year's acting contenders for the Spirit Awards included eventual best-actor Oscar winner Sean Penn for "Milk," along with Oscar nominees Mickey Rourke for "The Wrestler," Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married" and Melissa Leo for "Frozen River."

Absent from this year's Spirit Awards nominations is the acclaimed Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker," which was eligible for those prizes last year. Because it was released theatrically this year, it is eligible for the 2009 Oscars, whose nominations come out Feb. 2.

SEE **SPIRIT** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Agenda behind smoking ban

Editor:

I've long enjoyed your excellent newspaper, but felt compelled to write in reply to a recent article.

Regarding the Nov. 21 article, "Ban on smoking in apartments gets a boost," landlords of rent-controlled units profit when current tenants move out since rents can then be raised to market price. The new smoking ban proposal is an attempted abuse of government power to serve the profit interests of wealthy landowners. The assurance that possible smoking violations will not be used to evict tenants is irrelevant. If you transform someone's home into a place they no longer wish to live, they will leave. This is the true intent of the measure that is being masked as a health issue. If smoke from one apartment wafts into another, then the building needs repairs.

On this issue, like so many others, the Santa Monica Daily Press and many Santa Monica residents are being deceived and used by wealthy special interests. Zero possible exposure to all health risks is an unrealistic and unreasonable goal which would destroy our society and freedoms by banning automobiles, gas stations, fireplaces, candles, smoking, bicycles (accidents happen and somebody could run into somebody else), saturated fats, paint thinner, alcohol, ice cream, a variety of prescription and non-prescription medications, fried foods, processed foods, plastic bottles, all pesticides, sneezing and coughing and even somehow, sunlight (nasty gamma-ray exposure possible). And waxing your car could be a problem – the shiny surface could increase the reflection of dangerous ultra-violet radiation.

In fact, doing anything which is harmful to one's own health or failing to do anything which is beneficial to one's own health impacts others by increasing the demand for, and hence the cost of, health care. And thus all of us are presumably at risk, because health care becomes more expensive. Let's pray that our government never carries such a true but ridiculous argument to its logical conclusion.

The above examples are quite obviously absurdly extreme. So too is the argument for the proposed ban on smoking in one's own apartment. The argument is disguised as a health issue, but it is actually intended to fatten the pockets of landlords.

Smoking is legal and cigars and cigarettes are sold, legally. So long as they're contemplating banning smoking in apartments, why not think about banning it in private houses? Smoke could travel for miles. Why discriminate based on economic status? Not to worry, if we start down the slippery slope it would only be a matter of time before freedoms far beyond smoking are forfeited.

When someone else drives, we are all subject to the emissions from their car. Since we all need to drive, we let it slide. When someone else coughs, H1N1 is a risk. Are we going to arrest/fine folks with a cold (it could be the flu)? No, because any one of us might come down with a cold.

Too often we selfishly protect only our own freedoms when we should be safeguarding everyone's freedoms. That is after all, the principle that created and guides our nation and it is a sacred shared responsibility. If we forget this, then we risk waking up some day to find that our society is one we no longer cherish.

When one person's freedoms are diminished, we all suffer.

A. Borden
Santa Monica





Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Promoting world peace through pomegranates

I ONCE CAUGHT A RIDE FROM A CAB driver who told me that America's problems in Afghanistan really start in Kashmir. He explained that the key conflict in South Asia is between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir (that he, a native Kashmiri, called the most beautiful place on Earth).

In its fight with India, the Pakistani government uses the Taliban and al-Qaida as proxies who do its dirty work without leaving any official fingerprints. And since their India problem is much more important to them than our Afghanistan problem, we can't count on the Pakistani government to eliminate its own intelligence assets for our sake. His point was that it's too late to try to reach the older generation of Afghans, Pakistanis, and Indians who are locked in decades-old patterns of conflict. "Forget the fathers," he said, "concentrate on the sons."

With President Obama's announcement that he is sending some 30,000 additional troops into Afghanistan over the next six months, we will finally finish the job that our previous president put on hold so he could invade and occupy Iraq. Once the military has secured the country, the most important thing is that we not repeat the mistake we made in Iraq by leaving reconstruction to the Department of Defense. The job of building the modern state of Afghanistan has to be centered around diplomatic and developmental work; and that should be done by the United Nations as led by our State Department and its secretary, Hillary Clinton, with a lead role to be played by the Clinton Global Initiative.

I am not the slightest bit concerned about our military's ability to do its job. Within the next 18 months, the most highly-trained and best-equipped fighting force in the history of the world will deploy units all over Afghanistan to capture or kill senior al-Qaida leaders, protect the population from the brutality of the Taliban, and to eliminate the drug warlords who profit from the poppy trade. Then as U.S. troops begin to draw down, I have no doubt that the remaining NATO and Afghan forces will be enough to keep the country secure. The drug warlords are tough, but they don't have an air force.

That's when the real heavy lifting begins because 30 years of war and instability have left Afghanistan in a state of perpetual political upheaval. Two out of three Afghans are illiterate, including three out of every four women, and the unemployment rate is 40 percent. About one-tenth of the population works in the poppy trade, which accounts for one-third of Afghanistan's GDP. The bottom line is that Afghanistan's young people need pubic schools and a principal export that isn't an illegal narcotic.

That's where the Clintons come in. With the central government too inept to run an election, there is no way for it to establish or expand civil institutions on a provincial or local level — and forget about critical infrastructure like highways, roads, and bridges. To get the job done right and done on a scale that will benefit the entire country, it will have to be done by the international community. Who better to lead the team than the U.S. secretary of state?

And once a secured Afghanistan has reliable basic systems for water, power, sewage, and transportation, Bill can bring his Global Initiative into the mix. Eric Schmidt and Sergey Brin from Google can send a team to map the country, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation can bring clean water and clinics to rural villages, Warren Buffett can build some schools, and Steve Jobs can outfit and equip them. Then we'll teach Afghanistan's young people to grow, harvest, market, and export the product that will carry their country into the future: the pomegranate.

Oddly enough, the pomegranates grown in Kandahar, Afghanistan are the tastiest in the world. As a bonus, Afghan farmers who export their pomegranates make as much money per-acre (about two grand) as they would growing poppies, with none of the legal or security issues. Only 1,000 of the 40,000 metric tons of pomegranates grown in Afghanistan this year will be exported, but a few million motivated U.S. consumers can easily quadruple that number. I'd have a bottle of POM juice every day if I knew that buying the stuff was helping the Afghan people. I'd drink double-grenadine Shirley Temples all day and pomegranate martinis all night if it helped fight global terrorism, wouldn't you?

The United Nations and the Clintons need this mission. George W. Bush proved the UN to be powerless to prevent military aggression when he invaded Iraq. Building the country that Afghanistan's young people will inherit would go a long way toward restoring the organization's credibility. Whitewater, Monica-gate, impeachment, and the '08 Democratic primary showed the Clintons of Arkansas to be motivated by self-interest above all else. If they were to use their power and influence to improve the lives of millions of poor Afghans, history would have no choice but to remember them as life-long public servants.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provided with four-quadrant crossover appeal who thinks letting the Afghans corner the pomegranate market is the least the world can do. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp, Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Marissa Lyman, Carlee Jensen, Derrick Oliver
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Greetings becoming more merry

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE WE'VE STEPPED back from the Thanksgiving trenches but your fridge still has, in all likelihood, plenty of leftovers to graze upon until they become next week's Tupperware bio-warfare experiments.

Last week's Rasmussen poll reported that only 53 percent of American's are more thankful this year than compared with the 86 percent reported at this same time last year. If I'm not mistaken, Dubya was still president then.

Praying to Jesus has come to Santa Monica like a Baptist preacher's fire-and-brimstone broadside since Black Friday's mercantile madness. I heard all kinds of prayers on the Third Street Promenade last Friday like, "Jesus, I hope I have a job next year to pay for this crap!" and "Christ, look at the price for this thing!" as well as "Oh God, does this dress make me look fat?" Looks like there'll be more cases of Post Traumatic Shopping Disorder after January than you can shake a pair of Jimmy Choo shoes at.

Other results from Rasmussen's poll indicate that the greeting "Merry Christmas" is making a comeback despite the distemper from Jesus-hating hippies of Hopeychangistan. Rasmussen's polling states that 72 percent of adults prefer a hearty "Merry Christmas" over the more limpid "Happy Holidays." Is it an inconvenient truth that 91 percent of Republicans and 70 percent of independents favor "Merry Christmas" over Democrats, who grinched in at a scroogey 58 percent?

Did you know that Best Buy, which has had a 3-year-old policy against saying "Merry Christmas," recently posted an Islamic "Merry Eid-al-Adha" on their Thanksgiving flyer before the sacred shopping season of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Google up Eid-al-Adha. Will someone please explain to me what's so "merry" about a human sacrifice to your imaginary friend to demonstrate your obedience? Folks, the meanest thing Jesus ever did was overturn the financial system at the Temple of Jerusalem. We could use Him now over at Citibank and AIG.

Now I am probably the most lapsi-daisical of lapsed Catholics, but I would say that my superior smart-alecky Catholic prep school education has been both a blessing for me and an irritant for my many critics. My parents presciently recognized the roiling stupidity that nominates itself as "public education" and worked hard to see I was better educated exponentially from a better class of teachers so I didn't grow up believing in some quasi-religious BS like global warming. Thank God, I'm a sword swinging Buddhist!

Is it an inconvenient truth that the Jesus-haters in this country who go ballistically bulimic over the religious miracles of our dominant Christian culture are also the same spiritually superior all-vegan rainbow unicorn light-workers who attend over-priced yoga classes while incoherently mumbling pseudo-sanskrit gobbledygook before the statue of an elephant man-god that dances upon the back of a mouse?

Speaking of messiahs. Do you know the difference between Jesus and Obama? Jesus could build a cabinet.

And Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, over? According to this past Sunday's NY Times, the commander-in-least has continued the Bush-era usage of CIA-styled "black sites" in Afghanistan for detaining and interrogating those pesky Talibani although, from leaked reports, his dribbling around for the last eight months on a troop surge was to allegedly polish up an "exit strategy." OK, how does one prepare for both victory and retreat at the same time, hmm? Try this for an exit strategy: "We win, they lose." So simple even a community organizer could do it! Gen. Patton once quipped that "… a good strategy applied with vigor today is better than a perfect strategy applied at some indefinite point in the future."

And for those of you inclined to exhibit a more demonstrative "thank you" in gratitude befitting our armed forces other than a magnetic bumper sticker on your car, throw some of your Christmas shopping money to the USO. Another good humanitarian organization is Soldier's Angels where you get to adopt a soldier in the field. You write to them regularly and send them goodies. Think, "pretty nifty feel-good time." I prefer the "Adopt-a-Sniper" program from the American Snipers Association. They deliver long-distance "Merry Christmas" messages to jihadis so you don't have to!

Google them up, sign up and/or donate. Show them that you're willing to give more than just verbally produced greenhouse gaseousness. A lot of them weren't home for Thanksgiving or be home for Christmas … again.

I want to personally thank my son and my wife as well. Nate's heading off to Afghanistan after two tours of Iraq while my sweetie pie, Lisa, is still in boot camp and will probably ship to the Middle East in the next several months.

Merry Christmas from the Breen family.

STEVE BREEN loves leftovers and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Growing interest

City Hall recently created a Garden Sharing Registry that seeks to pair homeowners with extra land with gardeners who need a place to do their thing.

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WALL STREET

Stocks climb as falling dollar boosts commodities

TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The stock market is picking up where it left off before its scare over debt problems in Dubai.

Major stock indicators rose more than 1 percent Tuesday, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 126 points and traded above 10,500 for the first time since October of last year.

A weaker dollar again boosted stocks, a pattern that has played out for months. The cheaper U.S. currency drove up commodities prices and lifted the stocks of energy and materials companies that produce them.

Analysts said a mostly upbeat array of economic reports and easing worries about the fallout from debt struggles in Dubai gave investors who had jumped out of the market last week reason to return.

The market's two-day advance leaves the Dow where it was before tumbling Friday on worries that an investment fund in Dubai wouldn't be able to pay its debts and might trigger another financial spiral like the one that followed the collapse of Lehman Brothers last year.

Economic reports were mixed, but still pointed to a strengthening trend. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group, said overall manufacturing activity grew at a slower pace in November but that new orders rose. That signals activity could pick up in the coming months. The ISM's measure of employment grew for the second straight month after sliding for more than a year.

The snapshot of U.S. factories followed a report from a Chinese industry group that said manufacturing activity grew in November for the ninth consecutive month.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Realtors said its reading on pending home sales rose in October to the strongest level since March 2006. Economists had expected pending sales to fall.

The Commerce Department said construction spending edged higher in October, the first increase in six months.

Bob Froehlich, senior managing director at Hartford Financial Services, said the day's news addressed some of investors' biggest worries: employment, housing and China's economy.

"What we're seeing is that we've got two of those three fixed," he said. "There are signs everywhere you look that the worst is behind us."

Froehlich expects that the nation's unemployment rate, already above 10 percent, will worsen before it begins to improve. Traders are looking to the Labor Department's November employment report, which is due Friday.

The Dow rose 126.74, or 1.2 percent, to 10,471.58, its highest close since October last year. It rose as high as 10,501.28 during trading, the first time it's topped the psychological barrier of 10,500 in 14 months.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 13.23, or 1.2 percent, to 1,108.86, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 31.21, or 1.5 percent, to 2,175.81.

The gains built on a powerful November for the market. The S&P 500 index rose 5.7 percent last month, its biggest increase since July. The index is up 63.9 percent from a 12-year low of 676.53 in March.

Bond prices fell, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.29 percent from 3.20 percent late Monday.

As it had last month, a drop in the dollar helped stocks. The ICE Futures U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of foreign currencies, fell 0.5 percent.

Rick Bensignor, chief market strategist at Execution LLC, said the drop in the dollar and a move into riskier assets like stocks is a sign that investors who moved into defensive positions are no longer worried about a spread of debt problems beyond the Middle East.

"The market has essentially shaken it off," he said. "The whole move is as if nothing happened last week."

Crude oil rose $1.09 to settle at $78.37 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gold topped $1,200 for the first time to settle at $1,200.20 an ounce, a gain of 1.5 percent from Monday. Silver and copper prices also touched fresh highs.

Industrial names rose as commodities advanced. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. rose 28 cents, or 2.2 percent, to $12.80. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. rose $1.11, or 1.3 percent, to $83.91.

Energy stocks also rose. Anadarko Petroleum Corp. rose $2.03, or 3.4 percent, to $61.56, while Hess Corp. rose $1.84, or 3.2 percent, to $59.80.

Home builders climbed on the day's economic reports. Beazer Homes USA Inc. advanced 16 cents, or 3.7 percent, to $4.46. Pulte Homes Inc. rose 17 cents, or 1.9 percent, to $9.31.

Richard Ross, global technical strategist at Auerbach Grayson in New York, said investors don't appear willing to give up on the market's surge even if they have concerns it might be overdone.

"It speaks to that sort of bullish undercurrent," he said. "Whether it's misplaced optimism, that's another question."

Four stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.1 billion shares compared with 1.3 billion Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 9.47, or 1.6 percent, to 589.20.

Overseas markets jumped as fears eased about Dubai's credit problems. The emirate's government investment company said it was looking at restructuring part of its $60 billion in debt.

Britain's FTSE 100 rose 2.3 percent, Germany's DAX index advanced 2.7 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 2.6 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average added 2.4 percent.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 17!

ECONOMY

November auto sales flat

DEE-ANN DURBIN & TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT U.S. auto sales struggled to gain ground in November and big improvements aren't expected until people stop worrying about losing their jobs.

Sales were flat compared to last November, according to Autodata Corp. Even higher incentives couldn't push the needle much beyond the dismal lows seen a year ago, when a credit freeze and the financial meltdown kept car buyers at home.

Fuel-efficient cars showed continued strength, as did crossovers, which are as roomy as SUVs but are built on lower car frames, bolstering fuel economy. Truck sales were again weak.

Last month's big winner was South Korea's Hyundai, which posted double-digit sales growth. Sales at the top three sellers in the U.S. — General Motors, Ford and Toyota — held steady, while Chrysler struggled for yet another month.

Sales were down 11 percent from October. But Jeff Schuster, executive director of automotive forecasting for J.D. Power and Associates, said the industry is encouraged by the seasonally adjusted sales rate, which takes into account perennial factors like higher sales in the spring and summer. That rate has been climbing each month since Cash for Clunkers ended in August, he said.

The adjusted rate was 10.9 million in November compared with 10.5 million in October.

"If that trend continues to hold, that fits with our expectations of a long and slow recovery," Schuster said.

Small monthly auto sales increases are likely as the economy continues its slow improvement, but larger gains will not happen until the unemployment rate drops substantially and people feel confident spending money on big-ticket items, said Martin Zimmerman, a former chief economist at Ford Motor Co., who now teaches at the University of Michigan. The U.S. jobless rate hit 10.2 percent in October, a 26-year high.

"At this point, jobs and confidence are intertwined, and that seems to be holding consumer spending in check," said Emily Kolinski Morris, a current senior economist at Ford.

Carmakers continued to rely on discounts and other incentive spending to sell cars and trucks last month. Sales incentives rose 2 percent to $2,713 per vehicle, according to the auto Web site Edmunds.com. But those offers lacked the desperation of last November, when car makers boosted incentives by 15 percent, indicating automakers now feel more confident about their ability to sell cars without drastic discounting.

General Motors said sales fell 2 percent in November, though sales of its core Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC brands rose. GM executives said despite the sales decline, the company is on better footing than it was late in 2008, with fewer brands and models. Even so, late in the afternoon, the automaker said CEO Frederick "Fritz" Henderson was stepping down after eight months in the job.

Ford's sales were essentially flat compared to last November, at 122,846, although sales of crossovers rose 26 percent and car sales rose 14 percent. Trucks and SUVs saw double-digit declines.

Ken Czubay, Ford's vice president of U.S. marketing, sales and service, said Ford's truck sales have plummeted in part because of the decline in the construction industry. But he said Ford also is seeing fewer image buyers, who buy trucks for their look.

MEDIA

Murdoch: Readers must pay for online

JOELLE TESSLER
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON To thrive in the digital age, media companies need to persuade consumers to pay for news online by providing compelling information in any form they want, News Corp. Chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch said Tuesday.

Murdoch said the future is promising for publishers that can adapt to the ongoing migration of audiences and advertisers to the Web. Key to survival, he said, is giving consumers what they want how they want it — be it on a computer, mobile device or e-reader — and then charging for it, as his company already does with The Wall Street Journal.

"We need to do a better job of persuading consumers that high-quality, reliable news and information does not come free," Murdoch said. "Good journalism is an expensive commodity."

Murdoch's comments were part of a wide-ranging discussion at a Federal Trade Commission workshop exploring the profound challenges facing media companies and ways the government can help them survive.

Newspapers, broadcasters and other traditional media companies are in a state of economic distress as the growth of online revenue has failed to keep pace with sharp declines in the offline advertising base that has historically supported their operations.

The FTC has held periodic workshops on new marketplace developments across an array of industries, including health care competition and targeted marketing. But this week's questions about the health of journalism raise another set of concerns.

While media executives came to the two-day workshop looking for new business models, government officials were seeking ways to protect a critical pillar of democracy — a free press.

"News is a public good," FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz said. "We should be willing to take action if necessary to preserve the news that is vital to democracy."

The agency will hold more workshops in the spring to discuss the ideas that emerge this week in greater depth and could ultimately offer legislative recommendations to Congress.

Among the options being discussed: tax law changes that would allow media companies to earn tax credits or become tax-exempt entities, and copyright law changes that would force search engines and other online aggregators to compensate media companies for the content they produce.

Also on the table is a proposed change in antitrust rules to allow newspapers to jointly negotiate payments from Web sites that use their content.

Congress has also tried to tackle questions about the future of the media business, particularly print journalism. Last spring, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., held a hearing on the financial troubles facing the newspaper industry. And Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., has introduced a bill that would allow newspapers to restructure as non-profits.



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Dec 3	Var	Lynwood	Lynwood	3pm
Dec 8	Var	Loyola	Loyola	3pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Dec 7	Var	Beverly Hills Tournament		
COED WRESTLING				
Dec 2	Var	Samo 4-way		3pm
Dec 4	Var	Cossack Challenge	Westminister	TBA
Dec 5	Var	Cossack Challenge	Westminister	9am
GIRLS SOCCER				
Dec 2	Var	Mira Costa	Mira Costa	3pm
Dec 5	Var	South Tournament		TBA
Dec 9	Var	San Pedro	JAMS	3:30pm

Saint Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Dec 4	Var	IMHS	El Segundo	4:15pm
Dec 8	Var	Animo	Airport Park	3:15pm
Dec 10	Var	Buckley	Airport Park	3:15pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Dec 1	Var	Windward	Windward	TBA
Dec 3	Var	Animo	Animo	4:30pm
Dec 4	Var	St. Genevieve	Airport Park	4:30pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Nov 30	Var	SMCHS Tour	SMCHS	TBA
Dec 8	Var	St. Anthony Tour	St. Anthony	TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
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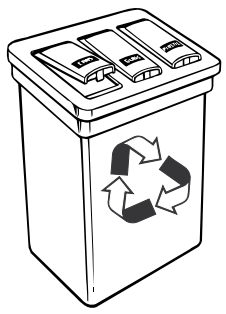
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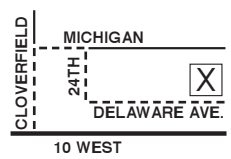
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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

County approves public hospital pact with UC

Los Angeles County supervisors have unanimously approved a deal to create a new Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center on the site of an inner-city public hospital that was closed after a series of patient deaths blamed on shoddy care.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday ratified an agreement with the University of California for a 120-bed facility on the site of the old hospital that served a large low-income community in the South Los Angeles area.

While details and costs still must be worked out, the county is expected to cover more than $300 million in construction spending.

UC-approved doctors will staff the hospital and an independent, nonprofit organization will run it. The university also will run a graduate medical training program.

The old King facility was closed two years ago, except for a walk-in clinic, after failing federal inspections.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Train engineer probed for running red signal

Safety regulators are investigating why a commuter train engineer ran a red signal as another passenger train approached on track east of downtown Los Angeles.

Richard Katz, a member of the Metrolink board, said Tuesday that no one was injured in last week's incident. He said the engineer declared an emergency after passing the signal and stopped before going through a switch and onto a section of track being used by another Metrolink train.

Katz said cameras in the cab recorded the moments prior to the incident, and investigators will review the tape to determine if any safety rules were violated.

A California Public Utilities Commission spokeswoman says the agency is investigating the "near miss."

AP

LOS ANGELES

Teen accused in celeb home burglary to stand trial

A judge ruled Tuesday that a teen accused of burglarizing the home of Orlando Bloom must stand trial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Darrell Mavis made his ruling in the case of Alexis Neiers after a 90-minute preliminary hearing that included testimony by two police detectives.

Neiers, 18, is accused of being part of a group that targeted the homes of Bloom, Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and other celebrities.

However, Neiers, who is filming a pilot for a reality television show, is accused only in the burglary at Bloom's house. She previously pleaded not guilty to the July break-in.

"The prosecution has one version of the facts, we have another," said attorney Jeffery Rubenstein, who represents Neiers. "We look forward to our day in court so the truth can come out."

Four other people were accused of burglaries that prosecutors said netted $3 million in stolen goods. Their arraignments were scheduled for Wednesday.

In a short interview on cable network E!'s Web site, Neiers said she was eager to put the matter behind her.

"I just learned my lesson that I need to make some better friends and some better decisions as far as my friends go," she said.

AP

SONOMA

Home of family killed in crash burglarized

Authorities are investigating a burglary at the home of a Sonoma family of four killed when its minivan was rammed by a speeding car.

Sonoma police say they found the home of Johnathan and Susan Maloney ransacked Tuesday, with valuables and a 2006 Nissan 350z missing. They were called to the home by a neighbor who reported seeing the garage open.

Police Chief Bret Sackett called the crime "incredibly despicable" and said it appeared as if the burglars had spent a considerable amount of time going through the family's possessions Monday night.

The couple and their two young children were killed Saturday when a Mini Cooper going 70 to 90 mph ran a red light and struck their minivan as the family was returning home from a trip to Hawaii.

The driver of the Mini Cooper, 19-year-old Steven Culbertson, died Sunday.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge keeps ban on release of Jennifer Lopez video

Home videos featuring Jennifer Lopez and a movie project based on them won't be coming to a screen near you because a judge blocked their distribution Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant issued the preliminary injunction against Lopez's ex-husband, Ojani Noa, and manager, Ed Meyer, who have sought to distribute the footage.

Lopez sued the pair for $10 million last month, claiming Noa was trying to violate the terms of the couple's divorce and a confidentiality agreement by releasing 11 hours of footage. The injunction also covers a film project that Meyer and Noa have called a "mockumentary" about Noa's escape from Cuba and his life since then.

The injunction issued Tuesday will remain in effect until the case is resolved. Lopez's attorney, Jay Lavely, said it will now go into arbitration.

Lopez wed Noa in 1997, but their marriage lasted just 11 months.

An attorney for the singer-actress said the footage doesn't contain sexual situations.

Noa agrees, saying after Tuesday's hearing that the footage was shot when he and Lopez traveled to Cuba. He vowed to fight the case, although he didn't speak during Tuesday's hearing and wasn't represented by an attorney.

"This thing is not going to end here," Noa said, clutching an upcoming calendar of his modeling photos. "I'm not going to let them or her step all over me again."

He and Meyer said they plan to file a cross-complaint against Lopez. "We could sue her for the sky is the limit," Meyer said.

AP

'Mr. Hyphen' redefines image of Asian-American men

JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

The six men on stage included a poet, a break dancer and a filmmaker. They pounded rhythms on the dhol drum, modeled fresh fashions, slathered whipped cream on bare skin and discussed their passion for community service.

This is the "Mr. Hyphen" contest, a faux pageant in the San Francisco Bay area aimed at redefining the image of Asian-American men beyond nerdy, sexless stereotypes.

Conspicuously absent from the stage were computer experts, doctors, lawyers or dry cleaners. There were, however, martial arts — with a twist.

Pahole Sookkasikon, an American-born graduate student partial to drawing, cooking, and "flirting for free drinks at the bar," knew that his hobbies would not translate well to the talent portion of the show.

So he fell back on something he learned in childhood cultural immersion classes: traditional Thai stick-fighting. Only his version featured three attractive women dancing backup while "Tardy for the Party," a song from the reality show "Real Housewives of Atlanta," blasted over the speakers.

"It was a transnational hybrid kind of U.S.-Thai mix-match of talent," Sookkasikon, 25, said in a November interview after winning the Mr. Hyphen crown. "It was a hot mess, man. But it was funny."

Much more serious is Sookkasikon's work to help southeast Asian ethnic groups such as the Thai, Hmong, Laotians, Cham and Mien, and his advocacy for organizations seeking more Asian participation in the national bone-marrow donor registry. The contest donated $1,000 to the winner's charity of choice; Sookkasikon (pronounced Soo-kah-SEE-kahn) chose the Thai-American Scholarship Fund and the Asian American Donor Program.

His total package exemplifies what one contest judge, the activist and writer Helen Zia, called the growing "Asian-American renaissance."

"It really is taking a page out of what W.E.B. DuBois and the African-American leaders of that period were talking about: culture," Zia said.

The contest was established in 2006 by Hyphen magazine, an all-volunteer publication dedicated to covering Asians in America in all their complexity.

"The contest is a lot like the publication itself: Fun, tongue-in-cheek, kind of campy, but there's a serious message," said Melissa Hung, the magazine's founding editor.

Zia said the earliest American images of Asians depicted them as a subhuman, invading, vermin-like population, then as servile, emasculated and asexual. Modern stereotypes focus on "model minority" smart students, Fu Manchu villains and kung-fu action heroes.

Sookkasikon's immigrant parents opened a Thai restaurant in the Bay Area and helped establish a Thai Buddhist temple in Berkeley, Calif., where a young Sookkasikon befriended a girl named Michelle Maykin.

Years later, Maykin was diagnosed with leukemia and needed a bone-marrow transplant to survive. Her "Project Michelle" highlighted the shortage of Asian-American donors, a crucial issue since patients have the best chance of finding a match from someone of the same racial background.

"Asian-Americans only have a 30 percent chance of finding a match, whereas whites have a 70 percent chance," Sookkasikon said.

Project Michelle drew the support of Sookkasikon and hundreds of others nationwide. They registered 18,157 potential donors — but none that could save Maykin's life. She died last July.

California ethics panel fines former controller, lawmaker

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO A state ethics panel has announced plans to fine a former Democratic candidate for governor, a Republican lawmaker and others for various campaign finance violations.

The California Fair Political Practices Commission will vote Dec. 10 to approve more than $100,000 in fines against former state Controller Steve Westly for failing to report expenses and payments to contractors while he was running for governor in 2006.

Westly lost the Democratic primary to then-state Treasurer Phil Angelides.

The commission also announced $20,000 in fines against Assemblyman Joel Anderson, R-San Diego, for accepting contributions in excess of campaign limits.

Anderson agreed to pay the fine for soliciting more than $45,000 from five people, which was funneled through the Fresno County Republican Central Committee.

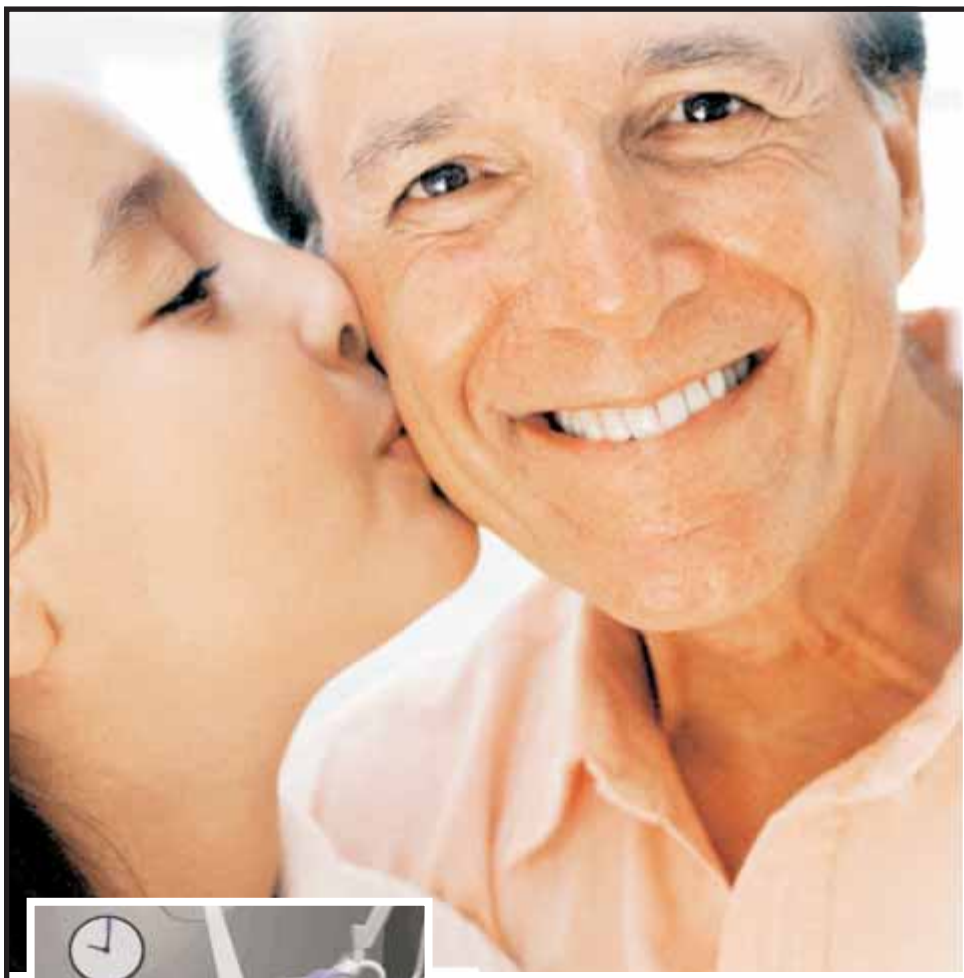
The GOP committee was fined $29,000.

In a separate action, the Fair Political Practices Commission will consider a recommendation to impose greater restrictions on gifts that go to relatives of public officials.

The FPPC staff is recommending that free tickets to ball games, spa visits and other admissions given to spouses and children of officials should count toward an official's $420 annual gift limit. The change includes an exemption if spouses and children — under 18 or up to age 23 if in school — show they have an "independent relationship" with the donor.

The recommended change stems from the ethics review of a retired Orange County Superior Court judge who donated $25,000 in college tuition to the son of a local government employee and a court commissioner.

The FPPC could vote to adopt the recommendation at its meeting next week.



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If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, ask your doctor about this new treatment option. We believe you'll find that advances like the Calypso System at Santa Monica Cancer Treatment Center are right on target.

Michael Jackson top Web search in '09

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Michael Jackson's stunning death made him the Internet's biggest star this year.

The quest to find out what happened to Jackson in his final hours on June 25 and celebrate his legacy elevated the late entertainer to the top of the Internet's search charts for 2009. On Yahoo, it ended singer Britney Spears' four-year reign on top.

The annual lists released Tuesday were compiled separately by Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc., which combined handle two-thirds of the world's Internet searches.

Jackson also grabbed the top spot on the third-largest U.S. search engine, Microsoft Corp.'s Bing, which announced its rankings Sunday. AOL, which relies on Google's search technology, also had Jackson at No. 1.

The lists are meant to provide a reading on our cultural pulse.

As usual, people using Yahoo's search engine in 2009 seemed to be most interested in celebrities and other diversions, even against the sobering backdrop of the worst recession in 70 years.

Google's audience seem more interested in using the Internet to connect with friends and family.

The online hangout Facebook and Tuenti, a similar socializing site in Spain, both made Google's Top 10, as did the popular communications tool Twitter. Microsoft's latest Windows operating system also grabbed a spot. Singer Lady Gaga was the only other celebrity besides Jackson on Google's Top 10.

Google, which processes more than six times the search volume that Yahoo does, has had a more diverse mix in its annual search rankings. The self-proclaimed King of Pop follows former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin (2008) and Apple Inc.'s iPhone (2007) in Google's top spot.

Besides Jackson, the other new entrants on Yahoo's Top 10 list this year were: No. 2, "Twilight," the vampire story that has spawned two movies, including the recently released "New Moon," that are drawing hordes of teenage girls and their mothers; No. 4, Megan Fox, an actress who starred in the movie "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen;" No. 8, Kim Kardashian, part of a family with their own reality TV series; and No. 9, NASCAR, an automobile racing league.

"New Moon" also made Google's Top 10.

The other half of Yahoo's list consisted of 2008 holdovers. With the defending champion Spears dropping to fifth, the others were: No. 3, WWE, or World Wrestling Entertainment; No. 6, Naruto, a character created for the Japanese art form known as anime; No. 7, top-rated television series "American Idol;" and No. 10, RuneScape, an online video game.

Mile run still challenging for SMMUSD kids

FROM FITNESS PAGE 1

was to eliminate sugary drinks and snacks from district campuses.

"There's no sodas anywhere, there's no candy being sold and so on," she said.

Teachers and students have also been encouraged to cut back on junk food that used to find its way into the classroom on special occasions. Valentine's Day cupcakes have largely been replaced by strawberries, she said.

"In general the climate in the district since 2007 has really been moving in a really positive direction in terms of what's being served on campus during the school day," she said.

At Santa Monica High School, Norm Lacy, the school's athletic director and physical education department chair, said since last year he's required PE classes to implement more running as a way to better prepare students for FITNESSGRAM's most strenuous test — the mile run.

Though students statewide also improved their performance on the fitness test, response to the results from state education officials was measured.

"We could certainly say it's incremental growth and we have some way to go," said Diane Hernandez, who oversees the fitness test for the state.

She noted the latest results mark modest fitness gains, with ninth graders posting the biggest year-over-year gain in scores at just 2.3 percentage points.

Even that gain, she said, could have been caused by a newly created incentive rather than by true improvements in physical fitness. Since 2007, ninth grade students who pass the state test in five out of six categories are eligible to become exempt from two years of physical education classes they'd otherwise be required to take, she said.

> **"THESE SCORES ARE STILL UNACCEPTABLY LOW."**
>
> **Ben Allen**
> SMMUSD board member

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

REUSE: **Bins have been placed around Downtown to collect waste oil to be converted to biofuel.**

City Hall pushes new oil-to-biofuel program

FROM **GREASE** PAGE 1

keting at GeoGreen Biofuels, said that a bin has also been placed on Main Street. He expects that most businesses in both business districts will participate.

The young company has been contracted by the Los Angeles Convention Center and various area junior colleges, including Pasadena City College, L.A. Harbor College and El Camino College. While the plant is not yet in operation, bins have been collected from all locations and stockpiled. Rubin said he expects the plant to be fully operational next month.

He said that the beauty of the process is that restaurants who contribute and City Hall will have the opportunity to buy the biofuel back at wholesale prices.

"It is a 360 degree solution, taking waste and making it clean," he said.

Awareness of the new program among restaurant operators seems to be low in its first two weeks of operation. One restaurant that is interested in participating is Buddha's Belly on Broadway.

Travis Moore, the manager of Buddha's Belly, said the restaurant is working to receive its green business certification from Sustainable Works and is considering depositing its grease and oil with GeoGreen. The restaurant's waste is currently hauled away by a private company.

> **"OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT IS BENEFICIAL TO RESTAURANTS."**
>
> **Myesha Jones**
> Business assistant, Solid Waste Management

Buddha's Belly has already changed out its light bulbs to more environmentally friendly alternatives and has started using biodegradable silverware.

"We have already put several changes in place but we feel like this is something that is important," Moore said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Spirit Awards to honor Coens

FROM **SPIRIT** PAGE 3

For best actress, Mirren and Sidibe are up against Nisreen Faour for "Amreeka," Maria Bello for the romantic thriller "Downloading Nancy," and Gwyneth Paltrow for the dark romance "Two Lovers."

Nominated for best actor were Jeff Bridges in the country-music tale "Crazy Heart," Colin Firth in the 1960s gay drama "A Single Man," Joseph Gordon-Levitt in "500 Days of Summer," Souleymane Sy Savane for the buddy drama "Goodbye Solo," and Adam Scott for the sibling story "The Vicious Kind."

The war-on-terror drama "The Messenger" ran second with four nominations, including best feature from a first-time director and supporting-acting slots for Samantha Morton and Woody Harrelson. "The Messenger" star Ben Foster was overlooked for a nomination for his acclaimed performance as an Iraq War hero assigned to notify next-of-kin about soldiers' deaths.

Also nominated for best first feature is the horror sensation "Paranormal Activity," which was shot for just $15,000 and has taken in more than $100 million at the box office.

Joel and Ethan Coen's "A Serious Man," about a Midwest Jewish academic in the 1960s who is beset with career and family troubles, was chosen to receive the Robert Altman Award honoring a film's director, casting director and ensemble of actors.

The Coens also earned a directing nomination for "A Serious Man."

Presented by the cinema group Film Independent, the Spirit Awards honor movies that cost less than $20 million to make, with a significant part of their budget originating from outside the Hollywood studio system. Other criteria for nominations include films' originality and provocative subject matter.

On the Net:
www.spiritawards.com



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Rabbis, heterosexuals join NJ gay marriage debate

GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press Writer

LAKEWOOD, N.J. The leaders in the local large Orthodox Jewish community go to great lengths to keep out the outside world, discouraging nonbusiness use of the Internet and encouraging strict filters to keep the ungodly out when members must use the Web.

But last month, several rabbis and other elders did something astounding for them: They took a public stand on a political issue, declaring their opposition to same-sex marriage in the state.

"This really hurts us," said Rabbi Osher Lieberman, a key figure in the community in the suburbs about 30 miles east of Trenton. "To say (it's) immoral is not enough."

He said community members are being encouraged to do whatever they can to make sure lawmakers don't vote to recognize gay marriage.

In a state that leans a bit left, the conservative rabbis are one of a handful of groups taking a passionate — and maybe surprising — role in a debate that's likely to be decided by January. The newly political rabbis have joined a coalition including Roman Catholic bishops, evangelicals and some black and Latino leaders.

The other side of the debate, anchored by a well-organized, well-connected gay rights group, is getting a boost from heterosexual liberals.

When Republican Chris Christie unseated Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine in the gubernatorial election last month, it gave gay-rights activists more urgency to try to achieve their long-held goal of getting a same-sex marriage bill through the Legislature before Christie takes office Jan. 19.

The reason is simple: Corzine supports the bill. Christie says he would veto it.

If it's not passed by the end of the legislative session, that means the window will close for now on New Jersey joining Massachusetts, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut as the only states to recognize gay marriage.

Democratic lawmakers have been wrangling over whether the matter will get a debate in the Legislature. Most party leaders say they won't bring it up unless it looks as though it will pass.

Gay-rights supporters and social conservatives alike have been lobbying lawmakers, though it's a debate that doesn't seem to be enrapturing the state as a whole. Two polls last month found the public is divided over the issue. One found narrow support, the other narrow opposition.

But the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, which found support, also showed that most residents think the issue is not a big deal.

It is a big deal to Betty Wyka, a museum employee from Parsippany who has long supported same-sex marriage. In February, she started volunteering for Garden State Equality, the state's main gay-rights group. Steven Goldstein, the chairman of the group, says that as a straight woman Wyka is typical of a new volunteer.

Wyka said she joined partly to counter a claim that gay-marriage opponents often make: that allowing gay couples to wed will make society value traditional marriages less.

"I got sick of hearing that same-sex marriage is going to impact my marriage. That's a bunch of hooey," she said. "It's a civil rights issue."

Lakewood's Orthodox community is mostly isolated from the rest of society. The men wear long beards, white shirts, black suits and black hats, and women are not nearly as visible as men. The community was founded in 1942 by a rabbinic leader who fled Poland and the Holocaust. It's now home to some 10,000 Orthodox families and the rabbinical school, which has more than 5,000 students.

Before last month's election, rabbis allowed distribution of a voting guide from the socially conservative New Jersey Family Policy Council. While religious institutions would not be required to marry gay couples, some say their religious freedom could be squeezed by permitting something they say runs against their beliefs.

Orthodox Jews, like many Christians, look to the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, which many interpret as saying that homosexuality is immoral.

A group of Lakewood community leaders granted an interview with an Associated Press reporter — a rarity and part of the effort to become involved in the push against gay marriage. The leaders said they're taking their position public because in the Internet age more information about the broader world is flowing into their community.

The large Orthodox community is not the first to speak out against the prospect of gay marriage. Last year, the New York-based Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America made a public statement in favor of California's Proposition 8, a state constitutional amendment that outlawed gay marriage there months after a court allowed it.

And leaders in Lakewood say they received political guidance from some in the Orthodox Jewish community in Monsey, N.Y. In New York, the state Assembly already has passed a law to allow gay marriage, and the Senate is considering whether to follow.

Orthodox Jews traditionally have been regular voters who oppose candidates who support abortion rights and gay rights, said Yaakov S. Ariel, a professor of religion at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The visible part is what's new," Ariel said. "The opinions and the support of candidates is not new."

What's especially troubling to some in Lakewood is not just that New Jersey might recognize same-sex marriages but that Orthodox Jews would be more likely now than in the past to know about it — and think that it's OK to be gay.

"These type of laws bring an exposure to our community," Rabbi Aaron Sarscher said.

And that's why there's a new voice in the debate.

"I really don't believe in getting involved in government," said another community leader, David Sofer. "But when an issue is so dangerous, you have to stop it."

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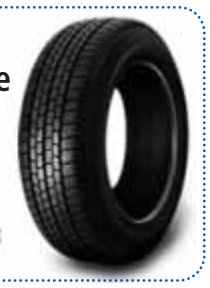
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States slow to adopt sex offender monitoring

GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA More than three years after Congress ordered stepped-up monitoring of sex offenders, only one state has adopted the government's strict new requirements, and some others are weighing whether to ignore the law and just pay a penalty.

So far, Ohio is the lone state to meet the new federal standards. Elsewhere, efforts have been hampered by high costs and legal challenges from the nation's 686,000 registered sex offenders. Advocates worry that the delays are putting public safety at risk.

"This means more of the same — that we're losing sex offenders when they cross state lines and disappear," said Erin Runnion, who lobbied for the law after her 5-year-old daughter, Samantha, was kidnapped and killed in 2002.

"It's incredibly frustrating. How many children do we have to lose to repeat sex offenders before we start taking these guys seriously?"

The initial deadline for states to comply was in July. Then the deadline was extended to July 2010, although several states have signaled they may still be unable to meet it. States that do not adopt the mandates risk losing millions of dollars in federal grants.

The law was designed to keep closer tabs on sex offenders, including an estimated 100,000 who are not living where they are supposed to be. It would create a national sex offender registry and toughen penalties for those who fail to register.

The president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said states need more money to adopt the law, and he called on Congress to help.

"We understand that there are challenges in becoming compliant, but the greatest challenge is that states are overwhelmed. And they're going to need resources to address this," Ernie Allen said.

Last year, a federal judge in Nevada declared the law unconstitutional because it would subject offenders to additional penalties after they have served their time. The Ohio Supreme Court heard similar arguments last month from more than 26,000 sex offenders who were convicted before the law was signed.

Critics have also complained that juvenile offenders would appear on registries in some states. And because the law requires offenders to register in person, it could unfairly burden people in rural areas who would have far to travel.

In addition to the legal challenges, states are also struggling with the cost, which could climb into the millions of dollars.

"We have states being very laid back, and states where legislators are pulling out their hair trying to comply," said Alisa Klein of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. "And there's lots of states waiting for another state to bust a move and say, 'We're not going to comply.'"

In California, the state's Sex Offender Management Board estimated last year that adopting the requirements would cost at least $38 million.

Congress tried to encourage states to adopt the measure by threatening to take 10 percent of their federal crime-prevention grants if they do not comply. The grants have swelled with stimulus funding but typically range from several hundred thousand dollars to more than $1 million each year, depending on the size of the state.

California stands to lose a few millions dollars a year if it does not comply, state officials said.

"Obviously this funding loss pales in comparison with the cost of complying with the act," said Dana Simas, spokeswoman for the California Department of Justice.

So lawmakers are locked in a dilemma: They must spend millions of dollars to adopt the system or back off a program that is designed to protect the public from some of society's most dangerous criminals.

"There's a number of issues we're trying to work out," said Vermont state Sen. Richard Sears, who leads his state's Senate Judiciary Committee. "We're not necessarily against the law, but we'd like some money to go along with it to help us implement it."

Congressional leaders may support changes to the law. U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, says he has been working on ways to help states comply.

"This legislation makes vital progress toward keeping our children safe, but it only works if states can and do comply with it," Leahy said in a statement. "Rather than punish states that are actively trying to comply with this important federal law, we must work together to address obstacles facing state law enforcement agencies."

Advocacy groups say roughly two dozen states have submitted reports on their compliance for the Justice Department to review, although the government would not confirm that number.

Scott Matson, a senior policy adviser with the Justice Department office that monitors sex offenders, said he has seen a recent uptick in applications, although he did not say whether more states are getting close to compliance.

The Justice Department declared in September that Ohio had "substantially implemented" the law's requirements, leading to a fresh round of complaints. The state's public defender office said court appeals alone could cost $10 million.

Gary Reece is a 50-year-old convicted sex offender who is challenging Ohio's efforts to comply with the federal law.

Reece said he was previously allowed to register once a year and that his name would have been removed after 10 years without a serious conviction. The state's new measure, he said, would put his name on the registry for life and require him to register in person four times a year.

"It's a tremendous burden, no doubt about it," Reece said. "Every 90 days you have to take off work and go register — and if you miss once, you're going back to jail."

Instructors: Yoga regulations are unconstitutional

MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press Writer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. The state of Virginia wants to make sure that if you learn to be a yoga instructor, the people who teach you the Half Moon, the Sleeping Vishnu and the Upward Facing Dog poses know what they're doing.

But three yoga instructors filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Virginia regulators, claiming that the state's plan to license yoga teacher-training programs is an unconstitutional restriction of free speech.

"It's just daft. It's just a ridiculous idea," said Suzanne Leitner-Wise, one of the plaintiffs and a yoga instructor who has provided training to U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. "It's the students who determine whether you're a competent teacher," not the state.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, a regulatory body, had planned to impose licensure requirements on yoga teacher-training programs by the end of the year, but has agreed to wait a few months at the request of state legislators.

The council does not want to regulate all yoga teaching, but says it has a duty to regulate the training of teachers.

"We consider it a student-protection measure," said Kirsten Nelson, SCHEV's spokeswoman.

She said state law requires the council to regulate vocational education programs, and that includes programs that train yoga teachers. And she emphasized that the state has no interest in regulating yoga classes themselves, only programs that train people to become an instructor.

The state council says it is required by law to regulate any vocational training: as a result, bartending schools, massage therapy schools and even programs on how to shoe horses have received state licenses in recent years, as have several yoga studios.

But other yogis have fought back, and Virginia is not the only state confronting the issue. In New York, education officials earlier this year dropped plans to require yogis to have licenses before they can train new teachers in the face of protests. Michigan also this year began working to license schools that teach future yoga instructors.

In Virginia, Leitner-Wise says the licensure program requires a $2,500 application fee, annual renewals of at least $500 and loads of paperwork, none of which is necessary.

The yoga instructors are represented by attorneys from the Institute for Justice, a libertarian law firm. Attorney Robert Frommer said the state has no business determining what kinds of training programs are acceptable.

"The Virginia bureaucrats who will pass judgment on these instructors have no expertise whatsoever in yoga," said Frommer, adding that there is significant debate within the yoga community about what is considered proper technique and philosophy.

More broadly, Frommer said that teaching is a form of free speech. And if the state wants to regulate free speech, it needs a compelling reason to do so. Keeping tabs on the development of new yogis and gurus does not meet the bar, he said.

Nelson said the licensure requirements mostly involve mundane, content-neutral issues revolving around development of a solid business model and posting a bond that enables students to be reimbursed if a program goes defunct.

For issues concerning the quality of the yoga instruction, SCHEV relies on standards developed by an industry body, the Yoga Alliance.

GE, Vivendi deal paves way for NBC sale to Comcast

DEBORAH YAO
AP Business Writer

PHILADELPHIA General Electric Co.'s agreement to buy out the portion of NBC Universal it doesn't already own paves the way for the sale of a controlling stake to Comcast Corp. in a deal that promises to reshape the entertainment industry.

GE has reached a tentative agreement to buy out French media conglomerate Vivendi SA's 20 percent stake in NBC Universal, a person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press late Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were private and the companies' agreement has not yet been formalized.

The news lessens the uncertainty surrounding GE's planned sale of a 51 percent stake in NBC Universal to Comcast, the largest U.S. cable provider. That deal would make Comcast one of the nation's largest entertainment companies rivaling the heft of its former takeover target, The Walt Disney Co.

Comcast, which is based in Philadelphia, is expected to pay GE about $5 billion to $7 billion in cash and contribute about $6 billion to $7 billion worth of cable channels it owns, such as E! and Style, into a new NBC Universal joint venture. GE would transfer about $8 billion to $10 billion in debt to the joint venture.

GE, which is based in Fairfield, Conn., and acquired NBC in 1986, would own a 49 percent stake in the new NBC Universal but is expected to completely divest its holdings after several years.

An agreement was supposed to have been announced weeks ago, but GE's talks with Vivendi have been taking longer than expected.

Under terms of its minority ownership of NBC Universal, Vivendi has an annual window to sell its stake, with GE holding the right to first refusal. Vivendi could use the money — two weeks ago, it invested $4.2 billion to take control of Brazilian telecom operator GVT.

But the French media conglomerate knew it had a strong hand — GE wants to sell part of NBC Universal to raise money after suffering losses in its GE Capital unit. Meanwhile, Comcast wants to beef up its programming assets with a marquee name at a price it could handle.

Vivendi hoped to get more than $6 billion for its NBC Universal holdings but GE wanted to pay less, the person familiar with the situation said. While the companies tussled over price in the past weeks, a Vivendi executive said at a conference in Barcelona last month that the company might decide not to exercise the right to sell its stake before the window ends Dec. 10.

Experts: Economic recovery slow, but steady

TALI ARBEL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The economic recovery seems on track for slow but steady gains, after reports Tuesday showed growth in manufacturing activity, construction spending and contracts to buy homes.

A private measure of manufacturing activity grew for the fourth straight month in November, though more slowly than in October. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its index read 53.6, down from 55.7 in October. A reading above 50 indicates growth.

Economists were especially encouraged that new orders — a gauge of future production — jumped in November. That suggested manufacturing can continue to help sustain the budding recovery.

U.S. auto sales also showed more signs of stability last month as that market struggles to recover from a historic plunge that began last year. Sales in October were unchanged from a year ago, and stable numbers in November could signal a recovery.

A report on construction spending also signaled growth with the first increase in six months, largely on the strength of home building. The increase was slight — just 0.04 percent. And in part it reflected a rush by builders to begin work before the expiration of a tax credit for first-time homebuyers. The credit was extended last month and expanded to some existing homeowners.

Still, the increase appeared to signal that the construction sector is stabilizing and providing support for the fledgling economic recovery.

A third positive report said the number of homebuyers who signed contracts to buy previously occupied homes rose for the ninth straight month. This increase, too, came as buyers rushed to take advantage of the homebuyer tax credit.

Every region in the report by the National Association of Realtors saw year-over-year gains in pending sales. Typically, there's a one- to two-month lag between a contract and a done deal, so the index tends to anticipate future sales.

Ford Motor Co.'s sales were essentially flat compared with last November, but sales of crossovers rose 26 percent and sales of cars rose 14 percent. Trucks and SUVs saw double-digit declines.

Toyota said its U.S. sales rose and Hyundai again posted double-digit growth, but Chrysler struggled again.

On Wall Street, major stock indicators rose 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which added more than 140 points in afternoon trading.

In the ISM report on manufacturing, analysts were impressed that new orders jumped past 60 for the third time in the past four months. The last such streak was in 2005. And economists downplayed the drop in the overall index from October to November.

"We are not overly concerned with the monthly drop, as there has been a lot of positive momentum," said TD Securities economics strategist Ian Pollick. "The manufacturing sector is trying to catch its breath rather than what runners like to call 'hitting the wall.'"

With stockpiles lean, once manufacturers gain more confidence in the recovery, further expansion in production is likely as they restock, said Ryan Wang of HSBC Securities.

The index's employment measure also grew for the second consecutive month after 14 straight declines. The pace slowed, though. And the employment figure doesn't necessarily signal that companies are prepared to ramp up hiring. According to members' comments, jobs would most likely be filled by temporary workers, not permanent positions.

The Commerce Department report on construction spending said a surge in home building offset weak nonresidential work. Construction spending rose 0.04 percent in October, or $401 million, pushing the seasonally adjusted annual rate to $910.8 billion. That was better than the 0.5 percent decline economists expected. But it followed five straight drops, including a 1.6 percent fall in September that was the largest since January.

The Realtors' seasonally adjusted index of sales agreements rose 3.7 percent from September to 114.1. It was the highest reading since March 2006. And it was nearly 32 percent above a year ago — a record-high annual increase.

ISM's manufacturing survey said new orders for wood products and furniture makers — two sectors related to the housing market — fell in November, however. New orders for transportation equipment and mineral products also dropped.

But the overall ISM index, which also includes inventories and prices, once again signaled growth. It began signaling expansion in August after 18 months of contraction.

"The recovery in manufacturing is continuing, but many are still struggling based on their comments," said Norbert Ore, chair of the survey committee.

Twelve of the 18 industries surveyed grew in November.

In another hopeful sign for a global recovery, measures of manufacturing in the U.K., the eurozone and China also grew in November.

Still, some analysts caution that the pace of growth could falter next year.

The U.S. economy expanded at a 2.8 percent pace in the third quarter, and Capital Economics' Paul Dales expects it will grow at an even stronger pace in the current quarter and first half of next year. But the economy could suffer later in 2010, Dales said, as "the initial rebounds in inventories and investment fade."

He sees GDP growth slowing to 2.2 percent in the third quarter and at a tepid 1.8 percent pace to finish out next year.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59°

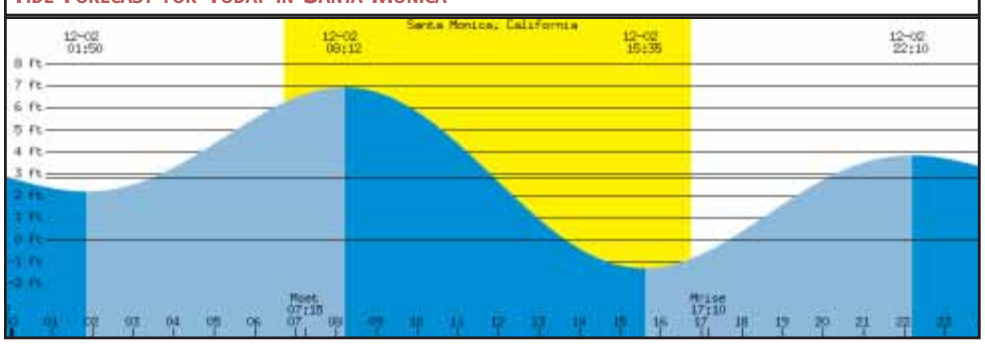
Swell Forecast

Looks like a waist to chest high day for west facing breaks as some NW energy lingers near the coast. South facing breaks are looking smaller, perhaps knee to waist at direct south facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks a bit smaller, perhaps just waist high most everywhere.

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 23, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 2

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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
Las Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	B	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rameer Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	F	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	F	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

FSU's Bowden to retire after pending bowl game

BRENT KALLESTAD
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Bobby Bowden orchestrated one of the great runs in college football, building Florida State into a powerhouse that produced two national titles, dozens of All-Americans and some of the most memorable missed field goals ever.

Bowden said Tuesday he will end his 44-year coaching career after the Seminoles play in a bowl game. Bowden was done in by a combination of off-field woes, too many defeats and coach-in-waiting Jimbo Fisher ready to take over.

"Nothing lasts forever, does it?" a relaxed-looking Bowden asked during video interview conducted by school officials. "But I've had some wonderful years here at Florida State, you know it. Hadn't done as good lately as I wish I could have, but I've had wonderful years, no regrets."

The 80-year-old Bowden will retire as the second winningest coach in major-college football behind Penn State's Joe Paterno. The folksy coach has won 388 games at Samford, West Virginia and Florida State, where he spent the last 34 seasons.

Bowden was faced with the option of coming back next season with diminished control over the program, giving Fisher more power.

"We've got one more game and I look forward to enjoying these next few weeks as the head football coach," Bowden said earlier Tuesday in a statement released by the school.

The Seminoles are bowl eligible at 6-6, and were awaiting word on where they will play. They're also awaiting word from the NCAA on whether 14 victories in recent seasons will be vacated because of an academic cheating scandal.

Bowden won two national titles at Florida State, in 1993 and 1999. Among his top achievements is a string of 14 straight seasons ending in 2000 when the Seminoles won at least 10 games and finished ranked in the top five of the AP poll. Florida State was 152-19-1, an .864 winning percentage, during that span. He has a 315-97-4 record with the Seminoles, but his teams were 73-42 the past nine seasons.

"He set records of achievement on the field that will probably never be equaled," Florida State president T.K. Wetherell said. "Bobby Bowden in many ways became the face of Florida State. It was his sterling personality and character that personified this university."

FSU officials announced after the 2007 season that Fisher, the offensive coordinator, would succeed Bowden.

The end of the Bowden era has been brewing for years, and the call for change only grew louder this year, when loss after loss, many coming in the final minutes, began piling up. The regular season ended with a sixth straight loss to bitter rival Florida, a 37-10 blowout.

A football lifer, Bowden modeled his career after his idol Paul "Bear" Bryant, the legendary Alabama coach who died shortly after he retired in 1982.

"After you retire, there's only one big event left," Bowden has said over the years. "And I ain't ready for that."

Bowden seemed to be in good humor during the video interview, saying his family doesn't have to worry about his well being.

"Now, you know I have to go out and get a job. Can you believe that?" he said. "I've got to go get a job. I ain't had a job in 55 years."

Paterno called Bowden a tough competitor who "has meant an awful lot to the universities he coached and to the game of football overall.

"He and his wife, Ann, have dedicated their lives with untold hours to better the teams and universities they cared so much about," Paterno said. "They will be missed by the coaching profession and college football."

Bowden relished the spotlight and his "aw shucks" approach was well received everywhere he went. It was during the rare losses when Bowden was at his best, relying on his favorite phrase "Dadgumit" when discussing all those wide-right and wide-left field goals against Miami in the late 1980s and early 1990s that knocked so many of his teams out of national title contention.

Bowden also got caught up in NCAA investigations. The cheating scandal is the just the latest. The school was hit with five years' probation for a 1993 incident when several of his players were given free shoes and sporting goods from a local store. That led to former Florida coach Steve Spurrier calling Florida State "Free Shoes University."

MLB

Dodgers' Scully to return in 2010

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Dodgers have confirmed broadcaster Vin Scully will return to the booth for his 61st season in 2010.

Scully already had said he planned to return for another season before deciding his future next fall.

"We have had two exciting seasons consecutively — getting into the second round of the playoffs — and when you get that close, you look to the next year as perhaps the one that you go all the way," said Scully, who celebrated his 82nd birthday on Sunday. "I'm very excited and optimistic about 2010 and the direction we're heading and we'll take it year-to-year after that."

Scully's 60 years of service is the longest tenure of any broadcaster in sports history, according to the Dodgers.

The Hall of Fame announcer told The Associated Press last month that he still loves the job he's had with the team since 1950, but it's hard to be away from his wife during a long season.

Dodgers owner Frank McCourt said the club is honored that Scully decided to come back.

"For six decades, Dodger fans have been truly blessed to have Vin Scully on the air and we are honored that he will be back in the booth again next season," McCourt said. "He has been the one constant over the years and I know that our fans will cherish every game he calls."

Scully entered the Hall of Fame in 1982.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Carrie (1952) (NR) 1hr 58min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
2:25, 6:15, 9:35

Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min
1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 1hr 51min
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35

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

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
12:05, 3:30, 7:00, 10:25

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 30min
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
2:30, 7:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min (Digital Presentation)
1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min
12:00, 12:40, 3:05, 4:45, 5:30, 8:00, 9:55, 10:30

Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

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

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

The Messenger (R) 2hr 7min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 10:15

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hr 6min
11:40 am, 1:00, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:00, 8:40, 10:00,

Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hr 10min
11:30 am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
11:20 am

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

Avoid dealing with money, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Calls, knocks on your door and seemingly endless e-mail seem to define your morning. By the afternoon, you declare "enough" and need some space to breathe and think. Clear your head quickly through a walk or some yoga. Tonight: Insights aren't always comfortable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ What you believe to be your strong suit -- making financial decisions that work -- could be tested. Resist tossing the baby out with the bath water, even though you could become increasingly frustrated. Tonight: Consider nixing a friend's suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ The Full Moon draws opportunities as you rarely have seen. If you would like another approach or to do something differently, the time is now. Understand that others find you unusually assertive. Tonight: Remain calm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Much is going on, and feelings could run the show, at least with the Moon Child. What appears as a stunning concept could be extremely costly. Stop and assess, knowing you don't need to say yes immediately. Tonight: Pull yourself out of the social whirlwind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You see that being more straightforward has its benefits. You zero in on what is important, and now others can see your priorities. The majority of those around you agree; it is that one person who could give you flak. Tonight: Recognize the value in disagreement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You often wonder what others would do, as you frequently pick up their slack. The only difference right now is that you have a lot on your plate, and this established pattern of shouldering others' burdens easily could lead to some anger and disagreeable feelings. Tonight: Practice saying the word "no."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Detach, and understanding will evolve to a new level. You might want to take the high road in disagreements or understand more deeply where someone is coming from. Tonight: How about a stress-buster?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Deal with others directly in order to obtain positive results. Clearly, a boss or someone you look up to has very strong ideas. This person's demanding attitude could take you aback. Use care in discussing money matters right now. Tonight: Avoid risks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You want to change gears and handle a matter, but clearly a partner or associate wants to continue on a chosen path. Pull back and let time be your ally. You will like the end results. Tonight: Understanding grows.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Often labeled as the workhorse of the zodiac, once more you prove to others how right-on this nickname is. A partner or associate could become irritated. Why? This person simply feels he or she doesn't have enough time with you! Tonight: Relax at home. Change your plans if need be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Investigate possibilities that surround a child, loved one or creative enterprise. Your way of handling a problem could trigger someone close, not to say that you are wrong. Ride the wave of disagreement for now. Tonight: Avoid dealing with money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You move to a new depth of understanding and realization within a personal relationship. Lighten up about what you are thinking and try to be less reactive -- that is, if you would like to stabilize a situation. Tonight: Moving onward.

Happy birthday

This year, you open up to new ideas and different styles. Whether you simply allow yourself to drop some of the filters to your thinking or events force your hand, you will transform your mental process. Often you find that your feelings take new twists and turns. Your emotions will change if you don't lock in. You have an opportunity to travel or perhaps to go to school. Some of you might take seminars and workshops to increase your knowledge or expertise. If you are single, many people could enter your life. The art will be choosing who. Someone very different could play a significant role in your life. If you are attached, the two of you often are on opposite sides of a question. Learn to respect your differences. GEMINI often plays devil's advocate.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



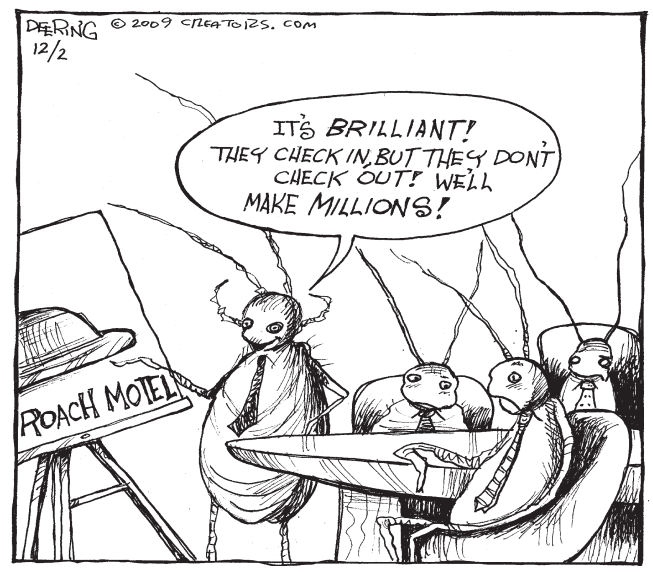
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



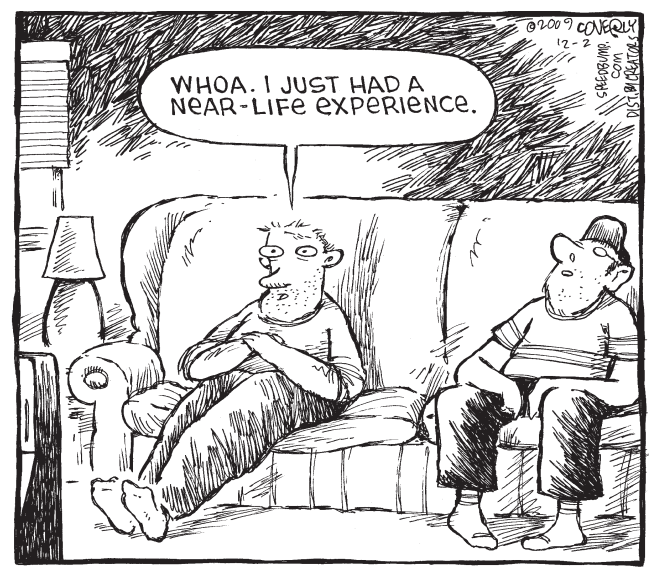
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Carpet type
5 Overlook
9 — up (hid out)
11 Ship of 1492
12 Moscow money
13 As a follower
14 Purpose
15 Contrary to good manners
17 Ham-burger's home
19 Slugger Williams
20 Hack-neyed
21 Tacit approval
22 Pal
24 Even score
26 Some exams
29 Charter
30 Language in which "lion" is "simba"
32 De-pressed
34 Naughty
35 1998 Disney film
36 Upper crust
38 Wall unit
39 Factions
40 Splinter group
41 Liner stop

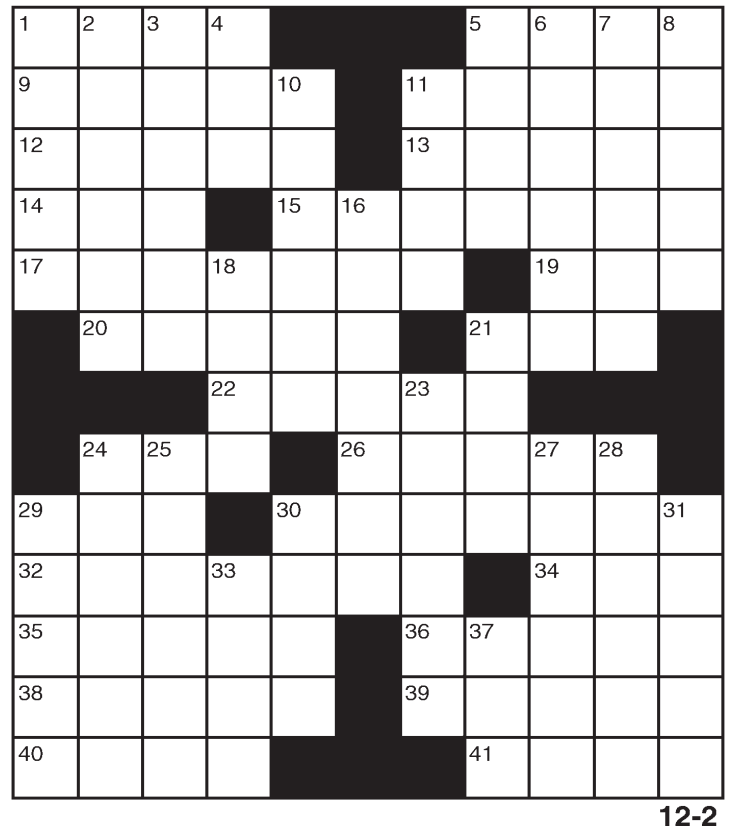
DOWN

1 Indifferent action
2 Congress has two
3 Writer Camus
4 Salon stuff
5 Give a hoot
6 Complete-ly
7 Doped up
8 Cut, in a way
10 Mt. Everest's native name
11 Feel sorry for
16 Possible puzzle start
18 Create
21 Word man Webster
23 Ducks' mates
24 Prof protector
25 Tilted type
27 Lusty drive
28 Christian of "The Forgotten"
29 An arm and a leg
30 Gone under
31 Namely, in Latin
33 It's true
37 Gloss target

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

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



12-2

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 12 25 37 39 45
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $57M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 17 26 33 42
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $31M

Fantasy 5: 3 13 14 31 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 9 7 4
EVENING: 1 2 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.47.45

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

■ **Those Overhead Costs!** (1) The price of gasoline for U.S. troops in Afghanistan is about $400 per gallon, according to a U.S. House subcommittee in October, citing Pentagon officials (factoring in the security necessary to bring fuel through Pakistan). (2) Patient Jim Bujalski complained to St. Anthony's Central Hospital in Littleton, Colo., in September about the cost of his prescription Plavix and Crestor tablets, which he was forced to "buy" from the hospital because it administers only drugs under its control. The Plavix was $248 each (he pays $8 at home), and his Crestor ($3 at home) was $65. The medications were part of his $58,000, one-day hospital stay.

■ Nurses might best treat patients who have self-cutting disorders by helping them in their endeavor, according to an October advisory from Britain's Royal College of Nursing. "Assisted self-harming" should be considered as part of nursing care plans, according to the advisory, benefiting patients by having skilled professionals at their side, for example supplying sterile blades and providing the quick stanching of blood and dressing of wounds.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1848 Franz Josef I becomes Emperor of Austria.

1851 Newly elected French President Charles Louis Bonaparte overthrows the Second Republic.

1852 Napoleon III becomes Emperor of the French.

1859 Militant abolitionist leader John Brown is hanged for his October 16th raid on Harper's Ferry.

1867 At Tremont Temple in Boston, British author Charles Dickens gives his first public reading in the United States.

1899 Philippine-American War: The Battle of Tirad Pass, termed "The Filipino Thermopylae", is fought.

1908 Child Emperor Pu Yi ascends the Chinese throne at the age of two.

WORD UP!

intrepid \in-TREP-id\ , adjective;
1. Fearless; bold; brave; undaunted; courageous; as, an intrepid soldier; intrepid spirit.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries

DAVID SHORT

David Short was born March 21st 1952 in Honolulu Hawaii to Charlotte and Joseph Short. David died at the UCLA Medical center November 18th 2009 as the result of injuries from being struck by an automobile on November 16th. He was 57 years old.

David's father completed military service and moved the family to southern California in the summer after David's birth. David completed his schooling in Los Angeles graduating from University High in 1970. He then entered the US Marine Corps and was very proud to have served his country.

David accepted Christ as his personal savior at an early age and was baptized in 1968. He was a regular church member at the First Baptist Church of West Los Angeles for the last decade of his life.

David's various health issues plagued him for years, yet he was able to participate in numerous varied volunteer and church activities. After the deaths of first his mother and later his father, he lived with his step-mother Doris until his death.

David loved animals, was an avid Dodger fan, had assembled a large collection of model cars and a sizable library of World War II history books.

David will be sorely missed by his family, friends and neighbors many he made a point of contacting daily.

David will be laid to rest beside his mother and father in the Memorial Park in Camden, Arkansas.

David, preceded in death by his parents, is survived by his step Mother, Doris Short of Los Angeles, California and three cousins, Michael McKenzie of Sugar Land, Texas, Becky Grinder of Pelham, Alabama, and John Luksa of West Palm Beach, Florida and three step uncles, Jack Parks of Murrieta, California, Glenn Parks of Independence, Missouri, and Keith Parks of Wetumpka, Alabama.

Miscellaneous

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Sunset Park	$1,274,000	$654,500
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$1,049,000

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