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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 194



Santa Monica Daily Press

BAT BAN UPSETS COACHES
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE NEW FACE ISSUE

Cabbies want full disclosure from City Hall

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council won't finalize its plan to overhaul Santa Monica's taxi cab permitting system until this fall, but cab companies are already raising concerns about the level of transparency in City Hall's proposal to greatly reduce the number of cabs and cab companies in town.

The proposal would award franchises to a maximum of eight cab companies that would operate at most 250 cabs. Currently 44 companies are licensed to operate 463 cabs in the city.

City Hall staff has identified five companies recommended to receive the franchises out of 13 applicants. A committee said the five recommended companies had submitted the best proposals but didn't provide a detailed justification for its selections, sparking criticism from some applicants.

"It's just really not a transparent process. And it should be because the stakes here in this taxi game are really high," said Bill Gray, manager of Santa Monica Community Cab, which was left off the list of recommended cab operators. "There are companies that are being put out of business."

Gray's company is based in Santa Ana and operates the largest cab company in Orange County, he said. He said he's no longer interested in a Santa Monica franchise, but said he believes the city's process

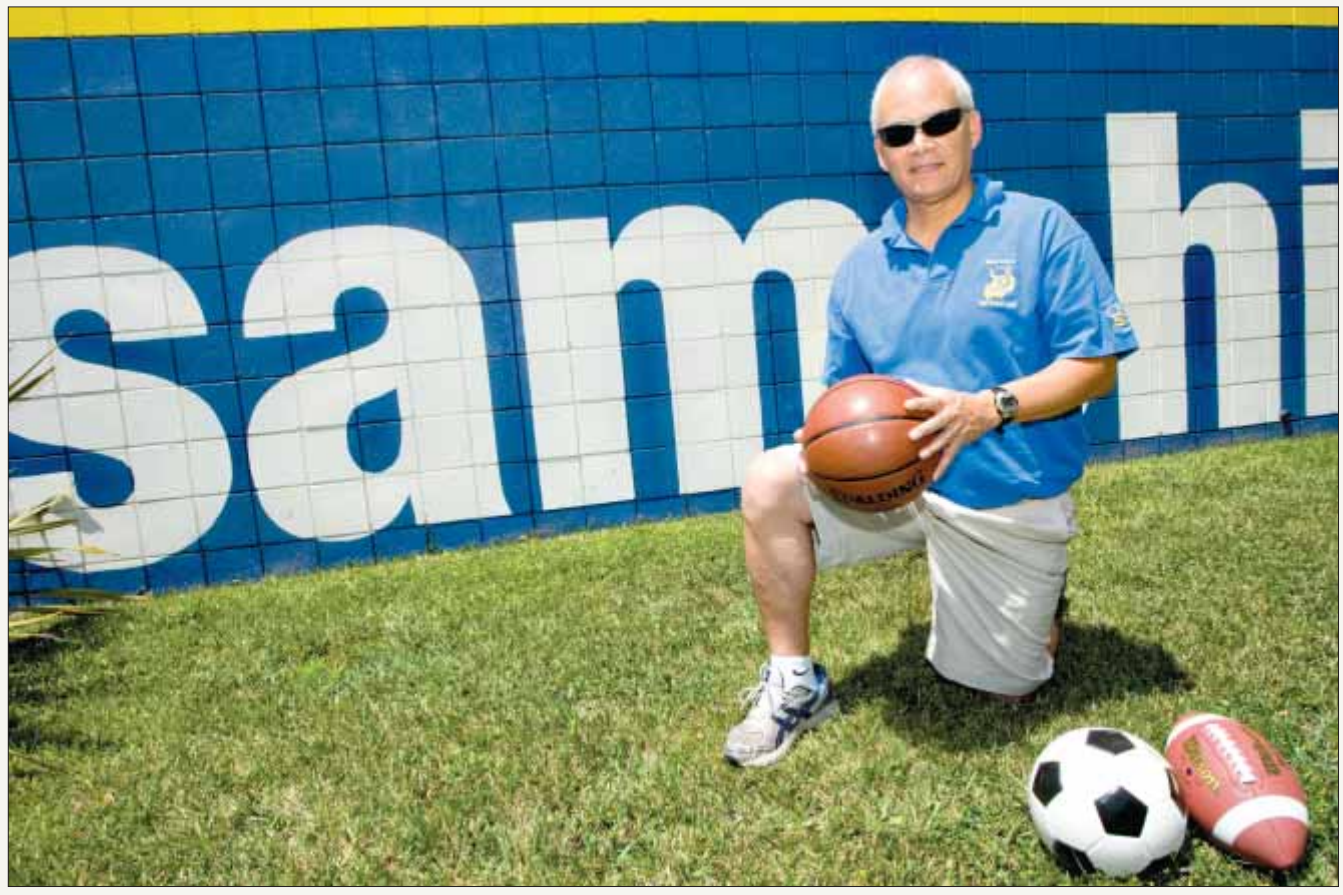
SEE CABS PAGE 8

NEWS BRIEF

McClure Tunnel to be closed

Drivers better avoid the junction of Interstate 10 and Pacific Coast Highway this Saturday from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. as the McClure Tunnel will be closed in both directions so it can get a good spring cleaning, city officials said. Alternate routes will be indicated. For more information, contact City Hall at (310) 458-8411.

DAILY PRESS



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A SPORTING LIFE: **New Santa Monica High School Athletic Director Daniel Escalera was selected last week.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Filling mighty big shoes

New Samohi AD tasked with replacing local legend

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Nobody ever said that replacing the late Norm Lacy as Santa Monica High School's athletic director was going to be easy. Yet, Daniel Escalera and his supporters think he has as good a shot as any.

Escalera, 55, moves to the helm of the athletic department during both one of its darkest and most successful periods in recent history. Lacy, who was the athletic director for the better part of the past decade, passed away late last month putting the department in disarray at a time that one of its marquee programs — softball — was vying for a championship.

For Escalera, the first things that come to mind are preserving what is already in place and contemplating what's to be.

"Hopefully we can maintain what [Lacy] established," Escalera said. "I just have to immerse myself, listen to what people are saying."

Since being selected last week by a hiring committee that included school administration, staff and coaches, Escalera has done his best to press hands and gather what information is available to make sure schedules and facilities are in order for next year.

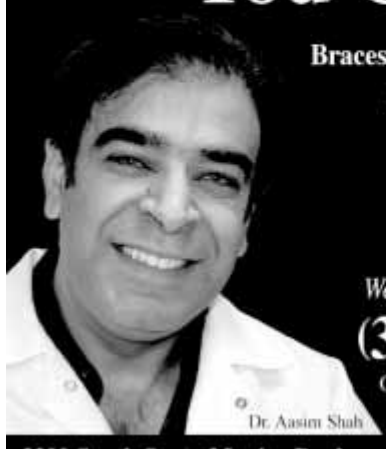
Familiarizing himself with the school community should be a snap for Escalera, who has both coached and taught at Samohi for the past 22 years. In his time, he's been head football coach and has taught economics and world

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Friday, June 25, 2010

Line up for 'A Chorus Line'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
A Tony Award-winning musical about the personal experiences of Broadway dancers, showing at the intimate, 200-seat Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica. Tickets are $23 for adults and $18 for seniors and students. Parking is free. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. until July 31.
For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

On a mission
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 10 p.m. — 11 p.m.
The Mission IMPROVable Show brings its national tour back to the theater that bears its name for a fast, funny night of improv comedy. Audiences across the country have enjoyed the show for the past nine years. The M.i. Show has shared the stage with cast members from MadTV, Saturday Night Live and others. Admission costs $10.
For more information, call Sean Monahan at (310) 451-0850.

Seek antiques
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
The Dorothy Emerson Antique Show and Sale returns to Santa Monica. Dealers from around the country will display antiques ranging from 17th century tapestries to art nouveau. General admission is $10, $7 for Senior Citizens. For more information, call (209) 358-3134.

Assisting Falling Whistles
Agabhumi The Best of Bali/Monkie
2665 Main St., 6 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Presented by Wellness Bags, Agabhumi and Monkie host a benefit for Falling Whistles (www.fallingwhistles.com) whose mission is to rehabilitate and advocate for war affected children in the Congo. All sales from whistles and Wellness Bags, in addition to 20 percent of sales at Monkie and Agabhumi that evening will be donated. DJ Cee Brown will be spinning, hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Admission is free.

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Red, white and boom!
Santa Monica College, Corsair Field
1900 Pico Blvd., 5 p.m.
The annual fireworks display in honor of Independence Day. A spectacular fireworks show to celebrate America and our country's freedom. Admission is free.
For more information, call (310) 434-3005.

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

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Coaches oppose proposed ban on aluminum bats

BY DENNIS LIN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE The familiar "ping" sound of a ball springing off an aluminum bat has long been associated with high school baseball. In Santa Monica and the rest of California, that sound may soon be a thing of the past — at least if a bill proposed by Assemblyman Jared Huffman goes into effect.

Predictably, the legislation to ban metal bats has been met with opposition from high school baseball traditionalists and bat companies alike, but several local coaches aren't too thrilled by the idea, either.

Huffman, D-San Rafael, authored AB 7 in March, after 16-year-old pitcher Gunnar Sandberg of Marin Catholic High School was struck in the head by a line drive. Sandberg, who underwent surgery to remove a portion of his skull and was placed in a drug-induced coma, has since recovered from the horrifying injury.

The bill, which is currently in the state Senate, calls for a one-year moratorium on metal bats and, according to Huffman, would provide time to develop increased safety measures such as composite bats or protective head guards. In the meantime, only wooden bats would be permitted in competition.

"We've got a problem that needs to be addressed in

SEE **BATS** PAGE 8

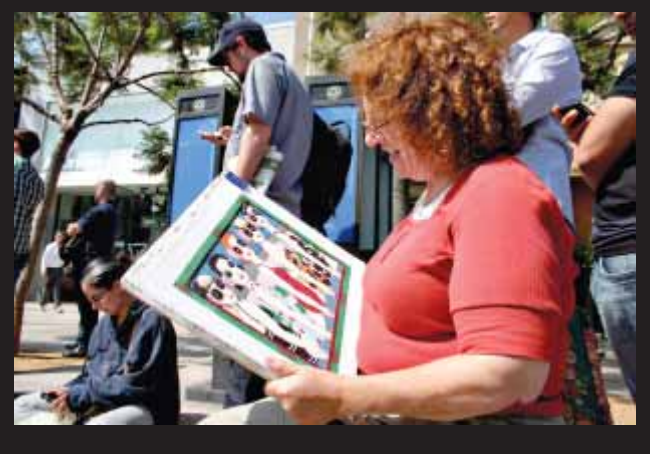


HOLDING PATTERN

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

TOP: Hundreds packed The Third Street Promenade on Thursday in hopes of buying the new iPhone, which went on sale that morning. Police said people were lined up as early as Wednesday afternoon.

RIGHT: Santa Monica resident Debbie Ross practices her needle point on Thursday while waiting in line to purchase the new iPhone. She wants to use the phone's video chat feature to keep tabs on her son.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

Looking for someone new

The Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), charged with advocating for and advancing the status of women and girls in the community since 1981, is looking for a new member.

There is one vacancy beginning on July 1. Those interested in serving on this voluntary commission must be residents of Santa Monica and committed to improving the status of women through advocacy, education, and related efforts. Meetings are held every second Wednesday at 7 p.m., and the public is invited to participate.

With a total of nine members, the COSW makes regular recommendations to the City Council and staff on programs and policies affecting women and girls. The COSW recently prepared a 2010-2015 Strategic Plan outlining the key priority areas commissioners should pursue over the next five years. Other publications include a 2004 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Santa Monica that includes an analysis of selected demographic and social welfare indicators, including comparisons between women and men in Santa Monica.

Since December 2004 when the City Council unanimously voted to accept the Report, the COSW has used this tool to help them better advise the City Council about ways to support women and girls and address gender inequalities. In 2006, the COSW conducted a Work-Life Survey, in an effort to assess how different employment environments affect women's lives and highlight Santa Monica employers who help enhance a positive work-life balance for women through various policies and practices.

Application forms and information are available at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. You may request an application by mail by calling (310) 458-8211, or you may apply through City Hall's website at www.smgov.net. Applications must be received in the City Clerk's Office by noon, Monday, July 12, 2010 to be considered for this vacancy. Applications are also accepted on an ongoing basis for future vacancies. Only the candidates appointed will be notified.

DAILY PRESS

SM BEACH

Community beach house named best venue

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach has been named "Best New Venue" for 2010 by BizBash L.A. Event Style Awards.

BizBash is the leader in event industry trade media, with winners selected by a panel of event industry professionals. The honor was announced at a ceremony held during the BizBash Expo on June 9.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is a distinctive event venue blending modern California style with historic Hollywood glamour, all right on Santa Monica's beach. The Beach House offers a remarkable collection of indoor and outdoor oceanfront settings. The versatile rooms, most with floor to ceiling ocean views as well as outdoor courtyards and decks, accommodate groups as intimate as 10 or as elaborate as 400.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is a public facility located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica. Since opening in April 2009, it has received several prestigious awards, including a Preservation Design Award from the Los Angeles Conservancy. It is also a green facility, having received a Gold LEED rating from the US Green Building Council.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is made possible through a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation at the recommendation of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with California State Parks and the city of Santa Monica.

For more information on Event Services at the Beach House, visit the website at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/plan-your-event/ or call (310) 458-4934.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to go

Editor:

The Santa Monica school board wants to interfere in Arizona state politics ("School board approves AZ boycott," June 23). This explains why our local schools are mismanaged and failing. Instead, they should focus on the problems here and let residents of other states make their own decisions. Santa Monica needs leadership that will address our problems, and that is why Oscar de la Torre and the rest of the board must go, and hopefully this November's election will be a start.

Arthur Rosenberg
Santa Monica

Council needs to ignore developers

Editor:

Dear City Council,

I must urge you to adopt the draft LUCE and to oppose the last minute developer changes. The public has been working on this LUCE for six years and to accept the last minute revisions by special interests makes a mockery of the public review process.

I must ask you to oppose raising the draft LUCE height limits because higher height limits just ruin our community and will eventually result in additional stories being added. This I know from personal experience at 1722 Malcolm Ave. in West Los Angeles.

I must ask you to oppose the Planning Commission recommendation to increase the height to 81 feet for the 1 million square-foot Paper Mate project. This exceeds the draft LUCE height limits. The community has been almost unanimous in their opposition to this project. The general public consensus is that this project should be scaled back to what the current zoning allows – 300,000 square feet and current allowed height limits. We can't handle the existing Water Garden project, let alone another project almost the same size. This is intolerable!

I also must ask you to oppose the proposed change to the way that floor area ratios for residential developments are calculated. This would allow twice as much residential development as LUCE studied and recommended. Our small city is already extremely dense and we can't handle increased density and the traffic this will cause. Just look at Westwood now. Do we want this for our city of Santa Monica?

We don't need another auto mall on Lincoln Boulevard north of Interstate 10. We already have an auto mall on Santa Monica Boulevard that is struggling to survive in these hard economic times. There is no need to create another auto mall on Lincoln. Let's help the existing auto mall on Santa Monica Boulevard survive.

In summary, the people of Santa Monica invested six years in the draft LUCE. To make changes to this draft LUCE now makes a mockery of the public review process and the public won't tolerate this.

Daniel Galamba
Santa Monica

Better spent on signs

Editor:

Regarding the City Council setting aside $25,000 for bicycle safety education ("Council adopts $553M budget," June 17), why not make bike riders safer by posting signs on streets without bike lanes telling bikers where the streets with bike lanes are? How safe is it for bikes or cars on Colorado Avenue or Santa Monica Boulevard when cars in the right lane jam the biker precariously close to parked cars? It is dangerous and negligent when there is a safer bike lane one block away.

Randy Walburger
Santa Monica

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That Rutherford Guy

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

Schools stifling kids' freedom of speech

WHY ARE AMERICANS SO WILLING TO hand over their rights at the first sign of unrest or disturbance? The reason is simple yet troubling: Americans have come to view freedom as expedient and expendable because that's what they've been taught.

Over the past several decades, America's public schools have increasingly adopted the mindset that students have no rights, and school officials have not been reticent about communicating this message to young people. Indeed, this totalitarian outlook has been reinforced by an educational curriculum so focused on preparing students to enter the machinery of the corporate state that there is little time left over for the things they really need to learn such as what their rights are, how to exercise them, and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. As a result, the majority of students today have little knowledge of the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and, specifically, in the Bill of Rights.

Public educators do not fare much better in understanding and implementing the Constitution in the classroom. A study conducted by the University of Connecticut found that while public educators seem to support First Amendment rights in principle, they are reluctant to apply such rights in the schools. Consequently, the few students who do know and exercise their rights are forced to deal with school officials who, more often than not, refuse to respect those rights.

Two recent incidents illustrate how bad things have gotten in the schools:

School officials at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Va. — ironically enough, the much-vaunted home of Thomas Jefferson — ordered the destruction of an eight-page edition of their student newspaper which had already been printed and was awaiting distribution. Why? Because school officials feared that an editorial questioning whether student-athletes need gym class might upset PE teachers. The newspaper, dubiously named The Revolution, was subsequently reprinted minus the editorial.

In Norfolk, Va., two teachers at Norview High School were placed on administrative leave for distributing "unauthorized" materials to their 12th grade government students. The materials, a one-page handout and a video, advised the students about how to deal with police if stopped. Specifically, the materials explain how legal rights apply to police searches of vehicles, homes or individuals and how people can cite those rights during encounters with police.

These two situations barely scratch the surface regarding the hostile nature of today's public school environment, at least in terms of individuality and freedom. For the nearly 50 million students who are attending elementary and secondary public schools, their time in school will be marked by overreaching zero tolerance policies, heightened security and surveillance and a greater emphasis on conformity and behavior-controlling drugs — all either aimed at or resulting in the destruction of privacy and freedom. In fact, the moment young people walk into school, they find themselves under constant surveillance: they are photographed, fingerprinted, scanned, x-rayed, sniffed and snooped on. Between metal detectors at the entrances, drug-sniffing dogs in the hallways and surveillance cameras in the classrooms and elsewhere, America's schools have come to resemble prison-like complexes. Add to this the fact that young people today are immersed in a drug culture — one manufactured by the pharmaceutical industry — almost from the moment they are born, and you have the makings of a perfect citizenry for the Orwellian society in which we now live: one that can be easily cowed, controlled, and directed.

In this way, with the government's power rapidly increasing while that of the individual is subject to all manner of restrictions, the public schools are a perfect microcosm of what is happening across the nation. And while the notion of free speech remains enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution, censorship — once considered taboo in our freedom-loving culture — is no longer a dirty word. Instead, it is what responsible adults must now do in order to ensure that no one is offended or made to feel inferior.

Yet not too long ago, no one would have thought twice about teachers actually teaching the Bill of Rights or students exercising their free speech rights in a written editorial. Today, such acts are looked upon as radical — even revolutionary. Unfortunately, by teaching such a sinister conformity, school officials are raising up a generation of compliant, unquestioning citizens who will march in lockstep with whatever their government dictates.

If we allow the First Amendment to be unmade by the forces of political correctness or whatever it is that is causing the public schools to be so hostile to freedom, we might as well say good-bye to the Constitution as a whole, for it will count for less than nothing.

What can be done? To start with, we need to make sure that our young people are learning what freedom is really all about. And if that is not happening in the schools, then we need to teach them about freedom at home. More importantly, we need to show our young people in word and deed, i.e. by example, what it means to truly exercise and defend one's freedoms.



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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Better Laker than never

A WEEK AGO THE LAKERS WON THEIR 16th NBA championship. This past Monday was the big parade and now it's back to the real world. (Ugh.) But first a few final words (actually, 826) about game seven. During 43 of the 48 minutes I was miserable. During the last five I thought I might need a defibrillator. (My friend, Andy, who's an Indiana Pacers fan, said he would love to be that miserable.)

I started watching the game with friends in the TV room of my apartment building. But I immediately sensed it was going to be too tense for me to just sit. Given that pacing in front of my friends might be slightly embarrassing, I raced to the gym where I could workout while watching. The game was so exasperating that I think I might have burnt out the flywheel on the Exercycle.

Watching the Lakers unravel felt a little like when I lose my keys. I tell myself to relax, but I can't. When the Lakers got off to such a bad start I told myself it couldn't get worse. Except that it did.

With keys, after I've turned my apartment upside down, I begin to panic. With the Lakers trailing by 13 points in the third quarter, forget panic, I was apoplectic. Put it this way, I'd much rather have lost my keys.

I pedaled in 20-minute increments, which registered 300 calories. I hoped that I'd be able to return to the TV room but as poorly as the Lakers were playing (worst I've ever seen them in a finals), I was stuck on the Exercycle.

There I was, cursing at all the missed Laker free throws and Kobe and Pau going a dismal 12 for 40. ("Dismal" is being charitable.) By the final buzzer I had pedaled for 160 minutes and burnt up approximately 2,500 calories. (Afterwards, I ate a box of chocolate chip cookies so, at best, I broke even.)

During timeouts, I questioned how it was that, at my age, the prospect of the Lakers losing game seven could so devastate me. Of course what psychological insights can one expect when watching a commercial featuring animated rapping rats rolling' through the hood in a new Kia?

I was so focused on the game that people coming and going was all a blur. During the final minutes I looked around and realized that I was alone. It was probably for the best because, given my state, a sane person might have called 911.

After the game, I was exhausted and sore. (You'd think I had played rather than watched.) I washed my hands and face, and put on a clean T-shirt. I then joined my friends in the TV room for the post-game celebration. What I needed was some of the champagne the Lakers were spraying each other with.

When NBA Commissioner David Stern went on and on congratulating the Lakers, I couldn't help but think that he sounded like my rabbi. I half expected him to end his speech with a hearty "Mazel Tov!" Like I said, I needed some champagne.

I was finally able to relax and savor the victory. But I couldn't help think that, compared to other sports, the NBA Finals trophy isn't very impressive. It's certainly not the size of hockey's Stanley Cup, which is gigantic. Nor does the "Larry O'Brien Trophy" have the same ring as the NFL's "Vince Lombardi Trophy."

WITH THE LAKERS TRAILING BY 13 POINTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, FORGET PANIC, I WAS APOPLECTIC.

When I think of Larry O'Brien I think of Watergate. It was his O'Brien's Democratic National Committee office that the burglars broke into in 1972. Curiously, it was on June 17, the same date, albeit 38 years later, that the Lakers won this championship. (Where else can you get this kind of useless trivia? And at these prices.)

Speaking of champagne (two paragraphs above) go to YouTube and type "Artest 2010 Press Conference." Ron Artest, the eccentric forward who saved game seven and the series for the Lakers, was hilarious and refreshingly candid. (Or maybe just drunk.)

Grateful for his successful game, Artest credited God and his female psychiatrist. (Artest's, not God's.) Reportedly, Ron-Ron was clubbing in Hollywood into the wee hours of the morning without bodyguards and still wearing his uniform! (Let's hope he showered first.)

Without the Lakers there's now a void in my life (joining other voids). Crazily enough, the day after the championship, ESPN radio ran a repeat of the game broadcast. Is that crazy or what? Even crazier, while I was making dinner, I listened. Commentator Mychal Thompson, a former Laker and two-time NBA champion, was so upset he sounded like me on the Exercycle.

Already sports talk radio shows are upsetting me, "Is Phil going to come back?" And they're already predicting a "Three-peat" for next year. Sure, it sounds great. But, when I reflect back on all the angst of the past 105 games, forget Kobe, I'm the one who needs the off-season to recover.

If **JACK** isn't too busy worrying about whether Phil Jackson will coach the Lakers next season, he can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Keeping it brief

Mayor Bobby Shriver is proposing to make City Council meetings shorter by streamlining the process, limiting allotted time for each member to speak and by making staff reports available before the meetings begin.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think that the meetings are too long and need to be shortened?

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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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Development Review Permit 09-005, 2500 Michigan Avenue Development Review Permit (09DR-005) to renovate the City's Resource Recovery Center with the construction of a new Material Recovery Facility, Buy Back Center, Recycle Drop-Off Area, Household Hazardous Waste Facility, and Self Haul Facility. The item was previously continued by the Planning Commission on April 21, 2010. [Planner: Tony Kim] **APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: City of Santa Monica.**

Proposed AMC Theater Development Agreement Float-Up 1318-20 Fourth Street. The applicant is requesting Planning Commission discussion and feedback regarding a proposed concept plan for the following project that is subject to a Development Agreement: [1] Construction of an approximately 83,000sf Theater building which includes approximately 2,197 theater seats; an approximately 2,100sf retail tenant space; and an interior restaurant space that will be for theater patrons and also open to the public. [2] Removal of 324 existing parking spaces in Parking Structure #3 (demolish structure).. [Planner: Roxanne Tanemori, AICP] **APPLICANT: AMC Entertainment, Inc. & Metropolitan Pacific Capital, Inc. PROPERTY OWNER: City of Santa Monica. *Continued from June 16, 2010; Public Hearing is Closed.**

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment (TA09-006) to amend the off-street parking requirements for Santa Monica Place. Amendment to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.08.030 to modify and clarify the off-street parking requirements for Santa Monica Place. [Planner: Paul Foley] **APPLICANT: Macerich Management Company, Inc. LOCATION: Downtown Redevelopment Plan Area (395 Santa Monica Place) *Continued from June 16, 2010**

Tract Map 10-001, 1242 Chelsea Avenue. The applicant requests approval of Vesting Tentative Parcel Map #71241 (TM 10-001) to subdivide one lot into three (3) airspace parcels in conjunction with a proposed three-unit residential condominium development pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.20.04.020. [Planner: Dennis Banks] **APPLICANT: Mike Schalchi. PROPERTY OWNERS: Minoo Hosseini and Hossein Hosseini.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, July 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

City of Santa Monica

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Project Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8, #9 provide service to the City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Aetna withdraws health insurance rate hike

A state official says a second California health insurer has withdrawn a proposed rate hike after an independent review discovered major errors.

Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner said Thursday that Aetna's rate filing had significant mathematical errors, and would have boosted rates an average of 19 percent for its 65,000 policyholders.

Poizner has ordered independent reviews of all rate hikes made by the state's four biggest insurers for individual policies, to ensure they comply with state law.

California health insurers are required to spend 70 cents of every dollar collected in premiums on medical benefits.

Anthem Blue Cross withdrew a rate hike in April.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Panel approves voluntary rail emission cuts

State air regulators have approved a set of voluntary pollution cuts at four rail yards in Southern California despite overwhelming objections from residents, local air regulators, port officials and environmental groups who called the agreement weak.

The California Air Resources Board has been working on reducing pollution from rail yards for over a decade. The plan approved Thursday could reduce 2005 emission levels by 85 percent by 2020.

The targeted yards are in San Bernardino, Long Beach and the city of Commerce southeast of downtown Los Angeles.

Public comment at the meeting in Sacramento was overwhelmingly opposed to the agreement, with some community members weeping as they recalled friends and family members with health problems believed connected to pollution.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Weinstein Co. restructures by giving up 200 films

Independent movie studio The Weinstein Co. has restructured its debt by giving the rights to 200 movies and about $233 million in receivables to Goldman Sachs and its partner Assured Guaranty, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the matter was meant to be confidential.

The deal finalized this week will also see Goldman Sachs and Assured paid $115 million by Ambac Financial Group, which had initially insured Goldman Sachs' loan to the company.

The Weinstein Co. was weighed down by interest payments on about $500 million in debt. The deal frees the company of that debt while giving it the use of a new credit line for $100 million from Goldman Sachs to produce new movies, according to the person.

The deal was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal and website The Wrap.

Among the older titles being given away are "The Reader," "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," and "Halloween." Meanwhile, The Weinstein Co., founded by brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein in 2005 with about $1.2 billion in equity and debt, keeps the rights to "Inglourious Basterds," "Scream," and an upcoming slate of films including "Piranha 3-D."

Goldman Sachs was able to recoup most of the value of its loan to the struggling studio, while Ambac capped a potential liability of $450 million on the loan guarantee that would have been due in 2014 as it seeks to avoid bankruptcy.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Video expert testifies in train shooting trial

An unarmed black man didn't have both of his hands behind his back when a Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer shot and killed him on an Oakland train platform last year, a video expert testified Thursday.

Michael Schott was called to testify in the murder trial of Johannes Mehserle by defense attorney Michael Rains. The defense has argued that Mehserle struggled for 12 seconds to grab Grant's hands when he was killed on New Year's Day 2009.

Prosecutors have contended that Grant was complying with officers when he was shot.

On Thursday, Schott broke down videos taken by bystanders frame by frame showing jurors key movements prior to the shooting. Schott said Oscar Grant's left hand was free as Mehserle drew his handgun and then shot him in the back while he lay on his stomach.

"It appears to be free and up in the air?" defense attorney Michael Rains asked Schott.

"Yes," Schott replied.

Schott added later that Grant's right arm was at the small of his back and the left hand fell in the same location four-tenths of a second after Mehserle fired the fatal shot. His testimony drew gasps from Grant's family.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Police shoot robbery suspect during arrest

Los Angeles police say officers shot and wounded a man suspected of staging a series of armed robberies at check-cashing facilities in the San Fernando Valley.

Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese says several officers shot the man as robbery-homicide detectives tried to arrest him at about 11:30 a.m. Thursday in the Pacoima area.

Albanese wouldn't provide details but says the man was hospitalized in unknown condition. His name wasn't immediately released.

At the scene, a car with several bullet holes in the rear window was boxed in by other vehicles.

AP

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

You've got to pay to play

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, AT 12:35 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Boulevard (BOA Steakhouse) regarding a customer refusing to pay her bill. Upon arrival, officers were advised by the manager that the suspect ran up a $149.26 bill. The suspect, Mary Taggart, 55, a transient, stated her pockets were sewn shut and she lost her wallet, police said. She was placed under arrest for defrauding an innkeeper. Her bail was set at $500.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, AT 10:11 P.M.,
Officers on routine patrol were flagged down in the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk by an alleged victim of an armed robbery. The victim told officers that he was walking by the sand when a strange man approached him and demanded money. The victim, fearing for his safety, started to give him cash from his wallet. The suspect grabbed the wallet and fled, police said. Officers located the suspect a short distance away. The suspect, Derick Minton, 24, a transient, was booked for robbery and a probation violation. He was not eligible for bail.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, AT 11:20 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1600 block of Lincoln Boulevard (Norm's) regarding a customer that possibly had walked out without paying for his meal. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the suspect. During the contact, officers located marijuana in the suspect's pants pocket. Norm's employees did not wish to prosecute so the suspect, Jim Jones, 27, a transient, was booked for possession of marijuana. His bail was set at $75.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, AT 9:26 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 100 block of Wilshire Boulevard (Fairmont Hotel) regarding a report of someone who failed to pay a bar bill. Upon arrival, officers were advised by security that a patron attempted to place $80.12 on the tab of an individual who checked out the day before. The patron ordered food and beverages at the bar. The suspect had no means to pay for the bill. Security placed the suspect under arrest for defrauding the innkeeper. The suspect, Kathlene Arnold IV, 45, of Beverly Hills, was arrested for defrauding the innkeeper and public intoxication. Her bail was set at $500.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, AT 4:40 A.M.,
Officers were conducting a periodic check for a subject trespassing in the 1200 block of Third Street – rear of Old Navy – after being advised on prior occasions of an individual trespassing on the property. The suspect had been advised that he could not trespass on several occasions, police said. Upon arrival, officers observed the subject lying in the alcove blocking the door. The subject stated he had permission to stay there. However, officers had a signed letter by the owner stating no one had permission to be sleeping on the property. Officers arrested the suspect, Mark Gonzalves, 32, a transient, for trespassing and a probation violation. His bail was set at $1,000.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, AT 11:12 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1800 block of Seventh Street regarding a report of trespassing. The reporting party told officers that the owner was in the hospital and that a relative was in the residence without permission. Upon arrival, officers observed two individuals inside the residence. Through a window, officers were able to see a suspect place narcotics in her front pant pocket. Further investigation revealed that the suspect, Connie Marsik, 56, of Canyon Country, was in possession of a controlled substance (amphetamine), possession of marijuana and narcotic paraphernalia. She was placed under arrest and her bail was set at $10,000.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, AT 4:30 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue (Sears) regarding a theft investigation. Upon arrival, officers were advised by store security that a suspect entered the store and purchased several pairs of shoes with a fraudulent check. The suspect placed the shoes in his vehicle that was parked in the parking lot. The suspect entered the store and attempted to purchase items from several other departments with the fraudulent checks, police said. However, security had advised personnel not to honor the checks. As security attempted to detain the suspect, he fled. Officers conducted an investigation and towed the suspect's vehicle. During the inventory of the vehicle, officers located the suspect's driver's license. The suspect returned and was in possession of a bag from REI. Further investigation revealed that the suspect had purchased items there with a fraudulent check. Officers arrested the suspect, Kemani Foster, 31, of Culver City, for burglary, forgery, forged driver's license, obtaining credit in another person's name and a parole violation. He was not eligible for parole.

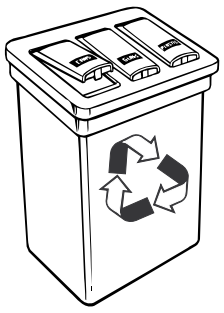
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, AT 9:30 P.M.,
Officers were patrolling the area of 2600 Lincoln Boulevard when they observed an individual riding a bicycle on the sidewalk in violation of Santa Monica municipal code and riding without a headlamp on the bicycle. During the stop, officers were able to determine that the subject had a warrant for her arrest. Officers arrested the suspect and located marijuana on her, police said. The suspect, Tabitha Sapp, 20, of Venice, was arrested for possession of marijuana, a warrant and two municipal code violations. Her bail was set at $10,075.

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news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.



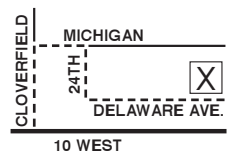


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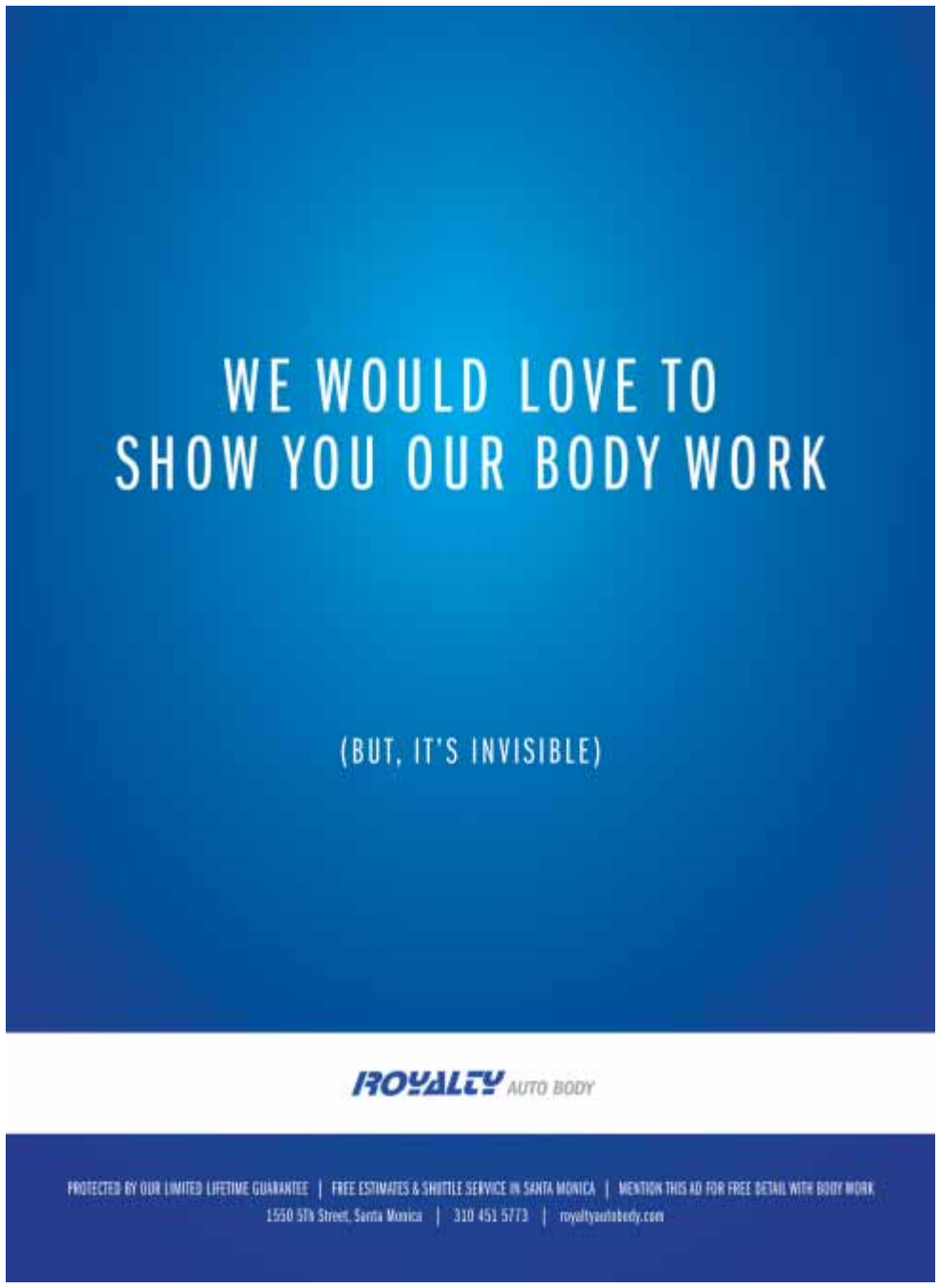
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CABS
FROM PAGE 1

for selecting cab operators was flawed.

"It seemed like they just subjectively picked them and that's really disturbing," he said.

Santa Monica's cab selection committee evaluated proposals based on 10 criteria that included financial viability, environmental friendliness, experience and operator's character. The companies were judged in each category, but neither the score sheets nor the companies' total scores have been made public.

"In all fairness, especially to the people that lost the bid, they should release [the scores]," Gray said. "Why wouldn't they?"

The Daily Press requested the score sheets on Thursday and by deadline had not received them. The City Attorney's Office said the decision about whether to release the information was under review.

Meanwhile, it's not just companies that lost out during the selection process that support a higher level of transparency.

Wendy Radwan, general manager of Taxi Taxi, one of the companies that was recommended for a franchise, said it would "validate" the process if the city released the scores that each company received.

The other recommended companies are: Bell Cab Co., Independent Taxi Owners Association, Metro Cab Co. and Yellow Cab Co.

City Hall officials have defended their decision to keep the selection committee's work private, saying it's a standard practice in the "request for proposal" process to release only staff's recommendations, and not staff's detailed rational.

The City Council has final authority to decide which cab companies will receive franchises and how many cabs each one should be allowed to operate. The council is expected to make its decision in September, with the new system slated to take effect Jan. 1.

While cities have diverse practices for evaluating proposals, some have taken a more open approach to awarding taxi cab franchises.

When Los Angeles awarded cab franchises in 2000, for instance, the city released a list of scores that each applicant received, said Tom Drischler, L.A.'s taxi cab administrator.

Each applicant for the nine available franchises was evaluated in five categories, and each company's total score was made public.

"That's the way we chose to do it in those days," Drischler said. "There's no guarantee that if we go through this process again that's how we'll do it this time."

He said however Santa Monica awards franchises, the fact that the city is reforming its taxi regulation system is welcomed news. He said there are far too many cabs in the city and estimated at least 500 Santa Monica cab drivers have been arrested in the past 10 years for illegally picking up fares in Los Angeles.

In West Hollywood, Parking Operations Manager Jackie Rocco said when the city last awarded taxi franchises companies that received a score of 80 percent or better in the bid evaluation process were recommended by staff for approval. But the city didn't provide detailed information about how each applicant scored, she said.

"You really don't serve any public interest doing that," she said. "Some companies don't make the cut, and they're just not selected."

nickt@smdp.com

BATS
FROM PAGE 3

baseball involving the turbo performance of metal bats," Huffman said. "I think rather than wait for the next kid to get killed or put in a coma we ought to do something."

Huffman pointed to the greater ball speed generated by a metal bat as a driving force behind the legislation.

"You're already dealing with a split-second reaction," he said of the time it takes a well-hit ball to reach a fielder. "When you further reduce it ... common sense tells you you're, at some level, creating a greater safety risk."

Even before debating such concerns, multiple local high school baseball coaches are taking issue with Huffman's involvement. Santa Monica's Sheldon Philip-Guide is among that group.

"I kind of find it strange that they wait for something like this to happen," Philip-Guide said. "I think it should be left up to the authorities of high school baseball."

New Roads coach Sean Brookes agreed.

"Just for the legislator to get involved like that, it's knee-jerk," Brookes said. "I'm not in favor of the bill because of legislation and because they don't have the baseball knowledge."

Huffman said he is pushing AB 7 because he hasn't observed a real move to promote greater safety in the high school game.

"My hope is that baseball officials will step up to this and do it themselves. I don't want to be legislating specific outcomes, but it's not happening," Huffman said.

But St. Monica coach Jack White argues that wooden bats aren't much safer and that incidents like Sandberg's are tragic but rare.

"I think a kid could get hurt just as easily with a wood bat as with a metal bat," White said. "There's such a small percentage of kids getting hurt. Obviously you hear about the ones who do."

Brookes said he doesn't believe a ball struck by a metal bat travels significantly faster than one hit by a wooden counterpart.

"If you hit the ball square on wood and you hit the ball square on metal, there isn't much of a difference," Brookes said.

Added Philip-Guide: "You never want to see something like kids getting hit in the head with the ball, but unfortunately, I think it's still a possibility with a wooden bat."

Also worrisome to opponents of the bill are the financial costs of switching to wooden bats, which break and splinter easily. Whereas a single aluminum bat often lasts for years, a player can go through several wooden bats in a season.

"I don't think we need a moratorium," Brookes said. "It's still going to be expensive, even with composites."

Then there is the necessary adjustment in the way the game would be played in the absence of metal bats. Wooden bats are heavier and thus offer a steep learning curve to high school hitters accustomed to swinging an aluminum bat.

"They're not Major League ballplayers. Some of these kids need metal bats," Pacifica Christian coach Julian Chavez said.

Philip-Guide said banning metal bats would also dull the excitement of high school baseball.

"It's something that would probably take away from hitters for the most part and take away from the game," Philip-Guide said, adding that the "bigger sweet spot" on an aluminum bat provides for farther-hit balls and more offense.

Huffman, though, characterized arguments that wooden bats would detract from the quality of high school baseball as "an extremely narrow view of the game."

He wasn't the only one to counter the point.

"I don't really like aluminum bats," said Samohi pitcher Alonzo Gonzalez, who feels a switch to wooden bats would be beneficial.

"Players would definitely take the art [of hitting] and baseball in general a lot more seriously. … I think you'll see a lot more complete baseball players. I think hitting mechanics would shoot through the roof."

news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PUTTING IN TIME: **New Santa Monica High School Athletic Director Daniel Escalera talks with head volleyball coach Liane Sato on campus on Thursday.**

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 1

history among other subjects. He also spent time across town coaching and teaching at St. Monica, where he graduated in 1973.

"It's important to have a feel for what the coaching life is like on the Westside," he said. "You have to know what's happening, you have to be the fabric of the community."

Escalera's numerous ties to Santa Monica have already won over some of the coaches that will serve under him next year.

James Hecht, who has been the head basketball coach for over two decades, said that Escalera should benefit not only the department but the entire school community.

"He's a seasoned vet," Hecht said. "He knows the landscape of our school and our community … ."

For a number of coaches, maintaining a strong relationship with the new athletic director will be key to continuing the school's recent success in a number of sports.

Marty Verdugo, who led the girls' basketball team to its first California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section title in the sport this past season, wants to continue a relationship with Escalera that he has developed over the nine years they have taught at the school together.

During the team's title run, Verdugo said that he spent a lot of time with Escalera, time Verdugo said was "inspirational."

"I think he's a tremendous choice," Verdugo said. "For me personally, he has a lot of integrity.

"Really a Samo guy through and through."

With his acceptance of the position at Samohi, Escalera leaves behind an assistant coaching position at Loyola High School, where he was a walk-on member of the staff. He'll also cut back on the number of classes he teaches, giving him more time to deal with the workings of an athletic department that saw two teams win CIF-SS titles last year and a third that made it to the finals.

"I'm just real excited," Escalera said. "There are some outstanding coaches and outstanding players at Santa Monica.

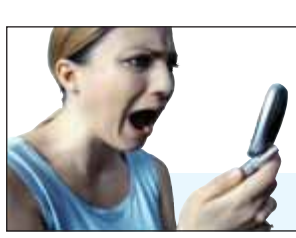
"To be a part of the athletic scene is just amazing."

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Consideration of Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Approval of Statement of Overriding Considerations and Water Supply Assessment and Adoption of the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) of the City's General Plan**

The City Council has held a series of hearings on the Draft Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), with the purpose of receiving public input on and reviewing the LUCE and the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). The LUCE is a long range comprehensive planning document that sets forth integrated land use and transportation policies to guide decision-making and to ensure a sustainable future. It is one of the mandated elements of the City's General Plan. The Draft LUCE was released for public review on November 24, 2009. The Draft EIR was available for comment on January 21, 2010 until March, 8 2010. A Final EIR was released in April 2010. Commencing on June 10, 2010, these public hearings have addressed a variety of topics including, but limited to, discussions on Neighborhoods, Boulevards, Districts, Activity Centers, Mix of Uses, Employment, Housing, Fiscal Health, Community Benefits, Sustainability, Community Character, Circulation, Transportation Demand Management, Public Participation, Monitoring and Phasing and Implementation. At this public hearing on July 6, 2010, City Council will be asked to consider resolutions to: (1) Approve the Water Supply Assessment for the LUCE; (2) Certify the LUCE Final Environmental Impact Report; (3) Approve a Statement of Overriding Considerations and make necessary CEQA findings; and (4) Adopt the Final Land Use and Circulation Element for the City of Santa Monica.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

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

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: LUCE & FEIR
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Francie Stefan at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at Francie.Stefan@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org. The Draft LUCE and the Final EIR is available at www.shapethefuture2025.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

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

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

Latest BP blunder feeds frustration

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS Earlier this month, BP boldly predicted the oil gushing from the bottom of the sea would be reduced to a "relative trickle" within days, and President Barack Obama told the nation last week that as much as 90 percent would soon be captured. But those goals seemed wildly optimistic Thursday after yet another setback a mile underwater.

A deep-sea robot bumped into the cap collecting oil from the well, forcing a temporary halt Wednesday to the company's best effort yet to contain the leak. The cap was back in place Thursday, but frustration and skepticism were running high along the Gulf Coast.

BP's pronouncements have "absolutely no credibility," Jefferson Parish Councilman John Young said. The latest problem shows "they really are not up to the task and we have more bad news than we have good news."

Even before the latest setback, the government's worst-case estimates suggested the cap and other equipment were capturing less than half of the oil leaking from the sea floor. And in recent days, the "spillcam" video continued to show gas and oil billowing from the blown-out well.

BP spokesman John Curry laid out in new detail the company's plans to have additional ships in place that can capture even more oil, and said he understands the frustration.

"We want to do what everybody wants and that's of course to minimize the impact as quickly and efficiently as possible and without injury to any of the workers," he said.

In other developments:

— The spill began arriving in sheets of oil on the Florida coast, forcing the first closing of a beach in the state since the accident more than nine weeks ago, and fouled some of Mississippi's most fertile coastal waters.

— The federal judge who struck down the Obama administration's six-month ban on deep-water drilling in the Gulf refused to stay his ruling while the government appeals.

— Environmental groups asked the court to release additional information about U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman's holdings in oil-related stocks.

At nearly every important juncture since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers, the government's and BP's estimates on the size of the spill, its effect on wildlife and the time frame for containing it have spectacularly missed the mark.

On June 8, BP chief operating office Doug Suttles said the spill should be reduced to a "relative trickle" in less than a week. BP later said it would take more time for the spill to reach a trickle.

Obama used the 90 percent figure last week in his first address from the Oval Office and after meeting with BP officials at the White House, saying the company had informed him that was how much of the oil could be kept out of the water within weeks.

"It just doesn't look like that's in the cards," said Ed Overton, a retired professor of environmental science at Louisiana State University. "We're not even close to that, and the word today is that they were capturing less than the day before. I was hoping the president knew something that the rest of us didn't know. I mean, he was taking to the big shots."

BP said Thursday it was gradually ramping back up to capture about 700,000 gallons a day with the cap, and burning off an additional 438,000 a day using an incinerator ship. Worst-case government estimates are that about 2.5 million gallons are leaking from the well, though no one really knows for sure.

By mid- to late July, the company hopes to have the capacity to capture up to 3.3 million gallons a day, if that much is flowing, Curry said.

It cannot all be done immediately, Curry said, because the logistics of positioning four giant ships capable of collecting oil and connecting them to the seafloor are complicated. "There's a limit to the number of ships in the world that do these type of things," he said.

None of those efforts is expected to stop the leak entirely. The soonest that would happen is August, which is when BP says relief wells being drilled through thousands of feet of rock beneath the seabed will reach the gusher.

That seemed a long way off to many.

In Florida, officials closed a quarter-mile stretch of Pensacola Beach not far from the Alabama line when thick pools of oil washed up, the first time a beach in the state has been closed because of the spill.

Lifeguard Collin Cobia wore a red handkerchief over his nose and mouth to block the oil smell. "It's enough to knock you down," he said.

In Mississippi, which has so far been largely spared from the spill, a large patch of oil oozed into Mississippi Sound, the fertile waters between the state's barrier islands and its mainland.

BP has its supporters, or at least those still giving it the benefit of the doubt.

"I think BP has done more than any oil company has ever done for this kind of spill," said Stephen "Scooter" Resweber, a 62-year-old councilman in Grand Isle, La. "If they are saying 90 percent, they must be pretty confident. That's putting your money where your mouth is."

Others weren't happy about the situation but declined to second-guess the BP engineers.

"I have no clue at all about the correct way to stop it," said Rocky Ditcharo, a seafood dock owner in Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish. "'Powerless' — that's a good word for it."



WORLD CUP

Goal cements Donovan's legacy

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

IRENE, South Africa The words came haltingly, then not at all, as Landon Donovan tried to explain how much the goal meant to him.

He's the greatest player the United States has ever produced and, at times, its greatest disappointment. He's spent the last four years trying to claw his way back from heartbreaks both personal and professional. And for all the introspection and work he's done, he and the Americans were on the verge of yet another World Cup flameout.

So yeah, he celebrated like a 6-year-old on a sugar rush when he scored the goal that will be remembered as one of the biggest in U.S. soccer history. And when it finally all sank in, no way he could — or would — stop the tears.

"In the past, a moment like that wouldn't have felt the same, it wouldn't have felt as good," Donovan said Thursday. "When you put yourself on the line, and you risk things that you weren't willing to risk before and then you're rewarded for it, it feels incredible."

Donovan's evolution is fascinating, on the field and off.

He is the rare star athlete who will give not only a glimpse into his deepest emotions, but a front-row seat. He talks candidly about his struggles on the field and his uncomfortable transition to U.S. soccer's poster boy, and freely admits therapy has helped him work through personal failings laid bare by his crumbling marriage.

He is, finally, a man at peace. But he also knows he can't be whole without success on the soccer field.

On Saturday, the Americans play Ghana — the team that knocked them out four years ago — with a chance to make at least the quarterfinals for only the third time in history.

"It's not a failure if we don't win Saturday, but there's such a massive opportunity to do something so much more special," Donovan said. "And I really want to emphasize that to everybody, and make sure we understand that."

For as much as the Americans like to talk about team and doing something special together, everyone knows they will only go as far as Donovan leads them.

Playing with the unbridled joy and confidence only a 20-year-old can have, he scored twice at the 2002 World Cup as the Americans made a stunning run to the quarterfinals, and was selected as best young player of the tournament. Burdened by the expectations and the hype four years later, he all but disappeared as the Americans stumbled out of Germany without a victory. Just about everyone deserved a piece of the blame, but Donovan took the majority of criticism.

"That was not a good day. For me or for the team," Donovan said when asked about the Ghana game in 2006. "What I remember most personally was my tentativeness and the immediate feeling afterward of the finality of it, and how disappointing that was."

His two unsuccessful stints in Germany only fueled the negativity. Signed by Bayer Leverkusen at 16, he never got in a game in two years and was shipped to the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer in 2001. He went back to Leverkusen in January 2005 and made nine appearances, but lasted only two months before running back to MLS.

Long MLS' undisputed star, he was forced to give up part of his spotlight when David Beckham joined him at the Los Angeles Galaxy. It was an uneasy partnership, and Donovan ripped the England midfielder's leadership and effort in "The Beckham Experiment," the highly critical book chronicling Beckham's first two seasons in America. Donovan eventually apologized for airing his thoughts in public, and the two have since repaired their relationship.

Put it all together, however, and Donovan seemed like just another spoiled athlete who'd failed to live up to his promise.

"He got criticized quite heavily after the last World Cup, and he's worked hard and pushed himself to get to this level," Carlos Bocanegra said. "It's nice for him to get the winner for us. It kind of shows his work has paid off, his mentality has changed."

Donovan gives much of the credit for his growth to his estranged wife, Bianca Kajlich. Kajlich is an actress, and seeing her have to battle for even the smallest roles made him realize he was squandering his talent.

What he had was a gift, not a burden.

Though Kajlich and Donovan broke up last July, the split was a turning point. The two are still on friendly terms — Donovan blew a kiss into the TV camera for her during his postgame interview Wednesday night — but he realized it was time to take a long, hard look at himself.

"Sometimes you learn more from those moments than anything, and for me certainly that was the case," he said at the U.S. training camp last month. "And it doesn't have to be ugly. It doesn't have to be nasty. It can be helpful and you can grow from it, and that's what we both took out of it."

The change is noticeable to anyone who's watched Donovan in South Africa.

Down 1-0 to Slovenia at the half after giving up yet another early goal, the old Donovan would have sulked, unhappy with his teammates and himself. His head wouldn't have been in the game, certainly not enough to have the poise and patience to score the gorgeous goal that sparked the U.S. comeback.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

Swell Forecast

Other south facing breaks are looking at waist high sets, mostly from lingering southern hemi. A touch of wind swell is expected around west facing breaks, knee to waist.

Long Range Synopsis

AM sessions are looking at size similar to Friday, but the afternoon should see some chest high sets at south facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **June 15, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 45 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 1 / ns

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
Los Cerrillos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay 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

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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Charlie Chaplin retrospective: double feature
The Circus (NA) 1hr 11min
The Gold Rush (NA) 1hr 12min
7:30pm

Call theater for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Get Him to the Greek (R) 1hr 49min
12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

Jonah Hex (PG-13) 1hr 21min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

Knight and Day (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Shrek Forever After 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 33min
12:15pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:25pm, 9:45pm

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

Grown Ups (PG-13) 1hr 42min
10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Get Him to the Greek (R) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:05pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

The Karate Kid (PG) 2hrs 20min
12:40pm, 4:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Knight and Day (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:40am, 2:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:45pm

Toy Story 3 in Disney Digital 3D (RealD 3D) (G) 1hr 49min
10:05am, 11:00am, 12:05pm, 12:50pm, 1:50pm, 2:50pm, 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 5:40pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 9:15pm, 10:15pm, 11:00pm

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

Winter's Bone (R) 1hr 55min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Sun Behind the Clouds (NR) 1hr 19min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 9:50pm

Please Give (R) 1hr 45min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Solitary Man (R) 1hr 45min
1:20pm, 3:30pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

The A-Team (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:35pm

Sex and the City 2 (R) 2hrs 27min
12:20pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Splice (R) 1hr 44min
12:00am, 5:10pm, 10:25pm

The Karate Kid (PG) 2hrs 20min
11:40am, 3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Killers (PG-13) 1hr 33min
2:35pm, 7:50pm

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Grown Ups (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

TGIF, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your desire to connect with family or stay close to home could stun you. Ideas fly in and out of your mind. A power play can only be won by not playing. Fatigue marks your decisions. A friend inspires you to risk and go in a new direction. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. Out and about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You have a tendency to say what you feel, but in your own time. Suddenly an impulsiveness takes over that could shock even you. Respond to someone who is vague. Ask questions. Tonight: Choose an adventure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others keep asking you for this and that. The issue for you remains difficult. You don't want to jeopardize a situation that could involve finances. Slow down. Detach. Tonight: How about a get-together with a friend?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Work continues to demand your attention, though you would like to relax or go enjoy yourself. Focus on the main issues. Know that you can and will clear your desk. Tonight: Finish. Don't start anything new. Don't push.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Avoid worrying about a situation too much. You don't need to agree with others; you simply need to present your thoughts. Someone close is unpredictable and could surprise you. Add more imagination into your day, and others' too. Tonight: Your evanescent, sparkling self is requested.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Understand what is going on with a family member by walking in his or her shoes. It might be difficult to get a clear response. A child or a loved one could be demanding past your limits. Walk away without any words, for now. Tonight: Head home first, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Conversations with those you look up to prove to be most rewarding. Unexpected developments could force you to regroup. A family member acts out in order to get your attention. Tonight: TGIF. Meet a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Honor your limits. You can find an alternate way to the same place if you stop thinking in the same old groove. Your sense of direction informs you when to pull out of a controlling situation. Tonight: Just don't overdo it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others might go back and forth. You know what you want, and even if someone tosses you a foul ball, you know what to do. A boss could be touchy. Smile within. Be grateful that today is Friday. Tonight: Christen the weekend in your unique style.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Do only what you must, and postpone any major decisions. Suddenly, a partner becomes much more verbal than in the past. In a week or so, you might long for a return to what was! For now, keep your opinions to yourself. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Focus on friends, associates and meetings. A lunch could become the end of your workday. If you can schedule a late lunch, do. A partner or associate might have a very grim or difficult attitude. Tonight: Find your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Continue assuming a high profile, whether you like it or not. You might have to act like a boss on a project. If you allow a close friend, associate or partner to rain on your parade, he or she will. Tonight: Join work friends for a little relaxation.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you often verbalize feelings that in the past you would have kept hush-hush. Unexpected realizations pop up out of nowhere. Avoid those who attempt to control you. You cannot win with them. Communication could be touchy with a neighbor or relative this year. If you are single, it will take a full year to get to know someone new. You will have surprises during the process. If you are attached, the two of you seem to connect on a very deep, soulful level. CAPRICORN can challenge the living daylights out of you.

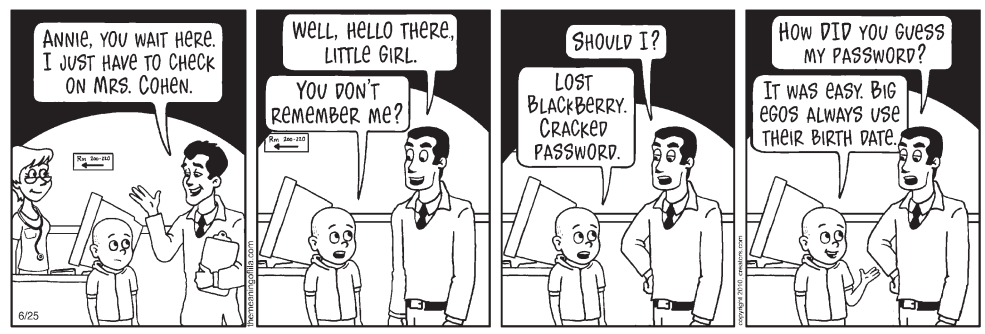
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



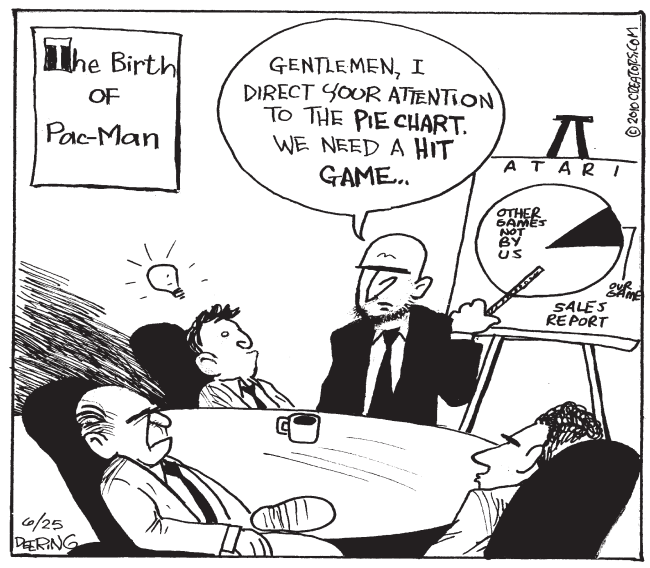
Garfield

By Jim Davis



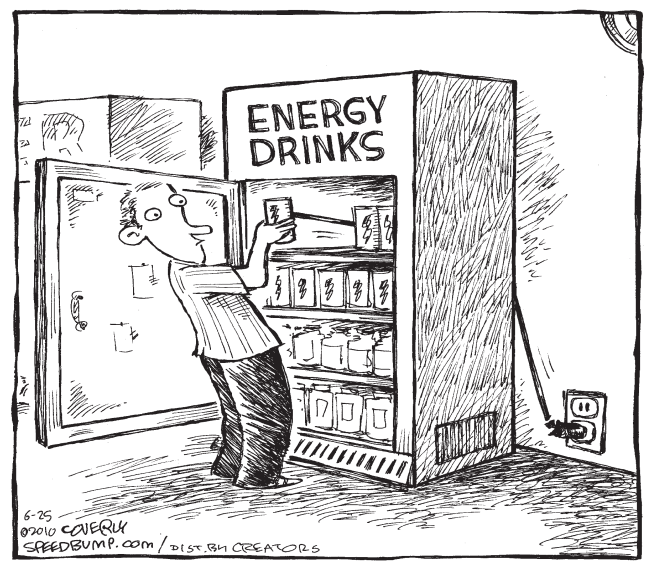
Strange Brew

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 ★★★★

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

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

ARITHMO™ CrossMath

+ × − ÷

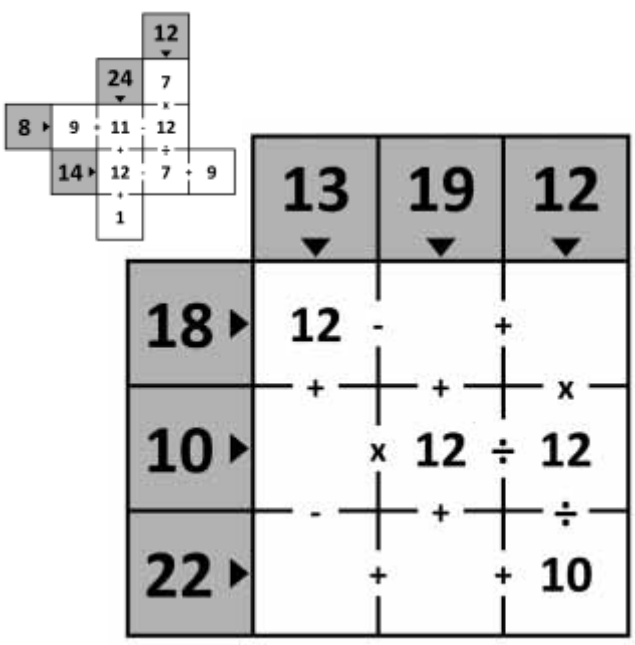
• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 4, 9, 10, 10

Solution 36 for Thursday





MYSTERY PHOTO

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Surfer's ride
5 Not recorded
9 Volunteer's phrase
11 Putting to work
13 One of Donald's exes
14 Monte —
15 Greedy one
16 Challenging words
18 Provoked
20 Follower's suffix
21 Golfer Sam
22 Aware of
23 Acct. addition
24 Cal. abbr.
25 No longer fizzy
27 Shower attendee, usually
29 Umbrella part
30 Slipped into
32 Ruler measure
34 Metal source
35 Traded
36 Dwelling
38 As expected
39 Reliable
40 Storage site
41 Cpl.'s subordinates

DOWN

1 Chickens
2 Looks forward to
3 Atlantic resort
4 Angled pipe
5 Clear
6 "No man — island"
7 "Mrs. Dalloway" author
8 Join up
10 Maze runner
12 Reached
17 Danger signal
19 Budget amount
22 "It's either you —"
24 Jurist Abe
25 Ring bearer of fiction
26 Sheets
27 Comic first baseman
28 Skiing variety
30 Lugged
31 Is lacking
33 Chimney part
37 Jazz style

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	■
9				10	■	11				12
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			19				■	20		
■	21					■	22			
■	■	23			■	24			■	■
25	26			■	27				28	
29			■	30						31
32			33				■	34		
35					■	36	37			
38					■	39				
■	40				■	■	41			

6-25

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 12 17 21 23 30 Meganumber: 24 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 13 23 33 34 38 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: $8M

FANTASY 5: 3 22 34 37 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 8 0 EVENING: 9 2 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 09 Winning Spirit 3rd: 07 Eureka RACE TIME: 1:41.40

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

■ (1) Scottish TV personality Drew McAdam, a professional body-language reader who advises the "Five's Trisha" talk show on whether guests with fabulous stories are telling the truth or not, was rejected for jury duty in May after being called by the Livingston Sheriff Court. (Obviously, at least one of the lawyers thought his side would have a better chance without an "expert" lie-detector evaluating witnesses.) (2) Restaurateur Ted Bulthaup told WRTV in Indianapolis in May that he had finally convinced the Internal Revenue Service of a rare, "five-figure" income tax reduction based on years of unusual "disaster" losses. Bulthaup proved to the IRS that he was making good money until Conseco Fieldhouse was built in his downtown neighborhood (occupied 40 nights a year by the mediocre Indiana Pacers NBA team), which caused his business to fall off sharply.

■ Walter "Butch" Rubincan, 46, was charged in February in Newark, Del., as being a serial thief with perhaps a 20-year habit, specializing in men's shoes. When not out taking things, Rubincan (who "kept to himself," according to neighbors) is a medical technologist at two local hospitals, a part-time actor, and a one-time championship figure-skater. When police investigators first visited Rubincan's home, they discovered 3,900 shoes in about 150 boxes and bags (along with a few more upscale items and stolen photographs of young men), and Rubincan finally admitted he needed help.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1982 Greece abolishes the head shaving of recruits in the military.

1991 Croatia and Slovenia declare their independence from Yugoslavia.

1993 Kim Campbell is chosen as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and becomes the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

1996 The Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia kills 19 U.S. servicemen.

1997 An unmanned Progress spacecraft collides with the Russian space station, Mir.

1997 The Soufrière Hills volcano in Montserrat erupts resulting in 19 deaths.

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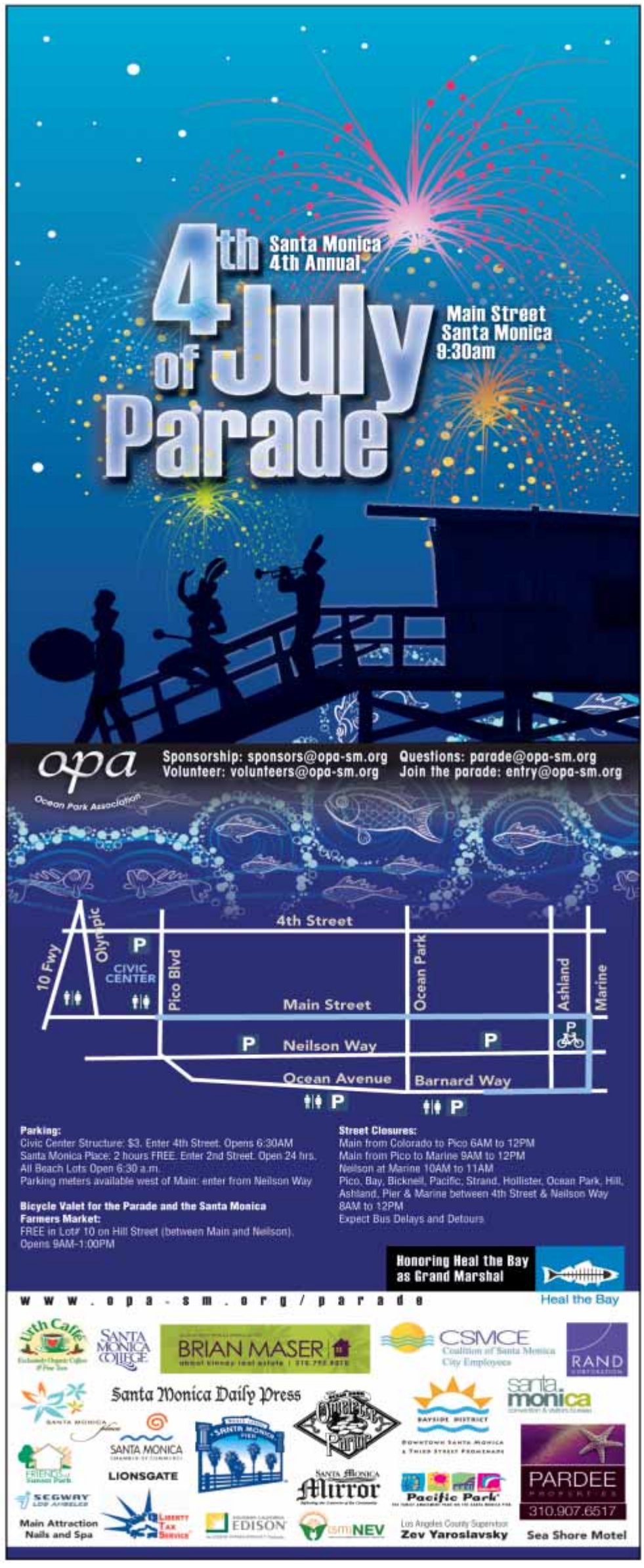
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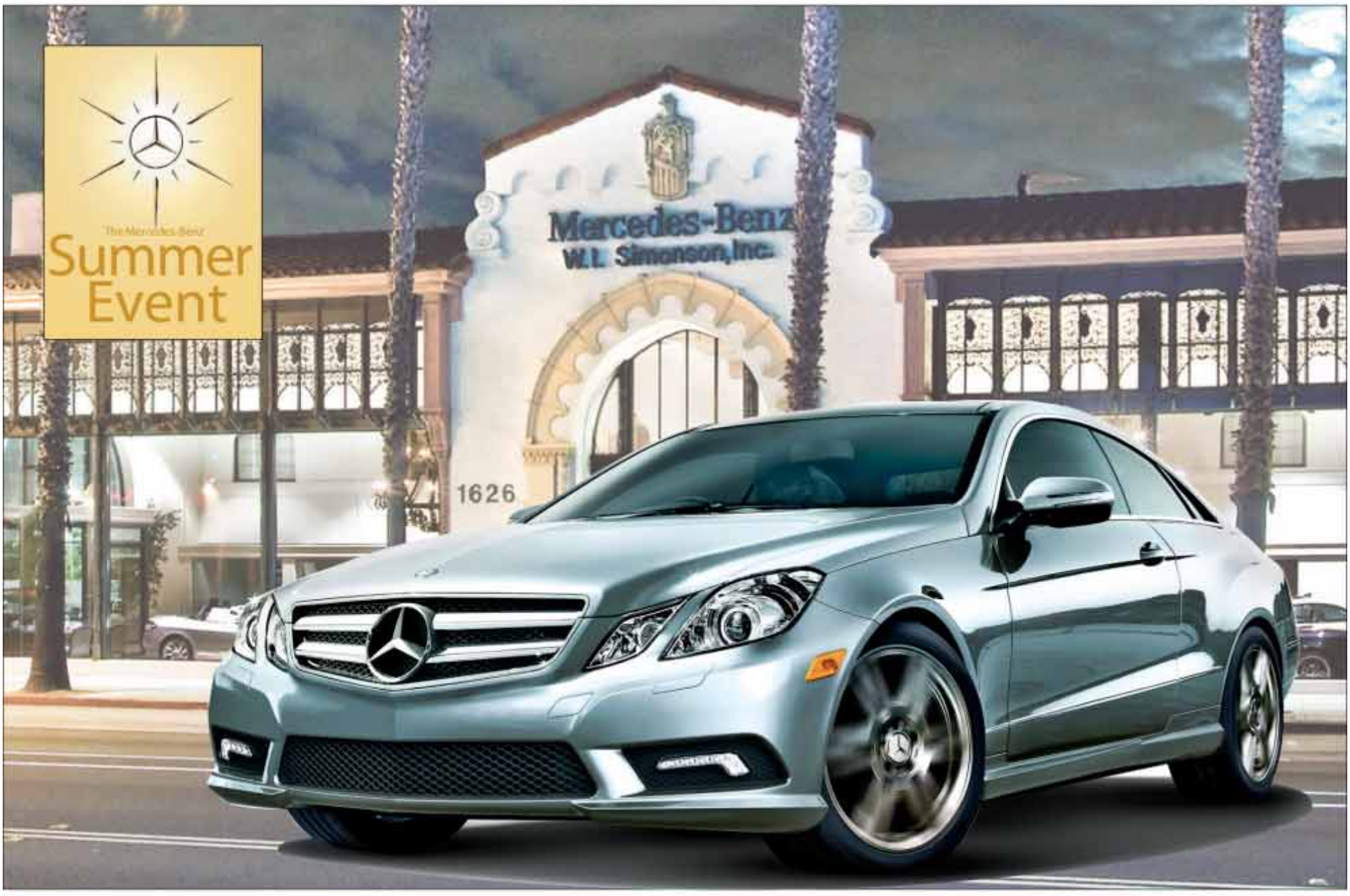




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