DOWNTOWN The Broadway Deli, a fixture on the Third Street Promenade for 20 years, has been unable to negotiate a new lease agreement with its landlord, Promenade Gateway LLP, and could be headed for closure.

Marc Zeidler, the restaurant’s general manager, said in talks late last year Gateway insisted on a drastic rent increase — from about $55,000 per month to $100,000 per month — and wouldn’t budge. While there’s no closure date and Zeidler said he’s hopeful an agreement can still be reached, it appears Gateway has different plans. The property owner is taking steps to divide the deli’s space into two storefronts — one for a restaurant and one for a retail tenant, and has hired land use consultant Howard Robinson to help with its plans.

Because Gateway’s proposed changes require a conditional use permit (CUP), the Planning Commission will have to sign off on the company’s plans before the renovation could start. Gateway is presenting its proposal to renovate the space at a Bayside District Corp. board meeting on Thursday and plans to appear before the Planning Commission in April. Bayside is the public/private organization that manages Downtown for City Hall. Meanwhile, the Broadway Deli’s lease expires at the end of May. Zeidler said the restaurant has been given a 90-day extension and will pay rent on a month-to-month basis after that, putting the business and its 65 employees in limbo.

“The Broadway Deli is an institution,” said Kathleen Rawson, Bayside’s CEO. “It’s sad to hear they’ve chosen not to renew their lease.” A call to Gateway was not immediately returned.

SEE DELI PAGE 8

EXTENDING A BRANCH

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

High above Second Street, an olive tree is hoisted up by the Valley Crest landscape company onto the Santa Monica Place dining deck on Tuesday afternoon. Transplanted from Porterville, Calif., the olive tree will now be supplying shade to hungry visitors when the mall reopens.
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.

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

‘Around the World in a Magic Hour’ with Rebecca Mar
Santa Monica Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
This event celebrates world folktales and fables week. Storyteller and performer Rebecca Martin will lead this interactive story event with a focus on developing imagination and communication abilities. Admission is free.

Haitian wine and food tasting benefit
Core Performance Center
2020 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
This wine and food tasting benefit, sponsored by Whole Foods Market Santa Monica and Core Performance, will raise money for victims in Haiti. There will be live music with performance art by Norton Wisdom and paintings by Kristen Eppley. Physicians and staff from Santa Monica Orthopaedic Group and Saint John’s Health Center who traveled to Haiti will be there to share their experiences. Please RSVP to kelly.layne@wholefoods.com. Admission is $35.

Jamaica Farewell
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
This one-woman show follows Debra Ehrhardt on her quest out of Jamaica. There are large obstacles in her way: an alcoholic father, a bible-spouting mother, the price of an airline ticket, and U.S. government suspicions. However, she uses her wits, beauty and courage to convince a CIA agent to help her reach Miami. Call (310) 394-9779 for more information.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Randy Shaw: Activism in the age of Obama
Santa Monica College
HSS 165, 11:15 a.m.
Social activist, founder and executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic in San Francisco, and author of three books, Randy Shaw will trace the roots of President Obama’s 2008 election outreach model back to the campaigns of the United Farm Workers (UFW) in the 1960s and ‘70s. A book-signing follows, and books will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

The healthy digestive tract
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Alternative medical experts Dr. David Allen and Dr. Allen Green will present a lecture on the gastrointestinal tract and its key importance to overall health and wellness. They will also discuss some simple, natural steps people can take to regain or maintain integrity of this vital system of the body. Ample question and answer time will be included. Admission is free.

Singin’ in the frame
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
For four nights, the cinema will present films featuring Gene Kelly to celebrate the life and work of the actor, dancer, director and choreographer. “Brigadoon” and “The Pirate” will be shown Thursday. Call (323) 466-FILM for more information.

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WHAT’S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN
Restaurants raise water awareness

A total of five Santa Monica restaurants are participating in UNICEF’s Tap Project in honor of World Water Week. During the week of March 21 through March 27, Ye Olde King’s Head, Ocean & Vine, Real Food Daily, South and Swingers will encourage diners to donate $1 or more for the tap water they normally receive for free.

“We’ve collected $651 so far,” said South employee Pamela Cobbs. “Everybody’s just been really supportive.”

The money goes to providing clean water for children in countries such as Haiti, Togo, Guatemala, Central African Republic and Vietnam. The Tap Project also aims to raise awareness about the lack of clean and available water and how it impacts people, especially children, around the world.

“We’ve actually been getting quite a response,” said Amanda Graham, general manager at Swingers. These Santa Monica restaurants join 24 other Los Angeles establishments and thousands of restaurants across the country in participating in the UNICEF Tap Project. The restaurants also inform patrons that further donations can be made online at tapproject.org.

Other World Water Week events in Los Angeles include a March 24 Tap Project concert, I (tap) LA, at the Roxy Theatre in West Hollywood. The concert will be hosted by comedian Eric Schwartz and feature music by Alyxse Fischer, The Makepeace Brothers and Gaby Moreno.

GOT ‘EM

DOWNTOWN
Boys & Girls Club cooks up fun

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica is celebrating the first ever chili cook-off hosted by the Boys & Girls Club. Although participants will have to wait until 4 p.m. for the cook-off to commence, the entire day is packed with family-friendly activities and a free BBQ lunch, lasting from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The annual Biddy Classic basketball tournament, a longtime club tradition, kicks off the family festival. Other World Water Week events in Los Angeles include a March 24 Tap Project concert, I (tap) LA, at the Roxy Theatre in West Hollywood. The concert will be hosted by comedian Eric Schwartz and feature music by Alyxse Fischer, The Makepeace Brothers and Gaby Moreno.

SMC considers creating student housing

BY LISA ANDERSON
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Student housing may eventually be available at Santa Monica College. Last month, school officials circulated a survey trying to gauge interest in student housing, targeting those currently enrolled.

Although the final report is not available yet, Vice President of Enrollment Development Teresa Rodriguez said that the school actually received a “very good” response, with about 10 percent of those targeted filling out the survey. “We found that the respondents were representative of every demographic,” she said.

The way the survey worked was that when students logged into their online school accounts to register for classes or check the status of their transcripts, they were prompted to answer whether or not they would be interested in student housing. They were asked about their interests in, specifically, traditional student housing, about their current

State leaders move to ban smoking at state parks

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

Sacramento California lawmakers on Monday moved a step closer to banning smoking at state beaches and parks, following the lead of hundreds of communities nationwide. The state Assembly voted 42-27 in favor of the ban. Anti-smoking groups say the bill would make California the first state to ban smoking throughout its entire park system if it is signed into law.

The Senate passed it previously but must agree to amendments made in the Assembly before it is sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has not taken a position on it. The Assembly vote, taken without comment, came days after the bill failed to garner enough support, in part because about a dozen Democrats failed to vote last week.

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**Changing the way we're taxed**

**FRANCE?**

So, why should you care what other countries pay in taxes? For the same reason we take standardized tests, to see how we're doing compared to the people around us. So what about our elected officials who claim they are spending our money honestly and fairly? Well, I argue that they're crooks or incompetent at best.

Imagine a country where we allowed the Republicans to reduce the tax rate by 10 percent and the Democrats to give you every service you can imagine. That country is called France. With 10 percent lower taxes, they get free health care; high-speed rapid transit; green, clean, cheap and safe electrical power that does not come from oil, gas or coal; and free schooling all the way through college. The French get five weeks of vacation per year, a 35-hour work week, a pension when they retire, and get one year at full pay to find the next job if they get fired.

According to KPM G, the average corporate tax rate in Europe is 22.5 percent versus 40 percent average federal and state tax rate in the United States. When you look at income tax, the same problems show up. The average income tax rate in France is about 36 percent.

California has a 9 percent corporate tax rate and the federal corporate tax rate of 35 percent for a combined total of 44 percent corporate tax rate. Personal state income tax is about 10 percent and federal income tax is about 15 percent for a combined total of 45 percent. That means the French pay about 10 percent less personal and corporate income tax than the people of Santa Monica.

We should get 10 percent more services than the French, right?

We pay 10 percent more and get less services than the French? This is not a Republican or Democrat debate but an irrefutable point of fact. If my point is not clear yet, let me spell it out. This is because you believe public services should not have a goal of making a profit. Roads will never pull a profit, but how unprofitable should matter to you. Higher taxes are not the solution when you spend your money wastefully. It is a demonstrable fact that the “Socialist” French spend 10 percent less in taxes and get all the services we only dream about. Before I hear how we must lower taxes or raise taxes, I want my elected officials in California to explain why the French get more services for 10 percent less money or we will toss the whole lot of them out of office.

Where is our money going? Let’s look at our prison system. We pay more than twice as much as any other major state to keep a person in prison. Other states have offered to take care of our prisoners for 35 percent less than we spend because they would make a profit on us. Instead, the state is having to rehouse prisoners. So in short, the reason why the prisoners are being released is not because we don’t spend enough money on inmates, but because we spend more than twice as much per inmate than any other state. Why do we spend twice as much? Because you elected someone to represent you, they gave them blank checks from your bank account, a set of credit cards and never paid attention to what they were doing. Who’s fault is that and what are you going to do about it?

The system is not too big to repair. First, we must change the budget process to reflect collection and delivery of goods and services. Instead of giving something away, you’ll collect. Second, we must make expanding an expenditure to the budget more difficult by having it create the tax and have it receive revenue for a few years before that money is used to pay the new item. If we’re not able to keep inmates in our jails at a reasonable price, then we need to exercise a third option and send them to another state and take the personal income tax a state might want that someone is living off of the elected officials are wasting, and they will fight like hell to keep it.

The reason our tax code is so complex because they don’t want you to understand how much you pay in taxes. If we’re to get a handle on spending we must simplify the tax code. A percentage of our income should just be deducted for income tax and a flat sales tax should be in effect. People with more money purchase more and will pay more in taxes when they purchase something. Instead of giving poor people deductions, don’t take it from them in the first place. We should just have a flat simple tax that is pay-as-you-go for the items you purchase instead of getting deductions. You should have an option to pay more taxes if you wish to toward certain budgets such as the parks or green energy.

Come on people, the French are not smarter than we are!

**DAVID ALSABERY** is a high-performance driving instructor and all around nice guy.

---

**Last, but not least**

**Editor:**

One anecdote: At 7:42 in the evening, 12 hours after the Tony Awards. I was watching the Academy Awards and between San Vicentes and Santa Monica boulevards. As city crews loaded the last rolled up banners and metal barricades into the back of a truck, two stragglers trudged in the gathering dark along the edge of Palisades Park. Running since early morning, they looked miserable. I imagined their smiles 26 miles and 385 yards ago.

“Hey!” moaned the last competitor, about 20 yards behind the second-to-last. “Wait for me.” (I just thought that was a funny thing to hear at a marathon.)

Still stuck in traffic (kidding),

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

---

**Boycott those who cater to gun toters Editor:**

I would like to strongly endorse the letter from Kristen Rand (“Open carry laws make us less safe,” March 11, page 16). Rand wrote about the tragedies in Colorado about two centuries ago in a very peaceful (except for redcoats, etc.) and sane society. If the authors had any idea of the type of society we have today they would not, in my opinion, recommend the Second Amendment for such a society. Society has become very fast-paced. Many people are under high-stress even under normal conditions and then we have the second great recession and people losing their jobs and people getting road rage, etc. Then they may get a gun and slaughter innocent men, women and children—even infants! In my personal opinion there are hundreds of people in this country (and others) who will kill if they have a gun and are put under sufficient stress (not to mention criminals).

When I see anyone with a gun I don’t want to be around near them. Unfortunately things happen. I wonder why on Earth they have a gun. What are they afraid of? Who do they think they might need to shoot and possibly kill? This is Santa Monica, not Detroit.

I would like to recommend to people who agree with me that in the future we not be exempt from pay ing this parcel tax (if the Rent Control Board votes to pass it on) and in a small unit such as mine (six apartments) it is not an insignificant amount of money. Voters are entitled to the truth. What’s being published is sugar-coated and is a disservice to Santa Monica residents.

Paul Bonner
Santa Monica
The urgency of new energy

"THIS IS NO TIME TO ENGAGE IN THE luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquil-
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**PepsiCo looks for new, no-cal, natural sweeteners**

**EMILY FREDRIX**
AP Food Industry Writer

**NEW YORK** A race to develop natural, zero-calorie sweeteners is bubbling up in the nation’s $100 billion beverage industry. PepsiCo, looking to revolve itself in the declining soda industry, is boosting its development search for this and to mix up new drinks.

PepsiCo Inc. said Tuesday at an investor meeting that it is putting “unprecedented resources” toward reformulating its beverages with natural, no-calorie sweeteners such as stevia, an herb grown in South America and Asia, and to find new ones.

Soft drink sales are falling as people look to cut calories and worry over other sweeteners such as high fructose corn syrup. Shopper traffic in the rice less is the latest in sales. So coming out with new, no-calorie drinks is a way to keep people buying.

The race gets even more pressing now that there’s talk of a tax on sugary beverages. PepsiCo has used a version of stevia in some of its Tropicana and SoBe Lifewater drinks, said Massimo d’Amore, CEO of PepsiCo Americas Beverages unit, which oversees drinks in North and South America.

Having employed the technology in non-carbonated beverages, now PepsiCo wants to do the same for soda.

“The next barrier we have to break is to do the same with carbonated products,” d’Amore said at the second day of an investor meeting Tuesday. “The reason they’re not out there yet is because there are some taste issues we are working on.”

PepsiCo said it has a pipeline of zero-calorie, natural sweeteners in the works, but it declined to say when they might be released, how much of its portfolio would have them or how much it’s spending on research.

Rival Coca-Cola Co. is likewise looking for these sweeteners as part of its effort to make healthy choices in its line of drinks. “We are working in several of its beverage categories,” a Coca-Cola executive said.

The possibility of a tax on sugary beverages, which some health leaders and lawmakers are calling for to fight obesity, makes the search all the more important, d’Amore said. He added PepsiCo has been working on the developments since before talk of the sugar tax surfaced.

“Discussions of a sugar tax are only adding more sense of urgency to this,” he said.

He said the taste and the cost of these new sweeteners must work just right for the company to use them. Typically, no-calorie drinks like Diet Pepsi have artificial sweeteners like aspartame or acesulfame k as a base, but there are also cases in which these sweeteners do not work just right for the consumer.

PepsiCo laid out many changes to its beverage system this week before its investors, who are want hear about its plans now that it has completed its $7.8 billion buyout of its two largest bottlers in North America.
REAL ESTATE

Home sales up across the West

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES Home sales edged 3 percent higher in the Western region of the country last month, as many buyers moved to lock in deals in time to qualify for government tax credits.

Foreclosed homes and other sharply dis-counted properties continued to drive sales in many markets in the 13-state region, par-ticularly in California, Arizona and Nevada. The median price fell by nearly 10 percent to $207,900.

And the region appeared to dodge the dampening effects of winter weather seen elsewhere in the country.

“We had our best February ever in Anchorage,” said Ed Heid, president of Century 21 North Homes Realty in Seattle, which also has offices in Alaska and Oregon.

Nationally, sales rose nearly 8 percent from February last year, without adjusting for seasonal factors, the National Association of Realtors said Tuesday. The median price declined nearly 2 percent to $166,100.

While the supply of homes on the market rose nationally, in many Western markets there is a shortage. The supply of homes on the market in February stood at 6.5 months, down from 8 months a year ear-lier, according to the NAR.

In addition, the inventory of homes under priced under $150,000 in major mar-kets in California has plummeted, constrain-ing sales, Lawrence Yun, the trade group’s chief economist, said Tuesday.

In markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Honolulu, the ros-tar of available homes fell 30 percent or more in February from where it was a year ago, according to The Associated Press-Re/Max Monthly Housing Report, also released Tuesday.

“We’re generating more sales, but our listing inventory is dropping pretty signifi-cantly,” said Colleen Gunderson, broker-owner of Century 21 All Star Realtors in Phoenix.

That could help propel prices higher, she added.

Sales improved in February across many major Western metros, according to the AP-Re/Max report, which tallies all home sales in the metropolitan statistical areas. The report counts sales filed by all real estate agents regardless of company affiliation.

Seven cities registered annual sales increases last month: Boise, Idaho, Honolulu, Seattle, Albuquerque, N.M., Phoenix, Portland, Ore., and Las Vegas.

Five metros posted annual sales declines: Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Anchorage.

Some highlights from the region:

• Sharpest price gain: San Francisco, where the median price posted an annual increase of about 28 percent to $425,000.

• Biggest sales gain: Sales in Boise jumped nearly 42 percent from a year ago. The metro’s median home price rose nearly 14 percent from a year ago to $138,000.

• Largest sales decline: Denver saw sales drop nearly 9 percent from a year ago, while the median sale price surged 17 percent to $202,500.

• Steepest price drop: The median home sale price in Las Vegas tumbled nearly 16 percent from a year ago to $121,000. Sales rose 11 percent from a year earlier.

REAL ESTATE

KB Home will be profitable in 2010

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES KB Home trimmed its losses or 75 cents a share, in the year-ago period. Revenue totaled $264 million, down 14 percent from $307.4 million a year ago.

The latest results, however, were weaker than analysts had forecast. KB Home shares fell 42 cents to $16.78 in afternoon trading.

The sales decline this year has been partly due to record snowstorms that struck many parts of the country. But many would-be buyers also appear to have lost some of their urgency after law-makers extended a homebuyer tax credit that had been set to expire at the end of November.

KB Home reported Tuesday it sold 1,326 homes between December and February, down 8 percent from the year-ago period. The average price slipped 6 percent to $197,700.

Now homebuilders are hoping buyers will turn out for the traditional spring shop-ping season to seize on the tax credits — $8,000 for new buyers and $6,500 for those who have previously owned a home. Both incentives sunset at the end of next month, although buyers have another two months to complete their deals.

Builders have a lot riding on getting a boost in sales this spring, because most experts anticipate sales will weaken after the government incentives expire. And sales later this year also could take a hit if mortgage rates start to rise once the Federal Reserve stops buying mortgage-backed securities at the end of this month.

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For seasonal factors, the National Association

of Realtors said Tuesday. The Commerce Department will release data for sales of nationally.

The Commerce Department will release data for sales of newly built homes on Wednesday. After three months of weakness, analysts are expecting a marked increase over January levels.

At the end of February, KB Home had a backlog of 2,713 homes under construction, representing roughly $524 million in projected revenue — the first annual increase in more than four years.

For the quarter, the builder reported a loss of $54.7 million, or 71 cents a share. That compares with a loss of $58.1 million, or 75 cents a share, in the year-ago period. Revenue totaled $264 million, down 14 percent from $307.4 million a year ago.

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Owner wants to carve up deli’s space

FROM DELI PAGE 1

returned Tuesday. But in an interview, Robinson confirmed his client has no plans to continue leasing its space at Third Street and Broadway to the Broadway Deli, which he said occupies more than 8,000 square feet.

“Broadway Deli is not renewing their lease, so the landlord is looking to bring in a new restaurant tenant and a new retail tenant,” he said.

Robinson said the CUP is required because his client wants to divide the space so that the part of the property facing Broadway Avenue would be for retail and the part facing Third Street would be for a restaurant. Robinson said City Hall has a rule intended to promote a “pedestrian oriented feel” Downtown that designates the part of the property along Broadway for restaurant use only.

He said his client’s request that an exception be made “is consistent with the intent of the code” because locating the restaurant on the Third Street side of the property would allow for more outdoor seating and would generally enliven the outdoor area more than placing a restaurant along Broadway, where scarce sidewalk space and heavy bus traffic make outdoor dining difficult.

While Zeidler said there’s still a possibility the Broadway Deli could occupy the scaled-down restaurant space, Robinson said he believes the deli will be closing “with

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Howard Robinson, Land use consultant

in the next several months.”

Robinson said the Planning Commission hearing on the CUP is tentatively scheduled for April 21. The commission’s chairman, Hank Koning, on Tuesday said he was unaware of the proposal.

Zeidler said he believes the fate of his business rests with decision makers at City Hall.

“I think he’d like to dice the space up,” he said of his landlord. “It all depends whether or not he gets his approvals.”
SMC students weigh-in on idea of providing housing

FROM SMC PAGE 3

living situation, and how important certain factors were such as the cost and the size of the room.

“The college is starting to think about offering some sort of housing project in the future,” said SMC Public Information Officer Bruce Smith, who emphasized that the effort is still in the embryonic stage. If approved, construction would not commence for several years.

The proposal or the possibility of one is in such an early stage that it is difficult to weigh out the benefits and costs just yet, as well as where the housing would be located, school officials said.

“Most recently [the idea] came up at a board of trustees meeting,” Smith said. This is the first time the proposal rolled out officially. The survey was taken to get a sense of whether the students are in favor of the idea.

“This was not a survey to try to get at everything we need to know if we were to choose to implement some form of student housing,” Rodriguez said.

Both Rodriguez and Smith continuously emphasized that at this point all that is being done is an assessment of the students’ interests, “to make sure that we’re actually meeting student needs,” Rodriguez said.

“I think it’s a conversation many urban colleges are having,” Rodriguez said.

“Housing is difficult to come by, and very costly,” SMC has been tossing around the idea for a couple of years, and now it is just being taken into consideration more seriously, Rodriguez said.

One of the major users, Rodriguez thinks, will be students traveling long distances, whether it is from another country or another state, or even just a distant city in California. Both the students and the parents want a sense of safety and affiliation with the institute, said Rodriguez.

SMC has a pretty large international student population, said Smith. “They contribute a lot financially and culturally to the campus. We are always looking at ways to make their stay at SMC as comfortable and easy as possible.”

Rebeca Wiklund, an international student at SMC, said that she had not been surveyed about the possible project, but she thinks student housing is a good idea. She explained that, even though she is currently already situated, she has many friends who have not been as lucky.

“It’s such pressure on them. That would be such a good thing to do,” she said. She described the experiences of her friends in their first couple of weeks at SMC as confusing and panicked.

As for the monetary concerns, she explained that she notices many foreign students driving up to the school in Porsche’s everyday, and said simply that, “their parents would pay for it.”

Monserret Fargus, also a student at SMC, didn’t seem as confident.

“I guess we all have to consider if they can pay for it,” she said. “In theory, it’s a good idea. I know a lot of people who desperately look for somewhere to live.”

SMC student Mario Rovira seemed more hesitant to show support for the idea as he was concerned about the cost and whether or not it would take away from other programs.

“That’s tough — I would really be on the fence when it comes to that,” he said.

FROM BAN PAGE 3

Smoking would result in $100 fine

The bill’s author, state Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, said she wants to keep cigarette butts out of the ocean, reduce the threat of wildfires at parks and eliminate second-hand smoke.

“Unfortunately, too many beach visitors are irresponsible with their smoking habit,” Oropeza said in a statement following the Assembly vote. “Our majestic beaches and state parks have been marred by cigarette butts littered every day.

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“However, there are still thousands of cigarettes each year in California, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Cigarettes are the No. 1 item collected by volunteers at beach clean-up days throughout the U.S., according to the Ocean Conservancy.

Under the California bill, smoking in prohibited areas would be an infraction punishable with a $100 fine.

Any state park that does not have the money to buy no-smoking signs alerting visitors to the rules would be exempt, although some parks already ban smoking during fire season. It’s not clear how many of California’s 279 state parks would be unable to erect such signs.

About 3 percent of wildfires are caused by cigarettes each year in California, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. At least one tobacco company, Commonwealth Brands, opposes the ban.

Republicans complained the bill would punish all smokers and said it should have been targeted at those who litter.
WASHINGTON — Claiming a historic triumph that could define his presidency, a jubilant Barack Obama signed a massive, nearly $1 trillion health care overhaul on Tuesday that will for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen and begin to reshape the way virtually all Americans receive and pay for treatment.

After more than a year of hyperpartisan struggle — and numerous near-death moments for the measure — Obama declared “a new season in America” as he sealed a victory denied to a line of presidents stretching back more than half a century.

Democratic lawmakers cheered him on, giving the White House signing ceremony a rally-like atmosphere as they shouted and snapped photos with pocket cameras or cell phones.

Not everyone was cheering. The Democrats pushed the bill through Congress without GOP support, and the Republicans said Tuesday that those Democratic lawmakers would pay dearly in this November’s elections. Opinion polls show the public remains skeptical of the sweeping legislation, with a number of leaders who have been preoccupied with health care for his first year and three months in office.

The president now faces the task of selling to the public a bill that satisfies neither side of the political spectrum.

Liberals bemoan that a government-run plan to compete with private ones was shelved from the legislation during bitter negotiations. Conservatives fear an expansion of government and costs they say will bankrupt the country, despite an estimate from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that the law will cut federal budget deficits by an estimated $143 billion over a decade.

Obama’s explanatory hurdle is not an easy one, given the law’s multilayered provisions and timetables. A bumper-sticker slogan — “Repeal and replace” — was popular with the Democrats — particularly those from conservative-leaning districts — who stand to suffer in the fall elections from their votes.

Republicans face a challenge as well.

Among the new rules on insurance companies are banning lifetime dollar limits on policies, coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, and policy cancellations when someone gets sick. Insurers also will have to allow parents to keep children on their plans up to age 26.

The changes are to be paid for with cuts in projected government payment increases to hospitals, insurance companies and others under Medicare and other health programs, an increase in the Medicare payroll tax for some, fees on insurance companies, drug makers and medical device manufacturers, a new excise tax on high-value insurance plans and a tax on indoor tanning services.

For seniors, the plan will gradually close the “doughnut hole” prescription coverage gap and improve preventive care. But it also will cut funding for popular private insurance plans offered through Medicare Advantage. About one-quarter of seniors have signed up for such plans, which generally offer lower out-of-pocket costs.

Democrats, led by Obama, celebrated a “new wind at our backs,” an achievement accomplished after more than a year of high tension and deep division — stretching back to shouted protests that interrupted lawmakers’ town hall meetings on the subject last summer. Obama signed the measure less than two days after the cliffhanger final House vote in a rare Sunday night session.

“Our presence here today is remarkable and improbable,” Obama said, his grin wider than any in recent memory. “With all the punditry, all of the lobbying, all the games playing that passes for governing in Washington, it’s been easy at times to doubt our ability to do such a big, such a complex thing.”

At a second celebration later, he said, “After a century of striving, after a year of debate, after a historic vote, health care reform is no longer an unmet promise. It is the law of the land.”

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Older women need longer workouts to fight flab

WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON

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LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO

Rev up the treadmill: Sobering new research spells out just how much exercise older women need to keep the flab off as they age — and it’s a lot.

At least an hour of moderate activity a day is needed for older women at a healthy weight who aren’t dieting. For those who are already overweight — and that’s most American women — even more exercise is called for to avoid gaining weight without eating less, the study results suggest.

“We all have to work at it. If it were easy to skinny up, it would be skinny,” said John Foreyt, a behavioral medicine expert who reviewed the study but wasn’t involved in the research.

Brisk walking, leisurely bicycling and golfing are all examples of moderate exercise. But don’t throw in the towel if you can’t do those things for at least an hour a day. Even a little exercise can help improve your health even if it won’t make you thin, the researchers said.

Their findings are based on 34,079 mid-aged women followed for about 13 years. Most were not on calorie-cutting diets. The women gained an average of almost 6 pounds during the study.

Those who started out at a healthy weight, with a body mass index less than 25, and who gained little or no weight during the study consistently got the equivalent of about an hour of moderate activity daily.

Now school leaders have an argument that trumps any parent outrage: The struggling economy makes these schools a luxury that districts can no longer afford.

About 6 percent of districts closed or converted schools this year, compared to about 3 percent in 2008-09, according to a survey conducted by the American Association of School Administrators. About 92 percent of those expected to consider similar moves in 2010-11.

“When it does close, it’s going to get bad around here,” said Virginia Stanley, standing outside her home with her husband, her 22-year-old granddaughter and her two young great-grandchildren, who live with them.

Superintendents of struggling districts are winning praise for confronting budget woes by shuttering half-empty and underperforming schools, a move often blocked by local politics in the past. In many cases, the schools have been declining for years, but were never closed because residents and local advocacy groups fought to keep them.

They are not leaving,” said Janet Katzin, 61, a 20-year user in the summer when classes aren’t in session, Stanley’s husband, James, says.

Your property. Don’t think it’s going to be worth anything when you close the school,” he said.

Schools in Kansas City’s city district attract drug users in the summer when classes aren’t in session, according to a survey conducted by the American Association of School Administrators.

Kansas City’s move earlier this month created waves because of how many of its schools will close. Detroit followed suit last week by moving to close nearly a quarter of its schools in a desperate bid to erase a $219 million budget deficit.

“Talk to any group of women and they all say the same thing,” said Janet Katzin, 61, a slightly overweight” marketing director from Long Island who exercises for an hour twice a week.

“A young adult, Katzin said the pounds started creeping up after she had her two children in the 1980s, despite exercising and watching what she eats. “It’s just extremely frustrating and discouraging.”

The study appears in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association. Only women were studied, so the researchers from Harvard’s School of Public Health can’t be sure whether the results would apply to men.

The research “reinforces in a nice, clear way the idea of how difficult it is to maintain a healthy weight in our society,” said Forest, of the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas.

The results bolster a 2002 Institute of Medicine report that emphasized the importance of balancing diet and exercise and recommended that at least 60 minutes daily of moderate activity for adults and children.

Depleted budgets force schools to consider closure

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press Writer

Kansas City, Mo. In a neighborhood dotted with boarded-up homes, trash and gang graffiti, McCoy Elementary has been an oasis.

Now that the 94-year-old school is closing, residents are fearful that the neighborhood could become even worse, attracting drug dealers and children are gone.

McCoy is among the roughly half of Kansas City district schools expected to shut down before class resumes next fall, part of a sweeping plan by the city’s school board to close nearly a quarter of the city’s schools as part of a plan to save $183 million.

Before the Kansas City vote, civic leaders placed a full-page ad in the Kansas City Star to show support for the plan. Meanwhile, the booing or shouting got too loud. District officials have vowed to do better finding suitable replacements in some neighborhoods better access to special programs.

Recent trends are overwhelming such politics, forcing the hands of reluctant school boards or empowering reform-minded superintendents. The recession has sapped district budgets of any excess money.

Charger schools are attracting children away from traditional school buildings. And new national reform efforts encourage districts to close or restructure low-performing schools to qualify for federal grants.

“One consequence of some of those reforms is that more conventional, traditional public schools will have to close,” said Michael Van Beeck, education policy director at the libertarian-leaning Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Federal Reserve cracks down on gift card abuses

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON

The Federal Reserve issued new rules on Tuesday to protect Americans from getting stung by unexpected fees or restrictions on gift cards.

Gift cards have grown in popularity — with more than 95 percent of Americans having received or purchased them, the Fed said. And as usage has gone up, so too have complaints from people taken by surprise by fees that eat into the value of the cards as well restrictions on how long they’ll be good for.

Under the rules, consumers must have at least five years to use the gift cards before they expire. The Fed also says service or inactivity fees can be imposed only under certain conditions.

Such fees can be charged if the consumer hasn’t used the card for at least a year, if the consumer is given clear disclosures about them and no more than one fee is charged a month.

The rules take effect Aug. 22.

Congress ordered the Fed to issue the new protections under a law enacted last year.


“Now that the new rules are finalized, we will work with the Fed to speed up the effective date rather than keep consumers at risk of being ripped off until next summer,” Schumer said. “These new rules will curb the abusive fees and early expiration dates that can drain gift cards of their value before they are ever even used.”

The Fed received more than 230 letters weighing in on its proposal first unveiled in November.

Many individual consumers urged the Fed to ban all fees and to eliminate expiration dates so that people didn’t lose any value on the cards.
SURF REPORT

The SW should continue to bring at least chest high sets to south facing breaks. It looks like the NW will back off to waist high max.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

ALTHOUGH EARLY AM SESSIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE SMALLER FOR WEST FACING BREAKS.

Long Range Synopsis

NW will back off to waist high max.

The SW should continue to bring at least chest high sets to south facing breaks. It looks like the SWELL FORECAST

A newspaper with issues

just a continuation of her campaign to said Monday's filings by Jamie McCourt "are

has assets worth more than $75 million.

argue that Jamie McCourt should be denied

earlier this month that he will only earn

according to the documents.

mounting bills and doesn't draw any income.

continues to live a lavish lifestyle while she has

bitter divorce case, according to court docu-

pay for her spousal support in the couple's

least $18 million available that could help

Jamie McCourt says ex has

Jamie McCourt disputes the claim, saying

"There was never any discussion that only

Frank owned the Dodgers or that it was his sep-

between the two gives him sole possession of

band maintains a marital agreement

hanging in the balance. Jamie McCourt said

resolution of this litigation, " Seltzer said.

other assets were protected as her separate

but three times, because she wanted to make

marital property agreement, not just once,

"I'm not going to worry about what hap-

I'm just going to go out and give it my all," said Ford, a center fielder. "Speed is God-given. You can't teach it. I'm just going to do whatever the Giants want. I think I can hit and I can run."

Velez, 27, also has above-average speed.

He has range in the outfield to track down balls hit into the gaps, and he can play the

infel. Torres, 32, has played in 164 big-league games, 75 with the Giants. He is hitting .294.

Velez, a center fielder. He was hitting .257 with three home

class, 40 in the minors. He was hitting .257 with three home

nine stolen bases in 129 games last season.

When asked about the future of his team, Bowker replied, "I'm going to do whatever the Giants want. I think I can

pens. I'm just going to go out and give it my all, and put my bat to the

at a level higher than Class A.

leading 11 RBIs through Monday.

Keeping him might be too hard to resist. He has never played at a level higher than Class A.

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A must appearance, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You know how important a decision might be. Listen to someone and what he or she shares. The more information you get, the stronger the action you might take. Don't take a reversal personally; rather, use the unexpec-
ted. Tonight: Maintain a high profile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Reach out for experts, especially if you hit a logjam. Realize that you might have too much information on your plate. Sorting facts from opin-
ions could be a full-time job. Tap into your intuitive knowledge. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ You can only do so much. Take stock of your assets. Your actions point to a strong reaction after a decision. Still, someone's reac-
tion could be surprising. Regroup and reorgan-
ize. Don't worry about a jolt. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ A surge of questions helps you focus. Use the process to come out on top of what is necessary. Others respond strongly to your efforts. Demonstrate your grasp of the facts and an ability to put them in the power per-
spective. Tonight: Take the lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Much goes on behind the scenes. You sense what is going on. The smart Lion refuses to take action, though an associate could throw a tantrum. Realize what is happening and use time as an asset. Discover that someone close could make all the difference. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could be disinherited by an attitude. Drop the reaction and stay focused on what must happen. Others can react all they want; don't lose your focus or centering. Tonight: Where people are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Take charge and step up to the plate. You can lead others as only few can. Your sense of humor comes through at the end of the day. You can avoid frustration with the gift of per-
ceptive. Someone close might be observing you. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Others continue to be a touch defiant or demanding. You cannot change their gyrations. Understand what is happening within a select group of people. Realize you could be worn out by them. Tonight: Be with only those you can relax with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might want to revamp your ideas after considering a partner's suggestion. Work with the unanticipated as it happens. You could be put off by someone's attitude, but you'll get around it just fine. Know the extent of the dam-
ages. Tonight: Easy works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You can only do so much. Take stock of your assets. Your actions point to a strong reaction after a decision. Still, someone's reac-
tion could be surprising. Regroup and reorgan-
ize. Don't worry about a jolt. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Stay level, as the unexpected does occur. Your way of handling a financial matter could be quite off-the-wall to some people, but easily could prove effective. Knowing your limits is very important as well. You could be a touch self-indulgent. Tonight: Put your feet up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Your imagination could misread a situation and make more of it than what is really going on. Laugh and relax with the company of others; even an associate makes a great companion over lunch. Your light atti-
dute does have an impact. Tonight: Let your playfulness spin out.
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 4 9 5 3 7 2 4
3 8 2 7 6 9 5 1 3
4

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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

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Await Dunderhead
5 UK president
9 Pal, to Pedro
11 Painter EI
12 Low
13 Burdened
14 Historic time
15 Fake chum
17 Newspaper paper part
19 Word of accord
20 Flag features
21 Hankering
22 Baseball’s Pee Wee
24 Guitar blaster
26 Pool need
29 Novelist
30 Veal buys
32 Seriocomic show
34 Porpoise place
35 Massenet opera
36 Museum piece

38 Dunderhead
39 Move sinuously
40 Started a hole
41 Clutter

DOWN
1 Rum cakes
2 Pictures
3 Straight
4 Big head
5 Muffin makeup
6 Overnight flight
7 Assassins, in slang
8 Theater awards

GATORS PRAY
ARARAT HUGE
STRIKE ZONES
GET IT
LAID PORT
NOUN TUNE UP
AGT MAP ABE
GORDON SCAR
NYE SETS
STOIC
SCHOOL ZONES
POET GENEVA
ANNO ADD TAX

YESTERDAY’S ANSWER

10 Burning
11 secluded spot
16 Kane’s last word
18 Field cover
20 Holler
21 Nymph chasers
24 Wear down
25 Nasty fellow
27 Caron of “Gigi”
28 Tankards
29 Let in
30 Small coin
31 Bags
33 State of mind
37 Shade tree

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

1. Extremely scanty; meager.

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Sudoku

2. A newspaper with issues

1972

The United Kingdom imposes “Direct Rule” over Northern Ireland.

1973

Kenyan track runner Kip Keino defeats Jim Ryun at the first-ever professional track meet in Los Angeles, California.

1976

Argentina’s military forces depose President Isabel Perón and start the National Reorganization Process.

1980

Archbishop Oscar Romero is killed while celebrating Mass in San Salvador.

1986

The Loscoe gas explosion leads to new UK laws on landfill gas migration and gas protection on landfill sites.

1989

Exxon Valdez oil spill: In Prince William Sound in Alaska, the Exxon Valdez spills 240,000 barrels (42,000 m³) of petroleum after running aground.

1998

A tornado sweeps through Dantan in India killing 250 people and injuring 3000 others.

WORLD UP

Exquisitos
Up-Zil-yoo-uh!, adjective
1. Extremely scanty; meager.

3-24

Puzzles & Stuff

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY


2nd 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Megaplier: 5 Jackpot: 5X

Fantasy 5

1st 06 Gorgeous George 2nd 04 Big Bos 3rd 02 Lucky Star NEXT TIME: 2/25

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

1. In November, Jim Bartek, 49, of Maple Heights, Ohio, announced he was ending his streak of 524 consecutive days in which he listened to the album “Nostradamus” by the heavy-metal group Judas Priest. (2) In February, Hilary Taylor, 63, of Great Yarmouth, England, revealed that she had been bequeathed her uncle Ken Strickland’s collection of 3,000 watering cans. Strickland, who also kept meticulous records of the holdings, died in January.

2. Details about Britain’s biggest marijuana-importing operation emerged in March following the conviction of its three managers in Southwark Crown Court. The enterprise earned the equivalent of as much as $300 million at such a rapid clip that the partners apparently were unable to use much of it, despite buying real estate, jewelry and expensive cars. An inspector said Scotland Yard found “moldy” cash “rotting away,” hidden under floorboards. “(I)t was no good to anybody.”

DAILY LOTTERY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 04 Big Bos 3rd: 02 Lucky Star NEXT TIME: 2/25
SOLD

242 21st Street
4 Bed, 3 Bath
$2,389,000
Two-Story, Spanish Home
Gillette's Regent Square

2004 Marine Street
3 Bed, 4.5 Bath
$1,699,000
Sunset Park Home
W/ Finished Basement
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

2019 Navy Street
3 Bed, 3.5 Bath
$1,749,000
Contemporary, Spanish
Single Family Home

In Escrow

1328 Berkeley St #101
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$769,000
Front-Facing Townhome
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

847 5th Street # 206
2 Bed, 2 Bath
$688,000
N of Wilshire Condo!
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

1044 19th Street # 5
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
Reduced to $689,000
Townhome N of Wilshire
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

1127 10th Street #301
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$899,000
Fab, Top Flr Condo
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

757 Ocean Avenue #205
Studio, 1 Bath
$399,000
Great Views!
Open Sunday
March 28th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

302 Ashland Ave #102
1 Bed, 1 Bath
$429,000
Ocean Park Condo
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from
ALL Agents from ALL Companies
Listed for Sale As of Late March 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Homes</td>
<td>$2,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condos</td>
<td>$4,802,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townhomes</td>
<td>$3,225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of Montana</td>
<td>$1,995,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of Wilshire</td>
<td>$645,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Park</td>
<td>$595,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Park</td>
<td>$542,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Updated Every Monday

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY
ENSURING THAT THE PAST HAS A FUTURE

Winter Lecture Series: People & History of The Beach House
Located at: Memorial Park (14th Street Between Colorado and Olympic)
March 27th from 2-6pm
The Lecture series will provide stories of the site’s vivid personalities
- VRR Heard, Ms. Davie, and Julia Morgan –
as well as insights into the innovative adaptive reuse that has transformed the site for public use.
Tickets are $10 per person per Lecture Date.
Tickets can be purchased online at www.smcconservancy.org
Checks may be mailed to Santa Monica Conservancy P.O. Box 853, Santa Monica 90406
For more information call 310-496-3146.

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1606 Montana Avenue
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