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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 22

Santa Monica Daily Press

Dodgers

MCCOURT DEAL INVALID
SEE PAGE 13

We have you covered

THE NEW FACE ISSUE

City Hall hires new public works director



PASTUCHA

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITY HALL City Manager Rod Gould on Tuesday made his second major outside hire since coming to Santa Monica last January, announcing Martin Pastucha will become the city's next director of public works, a critical city department that repairs streets, picks up trash and oversees the local

SEE HIRE PAGE 8



SKYWARD

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Samohi's Suk Lee (right center) challenges the North defense for a loose ball on Tuesday at John Adams Middle School. Samohi won, 3-1.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

All-League team features a dozen Samohi players

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Santa Monica High School's football team is heavily represented on the All-Ocean League teams, it was announced Tuesday.

Samohi had six players make the first team and five on the second team. There was also an honorable mention.

Senior wide receiver Kris Comas, who finished the season with 17 touchdown catches and returned three kicks for scores, was named to the first team on offense along with junior running back Kori Garcia and senior offensive guard Austin Ehrlich. The first team on defense included senior linebacker Justyn Coker, junior linebacker Chris Collins and senior defensive back Brandon Taylor.

The second team on offense included sophomore quarterback Rhys Gervais, senior offensive tackle Joel Ramos and senior

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9

Plan to close Broadway 4 theater not a done deal

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN There's a hitch in AMC's plans to build a 12-screen movie theater on Fourth Street, with the theater operator running into a possible obstacle meeting its obligation to ensure that the new 2,200-seat complex results in only a moderate increase in the total number of theater seats Downtown.

AMC has plans to demolish a City Hall-owned parking structure near Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue in order to proceed with the new theater. While the City Council has final say on the project, city officials have already made it clear they want the project to result in a net gain of no more than 570 theater seats Downtown, citing the traffic and parking concerns.

Since AMC operates three theaters Downtown — all of them located on the Third Street Promenade — the company has several options for eliminating seats.

But its initial plan, referenced in a City Hall report on the theater proposal, may no longer be viable.

AMC had suggested closing its smallest theater, the Broadway 4, even though the company has a lease for the site that runs until 2014. By closing down the theater for at least a year, the theory went, the needed permits to operate a theater would lapse. So any new theater operator who leased the space would have to go through City Hall's approval process, meaning the Planning Commission could easily deny the permits, thus preventing a new operator from set-

SEE THEATER PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010

The book club
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 5 p.m. — 5:45 p.m.
For fifth-seventh grade students who love to read, the library is hosting a book club on "Flipped" by Wendelin Van Draanen. Arrive early and get a head start on the thoughts you might bring to the table.

Downward dog
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy., 9 a.m.
We all know how hard it is to wake up a morning workout. But with yoga, working out should be stress free. The Annenberg Community Beach House is hosting classes in its Garden Terrace Room for adults at any level. Get your flex on, just don't forget a mat and a bottle of water. To sign up, visit www.recenroll.smgov.net.

Holiday cheer
CENTRAL Social Aid & Pleasure Club
1348 14th St., 8 p.m.
From the makers of the hippest bar and live music venue, the Collective 7 Winter Soulstice Party is brought to you by CENTRAL Social Aid & Pleasure Club. Arrive early, as doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is $5.

Going green
Pasadena Convention Center
300 E. Green St., 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Drive over to the Pasadena Convention Center for the Green California Schools Summit and Exposition, a convention that will bring together leaders in the green schools movement. Participants will attend workshops and have a chance to attend special events. This year's theme is "Green Schools - More Important than Ever." The convention runs until Dec. 10. For more information, visit http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/.

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010

Singing aloud
Main Branch Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Instead of waiting around for the carolers to come knocking on your door, head over to the library to hear the Lyric Chorus of Santa Monica College Emeritus College. The 20-member chorus is led by Bill Elliot. The program is free, but seating is limited to a first arrival basis.

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

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Pearl Harbor survivors gather 69 years later

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii Aging Pearl Harbor survivors on Tuesday heard reassurances their sacrifice would be remembered and passed on to future generations as they gathered to mark the 69th anniversary of the attack.

"Long after the last veteran of the war in the Pacific is gone, we will still be here telling their story and honoring their dedication and sacrifice," National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis told about 120 survivors who traveled to Hawaii from around the country for the event.

Merl Resler, 88, of Newcastle, Calif., was among those who returned. He remembered firing shots at Japanese planes from the USS Maryland and standing in the blood of a shipmate hit by shrapnel during the attack.

"My teeth was chattering like I was freezing to death, and it was 84 degrees temperature. It was awful frightful," said Resler.

On Tuesday, fighter jets from the Montana Air National Guard flew above Pearl Harbor in missing man formation to honor those killed in the attack, which sunk the USS Arizona and with it, nearly 1,000 sailors and Marines. In all, about 2,400 service members died.

Sailors lined the deck of the USS Chafee and saluted as the guided missile destroyer passed between the sunken hull of the USS Arizona and the grassy landing where the remembrance ceremony was held.

After the ceremony, the survivors, some in wheelchairs, passed through a "Walk of Honor" lined by saluting sailors, Marines, airmen and soldiers to enter a new $56 million visitor center that was dedicated at the ceremony.

"This facility is the fulfillment of a promise that we will honor the past," Jarvis said.

The park service built the new center because the old one, which was built on reclaimed land in 1980, was sinking into the ground. The old facility was also overwhelmed by its popularity: it received about 1.6 million visitors each year, about twice as many as it was designed for.

People often had to squeeze by one another to view the photos and maps in its small exhibit hall. In comparison, the new center has two spacious exhibition halls with room for more people, as well as large maps and artifacts such as anti-aircraft guns.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Patrick Walsh said the new center, which has twice the exhibition space as the old one, would tell the story of those who fought and won the peace.

"This museum gives a view into their lives, a window into the enormity of their task, an appreciation of the heaviness of their burden, the strength of their resolve," Walsh said.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Thomas Stickland said the events of Dec. 7, 1941, were so traumatic and marked by heroism that they had become ingrained in the nation's consciousness.

"That day is now fundamental to who we are as a people. Its stories must be preserved. They must be honored and they must be shared," Strickland said.

USS Pennsylvania sailor DeWayne Chartier was on his way to church that day but never made it: "I got interrupted someplace along the line," the 93-year-old recounted.

He returned to Pearl Harbor from Walnut Creek, Calif., to mark the anniversary and see the dedication of the new center.

"It is my duty. It is not just a visit," Chartier said. "I felt I should be part of it."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BROADWAY
Get into the spirit

'Tis the season to give.

At least that's what the youth volunteers from the American Red Cross of Santa Monica will be doing. The group plans to collect and distribute toys and gifts for children and teens in Santa Monica and the local community as part of the annual "Spark of Love Toy Drive."

In its 18th year, the toy drive aims to provide a dose of holiday cheer to those in need during the season.

Unwrapped toys, games, books, school supplies and items appropriate for teens between 14 and 18 can be dropped off at the Santa Monica Red Cross or any Santa Monica Fire Department station.

Families needing toys can sign up to receive them at the Santa Monica Red Cross, located at 1450 11th St.

Last year, the drive collected over 500,000 toys in the five-county area.

The toy drive runs until Dec. 24.

DAILY PRESS

SMC
Sharing is caring

Santa Monica College Student Veterans Association Club and Associated Students will be collecting items to make care packages for American troops in Afghanistan.

Items such as tuna packs, protein bars, instant noodle packs, mixed drink packs, beef jerky, magazines and other food, care and recreation items will be accepted.

For more information, contact Christina Humphrey or Alfredo De Teresa at (310) 434-8205.

DP

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

More arrested in fan brawl before USC-UCLA game

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Three adult siblings have been arrested for investigation of attempted murder in a fan brawl before last weekend's Southern California-UCLA football game, and their father was released from custody, Pasadena police said Tuesday.

Arturo Cisneros, 44, was freed Tuesday pending further investigation, said Lt. Tracey Ibarra. The time limit for holding him without charges being filed had expired, she said.

Cisneros had been arrested for investigation of attempted murder shortly after Saturday's violence that left two men stabbed. One of the victims remained hospitalized in stable condition Tuesday. The other was quickly released.

Cisneros' release came after detectives arrested his two sons, Arthur, 25, and Anthony, 22, and a daughter, Akira, 24. Each was held in lieu of $1 million bail, Ibarra said.

The siblings were taken into custody Monday evening after detectives interviewed witnesses and studied Internet videos of Saturday's melee, Ibarra said. Their arrests were first reported Tuesday by the Pasadena Star-News.

The fighting marred daylong tailgating before the annual cross-town rivalry game between the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The four members of the Cisneros family, all from the Winnetka section of Los Angeles, are not affiliated with either university, Ibarra said.

Prosecutors have yet to file charges against any of them. Ibarra expected the three siblings to appear in court Wednesday.

The Cisneros family could not be immediately reached for comment. No one answered Tuesday at two telephone listings for Cisneros residences in Winnetka.

The district attorney's office on Monday charged two other men with resisting arrest and other crimes stemming from the brawl.

The Rose Bowl's general manager has said the stadium operating company will review the incident and hold discussions with authorities and UCLA on what can be done to prevent a recurrence of trouble.

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That Rutherford Guy

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

Celebrating Christmas in schools

WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN THE 1950S, my parents didn't have much money to spend on Christmas. I remember one Christmas when I wanted a cowboy gun and holster from Santa Claus. I got the toy pistol, but Santa, it seems, couldn't afford a holster. So my dad made one for me out of one of my mother's old leather purses. It didn't look like the ones on TV, but it worked pretty well. And it made me feel good that my dad cared enough to do what he could to make a little boy's Christmas dream come true.

Being poor didn't really matter all that much because there was magic in the air. And the magic of Christmas, which hinges on the spiritual nature of the holidays, was promoted in the schools. We sang Christmas carols in the classroom. There were cutouts of the nativity scene on the bulletin board, along with the smiling, chubby face of Santa and Rudolph. We were all acutely aware that Christmas was more than a season to receive — it was a special time to give as well.

But times have changed. Sadly, the timeless celebration of Christmas in schools seems to have been lost. Schools across the country avoid anything that alludes to the true meaning of Christmas — such as angels, the baby Jesus, stables and shepherds. Just consider some of the incidents that have taken place in recent years.

For example, a member of a parent/teacher organization at a Connecticut elementary school was in charge of decorating a large display case in the school's entrance. For the upcoming December holidays, she was planning to put up a display called "Festival of Lights" and feature a display with a crèche for Christmas and a Menorah and Star of David for Hanukkah, along with a document that explains the histories of both events. However, she was told by school officials that no religious objects could be used in the display.

A kindergarten teacher in a Texas public school was informed that he could not mention the word "Christmas" or tell the historical nativity story because someone in the district might sue. All other secular customs of the "winter holiday" were deemed to be OK, just not the religious symbols of Christianity.

Another incident that highlights this extreme Christmas phobia involved a Michigan elementary school, where the principal issued a directive specifically forbidding references to God, Christianity or the birth of Jesus Christ. This is censorship, pure and simple.

I have yet to understand how anyone can discuss the true — or even historical — meaning of Christmas without at least a reference to the baby Jesus. Surely something has gone wrong when America's children are encouraged to celebrate the fictional Rudolph but are refused the opportunity to even mention Jesus, who was an actual, historical person. To claim that Christmas is something other than it is — a holiday with a religious foundation — is both dishonest and historically unsound.

Indeed, Christmas ("the Mass of Christ") was instituted, and for centuries kept, as a religious holiday (as in "holy day"). Originally, Christmas included festivities, but its primary purpose was to provide a time for spiritual renewal.

Unfortunately, far too many parents, students and teachers erroneously believe they cannot celebrate Christmas in the public schools. Whether through ignorance, fear or political correctness, Americans are painfully misguided about the recognition of religious holidays. (The word holiday it must be emphasized means holy day.) Ironically, the most targeted religious holiday for exclusion is Christmas — also the most popular in American culture. Are American schoolchildren to be forbidden from learning about one of the most culturally significant events because it has spiritual overtones?

To the contrary, there are ways to celebrate Christmas in the public schools without violating the U.S. Constitution. These are succinctly set forth in The Rutherford Institute's "Twelve Rules of Christmas," available at www.rutherford.org. While it is true that public school teachers, as agents of the state, may not advance religion, they are allowed to discuss the role of religion in all aspects of American culture and its history. And this includes the religious aspects of the Christmas holiday.

Indeed, teachers can use Christmas art, music, literature and drama in their classrooms, as long as they illustrate the cultural heritage from which the holiday has developed. Religious symbols, such as a nativity scene, can be used in this context as well. Of course, any holiday observance should occur in an educational setting, rather than in a devotional atmosphere. Teachers should also make students and their parents aware of the school district's opt-out policy as an alternative to the teaching about any particular religion.

While our Constitution does not give carte blanche to promote religion in the public schools, neither does it dictate a cleansing of Christmas from the classroom. Students may enjoy the same freedom of religious expression that is allowed any other time of the year — in or out of the classroom. This means that students can freely distribute Christmas or Hanukkah cards to their friends and teachers, just as they would a birthday card. Such cards can even mention the words God and Jesus Christ.

Erasing traditional Christmas practices from our daily life is discouraging and disheartening. In a society already known for its selfishness and consumerism, it seems that a religious holiday would be an opportunity to celebrate something more essential, something wholesome and good and also something that would remind us of our nation's history — one that is dominated by a spiritual and religious heritage.

In fact, rather than making Christmas the height of the selling season, why can't the focus be on celebrating family and friendship, camaraderie and memories? Why can't it be a time to reflect and celebrate our freedoms? Why can't it be a season of extending a helping hand to the less fortunate? Why can't it be a time to step back and meditate on the original meaning behind the Christmas holiday? And why can't these important traditions be taught in our schools?

Hopefully, as our children ponder what Christmas is all about — a subject that almost certainly arises in the classroom — our teachers at least will realize that they have the right to truthfully answer the question. If so, our children will have the opportunity to experience the richness of our traditions and culture. And what better time than Christmas?

Constitutional attorney and author **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Farzad Mashhood, David Alsabery, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Melissa Leu, Patrick Hourihan,
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Brittney Seeliger
brittneys@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Steven Stuart
stevens@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@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
We have you covered

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is going green really worth it?

OUR PRESIDENT RECENTLY SAID THERE WAS a risk of the country slipping into another Great Depression. For all of you who decided to pretend that it wasn't happening, I ask that you open your eyes.

Closing your eyes and hoping our struggling economy fixes itself will not help any of us. Our economy will not be fixed with greater taxes. Creating more government jobs only takes money from one person and passes it around to others. It doesn't bring any new money into the state.

More shopping with borrowed money spent from your savings account won't fix the economy. Looking around at the malls you'd think that we're doing well, but it only hides the fact that retirement savings accounts are being spent.

Los Angeles County is already experiencing real depression-era type unemployment. You'll hear that we have a current unemployment rate of 12.6 percent two years after our market crash. But remember that it was 16.3 percent by the end of 1931, two years after the Great Depression started. To hide the real unemployment rate today, we calculate the unemployment rate differently then we did in 1931. If you use the U6 number we are now at 17 percent. The Great Depression took four years to take hold and unemployment reached 25.2 percent.

As the great depression went on, people had savings accounts that slowly disappeared. They sold off possessions as well. If you read the newspapers from that time, the market went up and down repeatedly. People often claimed opportunity was just around the corner. Those who were working eventually lost jobs when no one was able to purchase their products. What we need right now are real jobs.

Today, California is the eighth largest economy in the world, and the largest single economy in the United States. To put things into perspective, the European Union's bailout of Greece, Ireland, and proposed Spain and Portugal is smaller than a possible California bailout would be. You don't seem to hear much about this in the press since it doesn't keep people watching the idiot box, but it's something that will take all of us to stop from happening.

We all need to go home and have real conversations with our families about the facts. We need to figure out how to live financially responsible lives. That means we need to spend wisely, invest, and truly understand the consequences of our voting decisions. Throw out the idea that we can spend our way out of this, and start investing in companies that make things we can sell to other countries. In the end, we need to get back to making stuff. Making stuff is stinky and might cause pollution. But the choice is that or be homeless.

We all need to accept that the idea of a "Green Economy" will not create enough jobs to keep us living in the lifestyle that our parents had. Every kind of manufacturing job in California has gone down ever since the green fever took hold. According to the California Employment Development Department report published Nov. 19, 2010, we lost another 11,300 manufacturing jobs. Almost 40 percent of the unemployed have been that way longer than six months. The top-growing employer in L.A. County was our government. That is very bad. Manufacturing with less pollution is a good thing. The problem we have learned is it is stupid to limit pollution here in California, while allowing products made creating 10 times the pollution next door to share the same shelves.

China doesn't even have an Environmental Protection Agency to force companies to be green. If you think they're looking at becoming a green economy, just think about their record on human rights. No one really tracks emissions in Asia. They think we're idiots. The math is simple. Four billion Asians are burning everything they can find as fast as they can burn it to make you an iPhone and a Prius.

Now all the Asians want iPhone's and a big screen TV in their 3,000-square-foot home as well. As millions in Asia are manufacturing with no EPA restrictions, more pollution is being created than ever before. To put it into perspective, if all 300 million Americans were beamed off the planet by aliens, it would have less than 5 percent total impact on global population. So when I hear our lofty dream of reducing American pollution by 10 percent over the next 10 years, I'm left realizing that this is less than a 3 percent change, which is an almost insignificant amount.

Forget talks about a double-dip recession; we're still taking in water. For a drowning person, taking in less water slower is not the same as breathing air. This is a California problem, and has little to do with George Bush or Obama. We borrow, tax and spend money the way the Democratic Party of our one-party state desires. The State Assembly and Senate have been Democratically controlled for the last 14 years.

In exchange for that tiny percent reduction in global emissions over the next 10 years, we encourage Asia to pollute more and faster while we allow our people to become homeless and the state to go broke? Is it really worth it?

DAVID ALSABERY is wondering if the smoke from the factories in Asia will cause global warming in California. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com

The Q Line

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Headline news

The year 2010 saw its fair share of interesting happenings in Santa Monica. There was a City Council election that took a month to sort out, a couple local high school teams won CIF titles and bikes continue to be on the minds of many.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What were the main stories of 2010, and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**


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Economic study: Gains to come after near-term pain

BY JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES New state government reforms and a revived housing market along the coast could put California's economy on a strong footing when it finishes its long, slow slog through a sluggish recovery, according to an economic forecast released Tuesday.

November's successful ballot measure allowing budgets to be passed with a simple majority and other changes could make the state more attractive to businesses and improve its borrowing costs, according to the quarterly Anderson Forecast from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, pent-up demand among home buyers could explode in the state's coastal communities where inventory has been limited, resulting in rebounding home prices and renewed construction in those areas, the study said.

"There are changes that are occurring in some fundamental problem areas such as residential construction and state government that are laying the groundwork for more rapid growth in the medium term," said the forecast's author, Jerry Nickelsburg.

The report noted that the state will still be in for some pain before it realizes these longer-term gains.

Employment was forecast to grow at a rate of 1.6 percent in 2011, keeping joblessness at 11.4 percent through the year. The state was unlikely to generate enough jobs to tug unemployment down to the single digits until the end of 2012.

The state's most recent tally put unemployment at 12.4 percent in October, down from a modern record of 12.6 percent reached in March. The national rate is 9.8 percent.

Real personal income was forecast to grow at 1.6 percent in 2011 and 3.6 percent in 2012.

The economic growth that does occur will be driven by education, health care, exports and technology — all sectors that are most prevalent along the coast, where the expansion will arrive fastest and be most pronounced.

In inland parts of the state, little growth will occur until that region's housing market rebounds, which will not occur in the near term because of the massive overbuilding that occurred during the previous years' homebuilding frenzy.

Nickelsburg said it could be years until those who worked in that region's once-booming construction sector find new jobs in other industries.

But construction could be a driver of growth in coastal parts of the state, which saw less construction during the boom.

The report cited state and federal data showing increases in household sizes since 2007, when the downturn took hold, implying that cash-strapped twentysomethings were moving in with their parents instead of buying homes for themselves, and that older people were moving in with their adult children.

When the general economic expansion gives a boost to employment, job security and salaries, demand will quickly outstrip supply along the coast, resulting in a quickly rebounding construction industry there.

"In terms of housing stock, it turns out we're about a year behind if the potential demand turns into effective demand, which it ultimately will," Nickelsburg said.

Nickelsburg said he was also encouraged by the state-level reforms that allow budgets to be passed by the legislature with a simple majority, rather than the previous two-thirds majority that has been blamed for legislative gridlock.

The state's economy may also benefit from a reform that places the drawing of legislative and congressional districts in the hands of a bipartisan citizens commission, rather than lawmakers.

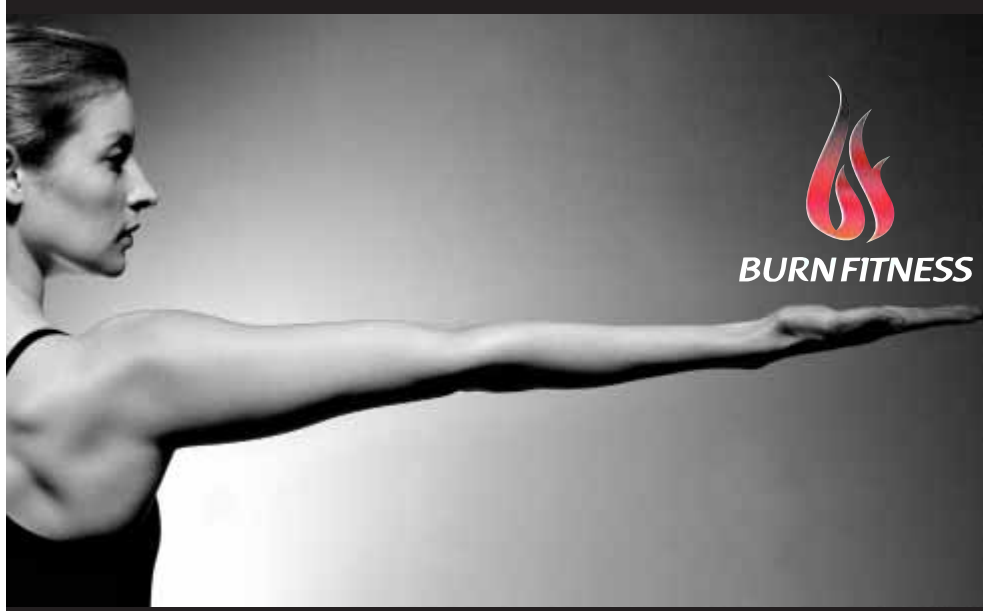
The new system could make legislators more apt to quickly approve budgets so as not to incur voters' anger in what will become more competitive districts, Nickelsburg said.

The resulting budgetary stability could make California businesses more willing to expand and could make out-of-state businesses more likely to move here, he said.

It would also improve the state's bond rating so it could borrow money at lower interest rates, Nickelsburg said.

"If California shows a record of passing budgets on time, then there's going to be more certainty about the California government. It will be perceived as a government that functions," he said.

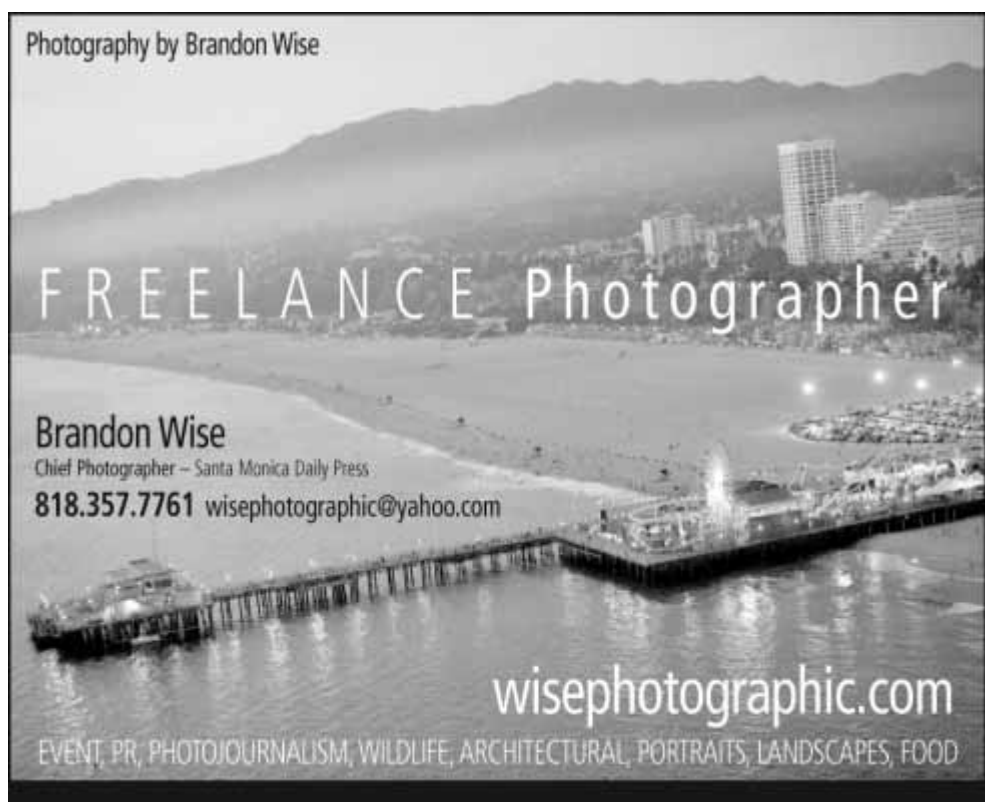
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China's skyscraper boom buoys global industry

BY JOE MCDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING The 121-story Shanghai Tower is more than China's next record-setting building: It's an economic lifeline for the elite club of skyscraper builders.

Financial gloom has derailed plans for new towers in Chicago, Moscow, Dubai and other cities. But in China, work on the 2,074-foot (632-meter) Shanghai Tower, due to be completed in 2014, and dozens of other tall buildings is rushing ahead, powered by a buoyant economy and providing a steady stream of work to architects and engineers.

The U.S. high-rise market is "pretty much dead," said Dan Winey, a managing director for Gensler, the Shanghai Tower's San Francisco-based architects. "For us, China in the next 10 to 15 years is going to be a huge market."

China has six of the world's 15 tallest buildings — compared with three in the United States, the skyscraper's birthplace — and is constructing more at a furious pace, defying worries about a possible real estate boom and bust. It is on track to pass the U.S. as the country with the most buildings among the 100 tallest by a wide margin.

"There are cities in China that most Western people have never heard of that have bigger populations and more tall buildings than half the prominent cities in the U.S.," said Antony Wood, executive director of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

China is leading a wave of skyscraper building in developing countries that is shifting the field's center of gravity away from the United States and Europe.

India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia have ultra-tall towers under construction or on the drawing board. In the Gulf, Doha in Qatar and Dubai — site of the current record holder, the 163-story Burj Khalifa — each has three buildings among the 20 tallest under construction, though work on all but one of those has been suspended.

The shift is so drastic that North America's share of the 100 tallest buildings will fall from 80 percent in 1990 to just 18 percent by 2012, according to Wood. He said by then, 45 of the tallest will be in Asia, with 34 of those in China alone.

"So 34 percent of the 100 tallest buildings will be in a single country. That has only happened once before, and that was with the USA," he said.

In China, skyscrapers are going up in obscure locales such as Wenzhou, Wuhan and Jiangyin, a boomtown north of Shanghai. It is building a 72-story, 1,076-foot (328-meter) hotel-and-apartment tower that will be taller than Manhattan's Chrysler Building.

China's edifice complex is driven by a mix of demand for space in a crowded country with economic growth forecast at 10 percent this year and local leaders who want architectural eye candy to promote their cities as commercial centers.

Dozens of midsize Chinese cities are building new business districts to replace cramped downtowns. They look to the model of Shanghai's skyscraper-packed Pudong district — China's Wall Street — created in the 1990s on reclaimed industrial land.

"Governments are encouraging these iconic buildings in order to give a very clear message to the outside world: Please pay attention to our city," said Dennis Poon, managing principal of Thornton Tomasetti, the Shanghai Tower's structural engineers. The New York-based firm also is working on the 115-story Ping An International Finance Center in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, and other Chinese projects.

China has four of the 10 tallest buildings under construction, versus two for the United States — and work on one of those, the 2,000-foot (610-meter) Chicago Spire, has stopped.

The Shanghai Tower will be China's tallest office tower, surpassing the neighboring Shanghai World Financial Center in Pudong. The 2-year-old WFC passed the Jinmao Tower, also in Pudong, for the title.

China accounts for 65 percent of Gensler's worldwide revenues from projects that involve buildings 35 to 40 stories and above, according to Winey.

The firm is working on some 50 projects in China that total 80 million square feet (8 million square meters), the equivalent of San Francisco's entire stock of commercial office space, he said. China revenues are rising by 30 to 35 percent a year and its staff of 140 people in offices in Beijing and Shanghai should expand to 500 in the next seven years.

The boom has drawn a Who's Who of star architects and given Chinese firms their first shot at designing a skyscraper.

Shenzhen's Ping An tower was designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox; the New York firm's other projects include the 116-story East Tower of the Chow Tai Fook Center in Guangzhou, also near Hong Kong. Chicago-based Skidmore Owings & Merrill designed Beijing's tallest building, the 75-story China World Tower III, and the 76-story Tianjin World Financial Center in Tianjin east of Beijing, due to be completed next year. Jiangyin's Hanging Village of Huaxi was designed by China's A+E Design.

Tianjin, a port and oil-refining center with ambitions to be a finance and tech hub, is building four towers of at least 75 stories. One of them, the Goldin Finance 117, will be 117 stories and nearly 2,000 feet (600 meters) tall.

Instead of Western-style single-use office or apartment towers, many developers diversify their revenue sources by making buildings a mix of hotel and office space, with a shopping mall in the base and luxury apartments at the top.

The new space is hitting the market just as Beijing tries to cool a boom in construction of luxury housing and shopping malls. Regulators warn that a supply glut could leave lenders with unpaid loans if developers default.

But demand for high-end office space is so strong that the skyscraper market should face no such problems, said Danny Ma, director of China research for real estate consulting firm CB Richard Ellis. He said the new buildings should fill up quickly because many are the first in their cities to offer high-quality facilities required by foreign and major Chinese companies that are expanding there.

"More and more tenants are keen to move to such buildings," Ma said. He said developers are signing up tenants in advance for 50 to 60 percent of the space in new projects, enough in many cases to make them profitable.

China is helping to propel development of skyscraper design and urban planning as developers face government pressure to make buildings environmentally friendly and integrate them into busy cities.



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THEATER

FROM PAGE 1

ting up shop.

Not surprisingly, Promenade Gateway, which earns millions of dollars by leasing the Broadway 4's theater space to AMC, was none too pleased when it caught wind of the proposal.

"Obviously, it creates risk for us," said Scott Blake, asset manager for Promenade Gateway.

After having attorneys review the Broadway 4's lease agreement, Blake said he's confident AMC can't legally cease operating the Broadway 4 while its lease is in effect. He said AMC is required to continue operating as a theater while its lease is in effect, which means his company should be able to keep all of its "grandfathered" property rights and bring in a new theater operator once the Broadway 4's lease expires.

Calls to John Warfel, a partner in the proposed new AMC multiplex and a member of Bayside District Corp. board, were not returned on Tuesday. But it seems clear that any attempt to shutter the Broadway 4 before 2014 would bring a legal challenge from Promenade Gateway — a development that could disrupt plans for the new multiplex.

Blake said last month he met with representatives from AMC and both sides agreed to work on an alternative solution to the problem. But he said there's not yet a concrete plan for how to eliminate the roughly 1,600 theater seats City Hall has said need to go in order to allow the new project to move ahead.

"Up until recently, we really hadn't had that much contact with AMC regarding their intention to close [the Broadway 4]," Blake said. "We are certainly hopeful that we can reach an agreement that works for everyone on the various sides."

> **"WE ARE CERTAINLY HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE ON THE VARIOUS SIDES."**
>
> **Scott Blake,**
> Asset manager for Promenade Gateway

There are some reasons why Promenade Gateway, under the right circumstances, might look favorably on seeing the Broadway 4 close. Retailers, after all, pay higher rents than movie theaters do. But converting the Broadway 4 space into a site for a different use would require investment and, most likely, building approvals from City Hall, Blake said.

"That property was built around a facade that is unique to movie theaters, by city requirement," Blake said. "If indeed the city wants us to change to retail, we just hope that the city will cooperate in doing so."

He added he didn't expect a potential deal to involve City Hall footing any portion of the bill to renovate the property.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie could not be reached for comment on the city's position in the negotiations by deadline Tuesday.

nickt@smdp.com

HIRE

FROM PAGE 1

water supply.

Pastucha, who currently holds the same position in the city of Pasadena, will manage more than 400 employees and oversee a budget of more than $66 million in Santa Monica. He will receive a base salary of $198,798.

Pastucha will replace acting director Susan Cline. Lee Swain, who currently serves as Santa Monica's city engineer, previously held the position.

The appointment follows a nationwide recruitment that attracted more than 50 candidates. Interviews were held with five finalists during the past month, according to a City Hall news release.

"I'm excited to join Santa Monica and offer the experience gained throughout my career to the Santa Monica community," Pastucha said. "Santa Monica is renowned as a progressive city and I look forward to joining the talented team there."

Pastucha will takeover on Jan. 18. Gould, who in February hired Fire Chief Scott Ferguson, plans to introduce the new public works director at the City Council meeting scheduled for Jan. 25.

"Martin Pastucha is a gifted operational manager and consummate team player. He has a wide breadth of experience ranging from overseeing large multi-year capital projects as well operations experience in maintenance of streets, sewers, parks, sold waste and fleet management," Gould said in the release. "He is known for being innovative, solution oriented and highly supportive of his colleagues so that successful outcomes are achieved."

The Public Works Department provides services that include water resources, architecture services, civil engineering, resource recovery and recycling, cemetery, street maintenance, fleet services, facilities management and custodial services.

Pastucha received a master's degree in public administration from California State University, San Bernardino. He and his wife have two grown children.

Before he was hired in Pasadena, Pastucha was public works director in La Habra. He has also served as field services manager for the Tustin Public Works Department and as public works, operations manager and integrated waste manager for Upland, Calif.

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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HE'S GONE: **Samohi's Kris Comas returns a punt for a touchdown against Hawthorne earlier this season. Comas was named to the All-Ocean League first team on offense this week.**

SAMOHI

FROM PAGE 1

offensive lineman Evan Parra-Raygosa. Junior cornerback Dylan Muskat and senior nose tackle Terrence Sadler were named to the second team.

Junior defensive end Chad Wheeler was an honorable mention.

"I'm proud of the kids," Head Coach Travis Clark said. "This proves we did some things this season."

Clark, in his second season as coach, led the team to a 6-4 overall record and 3-2 in league. Despite the winning record, Samohi missed the playoffs after qualifying last season. Yet, the finish was an improvement on last year's 4-6 regular season record.

Clark said he sees improvement from year to year and feels the team has built a good foundation for the future.

Even with improvement comes disappointment for missing the playoffs.

"It keeps us hungry," Clark said. "It gives us something to shoot for."

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This year marks the 63rd anniversary for the Toys for Tots tradition of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Since 1947, Toys for Tots coordinators have distributed over 419 million toys to 195 million needy children. Unfortunately, with over 13 million children living in poverty, Toys for Tots needs your help more than ever to achieve our goal of delivering a toy to every child in need.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Home on the range

BY CAROLE ORLIN
Special to the Daily Press

Howdy pardners! Memories of the fun times I had at guest ranches in Montana led me to seek out ranches closer to home. When I think of the "Wild West," my attention has always been focused on Montana, Wyoming or Colorado. Despite California being as far west as you can go, I had serious doubts that I could find an authentic ranch anywhere but in those cowboy states. Then I discovered The Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort in Solvang, an easy two-hour ride from Santa Monica. It is located in the heart of California's central coast wine country just 40 miles north of Santa Barbara. Situated on a 10,000-acre cattle ranch that had its origins dating back to the early 1800s, it was transformed into a full-service guest ranch with its opening in 1946. Alisal means "grove of sycamores," and the beauty of its oak trees and sycamore groves, rolling hills, mountains, valleys, and 100-acre spring-fed lake is awe inspiring.

We decided to attend their first annual "Harvest Weekend." The festivities began with a welcome reception and BBQ dinner, followed by genuine country line dancing. Corny, but lots of fun! The next morning started with either a hayride or horse ride to the Old Adobe for an outdoor country style breakfast. We took the hayride and despite some glitches were able to experience Alisal's magnificent setting. The afternoon provided us with a visit to nearby Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards, with a wine tasting room for a harvest party of hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting from the bottle, barrel and tank and fantastic live music. In the evening we attended an elegant winemaker's reception and a gourmet four-course dinner with wine pairings. Needless to say, we slept well that night. The next morning, after another satisfying country breakfast and some hiking and horseshoes, it was time to head on home, little doggie.

I know this was not like the dude ranch experience of old, but it was, after all, a special harvest celebration. Truth be told, I realized that although I do love riding and everything that a ranch experience entails, I also enjoy fine wine, great cuisine and a little bit of pampering. I'm a city slicker who looks for balance in the great outdoors, but won't turn down a massage at the end of a hard day of riding and dining. The staff at The Alisal takes pride in keeping the ranch as authentic as possible, but realizes it has to offer what the public wants in order to stay relevant. They built an amazing fitness center and spa two years ago, and boast two 18-hole golf courses, tennis courts and a lovely pool. I met a group of people who have been returning there for annual reunions for over 20 years. Although many celebrities go there (Clark Gable was married there), they really do strive to keep as low key and true to their roots as possible. The 73 country style rooms do not have a television or a telephone, which initially made me a little nervous, but turned out to be quite freeing. I missed a few days of traumatizing news and caught up on some reading.

As I relaxed and reflected on the bounty of the weekend, I realized that this secluded world moved at an easy pace but offered as much fun and adventure as anyone could want from sunrise to sundown. The rejuvenating blend of activity and relaxation means that it can cater to a wide variety of guests: from couples to family groups, from business meetings to corporate retreats. They offer special opportunities for Wranglers' Wedding Packages, for Cowgirl and Couples Bootcamps, and even the ability to "Rent the Ranch" in its entirety (caution: the latter could set you back approximately $43,000 per night with a two-night minimum).

Head wrangler Tony is as patient with the urbanites as he is with the horses; so even if you relate to the Billy Crystal character in the movie "City Slickers" — no worries, you are in good hands. I'm tempted to try the Cowgirl Bootcamp, but fear for my husband if I really master the art of saddle up, roping and tying — run, Chuck, run!

Well, it's time to practice my Texas two-step. So for now, happy trails.

CAROLE can be reached at Carolesorlin@yahoo.com.



Photo courtesy The Alisal

WHAT A VIEW: **The Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort in Solvang, Calif. is surrounded by beautiful oak trees and sycamore groves.**

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Filipinos sue hospital over English-only rule

BY AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Dozens of Filipino hospital workers in California sued their employer Tuesday alleging they were the sole ethnic group targeted by a rule requiring them to speak only English.

The group of 52 nurses and medical staff filed a complaint accusing Delano Regional Medical Center of banning them from speaking Tagalog and other Filipino languages while letting other workers speak Spanish and Hindi.

The plaintiffs are seeking to join an August complaint filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Kern County federal court over the hospital's enforcement of a rule requiring workers to speak English.

Filipino workers said they were called to a special meeting in August 2006 where they were warned not to speak Tagalog and told surveillance cameras would be installed, if necessary, to monitor them. Since then, workers said they were told on a daily basis by fellow staffers to speak only English, even on breaks.

"I felt like people were always watching us," said tearful 56-year-old Elnora Cayme, who worked for the hospital from 1980 to 2008. "Even when we spoke English ... people would come and approach us and tell us, 'English only.'"

A message was left at the hospital seeking comment.

In its lawsuit, the EEOC has accused the hospital in California's San Joaquin Valley of creating a hostile working environment for Filipinos by singling them out for reprimands and for encouraging other staff to report them. The agency is seeking an injunction to protect the workers against future discrimination.

The EEOC has seen an increase in complaints alleging discrimination based on national origin amid a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment, said Anna Park, a regional attorney for the EEOC. That's especially the case in California's central valley, where a greater share of the complaints the agency receives relate to such issues than in the nation as a whole.

In this case, the workers filed a separate complaint under state law in part because monetary damages are capped by federal law, said Julie Su, litigation director for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, which represents the plaintiffs. They want the English-only policy to be changed and for hospital staff to be trained on the new rule.

Under California law, employers may require workers to speak English if there is a business necessity, Su said.

Delano Regional Medical Center is a 156-bed hospital located about 30 miles north of Bakersfield.

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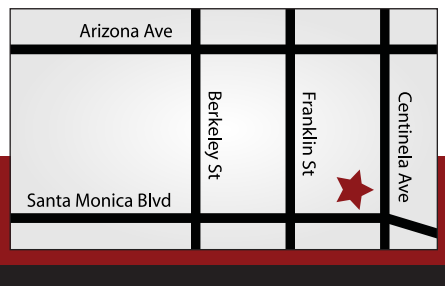
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McCourt marital deal on Dodgers ruled invalid

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A judge ruled Tuesday that a postnuptial marital agreement giving sole ownership of the Los Angeles Dodgers to Frank McCourt is not valid — a decision that isn't expected to affect team operations but means the Dodgers could eventually be shared under California community property law.

Superior Court Judge Scott Gordon said there wasn't a mutual understanding between Jamie and Frank McCourt about what the pact spelled out when they signed it in March 2004 in Massachusetts.

"The parties had mistaken belief and no agreement as to the meaning of the agreement, the content of the agreement, and the effect of the (agreement) on their property and property rights," Gordon wrote in his 100-page tentative ruling.

Jamie McCourt's lawyer, David Boies, said his client was pleased with the decision, but she wants a reasonable resolution of divorce negotiations that involved the postnuptial agreement.

"It's in the interest of her, her family, Dodger fans and the team," to settle, Boies told The Associated Press. "She's not going to insist on exactly half, but if she's prepared to compromise, Frank has to look at this case with some realism."

Lawyers for Frank McCourt plan to ask Gordon for a hearing to argue he is the sole owner of the Dodgers because he has title to the team, stadium and surrounding land — worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Without the agreements in place, it becomes the court's job to determine which property is Frank's and which is Jamie's based on who holds legal title to the team," attorney Marc Seltzer said in a statement. "The facts are crystal clear on this point. The Dodgers are solely in Frank's name."

The tentative ruling came after an 11-day trial that focused on whether the agreement should determine who owns the team.

Frank McCourt contends the agreement gives the Dodgers to him. His estranged wife argues no one told her she gave up her purported stake in the team by signing the document.

The couple have been embroiled in a nasty and costly divorce trial, where legal bills alone are estimated to top $20 million.

The case has provided the public a rare glimpse into the inner workings of a Major League Baseball team. Through testimony and reams of court documents, observers have learned about the Dodgers' finances and how the former couple's lavish lifestyle affected the team.

Both sides gave differing accounts of what their intentions were when they signed the agreement, but one aspect was clear — neither of them read the agreement closely enough. The pact spelled out how their assets would be divided in the event of a divorce.

During the trial, Jamie McCourt, 56, maintained she was the team's co-owner and would never have signed away her purported stake in the Dodgers had she known the agreement took it away from her.

Frank McCourt, 57, countered the pact was his wife's idea so she could protect her separate property — a group of opulent homes — from his business creditors.

Both took the witness stand during the trial and gave snapshots of their nearly 30-year marriage.

In his ruling, Gordon questioned their credibility and seemed astonished that such bright businesspeople as the McCourts didn't examine such an important legal document thoroughly.

The testimony by both parties "paints a picture of two people who had no involvement in the drafting or execution of the (agreement) and related documents and further that they so entrusted all matters regarding the (agreement) to their lawyers, that they did not closely read or did not read at all, the drafts or final copies of the various (agreements) involved in this case," Gordon said.

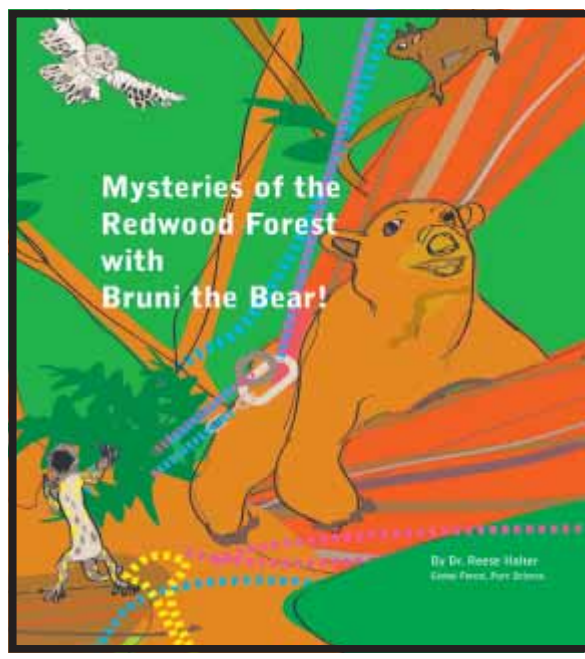
Jamie McCourt's legal team argued the pact wasn't valid because their client didn't have her own attorney when the agreement was signed, and Frank McCourt eventually agreed to make all their assets community property.

The lawyers also pointed out there were two versions of the agreement, due to a family lawyer's error. One gave the Dodgers and related assets to Frank McCourt, and another did not.

Frank McCourt's attorneys countered that their client is recognized by Major League Baseball as the sole owner of the Dodgers, and Jamie McCourt never identified herself as a co-owner.

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Mervyn Hecht
Mervyn Hecht was a lawyer in the small town of Pacific Palisades California from 1964 to 1989. Here he recounts several of his disparate cases, in turn funny (fighting over the custody of a French poodle), surprising (you have to read it), and profound (a firstdegree murder case). They give insight into the life of a lawyer, how lawyers view their clients, and the legal profession. Some of the cases are heart-warming, but most are just very funny. The book is available only as a Kindle e-book from Amazon. But you do not need a Kindle to read the book. The Kindle reader is free and available for download from Amazon.com. Once installed, you can download and read the book on your smartphone, your computer, or your iPad.
To buy the book, go to **Amazon.com** and enter **"Mervyn Hecht"** in the search box

Democrats demand changes in Obama-GOP tax deal

BY CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Disappointed Democratic congressional leaders demanded changes in the White House's tax deal with Republicans on Tuesday despite a spirited argument by President Barack Obama that concessions were preferable to higher taxes for millions of Americans.

"I'm not here to play games with the American people or the health of the economy," Obama said of his day-old deal, which is designed to avert a scheduled Jan. 1 expiration of tax cuts at all income levels.

In a remarkable political role reversal, Republicans lined up to support the package, while lawmakers of the president's party said they were prepared to oppose it. Liberal Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., pledged to "do everything I can to defeat this," including a filibuster to prevent a final vote.

The deal includes an extension of expiring Bush-era tax cuts for all income levels — not just for lower and middle-income taxpayers, as Democrats wanted. It also contains a renewal of jobless benefits due to expire in a few weeks, and a one-year cut in Social Security taxes paid by workers.

Other elements would loosen the estate tax and provide breaks for businesses to spur hiring. Officials said that overall, the proposal could add $900 billion to the federal deficit over two years.

Democratic opposition focused chiefly on two parts of the deal that marked concessions to Republicans — the decision to let expiring tax cuts remain in effect for people in upper incomes, and a change in the estate tax that the GOP has long sought.

Pelosi called the estate tax provision "a bridge too far," and Reid also singled it out for criticism. It would allow $5 million per spouse to pass tax-free to heirs, and tax anything above that level at 35 percent.

The compromise is "something that's not done yet," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "We're going to have to do some more work," he said after a closed door meeting with Vice President Joe Biden and members of the Democratic rank-and-file.

Across the Capitol, Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a statement that said, "We will continue discussions with the president and our caucus in the days ahead."

At his hastily called news conference, Obama bristled at times, casting himself in the role of compromiser-in-chief with the best interests of the economy and public in mind.

"This isn't an abstract debate. This is real money, It will make a real difference in the lives of people who sent us here," Obama said.

The presidential news conference was part of a full-scale defense of the agreement, which the White House said would pump billions into the economy at a time it is recovering from the worst recession in eight decades and unemployment stands at 9.8 percent.

The president was critical of Democrats and Republicans, saying that if purely partisan attitudes rule, compromise would be impossible.

At one point, he appeared to liken Republican lawmakers insisting on tax cuts for the wealthy to terrorists.

"I think it's tempting not to negotiate with hostage takers, unless the hostage gets harmed. In this case the hostage is the American people and I was not willing to see them get harmed," he said.

But he also rejected criticism from Democrats. "I know there are some who would have preferred a protracted political fight," he said. But he added he had decided that compromise was preferable to letting taxes rise on Jan. 1.

The events left Democratic leaders struggling to avoid a major fight with the president, at a moment that they are hoping to complete work on several measures before Republicans take control of the House in January. Most prominently, Obama wants the Senate to ratify a new arms control treaty with Russia.

Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, a Democrat-turned-independent, urged support for the plan. "This tentative agreement is an example of Washington working across party lines to confront the challenges facing our nation," he said.

But organized labor, the liberal group MoveOn.org and others criticized the deal.

In public and private, Democrats expressed anger that Obama had bowed to Republican demands to extend the expiring tax cuts on the wealthy and make additional concessions to the GOP on estate tax relief.

Some Democrats who met with Biden quoted him as saying the deal was the best the White House could obtain from Republicans, who had staunchly blocked legislation over the weekend to extend tax cuts only on incomes below $200,000 for individuals and $250,000 for couples.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said he intended to oppose the new proposal barring changes. "It didn't wind up in a good end. The deal as struck is not the best deal for our country," he said.

Others questioned whether the deal would spur the economic growth enough to outweigh the additional damage it would do to the already disastrous debt situation.

"If we don't vote for this, what happens — not politically, but economically? If we do vote for it, how sure can we be that it will, in effect, spawn jobs pump the economy?" said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Besides holding current tax rates in place for all, the proposal would extend unemployment benefits and reduce payroll taxes for a year, avoiding a threatened cutoff in checks to two million over the holidays and as many as another five million next year.

The proposed Social Security tax cut would apply to virtually every working American. For one year they would pay 4.2 percent of their income, instead of 6.2 percent, to the government retirement program, fattening U.S. paychecks by $120 billion in 2011.

Someone earning $40,000 a year would receive a $800 benefit, and a $70,000 earner would save $1,400, officials said. More than three-fourths of all Americans pay more in these so-called payroll taxes than in federal income taxes.

The White House said money from other sources would be shifted so the Social Security trust fund loses no revenue.

Obama said he reluctantly made another concession to Republicans, concerning the estate tax. It would tax estates worth more than $5 million at a rate of 35 percent, a GOP goal. Democrats favored a $3.5 million threshold, with a 45 percent tax on anything higher.

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Hollywood


Army struggles with mental health amid two long wars

BY DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. A baby-faced, chain-smoking infantryman who was on a prescribed antidepressant when he allegedly shot and killed a captured Taliban member is the latest challenge to the Army's ability to address mental health problems in the ranks while fighting two lengthy wars.

Pfc. David Lawrence, 20, had also told family members before the shooting that he was hearing voices.

Lawrence is charged with premeditated murder in the Oct. 17 death of the prisoner, who prosecutors say was asleep in a jail cell when he was shot. If convicted, Lawrence could face execution or life in prison.

His case comes as the military grapples with a rising numbers of suicides, post-traumatic stress disorder cases and traumatic brain injuries. At the same time, commanders are striving to maintain the Army's numerical strength and soldier discipline in the face of repeated deployments.

At a military court hearing for Lawrence last week, prosecutors suggested he was faking mental illness in hopes of getting a lighter sentence. Lawrence asked for and received help from mental health providers in Afghanistan, according to testimony.

But when he returned to his unit, he wasn't given the care or supervision he needed, his civilian attorney, James Culp, said in an interview. Instead, Culp said, he was assigned to longer-than-normal shifts on guard duty.

"I think what this case shows is there's these complex, contradictory needs in the military," said Barbara Van Dahlen, a clinical psychologist and founder of Give An Hour, a nonprofit that provides free mental health services to returning troops and their families.

"On the one hand ... we have to look out for these folks," she said. "On the other hand, we have to keep control of our forces."

Lawrence was assigned to Fort Carson's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and was stationed at a U.S. outpost in the Arghandab Valley just outside the city of Kandahar. He was standing guard at the cell of the Taliban member, identified in Army documents only as Mohebullah, who was awaiting transfer to NATO coalition custody.

At the Fort Carson hearing, prosecutors described Lawrence as a zealot bent on killing the enemy. They said his words and actions indicated he deliberately arranged to be the only guard on duty at the prisoner's cell.

Prosecutors said Lawrence didn't tell Army officials until after the shooting that he was hearing voices, and that after his arrest he spoke of "playing the crazy card."

Lawrence's father, Brett Lawrence of Lawrenceburg, Ind., and lawyer Culp portray the soldier as a troubled young man from a family with a history of schizophrenia. Before the shooting, Lawrence was badly shaken by the deaths of two friends in Afghanistan, including a chaplain, his father and his lawyer said.

Brett Lawrence said that if his son failed to report hearing voices to Army doctors and officers in Afghanistan, he understands why. David Lawrence saw "what his uncle and his grandmother and his aunt had went through, how they were treated when they were hearing voices," the father told The Associated Press. "I believe he kept it to himself (in Afghanistan) so he would not be ridiculed like they were."

Culp, hired by Lawrence's father, said the soldier never mentioned "playing the crazy card" until after he spoke with a military defense attorney at a hearing in Afghanistan.

Under questioning by Culp at last week's hearing, some soldiers testified the "crazy card" comment might have been a product of Lawrence's conversation with the military lawyer. The soldiers spoke by speaker phone from Afghanistan.

"Playing the crazy card" may have been Lawrence's way of saying the military lawyer gave him some hope of using a mental illness defense, Culp told the AP after the hearing.

Brett Lawrence said he doesn't believe his son would fake mental illness to excuse a fatal shooting.

"My son would not throw his life away for one person. He is a smart kid. He would not go in there and just do it because he wanted to kill somebody," the father said.

Van Dahlen said a trained mental health provider will be able to determine whether David Lawrence has schizophrenia.

"You can't really fake being schizophrenic ... not when an evaluator is looking at this," she said.

During last week's hearing in a windowless room at Fort Carson, Lawrence repeatedly appeared to doze off, which Culp said was the influence of drugs prescribed by Army doctors, including one for schizophrenia.

Like the other Army personnel at the hearing, Lawrence wore combat fatigues. His thick blond hair was cropped short, and he wore rectangular, black-rimmed glasses.

During breaks, he went outside and smoked, often two cigarettes in quick succession.

Dimitri Andre Jenkins, a medic in Lawrence's platoon, testified that after Chaplain Dale Goetz was killed by an improvised bomb in August, he saw Lawrence "chain-smoking and looking at the ground, angry."

Last Thursday, Lawrence was admitted as an inpatient to a mental health treatment center in Colorado, his father said, although he didn't know the name or city of the center.

Lawrence was admitted at the direction of the Army psychiatrist in charge of his case, not officers in the Army judicial system, Culp said.

A Fort Carson spokesman said officials couldn't discuss the matter.

It was unclear what impact Lawrence's hospitalization would have on the prosecution. Also unclear was whether it would bolster the defense argument that last week's hearing shouldn't have started until the Army completed a mental health evaluation of Lawrence.

That review is expected to be finished by Dec. 10. It includes an assessment of Lawrence's mental state at the time of the shooting and whether he is capable of participating in his own defense, according to a document provided to the AP.

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City of Santa Monica

The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2329-2333, which were adopted by the City Council on November 23, 2010

Ordinance number 2329 (CCS) awards a taxicab operations franchise to Bell Cab Company to provide taxicab services in the City.

Ordinance Number 2330(CCS) awards a taxicab operations franchise to Independent Taxi Owners' Association to provide taxicab services in the City.

Ordinance Number 2331 (CCS) awards a taxicab operations franchise to Metro Cab Company to provide taxicab services in the City.

Ordinance Number 2332 (CCS) awards a taxicab operations franchise to TMAT Corporation, doing business as Taxi! Taxi!, to provide taxicab services in the City.

Ordinance Number 2333 awards a taxicab operations franchise to LA Taxi Cooperative, Inc., doing business as Yellow Cab Company, to provide taxicab services in the City.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

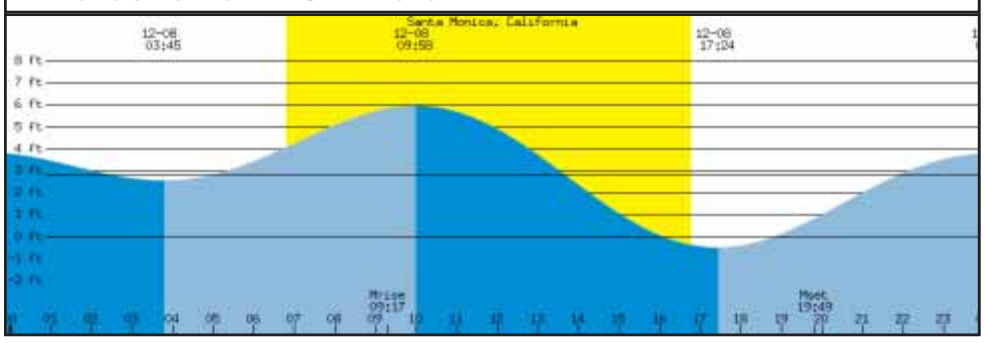
Swell Forecast

The wind swell should back off to waist to chest.

Long Range Synopsis

WNW swell is due. By Sunrise, most west facing breaks are looking at some head high sets. By late morning, size should reach 2-3' overhead at most west facing spots; DOH set waves are likely at standout west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 1, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 22

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Luck named Pac-10 offensive player of year

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALNUT CREEK Heisman Trophy finalist Andrew Luck of Stanford has been awarded Pac-10 offensive player of the year honors.

In other awards announced by the conference on Tuesday, Oregon State defensive tackle Steven Paea was named top defensive player and Oregon's Chip Kelly won the coach of the year.

USC receiver Robert Woods has been picked as the top freshman offensive player and Arizona State defensive end Junior Onyeali is the top freshman defender.

Heisman Trophy finalist running back LaMichael James was one of seven players for No. 2 Oregon to be picked first-team all conference. Fifth-ranked Stanford also had seven selections, including Chase Beeler, David DeCastro and Jonathan Martin from the offensive line.



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MOVIE TIMES

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South of the Border (NR) 1hr 42min
7:30pm

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

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Today's Special (NR) 1hr 39min
1:55pm, 6:45pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:50pm, 9:50pm

Dead Awake (R) 1hr 29min
4:20pm, 9:15pm

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

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13) 2hrs 18min
11:00am, 12:00pm, 3:25pm, 5:30pm, 6:40pm, 9:55pm

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
10:45am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm

Unstoppable (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
10:50am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
11:15am, 1:35pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
2:15pm, 9:00pm

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

Meskada (R) 1hr 38min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

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

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

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

Essential Killing (NR) 2hrs 05min
1:55pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
1:00pm, 4:10pm, 7:20pm, 10:30pm

Due Date (R) 1hr 35min
12:45pm, 3:10pm, 5:25pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

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

Love and Other Drugs (R) 1hr 53min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:15pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
12:20pm, 2:55pm, 5:30pm, 7:55pm, 10:20pm

Warrior's Way (NR) 1hr 40min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

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

Treat a pal to munchies, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Finally, teamwork prevails, even for just a short moment. You understand a lot more than you let on. Good news will come from a stunning insight. If you are startled, just imagine your more conservative friends with this nugget. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for friends and perhaps an unusual associate. Though you might not agree with them, you'll gain another perspective. Yes, you could be uncomfortable with forthcoming news. Tonight: Whatever appeals to your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Break patterns and dare to walk a new path. Others are timid and would rather watch. You'll discover just how well all this works out for you. A parent, boss or someone you need to answer to surprises you. Tonight: Make togetherness the theme.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Continue to defer, and suddenly you'll gain tremendous insight into another person or other people. Your humor and ability to move past the inevitable mark a decision. Listen and be aware of different associates' thoughts, but draw your own conclusions. Tonight: Midweek break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Remain level, despite a high degree of excitement. You could be wondering what is the best way to handle a partner. Be direct, and request the same in return. You might be overwhelmed by another person's lack of organization and direction. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Allow your imagination to flow. Creativity spins out from out of nowhere. Your ability to test others' commitment could draw diverse reactions. Know that you have created this situation. Honor a need to slow down. Tonight: If possible, run errands on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ If you want and feel the need to slow down, do. Recognize what is going on behind the scenes or in your mind. You have accepted a lot of change. Everyone, including you, needs time to process his or her feelings. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, preventing getting stuck on one point or idea. Others express a thankfulness that you are there for them. Good will builds, especially when you share one of your wilder ideas. Know that everything is possible. Tonight: In the center of the action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Be sensitive to a situation that is brewing that could affect the give-and-take of your checkbook. Optimism prevails, pushing you toward taking a risk -- an easy move for you. Be sensitive to another person's needs. Tonight: Treat a pal to munchies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Be sensitive to another person's abilities and true capacities. This person might think he or she can do whatever is needed. Your sensitivity in handling this matter could determine much of what goes on at a later date. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Continue a low profile, at least for today. Gather more information involving a financial change or opportunity. Your sixth sense lets you know if a risk is simply too much for your stress levels. Tonight: Do for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Though you see others as pushing a project or situation to its culmination, you are the conductor. Your actions and words count. Pick and choose your responses with care. Impulsiveness doesn't serve you. Tonight: Where your friends are.

Happy birthday

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

This year, make a conscious effort to head in a new direction. Spontaneity defines your actions, and the end result will be greater security. Interpersonal relationships change because of a new sense of self. You are willing to look within and perhaps see how sometimes you set yourself up. If you are single, romance could enter your life come 2011. This person could be part of your life's history and appear in your memoirs! If you are attached, others watch you as a couple as you start acting like newlyweds once more. AQUARIUS draws out your opinions.



Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Crèche depiction
7 High cards
11 Strict boss
12 Be thrifty
13 Choice
14 Hearty dish
15 Radio nuisance
17 Ailing
20 Theater worker
23 Nabokov novel
24 Corporate drone's place
26 Drill need
27 Simile center
28 Bullring call
29 Boulder setting
31 Pot cover
32 Patriot Allen
33 Some poems
34 Lorraine language
37 Tibet setting
39 Pencil end
43 Component
44 Venus Williams' sister
45 Fencing weapon
46 Like some jackets

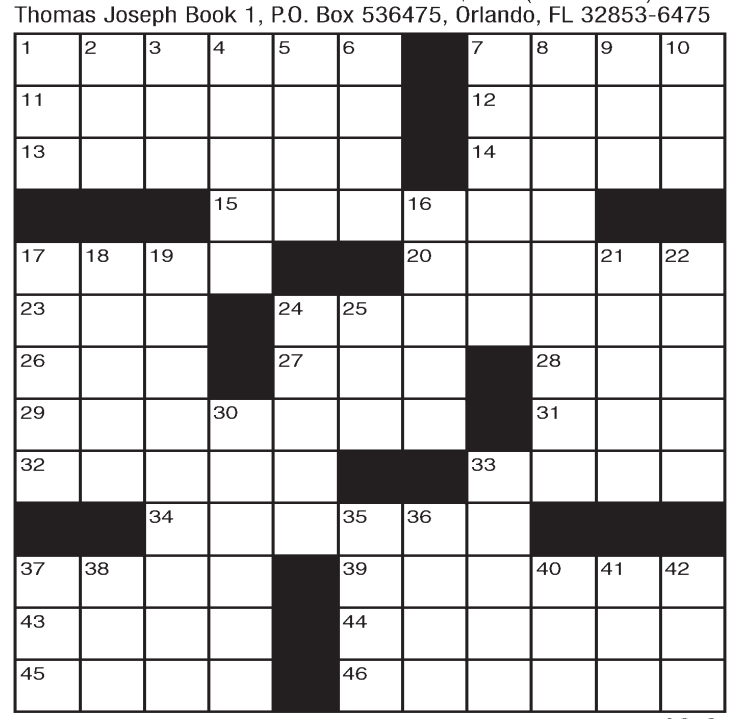
DOWN

1 Hit show letters
2 Bar fixture
3 Quantity: Abbr.
4 Like many winter days
5 Burglar's take
6 Writer Ferber
7 St. Francis' home
8 Get the sniffles
9 Holiday lead-in
10 Stitch
16 Brass band members
17 Buffalo NHLer
18 Blockhead
19 Become lit
21 J.R.'s mother
22 Oboe parts
24 "Deathtrap" star
25 Try out
30 Dojo activity
33 Chicago airport
35 Egg setting
36 Ship staff
37 Big galoot
38 Maple output
40 Spot
41 Conclusion
42 Singer Charles

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

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



12-8

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

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

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

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

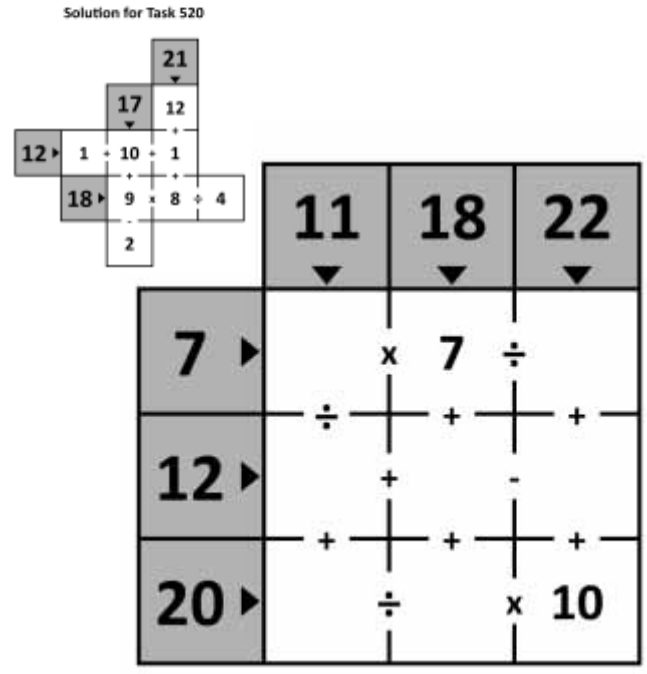
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 5, 6, 9, 9, 9, 10

Solution for Task 520



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 11 12 18 56 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $74M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 28 32 37 44 Meganumber: 24 Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 7 12 14 22 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 9 6 EVENING: 5 1 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 12 Lucky Charms 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1:45.48

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

■ After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005, Congress underwrote $7.9 billion in tax-free bonds that Louisiana could sell in order to rehabilitate the area. According to an August status report in Newsweek, $5.9 billion in bonds have been sold by the state, but only $55 million of that (1 percent) is for projects inside New Orleans (and none in the devastated Lower Ninth Ward). By contrast, $1.7 billion (about 29 percent) is going to projects that benefit the state's oil industry.

■ One of New York City's (midtown Manhattan's) favorite meet-up spots, according to an October report in The New York Times, is Colombian artist Fernando Botero's 12-foot-tall "Adam" statue at Time Warner Center. However, since Adam is nude and the statue is so pedestrian-friendly, maintaining it has become a problem, according to the center's general manager. As the Times described it, "Most of Adam is deep dark brown," but the easily-accessible penis "is worn golden from extensive handling." (The Times also noted that "(a)t the Botero" is a less-popular meet-up suggestion than "(u)nderneath the penis.")

TODAY IN HISTORY

1993 The North American Free Trade Agreement is signed into law by US President Bill Clinton.

1998 Eighty-one people are killed by armed groups in Algeria.

1998 The Australian Cricket Board's cover-up of Shane Warne and Mark Waugh's involvement with bookmakers is revealed.

2002 The Caribbean Community Heads of Government meet with the Government of Cuba and declare the date to be "CARICOM-Cuba Day"—to celebrate diplomatic ties between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cuba.

2004 The Cuzco Declaration is signed in Cuzco, Peru, establishing the South American Community of Nations.

WORD UP!

estivate
\ ES-tuh-veyt \ , verb;
1. To spend the summer, as at a specific place or in a certain activity.

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Commerical Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
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Vehicles for Sale
Massage
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