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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2009
Volume 9 Issue 41

Santa Monica Daily Press

BLUE MOON OVER NEW YEAR'S EVE
SEE PAGE 10

We have you covered

THE PARTY PLANNING ISSUE

71-year-old completes major trek

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER For many tourists, the Route 66 sign that marks the terminus of the historic roadway on the Santa Monica Pier makes for a good photo-op. For 71-year-old Emory Duick, the signpost means a lot more: the end of a grueling and improbable journey.

A retired youth employment counselor for the state of Illinois, Duick set out on a jog from Downtown Chicago on June 2, intending to make it as far west as he could. Seven months later, having covered some 2,150 miles on foot and crossed eight states, he arrived this week in Santa Monica.

The inspiration for the journey was to show retired people that getting older doesn't have to mean shutting down.

"I wanted to do it because of the fact that people my age are dead," he said on Tuesday.

The goal was to prove to people that, "[If] this old duffer — 71 years old — is doing what he's doing, why can't I. That's what this is about," he said.

For Duick, of Des Plaines, Ill., the trip was also a chance to see the country and spend time with his daughter, Lauren Duick, who took a leave of absence from her job as an occupational therapist to accompany her father. Lauren was responsible for driving the camper as her dad plodded along for four or five hours per day, usually logging about 10 miles.

"His speed is slow but his spirit is high," she said a day after the pair arrived in Santa Monica.

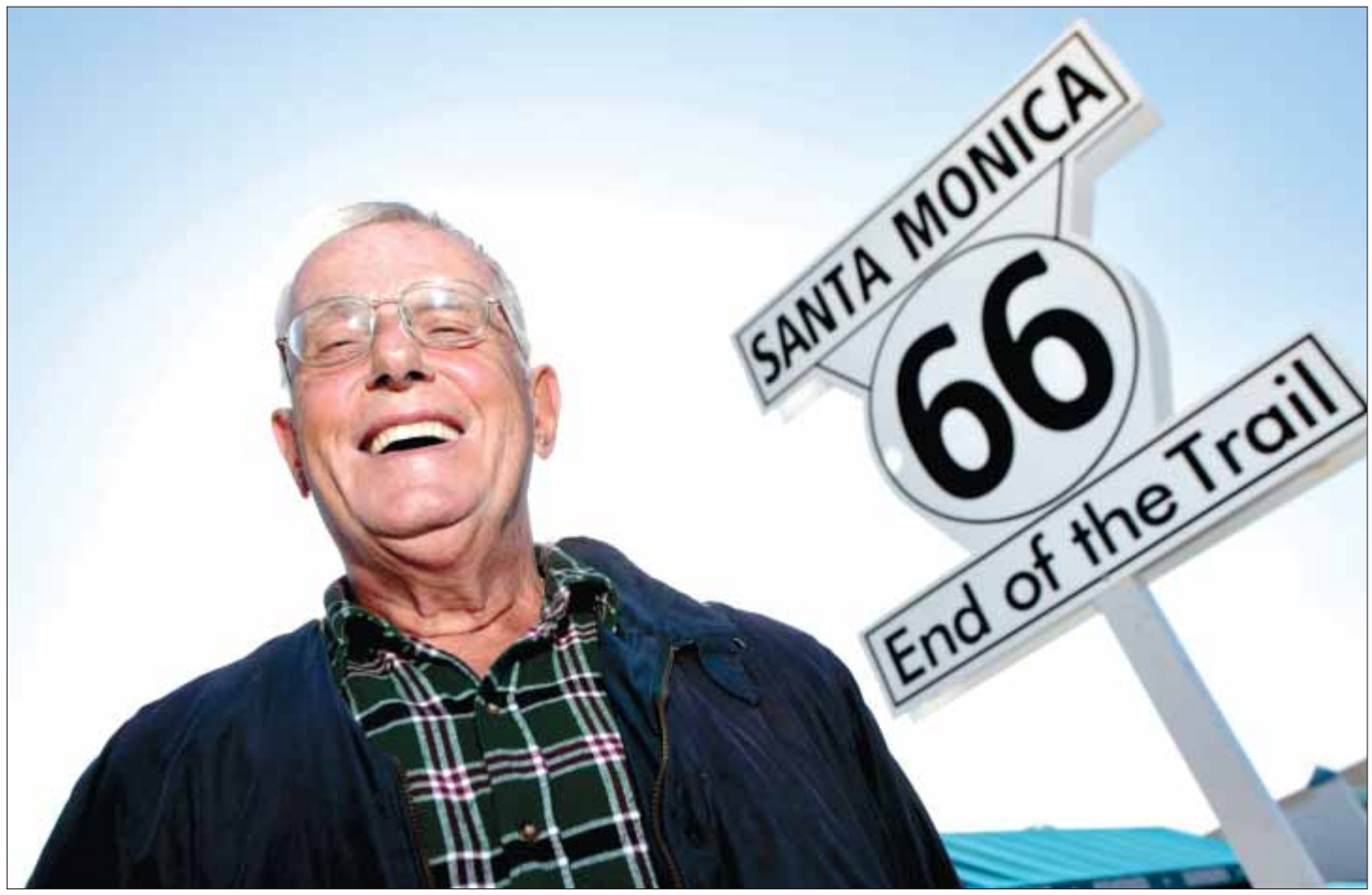
She described her dad as "very ambitious" as well as "stubborn and strong willed."

In the course of the journey Duick endured two bouts of sciatica, one of which forced him to stay off the road for more than a week. But he decided to keep going.

"I can't believe that we're here, actually. Time went by so quickly," she said.

Duick on Tuesday said he's run nearly 20

SEE ROUTE 66 PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ROAD WARRIOR: **Emory Duick at the Santa Monica Pier Route 66 sign on Tuesday morning. Duick traveled on foot from Illinois to the pier as a way to encourage other seniors to remain active. His daughter, Lauren, took a leave from work to accompany her father.**

District discussing teacher furloughs

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Facing a projected $12 million deficit, school district officials have raised the possibility of furloughs as they try to hammer out new contract agreements with teachers and other employees.

"It is in discussion," said Ralph Mechur, a Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board member. "It's part of the contract negotiations that are ongoing."

Mechur and SMMUSD board President Barry Snell declined to discuss the specifics of the talks because contract negotiations are confidential. But both men acknowledged the district is looking at every aspect of its budget to try to limit the impact of the deficit on students.

"Obviously, we're taking a look at every area," Snell said, noting that about 85 percent of the district's budget goes toward salaries and benefits.

"Any kind of reduction in salary and benefits without losing the quality of teachers and programs is what we're trying to achieve," he said.

Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association President Harry Keily on Tuesday could not be reached for comment on the contract negotiations.

The district receives an additional $2,257 per student from local sources, which includes parcel tax measures and money from both the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica.

The national average for per pupil spending last year was approximately $10,850, while the average for California was $9,921. On the higher end of the spectrum is New Jersey where the per pupil spending was around $16,000.

Approximately 72 percent of the district's revenue comes from the state.

In its budget report released this month, the district identified $8.7 million in cuts that would be required next year unless a new parcel tax or new savings plan changes the financial picture.

The proposed cuts would mean class size increases in all grades, fewer district positions in areas like counseling, security and nursing, fewer summer programs for students and a total reduction of 112.5 district jobs.

The cuts would "effectively dismantle education in Santa Monica and Malibu," said Rebecca Kennerly, who chairs the

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 9


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth Street., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Enjoy free dance lessons, followed by dancing on the club's 3,000-square-foot floor. Waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle and more — no partner necessary. Admission is $10. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Heal yourself
Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 5 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Come and experience peace and wellness while Pranic healing cleanses and energizes your body. Master Choa Kok Sui's Pranic healing has worked successfully with ailments ranging from asthma, arthritis and cancer to addictions, depression and phobias. It is an effective no-touch healing technique that increases the body's own ability to heal itself. This service is free and everyone is welcome. Call (310) 883-8371 for more information.

The art of skateboarding
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Take a history lesson on the art of skateboarding during the California Heritage Museum's presentation, "SKATEBOARD: Evolution and Art in California." Listen to guest curator legendary Z-boy Nathan Pratt along with museum staff curator Michael Trotter and an expert advisory committee that includes original Z-Boy and Zephyr members. The exhibit showcases the development of boards pre-1950 to today as well as features information on the artists, riders, designers, and manufactures that helped spread skateboarding's appeal across California and the world.

Balancing your checkbook
YWCA
2019 14th St., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
This five-week workshop series is designed to help women who are concerned about their finances empower themselves by developing strategies for financial well-being and wealth building in this tumultuous economy. Investments, portfolios, tax strategies and more will be covered. Sponsored by Libbie Agran Financial Literacy Center and moderated by Hollis Harman. For more information, call (310) 452-3881.
Cost: $45 (includes dinner and materials).

Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009

'50 New Year's Eves'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Comedy, musical numbers, special surprises, dinner, champagne and party favors. A super musical revue celebrating 50 years of the Santa Monica Playhouse. For information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

Thoughts on the nativity
Palisades Park
4 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Visit the annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes from now until New Year's Day. For more information call (310) 577-2586.

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.



DOUBLE VISION

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Foremen for the Carvist Corp. work on the glass escalator canopy at Santa Monica Place on Tuesday afternoon. Many of the walls inside the shopping center will consist of large glass panels to showcase the new stores within. The mall is slated to open in August 2010.

Beverly Hills schools to boot outside students

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS Threats on Facebook, name-calling, security guard escorts — tempers are running high around schools these days in this normally sedate enclave of ostentatious wealth.

The reason: The Beverly Hills school board is preparing to boot out 10 percent of its students as it ends a decades-old practice of allowing out-of-district pupils to attend city schools on "opportunity permits."

The move has upset many so-called permit parents — mostly middle-class families living in the tonier areas of Los Angeles who are loath to send their children to the beleaguered Los Angeles Unified School District, where more than a quarter of high-schoolers drop out.

"Every family on permit is outraged," said Simy Levy, a Los Angeles resident whose two daughters attend school in Beverly Hills. "It's incredibly unfair."

The plan, which is expected to get final board approval next month, comes as Beverly Hills Unified School District switches to a budget plan financed directly by the city's well-to-do tax base instead of with state money based on enrollment.

The change results from steep cuts in state education funds that has left several affluent communities across the nation paying more school taxes to the state than they receive.

Beverly Hills is the latest to consider the self-financing model, in which the district would keep its school taxes and forgo the $6,239 the state sends for each nonresident student.

Without the financial incentive of enrolling outsiders, district officials are concerned their taxpayers would be subsidizing nonresidents' education.

"What is wrong with me saying, 'We have to save our resources for residents?'" said Beverly Hills school board Vice President Lisa Korbatov. "Our police do not respond to neighboring cities if someone is mugged or assaulted."

As education dollars dry up, districts across the nation are taking a closer look at nonresident students. In Tonganoxie, Kan., school officials are mulling charging outsiders tuition if state law allows them to do so. Many other districts — including ones in Broward County, Fla., and San Felipe Del Rio in Texas — are aggressively weeding out illegally enrolled outsiders.

The Irvine School District in Orange County, Calif., is in the same situation as Beverly Hills and ended out-of-district enrollment earlier this year.

"It's a reflection of the decisions districts have to make of economic hard times," said Dan Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School

SEE **BEVERLY HILLS** PAGE 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Keep it safe on New Year's Eve

The Santa Monica Police Department wants New Year's Eve revelers to play it safe and keep those guns holstered and drunk drivers off the road.

Each year throughout the country as part of the New Year's Eve celebration, some people chose to fire off a few rounds, not realizing the potentially deadly consequences of their actions, police said.

It is illegal to negligently fire a gun within the city limits of Santa Monica. The negligent discharge of a firearm is a felony. Bail for such an offense is set at $25,000.

Police are encouraging those who witnesses someone firing a gun to call 911 and report it. When calling, give the dispatcher as much information as possible about the shooting, police said. If you hear gunfire, call SMPD dispatch at (310) 458-8491 immediately.

Callers who wish to remain anonymous can call the WeTip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME (27463), or submit the tip online at wetip.com. Callers will remain completely anonymous and may be eligible for a reward, up to $1,000, if information provided leads to an arrest or conviction.

Witnesses can also contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting their Web site at www.lacrimestoppers.org. To text an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers, visit their Web page for detailed instructions. Tipsters can be eligible for a cash reward.

Police also want to remind revelers to not drink and drive. Officers will be out in full force New Year's Eve conducting a sobriety saturation patrol in an attempt to arrest those driving under the influence. This is the first of several saturation patrols to be conducted over the next 12-month period. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The SMPD reminds drivers if you plan on drinking, have a designated driver or call a taxi cab to take you safely home.

Since 2005, the number of alcohol involved fatalities has been dropping, thanks to efforts like these, police said. But law enforcement and the public must continue to work toward zero deaths.

"Law enforcement officers are doing more to remove drunk drivers from California's streets and highways thanks to our DUI traffic safety funding," said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "But everyone can help make their communities safer; if you see a drunk driver, call 911."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Neighbor against neighbor?

Editor:

While we agree that leaf blowers are a nuisance, we believe the proposed law is a mistake because it pits neighbor against neighbor by encouraging them to spy on each other ("Leaf blower fines could shift to residents," Dec. 28). Rather than scrap the old law, which penalizes gardeners who use leaf blowers, the City Council should consider the following suggestion. City Hall does not have to pay $50,000 a year to set up a new enforcement mechanism. Let us instead keep the current law and offer overtime hours to police who will on, perhaps, a bi-monthly basis, conduct sweeps of the city for offenders. This will both provide the necessary authority and save City Hall the thousands of dollars the new regulation would cost us.

Walt and Joan Walston
Santa Monica

What happened to McCain?

Editor:

I first met U.S. Sen. John McCain when I worked in Washington, D.C. for ex-prisoner of war Everett Alvarez, at the Veterans Administration.

McCain was not the friendliest guy in the world but was well respected because he was a hero to all of us veterans. I supported him when he ran for president in 2000 against George W. Bush. I always thought of him as a straight shooter and a man of integrity.

John McCain stood up against attacks by the Bush campaign in South Carolina when they spread rumors that he had an illegitimate black child. The right wing of the Republican Party did not support him. When he ran for president in 2008, talk show hosts Rush Limbaugh, Laura Ingraham, Mark Levin, Glenn Beck and numerous other right wingers said awful things about him and considered him a traitor.

Now McCain has turned into the same kind of right wing conservative who used to despise him. What's amazing to me is how hard he worked on immigration reform to have it all die as a result of political pressure from the right of the Republican Party. He was well respected in the Hispanic community and always got their vote. But because of this same conservative right wing Republican pressure, he voted against Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to become the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.

The McCain I remember is the one who showed a great deal of class when he graciously congratulated President Obama and promised to help him succeed. Now he has morphed into a congressional partisan that he once loathed.

What the Viet Cong failed to do, break him in the many years he was a prisoner of war, the right wing of the Republican Party has managed to do in no time.

Norman Hensley
Santa Monica





Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Panem et circenses

IF YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT OR LIBERAL, YOU might find it funny that Republicans were lied to by President Bush. You see, Bush made promises to enforce the Second Amendment, relax gun laws on law abiding citizens, remove the 10 percent tax for being married, flatten the taxes and reduce the size of the government.

What Republicans received was a president who forgot that we had a domestic agenda, fought two wars with no end in sight, stopped spending money on Americans, raised taxes, encouraged the Supreme Court to rule against an individual's right to have guns and increased the size of government. Disgusted Republicans gave a silent protest by not voting in the last election.

So, in 2008, we elected the Democratic candidate, Barack Obama and in both houses of Congress we elected the Democratic candidates to a super majority. A super majority allows the Democrats the option of voting for a law without needing any Republican votes. The Democratic campaign was one based on changes the American people demanded and voted for. Compare campaign promises from candidate Barack Obama to what President Obama is doing:

"Let me say it as simply as I can: transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency."

"You'll get the same kind of coverage that members of Congress give themselves."

"If you don't have health insurance, then what we're going to do is to provide you the option of buying into the same kind of federal pool that both Sen. McCain and I enjoy as federal employees, which will give you high-quality care, choice of doctors, at lower costs, because so many people are part of this insured group."

"The first step to reclaiming America's standing in the world has to be closing this facility. As president, Barack Obama will close the detention facility at Guantanamo."

"And I have seen no information that contradicts the notion that we can bring our troops out safely at a pace of one to two brigades a month, and, again, that pace translates into having our combat troops out in 16 months' time."

"My presidency will mark a new chapter in America's leadership on climate change."

"I support the complete repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Federal law should not discriminate in any way against gay and lesbian couples, which is precisely what DOMA does. I have also called for us to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Like the Republicans, the Democrats have a President who isn't doing what he promised. With a super majority in Congress and all branches of the government under Democratic control, we still see no change. Like President Bush, "Mr. Transparency" is having secret meetings with top pharmaceutical executives to discuss health care? Pledging to give us health care "that both Sen. McCain and I enjoy as federal employees" was just another lie. The plan is nothing like the "kind of coverage that members of Congress give themselves." Each amendment to force our elected officials to use the new health care plan gets voted down by the Democrats. They used to call that "separate but equal" before the civil rights movement.

Today, Guantanamo Bay still is open for business and still has hundreds of prisoners. The military still doesn't ask, so you'd better not tell. Gay couples are no better off under Obama than they were under Bush. Obama and the Democrats still will not support a legally binding reduction of carbon emissions. June of 2010 is only five months away, and we have more troops in Iraq and Afghanistan than we had under Bush. Obama is increasing the deficit more in his first nine months than Bush did in eight years, and there's no slowing in sight.

They say we need to keep troops in Afghanistan or the bad guys will come and get us. History has shown that when the Soviet Union left Afghanistan after a brutal 10 year war that targeted women and children, the Soviets simply went home. The locals went back to fighting each other and never attacked the Soviets again.

So what does this have to do with the people of Santa Monica? Hollywood has a major influence on the media. Many Hollywood types live on the Westside and are your next door neighbors here in Santa Monica. It doesn't matter what your political leanings are, if you're not researching the facts and talking with your friends and neighbors about these issues, you're supporting corruption. When I say researching the facts, I don't mean being a mindless lemming that regurgitates what was on Fox News and ABC. That's how the terrorist operate. If you want to have an opinion of President Obama, start by reading his books and looking at the words he said, and not what someone else told you he said.

Our media has given both Bush and Obama a free ride when it comes to owning up to campaign promises. You see, they figure that you're too stupid to understand what's going on or even care. When you forfeit your civic duty, you get a government that's run by crooks. Enjoy the panem et circenses (bread and circuses).

DAVID ALSABERY is a high performance driving instructor and all around nice guy. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A letter to the postman

THAT WHICH IS TRUE IS ALWAYS TRUE. Regardless of what anyone believes, some things will always be true and others will always be false. Just 400 years ago, people believed that the Earth was flat and it would have been practically impossible to convince anyone otherwise. Just because the belief was widely held doesn't make it true, however, and the fact remains that the Earth was as round in 1609 as it is today.

At any given point in time, popular belief may vary about what is and isn't true, but there can never be any doubt about facts. This is a concept that far too many people in the conservative blogoshpere — as well as the right-wing pundits and opinion-makers who feed it — don't seem to grasp. Case in point: the postal poseur who has had the good fortune to share the page with me, an actual journalist, in our beloved local daily paper.

For a long time, many of my readers and friends have been asking me to write something about "the Mailman," but I refused. First of all, to refer to him by that nickname is an insult to former Lakers-Jazz forward, Karl Malone, in the same way it's a diss to Hall of Fame linebacker Lawrence Taylor to refer to Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson as "L.T."

Secondly, it was clear to me from his first few columns that this man is a bombastic one-trick pony and an intellectual snake oil salesman who is addicted to the "synonyms" feature on MS Word. He was obviously just trying to get a rise out of people and if there is one thing I learned growing up in a big family, it's that the best response to a person like that is to ignore him. Nonetheless, I'm a firm believer in the idea that the exception makes the rule, so instead of responding to reader e-mails in this last column of the year, here is my open letter to — and the last time I acknowledge the existence of — Mr. Steve Breen:

Dear Mr. Breen,

You are an embarrassment to the profession of journalism and to the Santa Monica Daily Press as a news source. In your "Welcome to the Tea Party" column published on Oct. 7 of this year, you cited a source named Dan Bana and referred to him as the official spokesman of the National Park Service. You quoted Mr. Bana as saying that Glenn Beck's teabaggers and their Sept. 12 tea party protest in Washington, D.C. was the "the biggest event ever" on the National Mall. You then posited that it was "bigger than even (President) Obama's inaugural" and concluded that Mr. Bana's statement and the pictures from that day mean that the number of people in the crowd was "therefore in excess of 2.2 million."

Because I spend time bouncing around right-wing blogs and message boards, I know where you got your information. There are literally hundreds of Web sites where this claim has been made and I hate to break it to you, but the fact that you read something on the Internet doesn't make it true — even if it is repeated over and over again. This is precisely why a real journalist doesn't mindlessly write something without checking the factual accuracy of the statement via a real news source.

Had you done that, Mr. Breen, instead of re-printing something you heard in a partisan echo chamber like "American Thinker," you might still have — or at least be able to salvage — some kind of credibility. Unfortunately for you, the National Park Service didn't conduct their own count of the teabaggers or of President Obama's inaugural — and it doesn't employ anyone named Dan Bana. Sorry.

However, there is a National Park Service spokesman named David Barna who did make a statement about a crowd on the National Mall. What he actually said was that the Park Service would rely on a Washington Post account (which put the number of people at 1.8 million) and the quote was, "It is a record. We believe it is the largest event held in Washington, D.C., ever." It's dated Jan. 22, 2009 and, of course, refers to the 56th quadrennial Presidential Inauguration — which swore President Barack Hussein Obama into office.

There can only be two explanations for why you treated truth and factually accurate reporting like the proverbial red-headed stepchild in that column: you either didn't know you were lying to the Daily Press' readers or you didn't care. If you were ignorant of the facts, then you're a joke. If you were willfully negligent in your reporting, then you are a fraud. Take your pick.

Conservative blogger, Charles Johnson, summed up the right's handling of this teabagger protest issue — and your attempt at being a columnist — perfectly. He called it "an epic, monumental fail." As a real journalist, the best advice I can give you is this: don't quit your day job.

Sincerely,
Kenny Mack
America's Smartest Columnist

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who appreciates and respects his readers and wishes you all a happy, safe, and prosperous new year. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Making a change

The new year is upon us and people are making pledges to lose weight, save money or be nicer to people.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What should Santa Monica's New Year's resolution be?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.

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WALL STREET

String of bubbles marked decade

TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK A string of exploding investment bubbles that started with the dot-coms and ended with mortgages and oil dominated the years from 2000 to 2009. And it looks like the next decade will be no different.

It doesn't seem to matter to many hedge fund traders and other professional investors that the Standard & Poor's 500 index has turned in its first losing performance over the course of a decade, having fallen 23 percent from 1,469.25 at the start of 2000 to its current 1,126.20. Or that they or other investors helped create and then destroy the bubbles that left stocks worth $2.5 trillion less today than when the decade began — and that's before adding in the effects of inflation.

A mix of investor hubris, ignorance and piles of easy money created the bubbles. New ideas about where to invest seemed foolproof and greed crowded out doubts. Many investors looking for the best returns failed to see the potential problems with an Internet business that had no sales plan, or that thousands of expensive homes bought with no down payment might end up in foreclosure.

Now, these investors who fled the last blowups risk running smack into others. The Federal Reserve is keeping borrowing costs low to help revive the economy, and that means there's still plenty of easy money around, helping traders to inflate the price of everything from stocks to commodities such as gold.

"They've put out the biggest punch bowl in U.S. history and people are guzzling from it," said Haag Sherman, chief investment officer at Salient Partners in Houston.

It begs several questions: What will be the next bubble? Or is it already here? And, how do individual investors protect their savings?

Some analysts have already been asking if the stock market formed a bubble with its huge rebound this year. The S&P 500 is up 66.7 percent from the 12-year low of 666.79, its best performance since the 1930s.

Gold is also suspect. It's above $1,098 an ounce and up 24 percent in 2009. Other possible sources of bubbles include stocks in emerging markets such as China, where the Shanghai index is up 76.4 percent this year.

Analysts say it's in the DNA of markets to let ambition cloud good judgment and that even when investors learn or relearn a lesson about excess, many still forget it.

Moreover, investors still have $3.2 trillion in money market mutual funds that's waiting to be invested, according to iMoneyNet Inc. With so much cash available and investors hankering after big returns, analysts warn that bubbles may be inevitable.

The signs of effervescence can be hard to spot.

"Pets.com was going to have a market cap larger than Exxon Mobil," said David Darst, chief investment strategist for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in New York, referring to the Web site that collapsed in November 2000, nine months after raising $82.5 million from investors.

He says investors will keep getting tripped up as they find new ways to invest.

"Human nature doesn't change," Darst said. "Market mechanisms change but human fear, human greed will be like this decades and centuries hence."

The numbers from this decade tell a stunning story:

• The Nasdaq composite index, powered by the dot-com buying that began in the late 1990s, went all the way up to 5,048.62 in March 2000, then crashed down to 1,114.11 at the depths of the 2002 bear market. It rose as high as 2,859.12 in October 2007, but no one expects it to return to its loftiest levels.

And the indexes don't reflect inflation, taxes and fees, which take the value of an investment down further. Thornburg Investment Management, which analyzed the value of investments beyond the decade, said $100 invested in 1978 would have been worth only $376 thirty years later after accounting for inflation, expenses and taxes.

• Crude oil, sparked by a weaker dollar and worries that oil producers would soon be unable to meet global demand, rose 71 percent in just six months to a high of $147.27 in July 2008. Prices then crashed down to $33.87 in just five months. The plunge was so precipitous that it destroyed several hedge funds that had bet oil would just keep soaring.

• Low borrowing rates and insatiable demand for mortgage debt by investors made it easy to get loans. That helped prop up housing prices and fuel speculation on securities based on those risky mortgages. The peak came in April 2006; after that, home prices fell 31.9 percent to a low in May 2009, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller 20-city index. Along the way, two investment banks that bought mortgage-backed securities collapsed and the government spent hundreds of billions of dollars to prop up many commercial banks.

• Prices for soybeans and corn hit record levels in the summer of 2008 as floods swept the Midwest and damaged key growing regions. In the first six months of the year, corn shot up more than 60 percent and soybeans rose more than 30 percent. The jump in prices was a boon to many traders, but led to food riots in Africa, Asia and the West Indies. By December of last year, both grains had lost half their value.

Analysts say the best way to avoid being caught by other bubbles is to remain vigilant about diversifying, the practice of investing in a variety of assets. It could also mean shedding some of the stronger performers to avoid some of the risks that the winners will falter.

"When something grows too big in the portfolio you have to force yourself to scale it back a little bit," Darst said. "There's no substitute for doing your homework, there's no substitute for asking questions."

By spreading their holdings around and saving more, investors can buffer against what many analysts worry will be the fallout from the low interest rates and easy money that are being used to help revive the economy.

Policymakers also have concerns. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said last month a policy favoring cheap borrowing risked setting more traps for investors. He said he didn't see any signs that a bubble is emerging but also acknowledged that it is "extraordinarily difficult" to detect one forming.

Some analysts see bubbles right now.

Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial is skeptical of gold's recent surge.

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 7

WALL STREET

Stocks slip to break streak

SARA LEPRO & TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK The stock market edged lower Tuesday, breaking a six-day advance as reports on home prices and consumer confidence did little to excite buyers.

Major indexes had risen modestly in the early going but slipped as the dollar strengthened and tugged on commodities prices. A stronger dollar makes commodities more expensive for foreign buyers. The drop in commodities weighed on energy and materials stocks.

Trading was quiet, as it has been in recent days, and many investors left at the end of the day for a long New Year's weekend. The low volume held the Dow Jones industrial average to a 38-point range, and the modest losses came after stocks had risen for six straight days.

Economic reports looked stronger but failed to galvanize investors. The Conference Board said its index of consumer confidence rose to 52.9 in December from 49.5 in November. That was slightly better than economists had forecast.

The index remains well below what is considered healthy. A reading of 90 or more signals a solid economy. However, the index has jumped from a historic low of 25.3 in February.

Home prices also rose. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller's home price index rose for a fifth straight month in October, edging up 0.4 percent. The index was off 7.3 percent from October last year, roughly in line with expectations.

Analysts said there were few surprises in the economic numbers to drive the market.

"The reports we're seeing broadly reinforce the expectations we've had," said Jim Baird, partner and chief investment strategist for Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Kalamazoo, Mich. "It's slow and steady; It's not explosive improvement."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow slipped 1.67, or less than 0.1 percent, to 10,545.41. The S&P 500 index fell 1.58, or 0.1 percent, to 1,126.20, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 2.68, or 0.1 percent, to 2,288.40.

ENERGY

Oil near $79 a barrel

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK Energy prices rose slightly Tuesday with a majority of futures traders taking the holiday week off, though a stronger dollar helped keep a barrel of oil below $79.

Benchmark crude for February delivery added a dime to settle at $78.87 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, still the highest close since mid-November. In London, Brent crude for February delivery increased 32 cents to settle at $77.64 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

A rise in the dollar versus other currencies tends to push oil prices lower. Crude is priced in dollars, and investors holding foreign money can't buy as much when the dollar rises.

Still, oil has pressed higher for five straight days. Crude is getting close to the high for the year of $82 a barrel, and that's tugging other fuels higher as well.

Retail gas prices increased for the fourth straight day, the first time it's done that since October. The national average climbed a half penny overnight to a new national average of $2.608, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

A gallon of regular unleaded is 2.1 cents cheaper than a month ago, but nearly $1 more expensive than a year ago.

A report released Tuesday by MasterCard SpendingPulse said Americans bought more gas last week than they did a year ago, marking the fifth straight week that demand strengthened.

When the new year begins, analyst and trader Stephen Schork said he'll be closely watching for signs of gas demand and how oil refiners will react. Petroleum consumption has dropped overall this year in the U.S., and if refiners can't pass along higher crude prices to consumers, then Schork said he expects a downward correction in oil prices.

"Refiners have a difficult row to hoe right now," he said. "These guys can't make money. They can't pass on the exaggerated cost of crude to consumers. Some are trying to sell their refineries, and they're not getting any takers."

In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil rose 2.93 cents to settle at $2.1028 gallon while gasoline gave up less than a penny to settle at $2.0106 a gallon. Natural gas fell 17.6 cents to settle at $5.814 per 1,000 cubic feet.

New bubble may emerge

FROM **ECONOMY** PAGE 6

It's easy to see why gold could be in a bubble. Many investors who have bought gold are speculating that interest rates will start rising next year. Higher rates bring inflation, and one of gold's greatest appeals is as a hedge against inflation. The gold bulls have been ignoring repeated statements from Bernanke and others that rates are likely to remain at their near-zero percent levels for some time.

"It will move up, but the music always stops," Krosby said of gold.

Simon Laing, a director at Newton Investment Management Ltd. in London, notes that investors are using money borrowed at low rates in the U.S. and Europe to buy stocks in other markets — raising the prospect of new bubbles.

This comes as causes of past bubbles still present obstacles.

"I don't think we've taken the medicine yet," he said. "We've had a decade of bubbles and I still think we're in the same scenario."

Krosby said individuals shouldn't be fooled into thinking that regulators have been able to curtail risk-taking in the past two years since the collapse of the market for securities based on iffy mortgages.

"They're playing in a world where professional traders dominate even though we think we've gone through this tremendous regulatory revolution," she said.

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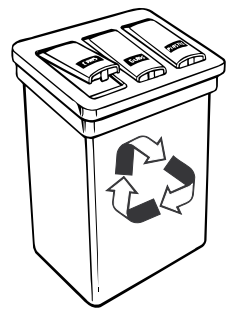
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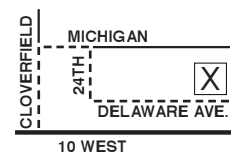


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Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
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Dec 29&30	Var	St. Margaret Tour	St. Margaret	8:00am
Dec 29	Var	Valley Christian	St. Margaret	1:45pm
Dec 29	Var	Notre Dame	St. Margaret	5:15pm
Jan 6	JV/Var	Brentwood	Airport Park	2/3:15pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Dec 26,28,29,30	Var	Sea Hawk Beach Classic	Redondo Union	TBA
Jan 4	Var	CAMS	SMCHS	7:00pm
Jan 6	F/J/V	Malibu	Malibu	4/5:30/7pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Jan 7	JV/Var	Grace Brethren	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
Jan 8	Var/JV	Campbell Hall	Campbell Hall	2:30/4pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Dec 26-31	Var	BHHS/H-W Tour	BHHS/HW	TBA
Jan 4	Var	CAMS	SMCHS	5:30pm
Jan 7	JV/Var	Marlborough	Marlborough	4:30/6pm

Saint Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS SOCCER				
Dec 29	JV	South Tournament		TBA
COED WRESTLING				
Dec 29	Var	Tour. of Champs.	Cerritos College	10:00am
Dec 30	Var	Tour. of Champs.	Cerritos College	9:00am
Jan 8	Var	Nogales Tournament		2:00pm
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 6	Var	Palos Verdes	Palos Verdes	3:00pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 6	Var	Redondo Union	Redondo Union	7:00pm

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Patrons boarding a Metro Bus, including the Metro Orange Line, or the Metro Red, Purple, Blue, Green or Gold rail lines during the hours designated will receive a free ride to their destination.

Metro is reminding the public that it is an option for people attending holiday parties so they don't have to drive. Metro's fleet of buses, the Metro Orange Line, a dedicated bus transitway in the San Fernando Valley, and Metro Rail lines offer patrons alternatives to driving solo in their vehicles with convenient travel opportunities throughout the region.

For complete route and schedule information, patrons can call (800) COMMUTE or visit Metro's Web site and access the Metro Trip Planner at www.metro.net.

DAILY PRESS

2,450-mile journey ends at SM Pier

FROM **ROUTE 66** PAGE 1

"I WANTED TO DO IT BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE MY AGE ARE DEAD."

Emory Duick
Runner

marathons, works out regularly and relishes being on the move.

"I liked the lure of the road, I liked the idea of traveling down it," he said, "just seeing different things and all the people."

He admits he didn't walk every step of the way, avoiding some sections of Route 66 where the 2,450-mile road became a dangerous interstate highway. Still, he said he covered at least 2,150 miles on foot.

"I wanted to cheat but my daughter is my conscience — she wouldn't let me when I got tired," he said.

nickt@smdp.com



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Man drops off 58 guns in 'gifts for guns' exchange

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMPTON Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies say they expected a good turnout for the department's "gifts for guns" exchange in Compton, but even they were surprised when a man showed up with 58 guns.

After the man unloaded the weapons Tuesday, he drove away with several thousands of dollars in supermarket gift certificates in return.

Under the policy, there are no questions asked, so deputies don't know the man's identity, but as Lt. Anthony Lucia said, "that is 58 guns off the street."

Lucia says most were small handguns, but some also were assault weapons.

In all, more than 230 guns were turned in Tuesday during the exchange. All will be destroyed.

Potential tax wouldn't close entire budget gap

FROM **DISTRICT** PAGE 1

organization Community for Excellent Public Schools. "None of them are acceptable."

Kennerly and other public school supporters are pinning their hopes on passing an emergency parcel tax to boost district coffers.

An SMMUSD committee is studying the feasibility of passing the tax and will report its findings to the SMMUSD board Jan. 14. The state is scheduled to issue its budget recommendation to the district on Jan. 10.

While the weak economy and already generous contributions to the district by locals through an existing parcel tax and a more than $7 million City Hall payment could make voters less likely to support an additional tax, many district supporters see the tax as the only way to avoid steep cuts to programs.

"Even if the support isn't as strong as it's been in the past I just think it's important to let people know how much is at stake," Kennerly said.

"A successful parcel tax passage really changes the climate with some of the reductions we may have to make," Snell said.

But even if the tax makes it onto a ballot and gets voters' approval, it's likely the additional revenue would only narrow the district's budget gap by $5 million to $6 million, Snell said.

"ANY KIND OF REDUCTION IN SALARY AND BENEFITS WITHOUT LOSING THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS AND PROGRAMS IS WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE."

Barry Snell
SMMUSD board president

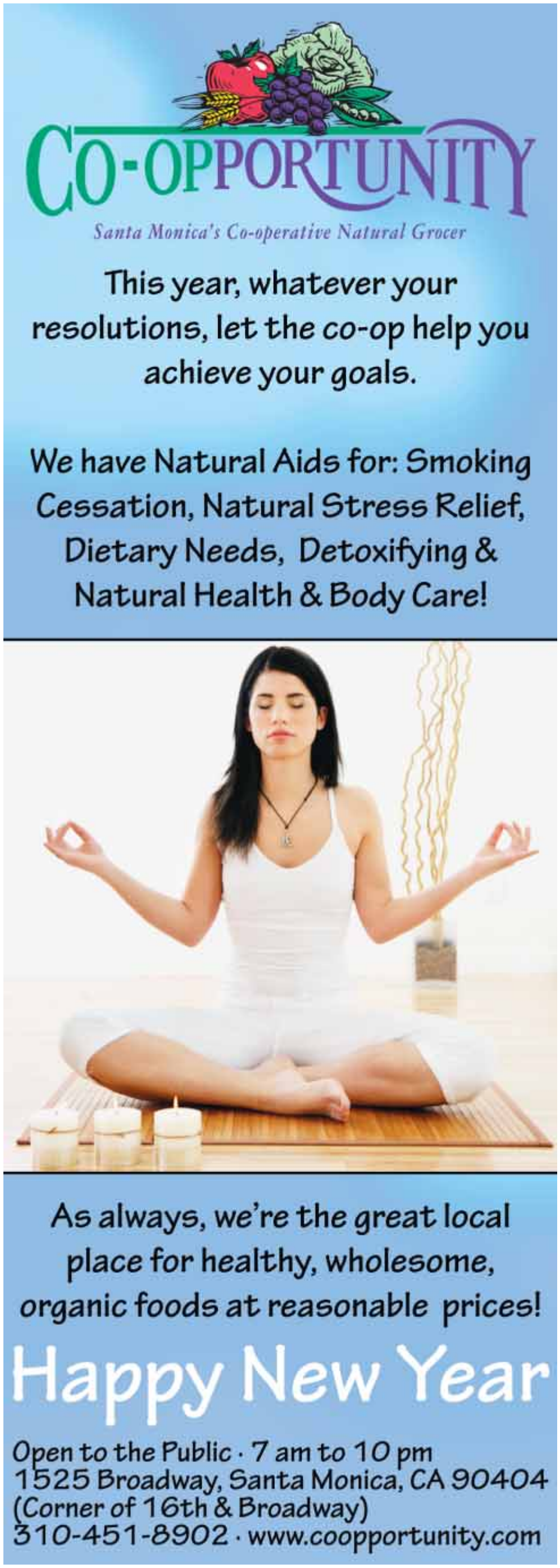
The district's Financial Oversight Committee meanwhile has proposed a series of revenue enhancement programs, but committee chair Cynthia Torres acknowledges that outside of creating a new tax, all of the proposals are "speculative" and would take several years to produce returns.

The committee's ideas include licensing the names "Santa Monica High" and/or "Malibu High" for merchandise, boosting marketing efforts for district facilities like the Samohi Memorial Greek Amphitheater and conducting a publicity campaign to boost student attendance.

nickt@smdp.com







Rare New Year's Eve 'blue moon' to ring in 2010

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Once in a blue moon there is one on New Year's Eve.

Revelers ringing in 2010 will be treated to a so-called blue moon. According to popular definition, a blue moon is the second full moon in a month. But don't expect it to be blue — the name has nothing to do with the color of our closest celestial neighbor.

A full moon occurred on Dec. 2. It will appear again on Thursday in time for the New Year's countdown.

"If you're in Times Square, you'll see the full moon right above you. It's going to be that brilliant," said Jack Horkheimer, director emeritus of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium and host of a weekly astronomy TV show.

The New Year's Eve blue moon will be visible in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Africa. For partygoers in Australia and Asia, the full moon does not show up until New Year's Day, making January a blue moon month for them.

However, the Eastern Hemisphere can celebrate with a partial lunar eclipse on New Year's Eve when part of the moon enters the Earth's shadow. The eclipse will not be visible in the Americas.

A full moon occurs every 29.5 days, and most years have 12. On average, an extra full moon in a month — a blue moon — occurs every 2.5 years. The last time there was a lunar double take was in May 2007. New Year's Eve blue moons are rarer, occurring every 19 years. The last time was in 1990; the next one won't come again until 2028.

Blue moons have no astronomical significance, said Greg Laughlin, an astronomer at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"'Blue moon' is just a name in the same sense as a 'hunter's moon' or a 'harvest moon,'" Laughlin said in an e-mail.

The popular definition of blue moon came about after a writer for Sky & Telescope magazine in 1946 misinterpreted the Maine Farmer's Almanac and labeled a blue moon as the second full moon in a month. In fact, the almanac defined a blue moon as the third full moon in a season with four full moons, not the usual three.

Though Sky & Telescope corrected the error decades later, the definition caught on. For purists, however, this New Year's Eve full moon doesn't even qualify as a blue moon. It's just the first full moon of the winter season.

In a tongue-in-cheek essay posted on the magazine's Web site this week, senior contributing editor Kelly Beatty wrote: "If skies are clear when I'm out celebrating, I'll take a peek at that brilliant orb as it rises over the Boston skyline to see if it's an icy shade of blue. Or maybe I'll just howl."

On the Net:
http://www.miamisci.org/www/eventsplan.html

School plan has permit parents upset about continuity

FROM **BEVERLY HILLS** PAGE 3

Administrators. "It's just a major issue across the country."

Beverly Hills would end outside enrollment next school year. The plan would affect 484 children, most of whom would either have to attend private school or a Los Angeles public school if ousted from the 4,891-pupil district.

They would leave behind schools that have won state and federal recognition for academic excellence. The Beverly Hills district also boasts a rich menu of extracurricular activities ranging from madrigal singers to water polo. Facilities include the renown "swim gym" — an indoor basketball court that retracts to reveal a swimming pool underneath.

Permit parents say their children should at least be allowed to finish their education at Beverly Hills to avoid the instability of disrupting long-term friendships and academic continuity.

"They're saying, 'Hey guys, looks like we don't need you any more for the money. Here's the door'," said Steven Wasserman, a permit parent of two children. "My wife is in tears almost nightly over this."

Both sides have traded barbed rhetoric — nonresidents have been accused of being ingrate freeloaders, while residents have been labeled elitist snobs.

Facebook pages have sprung up on both sides, with police investigating one posting that called for "machine gun machetes" to be used against those who favor ending permits. Disciplinary action against the 12-year-old boy who posted the statement was referred to school administrators, said Sgt. Lincoln Hoshino.

Board meetings have turned unruly with accusations that members were acting like "Hitler." Korbatov had a security guard escort her to her car after a recent session.

For the next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 12, police are sending officers to stand by.

Board member Myra Lurie, the most vocal member opposing the new policy, said it's unfair to kick out the students, many of whom have been in Beverly Hills schools for years.

"They're part of the fabric of the system," she said. "The human consequences are more important to me than the financial consequences."

She said a cost analysis showed that the district would save seven teaching positions with the enrollment reduction, saving about 1 percent of its projected $50.2 million budget for next year.

The board has compromised to let seventh-grade permit students finish middle school, and 10th- and 11th-graders graduate high school. The district will also continue permits for 291 children, including low-income minority high schoolers, children whose parents work for the city or schools, and students whose grandparents reside in the city and have an alumni parent.

Parents have the option of appealing a rejection to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Wasserman said he's already contacted the county office and is lobbying state legislators and officials.

Families can also move into Beverly Hills, but that tactic is a challenge to some parents.

Levy said she's been trying to sell her house for a year, but property values have dropped so much, her mortgage now equals the home's worth. She and her husband are now considering renting out their house and renting an apartment in Beverly Hills.

"That's how bad I want my kids to stay in the Beverly Hills school district," Levy said. "I would never move them."



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Home prices rise again in October

J.W. ELPHINSTONE
AP Real Estate Writer

NEW YORK Home prices rose for the fifth month in a row in October, but the recovery is shaky with only 11 of the 20 metro areas tracked showing gains.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index released Tuesday edged up 0.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted reading of 145.36 in October from September. Without adjusting for seasonal factors the index was flat.

The index was off 7.3 percent from October last year, nearly matching expectations of economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Many economists, however, are predicting a double dip in prices this winter as foreclosures increase and government support wanes.

"I'd be very surprised if we don't go below the lows we hit this year," Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a left-leaning Washington think tank. "We still have a very glutted housing market."

The index is now up 3.4 percent from its bottom in May, but still almost 30 percent below its peak in April 2006.

There are also wide variations from around the country. Prices have climbed for at least six months in a row in Denver, Washington, Minneapolis and San Francisco, for example.

"We saw an unusually low amount of inventory on the market," which helped prices firm, said Frank Castaldini, an agent with Coldwell Banker in San Francisco.

Properties at the lower end — between $500,000 and $600,000 — also received multiple bids, partly due to a federal tax credit for first-time homebuyers, he said.

But in Chicago and Tampa, Fla., prices fell slightly from September. And there's no sign of a bottom in Las Vegas, where prices have tumbled by more than 56 percent from their peak in April 2006.

"People hear prices are getting better, but they're not here," said Penny O'Brien, a real estate agent with Re/Max Experience in Las Vegas. "Unemployment has got people scared of purchasing."

The tax credit didn't make a big dent in the Las Vegas market either, O'Brien said, because many first-time buyers were elbowed out by all-cash investors.

Home prices play a key role in the economy. Homeowners feel wealthier when property values rise and are more likely to spend money. Rising prices also help millions of homeowners who owe more to the banks than their houses are worth.

The positive trend in home prices and a better employment outlook helped raise the Consumer Confidence Index to 52.9 in December, up from a revised 50.6 the month before, the Conference Board reported Tuesday. While far below a 90 reading that would signify a solid economy, consumers' outlook on jobs over the next six months reached its highest level in two years.

The federal government has stepped in with far reaching programs to create jobs and make homeownership more affordable.

Home price gains since the summer reflect the rush of homebuyers trying to close their deals before the original expiration date of a federal tax credit. The Nov. 30 deadline was extended last month to April 30.

Besides a credit of up to $8,000 for first-time buyers, Congress expanded the program to include homeowners who have lived in their current properties for at least five years. They can now claim a tax credit of up to $6,500 if they relocate.

The Federal Reserve is also buying up $1.25 trillion in mortgage-backed securities to help keep interest rates at historical lows.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

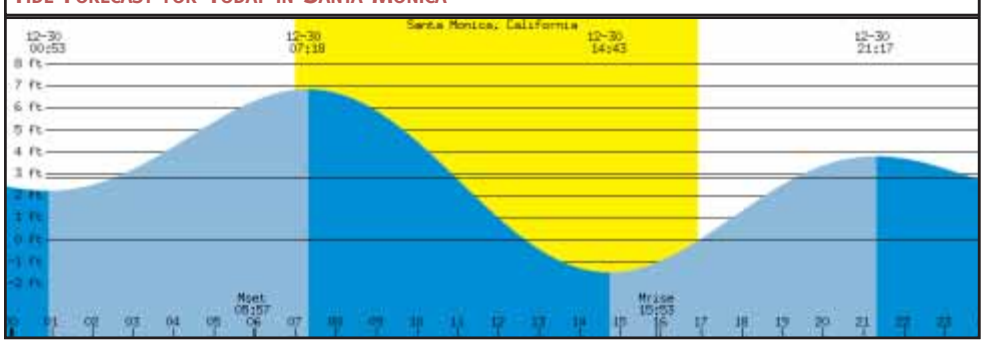
Swell Forecast

WNW swell should back off further to chest high, perhaps smaller in the afternoon. Winds should be light and variable in the morning, but pick up from the WSW throughout the morning, and peak at 15 mph near the coast in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Swell should peak with most west facing breaks running chest high, perhaps with some pluses at standouts.

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 21, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 28 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 -- 35 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 19

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

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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NFL

Bolts view finale as anything but a meaningless tune-up

BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO There's nothing for coach Norv Turner and his streaking San Diego Chargers to debate.

Although the they've wrapped up the AFC's No. 2 seed and a first-round playoff bye, they plan to approach Sunday's regular-season finale at home against the lowly Washington Redskins as anything but meaningless.

Turner said Monday that the Chargers will prepare as they always do, with no plans to rest healthy starters. He did say that some who've been playing with injuries might get a rest.

"Our players know we're going to go play. They want to play," Turner said.

The AFC West champion Chargers (12-3) had the weekend off after beating Tennessee 42-17 on Christmas night, their 10th straight victory.

LaDainian Tomlinson, for one, enjoyed laying around all weekend, watching games on TV "and just having nothing to do."

This Sunday, though, he wants to play.

"Yeah, I do," he said. "With us having the bye I think it would be good for us to get out and play. We will have a whole week to rest next week. Just to keep the rhythm of how we are playing, I think that is important. I think the only way guys shouldn't play is if they are injured or battling something that needs rest. If you are healthy, why sit out?"

Wide receiver Vincent Jackson said the Chargers have plenty more to work toward beyond the Washington game.

"There are probably about three more games on our schedule," he said, referring to the playoffs, including a hoped-for berth in the Super Bowl. "Just doing what we've been doing, consistency, preparing in the meeting rooms and just leaving nothing to chance."

Redskins coach Jim Zorn doesn't expect to see San Diego's starters play the whole game.

"They can't sit their guys down for three weeks and expect them to come out and play the first game of the playoffs. I don't think I could do that," Zorn said. "But I don't necessarily think I would play my starters the whole game."

Although Tomlinson is on pace to finish with less than 1,000 yards for the first time in his brilliant nine-year career, he said he's looking forward to being healthy heading into the playoffs. Last year he injured his groin in the regular-season finale, which limited him in a first-round win against Indianapolis and sidelined him for a loss at Pittsburgh.

The year before, he hurt his left knee in a divisional-round win at Indianapolis and barely played in the AFC championship game loss at New England.

"You will cherish it, you really do," Tomlinson said. "You cherish when you are healthy and able to crank it up and go do what you want to do versus playing hurt and just trying to gut it out for the team. I am so thankful to be in this position, to have two feet to run on.

"I haven't taken a lot of shots like I usually take," he said. "And just to stay fresh throughout the year and I haven't been beat up other than the first game when I hurt my ankle. Other than that, it's been great."

Tomlinson sprained his right ankle in the season-opening win at Oakland and sat out the following two games.

"It feels good to be at this point and say we are at the position where we have accomplished everything we need to for the regular season — we got the first round bye. And there's not a need to win one game to get to the playoffs."

The Chargers were 2-3 after consecutive losses to Pittsburgh and Denver.

"More than anything it gave us a chance to back up and really evaluate what kind of team we wanted to be, how we wanted to be portrayed and what kind of performance we wanted to put out on the field on Sundays, more than anything," Tomlinson said.

"When people kind of jumped off and said, 'These guys are going to be done,' it gave us an opportunity to say, 'Hey guys, let's just put performance, after performance, after performance out on the field and let's see where we stand after 16 games.' That was the turning point."

The Chargers are looking to sweep the NFC East, after having already beaten the New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles and Dallas Cowboys.

"I still think it is one of the toughest divisions in football, if not the toughest," Tomlinson said. "I think it says a lot about our team also being ready to play against that division. It's more a credit to what we've done more than anything."

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AMC Loews Broadway 4
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Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
10:10 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2:05, 3:05, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:20

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
11:05am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
10:40am, 11:30am, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:55

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
10:15am, 10:55am, 1:10, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:05, 11:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Police, Adjective (Politist, adj.) (NR) 1hr 55min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

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

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:10

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) 1hr 43min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30, 6:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30, 10:20

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

Talk resolutions, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Lighten up about what is going on in your immediate circle. Getting together with others, meetings and open discussions benefit you. A dear friend could play a significant role in events. Tonight: Talk New Year's resolutions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Understand what is going on in your immediate circle. Just because the new year is coming doesn't mean that some people stop working or brainstorming business ideas. What appears could be too good to be true. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Don't hesitate; swing into gear. If you could do or have anything, what would it be? Use today's strong energy for manifesting it. A boss could be a little out of kilter. Tonight: Use good sense.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Step back from a problem or a change in perspective. Accept rather than reject. Don't fight transforming your perceptions and ideas. Accept the possibility that you might not have all the answers. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ A meeting provides an excellent platform for zeroing in on what you want. Someone you thought was more stable could reveal another dimension of his or her character. Don't ignore what you are seeing, but be aware. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Someone demands a lot, and you respond in kind. Your way of dealing with a situation, of making a difference, is evident. Understanding allows greater give-and-take. Your vision of what might work could change radically, and someone displays his or her true colors. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ See what is going on around you with new eyes. Sometimes by detaching and being less involved, you see a situation in a totally new light. You might ask someone to do you a favor. Tonight: Let your imagination decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ How you see a situation and what occurs could change. Deal with others on a one-on-one level and confirm what works. A risk could cause quite a jolt in your life. Decide to head in another direction. Tonight: Togetherness is a good theme.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Someone shakes up the status quo. You don't need to make a radical decision, especially as more is likely to be forthcoming. Take in different opinions. Honor what is going on between you and another person. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Listen well to what someone is sharing. It could be more important than you realize. Clear out as much as you can prior to the new year. Your efficiency is highlighted. News could be disruptive. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Tame your personality in order to get the job done. Examine new financial options or different ways of handling a risk. Extend a lunch break or take an early day if possible. Tonight: Let your naughtiness out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Use care not to misplace your energy. You could be on top of your game if you can handle your innately nervous energy. Schedule a walk or do something unique by yourself. Tonight: The later it gets, the better you feel.

Happy birthday

Revise your thinking and approach to situations in your life. The tried-and-true easily could backfire suddenly, causing you a problem or creating a schism between you and others. Detach rather than feed into hot issues this year. Use care with the purchase of a car, computer or machinery in general, as you could be more accident-prone. Focus 100 percent on what you are doing. If you are single, you draw many people, but it might seem more often than not that people aren't what they seem to be. Get to know someone over a year before even considering a commitment. If you are attached, excitement infuses your days this year. Plan on some special retreats together away from others. CANCER can be challenging.

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

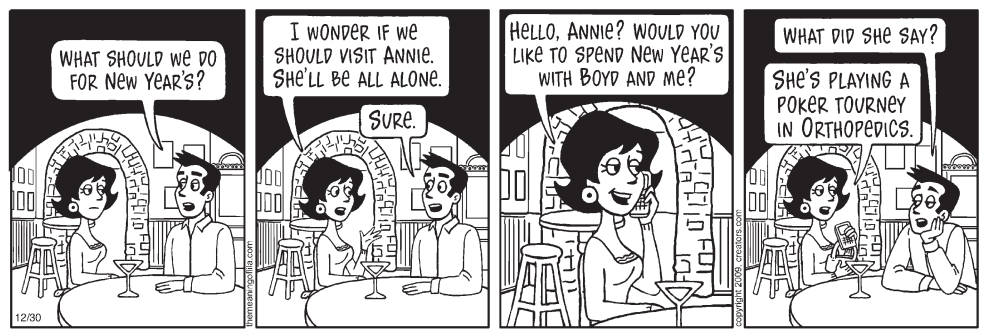
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



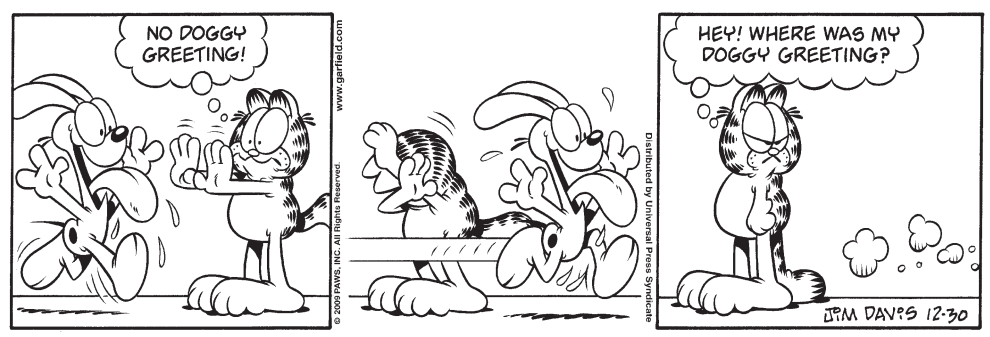
The Meaning of Lila

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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 Spill the beans
5 Addition column
9 Wash against, as the shore
11 The South
12 Old marketplace
13 "— ear and out ..."
14 Not pos.
15 Made
17 Sounded like old floorboards
19 "— a deal!"
20 Hawks
21 Quite cold
22 Copycat's cry
24 Methane, e.g.
26 Like some beer
29 Plop down
30 Folded
32 Defeated soundly
34 Use a needle
35 Texas landmark
36 Carp
38 Out of bed
39 Stand for a portrait
40 Glimpsed
41 Jazz great Al
18 Some charity
21 Tiny bit
23 Anxious
24 Kind of risqué magazines
25 Comfortable
27 St. Francis' home
28 Eyeball, in slang
29 Surgery souvenirs
30 "You know you want to!"
31 Resided
33 Word from the pews
37 Word from the bleachers

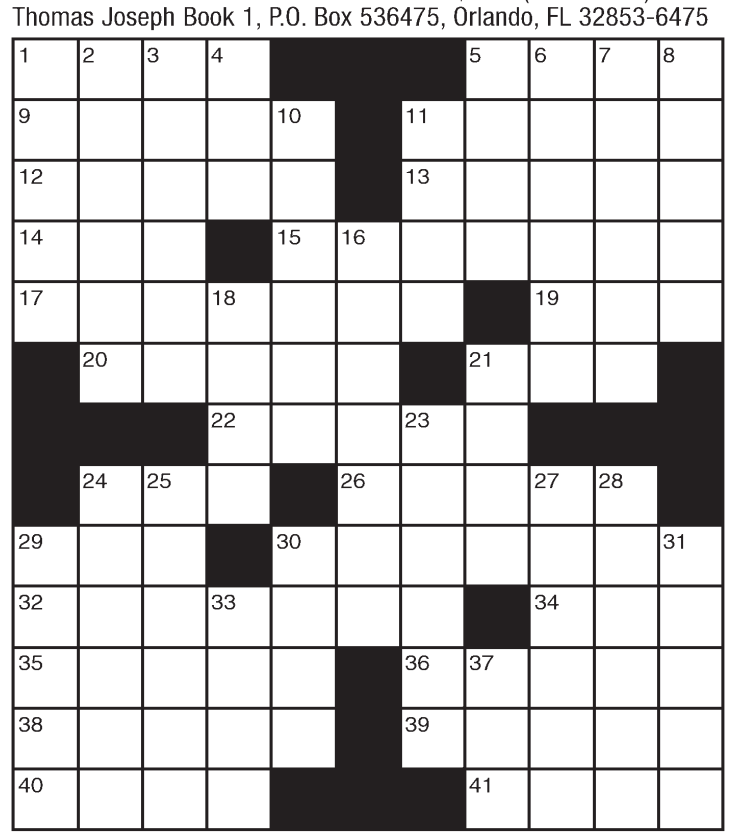
DOWN

1 Mel of many voices
2 Some beers
3 Orbital point
4 Saloon
5 Fey of "30 Rock"
6 Strangely wondrous
7 Summer temperature
8 Canary chow
10 Gridiron event
11 Went out
16 Make good as new

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-30

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Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 19 20 21 41
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 6 11 16 20 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 4 1
EVENING: 0 7 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.43.57

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

■ Examiners from Britain's Health and Safety Executive, inspecting bowling alleys for hazards, considered recommendations (according to a November Daily Mail report) that included erecting barriers over the lanes to prevent bowlers from wandering the alleys and perhaps getting caught in pin-setting machines or, feared one inspector, bowlers injuring themselves trying to knock over pins by hand. The barriers would leave space for the ball to roll under.

■ Wake Forest University's Institute of Regenerative Medicine, which has successfully grown human bladders in the lab using only a few extracted cells sprayed onto a chemical frame that mimics the body's tissues, has so far been unsuccessful at regenerating penises because of the organ's complexity. However, it announced in a November journal article a success with rabbit penises. Four of the 12 rabbits with lab-grown phalluses successfully impregnated females, and in an unexpected finding, the new penises appear not to lessen sexual desire, in that all 12 of the rabbits began mating within one minute of meeting females.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1922 The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is formed.

1924 Edwin Hubble announces the existence of other galaxies.

1927 The Ginza Line, the first subway line in Asia, opens in Tokyo, Japan.

1936 The United Auto Workers union stages its first sit-down strike.

1940 California opens its first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway.

1943 Subhas Chandra Bose raises the flag of Indian independence at Port Blair.

1944 King George II of Greece declares a regency, leaving the throne vacant.

1947 King Michael of Romania is forced to abdicate by the Soviet-backed Communist government of Romania.

WORD UP!

cajole \kuh-JOHL\ , transitive verb; 1. To persuade with flattery, repeated appeals, or soothing words; to coax.

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091802567 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GREENER ENERGY PRODUCTS; GREENER ENERGY WORLD; AI #/ON 3259287, 1580 W. SAN BERNADINO RD, SUITE G, COVINA, CA 91722. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : THINK GREENER SOLUTIONS INC., 1580 W. SAN BERNADINO RD, SUITE G, COVINA, CA 91722, (CALIFORNIA) This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: THINK GREENER SOLUTIONS INC., PRESIDENT, HADI GHOMESHI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2009, 1/6/2010, 1/13/2010, 1/20/2010



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North of Montana	$2,795,000	$1,397,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,947,500	$684,500
South of Wilshire	$850,000	$649,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$650,000
Ocean Park	$1,380,000	$714,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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