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THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 193

Santa Monica Daily Press

READY FOR THE PROS
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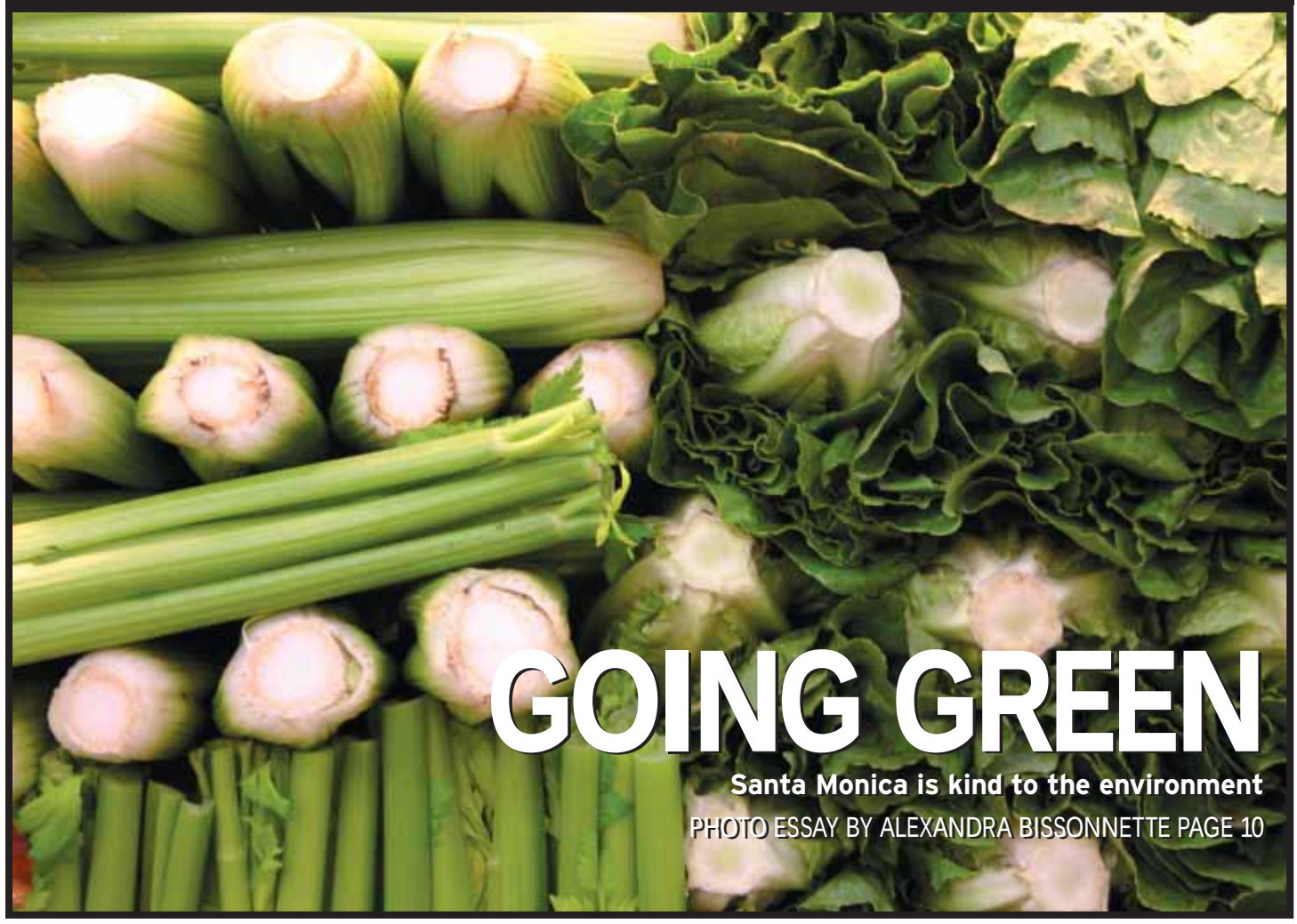
Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FLYING ON A JET PLANE ISSUE

A DAY IN THE LIFE



GOING GREEN

Santa Monica is kind to the environment

PHOTO ESSAY BY ALEXANDRA BISSONNETTE PAGE 10

Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

Sexual abuse policy to be overhauled

Board considering changes to procedures mandating superintendent be notified of allegations

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS A new district policy will mandate that the superintendent be notified of all sexual abuse allegations involving students, the proposed rule following criticism that a 2006 sexual molestation claim involving a recently arrested Lincoln Middle School teacher went unreported to top administrators.

The Board of Education is scheduled to adopt a number of changes to the Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting Policy at its meeting tonight.

The action might be postponed to late July at the request of an ad hoc committee which has been reviewing related district protocol and procedures since early this month.

The pending rules come as the district's policy has been criticized by parents for a loophole that allowed a 2006 sexual molestation claim to go unreported to district leaders.

Thomas Beltran, who taught for nearly 30 years in the district, was arrested in early May on sexual molestation allegations, one of which was investigated by then Principal Kathy Scott in 2006. In the days following Beltran's arrest, a letter from Scott to the police department regarding the investigation was forwarded to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, which did not have a copy on file. The letter states that the school had received a report from a student who said she was uncomfortable remaining in Beltran's class because of the way he was touching her.

The March 2006 letter mentions that Scott discussed the situation with Beltran who was upset that his actions were misinterpreted. Scott advised Beltran, who taught English as a Second Language, not to touch any of his female students to protect himself from further misinterpretation.

The teacher was never charged in the incident because there was insufficient evidence to tie him to a crime, but those allegations have since been folded into the case.

Beltran has been charged with sexual molestation claims involving eight students, incidents dating back to 2000.

One of the biggest policy changes comes in the reporting procedures, requiring that the principal file a confidential incident report form and report it to the superintendent.

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 12

Measure heads to ballot

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A campaign that seeks to limit commercial growth will come before voters in the fall, the measure placed on the ballot by the City Council on Tuesday after hearing a report that the initiative could hurt local revenue streams to the tune of millions of dollars.

A team of consultants retained by City Hall presented the findings of their nearly two-month-long analysis of the Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic (RIFT), the study finding that the ballot measure could negatively impact City Hall's general fund and unintentionally drive up commercial rent by creating a decline in supply.

Authored by the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, RIFT would place a cap on commercial development to 75,000 square feet annually, the proponents arguing that such growth has gotten out of control in Santa Monica, leading to more traffic into and out of the city as well as congested streets.

The measure specifies that the limit on commercial development would not apply to the following uses: Residential, parking, schools, child and senior day care facilities, hospitals and other specified care facilities, places of worship, and government facilities.

Additionally, the limit is expressly made inapplicable to "neighborhood-serving goods, services or retail uses" located on the ground floor of a housing development if 100 percent of the dwelling units in the development are designated "affordable" by City Hall. Additionally, the limit would be inapplicable to any project that does not require approval of the Planning Commission or City Council under either state law or under local law in effect on Jan. 16, 2008.

The measure includes exemptions for any project with a vested right of development and for any use beyond local voters' regulatory power. The measure also states that an exemption would apply in any instance

SEE MEASURE PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Exploring geisha culture

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Workshop-style introduction to the make-up, kimono dress, dance and tea service rituals of Japan's unique geisha subculture. Space is limited. Seating is first come, first served at this free program.

Time for yoga

235 Hill St., 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Mixed-level class designed to slowly and carefully work on strength, flexibility and balance. The focus is on unblocking the resistance in joints, muscles and minds, and restoring the weak energy links in our mind/body system.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.
The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

Friday, June 27, 2008

Salsa dancing with Isabelle

1334 Lincoln Blvd. 7:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Enjoy a night of learning to salsa dance by partying with classmates afterward. Isabelle will host a 90-minute class on salsa dancing, followed by a small social gathering with music and free drinks. All it takes is $20 and a will to learn. For more information, contact Isabelle at (310) 392-2493.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
02 Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

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.

CORRECTION

In "Exodus on Main Street" (page 1, June 21-22), it should've stated that the Main Street Business Improvement Association is currently lobbying City Hall to secure free employee parking at the beach lot.

Top NBA draft talent prepares for future in St. Monica's gym

BY MICHAEL MIDDLEHURST-SCHWARTZ
Special to the Daily Press

ST. MONICA The small gym at St. Monica High School is a far cry from the Staples Center or Madison Square Garden.

But over the past two months, NBA hopefuls have flocked to the school to prepare themselves for bigger venues.

Since the end of the college basketball season, powerhouse sports agency Wasserman Media Group has used the St. Monica gym as its workout center for nearly a dozen of its clients hoping to be selected in tonight's NBA draft.

Rob McClanaghan, Wasserman's director of player development, brought additional weight equipment into the gym so players could train when not playing basketball.

"It's been great," McClanaghan said of the gym. "It's been our one-stop shop for training ever since we got everything in there."

Several years ago, the Los Angeles-based agency made Santa Monica its training base for players preparing to be drafted. Clients are encouraged to move to the area to work with McClanaghan and compete against other draft prospects.

McClanaghan said that having a set workout center helps localize a draft process that can include several cross-country trips for players working out for each team.

"It makes it easier to have that base," McClanaghan said. "It's a central location and the guys who move out here can live a few minutes away for easy access."

Memphis guard Derrick Rose, Texas guard D.J. Augustin, Louisiana State forward Anthony Randolph, and Italian forward Danilo Gallinari are among the Wasserman clients who have made the trek to the West Coast to work out in Santa Monica.

Additionally, California natives Russell Westbrook (UCLA), Brook and Robin Lopez (Stanford), and Davon Jefferson (USC) have all worked out at St. Monica.

All but Jefferson are predicted to be first-round draft picks. Rose, Gallinari, Westbrook and Brook Lopez are expected to be among the first 10 selections in the draft.

Kevin Love, a UCLA product who was born in Santa Monica, is also expected to be a top-10 selection. Love is not a Wasserman client.

The gym has mostly been utilized as a place to train between workouts for prospective NBA teams. Wasserman has only had personnel from one NBA team observe one of its players' workout sessions.

Scouts and executives from the Miami Heat spent Saturday at St. Monica watching Rose work out with McClanaghan and B.J. Armstrong, a former NBA player and Rose's primary agent.

Expected to be the No. 1 overall selection in the draft, Rose declined an earlier workout in Miami with the Heat, who hold the No. 2 pick in the draft.

But Rose invited the Heat to watch him train in Santa Monica so that he would not have to travel across the country multiple times before attending the draft in New York City.

news@smdp.com

Photo courtesy Don Liebig/ASUCLA

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG TIME: **UCLA's Russell Westbrook was among a number of pro prospects who worked out at St. Monica's gym to prepare for today's NBA draft.**

Old tires find new purpose on Pacific Coast Highway

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

PCH Those stuck in bumper to bumper traffic on Pacific Coast Highway can while away the hours contemplating the smoother, more durable and more sustainable surface underneath their wheels.

Last week, the California Department of Transportation began tearing up and repaving one lane of PCH from Temescal Canyon Boulevard to the McClure Tunnel. While it may seem impossible for a highway paving project to be environmentally friendly, CalTrans' use of recycled tires in their Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) is just one of their many efforts toward sustainability.

Because California has more registered vehicles than any other state, it generates more than 40.2 million reusable and waste tires each year. Despite state efforts, about 1.5 million of these waste tires are illegally dumped or stockpiled, threatening public health, safety and the environment.

In 1989, the state Legislature passed the California Tire Recycling Act, mandating that the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) regulate and manage waste tires. CalTrans' use of tires in its RAC paving has been rated the "Best and Highest use" by the CIWMB.

"It's a way to reclaim old tires so they don't sit around in some landfill," explained CalTrans spokesperson Judy Gish. "RAC is not only cost-

SEE TIRES PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

RIFT is a bad bet

Editor:

At Tuesday's meeting, the City Council discussed a new study on the potential effects of the RIFT initiative that will appear on the November ballot. As a long-time resident of Santa Monica , former mayor and police officer serving this city, I have serious concerns about the initiative's negative effect on the city's budget, and consequently on the high level of city services our residents currently receive.

The study showed a potential negative impact of $11 million less annual city General Fund revenue. Not outlined in the study was what city-funded services and projects would be impacted by this.

Through a diverse and strong local economy and good fiscal planning by our city leaders, the city of Santa Monica has historically provided high levels of funding for important city services benefiting our residents, including our police and fire departments and school district.

We also receive a high level of additional services, including street improvements, tree trimming, library and cultural services and environmental programs. What would you "trim" first?

This is a debate I hope we do not have to have in the future, because Santa Monica residents must vote no on the RIFT initiative in November. Its potential negative economic impact on our city's resources and services is too great, and in these times when our economy is in peril, this is not a gamble we can afford to make.

Nat Trives
Former mayor, Santa Monica

Fat isn't funny

Editor:

According to Lloyd Garver ("Do a push up, go to jail," page 4, June 21-22), one should strive to in fact not be physically fit, and therefore probably risk a variety of extremely poor health conditions to go along with that. I would surmise by his poor and personally skewed interpretation of an already limited study, that we should all sit around and eat chips and watch T.V. The association between being physically fit and being a criminal is absurd, not to mention the fact that he leaves out important evaluations of the study such as, "This study is a pretty weak gauge."

It was also limited to Arkansas, where it was noted that most people entering the prison system there are on coke or meth which gives them the appearance of being fit and muscular.

And by the way, if Lloyd actually read the study, there was no strength evaluation done and it was all based on appearance and measurements. As it was also noted that it's unlikely that someone not in shape is going to commit a crime where they would have to run away quickly.

And if we were to teach this information in schools we would basically be promoting childhood obesity which we are already seeing the health ramifications of now. How destructive can one be to not promote being healthy and fit in all walks of life?

And what does it say about you Lloyd that you're "suspicious" of people who have good bodies? Maybe a little therapy is in order if you're harboring that much insecurity.

What should be taught in schools is don't believe everything you read; most, if not all, research studies are flawed; and eat well, get plenty of exercise, keep a positive outlook in life and avoid the horrendous number of diseases so much of our population is experiencing because they are not fit.

Judith Avery
Santa Monica

Your column here

Maria Fotopoulos

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

CBS blasts an entire way to make a living

FORMER WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY Scott McClellan made Santa Monica his second in-store stop last week on his U.S. book tour to discuss "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception," writing which confirms what most of us already know having lived through eight years of Bush failures.

But from McClellan's memoir has come a side story that's raised the ire of an entire industry.

Imagine you were a member of the legal profession and one of the three major television networks said, "All lawyers are liars and the ultimate white liners; they are the scourge of the country."

You might be a little upset.

Well, that's essentially what CBS News did on that most-often benign of shows, CBS Sunday Morning. But lawyers weren't the target; the charge was against public relations practitioners. The person making the broadbased, ill-founded rant was CBS' legal analyst Andrew Cohen, who put McClellan in the role of poster child for the entire public relations profession.

Cohen said, "Show me a PR person who is 'accurate' and 'truthful,' and I'll show you a PR person who is unemployed."

He went on to say, "The reason companies or governments hire oodles of PR people is because PR people are trained to be slickly untruthful or half-truthful. Misinformation and disinformation are the coin of the realm … ."

Are there bad PR people? Of course. Does the whole profession stink? Of course not.

Accuracy and truthfulness are the underpinnings of public relations. What I heard repeatedly in my first corporate PR job was the importance of building relationships — relationships built on being a reliable, credible source, one who responds in a timely manner with accurate information. If a PR person loses credibility with the media and the public, he's got nada.

And what exactly do PR people do? They are one component (not always though, of course) of a journalist's story. They offer information necessary for a journalist to write a factually accurate story. A good PR person has a thorough understanding of the business he's working for or the client he's representing — "a place at the table" — so he knows of what he speaks.

As with other professions, public relations has professional organizations that develop standards and best practices, as well as offer continuing training. Two of these organizations, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), offer accreditation programs, which require a deep understanding of the profession, including ethics.

McClellan is accredited by neither organization.

When McClellan went to work for then Texas Gov. Bush, he was all of 30 years old — not exactly a seasoned professional. As McClellan tells it, he was very optimistic and idealistic going to Washington, D.C., working for a man who had a 70 percent popularity rating while governor. McClellan says he had great expectations of working in a bipartisan manner.

Obviously that didn't work out, and McClellan, who left the White House in 2006 as the second of four (thus far) press secretaries for Bush, has had time to sort out why as he wrote through his book.

Cohen's biggest miss in painting the entire PR profession black, with McClellan as the epitome of lying PR liars who lie, however, is that McClellan was working in an organization that's completely distorted, ill-equipped for the commission of its responsibilities and manipulative.

A rotten organization breeds a rotten culture and rotten players, regardless of their original intent or "natural" tendencies. The real side story is what happens when an unseasoned but reasonable and principled person ends up working for an organization that begins failing and continues in a downward spiral.

Given what we know of the Bush White House, discussion and dissension are not admired. Anyone who has worked in the average large corporate setting knows voicing contrarian views generally is not viewed favorably — and thus most people fall in line. Group think prevails. Add on 18-hour days and just trying to do one's job.

Yes, this is beginning to sound like an apologist's brief for McClellan. It's not. Let's go back to the Bush administration as a rotten organization. Such an organization would want a weak player in the press secretary role. This is a job seen as a necessary evil, but not a position to truly serve the function of intermediary in getting out the truth.

So Mr. Cohen, cut some slack to the good PR people and even to McClellan and leave your contempt for the people — Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Condee, Perle, Wolfowitz — who truly deserve that special place in Hell.

MARIA FOTOPOULOS is a public relations professional in Los Angeles and may be reached at mariaf@turbodogcommunications.com.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Recipe for disaster

WITH THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN presidential nominees all but certain at long last, Family Circle magazine has launched its fifth annual Presidential Cookie Bake-Off, in which readers are asked to vote for their favorite recipe submitted by the candidates' wives.

Besides the affections of taste buds everywhere, winners of the previous four contests have also won what some believe to be an even greater prize — a spot next to her husband in the White House, making the outcome of the cookie contest even more significant.

As such, a collective gasp was heard by mortified Republicans from coast to coast last week when it was discovered that the wife of their party's presumptive nominee, Cindy McCain, had plagiarized her recipe for oatmeal-butterscotch cookies (the same ones she had claimed were an "absolute must" at family gatherings) from the Hershey's Web site.

The incident marks the second time this year that Mrs. McCain passed off a stolen recipe as her own (a passion-fruit mousse recipe she had posted on her husband's campaign Web site was apparently cut and pasted directly from the Food Network site).

But not to be outdone in the kitchen, or anywhere else, by the spouse of the presumptive Democratic nominee, Michelle Obama (whose own shortbread cookie recipe has yet to be protested by Mrs. Field's, Betty Crocker or Duncan Hines, and who appeared on the cover of the last issue of Us Weekly), Cindy McCain sat down for an interview that will be printed in next month's Good Housekeeping to offer a more intimate look at her life than anything a recipe or a glossy tabloid could ever reveal.

She says despite her cookie and mousse faux pas, she really is a fabulous cook. Her best, most original dish starts with two all-beef patties, which she insists always come from 100-percent domestic cows ("I won't serve an animal that wasn't proud to be slaughtered on American soil by an American," she said).

The next step is the addition of her special sauce, the ingredients of which her family and friends have been begging her to divulge for years. "I always tell them I'll take it with me to the grave," Mrs. McCain laughs.

On top of the beef, she places a layer of crisp iceberg lettuce, followed by cheese, pickles and onions.

"Pile it all onto a sesame-seed bun, and you've got instant smiles at the dinner table. Mmmm, mmmm," Mrs. McCain said, patting her pale-pink cashmere sweater-set over her taut stomach.

While it has often been reported that Arizona Sen. John McCain and his current wife met at a military reception in Hawaii, Mrs. McCain reveals exclusively to Good Housekeeping that, in fact, she was a single mom, raising three young girls, when she and her future first husband had their initial encounter.

All of her daughters had hair of gold, just like her, though the youngest one got a perm that resulted in curls, setting her apart from her siblings and mom and their pin-straight hair.

At the same time, Sen. McCain was busy with three boys of his own. They were four men, living all together. "Yet in some ways, it was as if they were all alone," Mrs. McCain said, her eyes welling up. As such, she said she'll never forget the day she met her fellow. She knew it was much more than a hunch that their groups would somehow form a family.

"And that's the way we became the good ol' McCain bunch," she beamed, tears of happiness streaming down her perfectly rosy cheeks.

Mrs. McCain goes on in the interview to share that her favorite book is James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces," which she calls "an astonishing account of addiction and survival." She says it kindled in her the desire to write a memoir someday, but only if she can get acclaimed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin to help.

"She's so good with those kind of books, isn't she," Mrs. McCain said.

And besides her husband and President George W. Bush ("Everyone will forever admire his service in the Texas Air National Guard," she remarks solemnly), she said her real hero is legendary marathoner Rosie Ruiz.

"A woman running all that way is just astonishing. Back when most women were probably too scared to even compete. What an inspiration for me and my daughters. To all women, really."

The next issue of Good Housekeeping will be on newsstands in early July. The results of the Presidential Bake-Off will be released in the Nov. 1 issue of Family Circle.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Flashing Lights

The new Pacific Wheel at Pacific Park features 160,000 LED lights that put on quite a show once the sun goes down. While the new Ferris wheel has been widely celebrated as a vast improvement over the old wheel there are some that feel the lighting design is a tad too much.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Is the new Ferris wheel too bright or just right?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.

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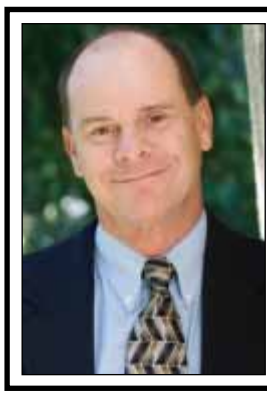

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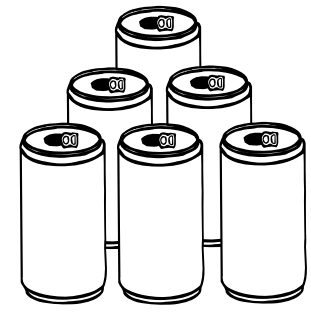

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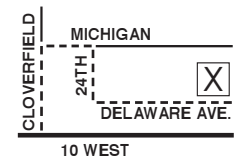

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Lawsuit against policy on immigrants tossed

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A judge on Wednesday threw out a lawsuit that challenged a long-standing policy under which Los Angeles police officers do not inquire about the immigration status of most suspects or other people they encounter.

Superior Court Judge Rolf M. Treu ruled that Special Order 40 does not conflict with federal or California law.

The policy is intended to reduce fear of police in immigrant communities, and it is supported by Police Chief William Bratton and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. California has more illegal immigrants than any other state.

Special Order 40 dates to 1979. It has most recently been a lightning rod in the issue of crime and illegal immigrants since the killing of a local high school football star, allegedly by a reputed gang member who is an illegal immigrant and had just been released from jail.

The lawsuit filed in April 2007 sought to force officers to inform federal immigration officials when illegal immigrants are arrested on drug charges.

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of unidentified police officers who were said to be afraid to speak out but argue that the policy creates a situation in which the same illegal immigrants are repeatedly arrested when they could have been deported.

In ruling, the judge granted motions for summary judgment in favor of the Police Department and the American Civil Liberties Union, which intervened in the case.

Hector Villagra, an ACLU attorney, said the decision affirmed that the federal government, not local law enforcement, is responsible for carrying out immigration law.

Had Special Order 40 been thrown out, Villagra said, "They are asking for carte blanche to engage in racial profiling."

The lawsuit relied on a section of California's Health and Safety Code that states that in drug cases involving a non-citizen, "the arresting agency shall notify the appropriate agency of the United States having charge of deportation."

Plaintiff's attorney Paul Orfanedes said he was disappointed in Treu's ruling and would consider an appeal.

Orfanedes said there are 800,000 law enforcers in the U.S., and that in Los Angeles and elsewhere they could be effective eyes for government in terms of immigration.

"They are being gagged. It's don't ask, don't tell as regards to legal status," Orfanedes said.

Los Angeles police officers do not ask about immigration status while interviewing victims, witnesses and suspects, and do not arrest people based on immigration status. Officers do involve immigration officials if a suspect is a gang member who has been previously deported or if a suspect is arrested for a felony or multiple misdemeanors.

In the Los Angeles County jails, the Sheriff's Department is increasing efforts to weed out illegal immigrants. The Sheriff's Department began interviewing inmates at the beginning of 2006. More than 10,000 inmates at the jail have been referred to federal authorities for possible deportation.

Out-of-state help arrives for tired NorCal fire crews

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Fire crews from Nevada and Oregon have arrived to help California firefighters battle hundreds of blazes that are darkening the sky over the San Francisco Bay area and Central Valley, leading public health officials to issue air-quality warnings.

The lightning-caused fires have charred tens of thousands of acres and forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes, though few buildings have been destroyed, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"It's just extremely, extremely dry," Berlant said Tuesday. "That means any little spark has the potential to cause a large fire. The public needs to be extra cautious because we don't need any additional wildfires."

Elsewhere in the state, residents were ordered to evacuate an area of Monterey County on Wednesday because of a huge blaze that started before the lightning storm.

More than 800 wildfires were set by a storm that unleashed nearly 8,000 lightning strikes across Northern California over the weekend.

The storm was unusual not only because it generated so many lightning bolts with little or no rain over a large geographical area, but also because it struck so early in the season and moved in from the Pacific Ocean. Such storms usually don't arrive until late July or August and typically form southeast of California.

"You're looking at a pattern that's climatologically rare. We typically don't see this happen at this time of summer," said John Juskie, a science officer with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. "To see 8,000, that's way up there on the scale."

The storm struck as California was experiencing one of its driest years on record. Earlier this month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought and directed agencies to speed up water deliveries to drought-stricken areas. Many communities have adopted strict conservation measures.

Areas hit the hardest by the weekend thunderstorm include Mendocino County, where 131 fires have burned more than 13,000 acres and threatened about 500 homes; Butte County, where 25 fires have burned more than 3,900 acres and threatened 400 homes; and the Shasta-Trinity Forest, where more than 150 fires have burned about 8,000 acres and threatened 200 homes.

SAG: Studios offered more to sister union

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES The Screen Actors Guild on Wednesday accused major Hollywood studios of offering a contract deal worth less than an agreement approved by the leaders of a smaller actors union.

SAG executive director Doug Allen told The Associated Press the offer to the guild was worth tens of millions of dollars less than the tentative contract reached with the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

The deal with the federation was reached during a temporary halt in the talks between SAG and the studios.

"When we came back to the table, what they offered us, then and since, is tens of millions of dollars less than the AFTRA deal itself," Allen said. "It's obvious that they are trying to get us to bargain up to a deal they already know is unacceptable."

SAG declined to immediately provide details on the differences in the offers.

Months ago, the guild had vowed to gain a better contract than its sister union in areas such as residual payments for DVD appearances, mileage reimbursement and fees for Internet content.

Jesse Hiestand, a spokesman for the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, declined to comment on the bargaining position of studios.

"We are approaching the conclusion of the process," he said. "The bargaining continues."

SAG is urging the 70,000 members of AFTRA to vote against the tentative contract deal reached May 28 because its terms would handcuff ongoing negotiations between SAG and the studios. In response to the guild's statement Wednesday, AFTRA said "SAG hasn't won any increases for its members — perhaps because it's been too busy trying to undermine the AFTRA deal to be able to negotiate one of its own."

The unions share 44,000 members.

Results of the AFTRA ratification vote are due July 8. The contracts of both unions expire Monday. Allen has said the guild was willing to negotiate past the end of the contract without calling for a strike vote by members.

The two unions share 44,000 members.

The labor groups split acrimoniously in March over accusations of member poaching and decided to negotiate with the studios separately for the first time in 27 years.

Scientists think big impact caused a two-faced Mars

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Why is Mars two-faced? Scientists say fresh evidence supports the theory that a monster impact punched the red planet, leaving behind perhaps the largest gash on any heavenly body in the solar system.

Today, the Martian surface has a split personality. The southern hemisphere of Mars is pockmarked and filled with ancient rugged highlands. By contrast, the northern hemisphere is smoother and covered by low-lying plains.

Three papers in Thursday's journal Nature provide the most convincing evidence yet that an outside force was responsible.

According to the researchers, an asteroid or comet whacked a young Mars some 4 billion years ago, blasting away much of its northern crust and creating a giant hole over 40 percent of the surface.

New calculations reveal the crater known as the Borealis basin measures 5,300 miles across and 6,600 miles long — the size of Asia, Europe and Australia combined. It's believed to be four times bigger than the current titleholder, the South Pole-Aitken basin on Earth's moon.

Astronomers have long puzzled over Mars' landscape ever since images beamed back in the 1970s showed different-looking halves. An orbiting spacecraft later observed the northern lowlands were on average 2 miles lower than the southern highlands and had a thinner crust.

Scientists who had no role in the studies said the latest research strengthens the case for a colossal Martian impact, but it does not rule out the other theory that hot rock from inside the planet could have welled up and formed the different crusts.

"The betting odds have gone up a lot in favor of the impact model," said Walter Kiefer, a staff scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston.

State attorney general sues Countrywide Financial

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Countrywide Financial Corp. is accused of using misleading advertising and other unfair business practices to trick borrowers into taking on risky home loans they didn't fully understand in a lawsuit filed Wednesday by the California attorney general's office.

The lawsuit — filed on the same day Countrywide shareholders approved the company's takeover by Bank of America Corp. — stems from information gathered under subpoena after the state launched a probe last year into the troubled company's business.

It also came on the same day Illinois attorney general filed a lawsuit alleging Countrywide engaged in "unfair and deceptive" practices to get homeowners to apply for risky mortgages far beyond their means.

In the complaint filed in Superior Court, California Attorney General Jerry Brown asserts that Countrywide violated the state's unfair business practices and false advertising laws with just about every action it took to market and originate some of the most popular — and potentially risky — types of home loans in recent years.

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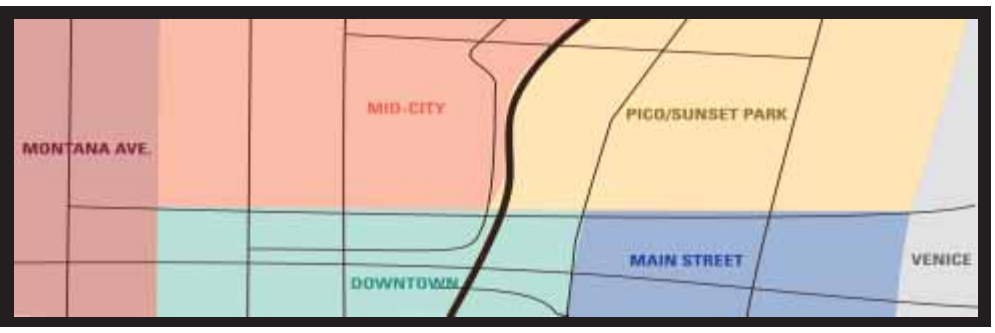

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A DAY IN THE Life

A weekly slice of life culled from one of Santa Monica's more interesting aspects, "A Day in the Life" turns the focus on the everyday and thrusts the oftentimes overlooked into the spotlight.

GOING GREEN | THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008

Photos by Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

EARTH FRIENDLY: **(Left) A clothes line is an environmentally sound way to let nature do the work that the dryer would do. (Above) Bikes, which have been an increasingly popular means of transportation in town, are locked to trees and meter posts.**

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ROUGH RIDE: **Last week, the California Department of Transportation began tearing up and repaving one lane of Pacific Coast Highway from Temescal Canyon Boulevard to the McClure Tunnel.**

PCH project to cost $7M

FROM **TIRES** PAGE 3

effective but can also reduce noise and provide significant environmental benefits."

Gish says she has received "a lot of positive feedback" regarding the RAC used on PCH and in other Los Angeles projects.

According to Gish, RAC is used on about 15 percent of all CalTrans paving projects, including the I-710 Freeway repaving project from PCH to the I-405 in Long Beach and the I-405 HOV lane from Route 90 to I-10 and PCH. She reports that drivers laud the material as "wonderful, smooth, quiet."

Besides their current use of RAC, CalTrans has demonstrated its commitment to the environment by using rocks excavated from various projects to make concrete for other projects, by employing low-sulfur diesel, alternative fuels, and particulate traps in their "Green the Fleet" effort and their stormwater program that captures pollutants from storm drains before the waste water can enter the ocean.

The $7 million PCH project is scheduled for completion in early 2009.

news@smdp.com

Huge raid targets indicted L.A. street gang members

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Hundreds of police and federal agents swept through the city's northeast area Wednesday, raiding homes and serving search warrants on members of a notorious gang that authorities say has long terrorized the neighborhood and was involved in a deadly police shootout in February.

The raid in Glassell Park was aimed at members of the Drew Avenue clique of the Avenues gang. A federal grand jury indictment returned June 12 and released Wednesday accused 70 people of racketeering, murder, attempted murder of police officers, drug and weapons trafficking, witness intimidation and other crimes.

Police Chief William Bratton compared the street gang to the Mafia and said members faced long federal prison terms if convicted.

The Avenues gang has "been rooted here for a number of generations" and people in the area "are in essence terrorized" by them, Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell said.

More than 500 federal, state and local agents arrested 28 people on charges contained in the indictment and four others for federal immigration violations, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Those arrested included Francisco "Pancho" Real, 26, who was accused in the indictment of being a gang "shot caller," or ringleader. He was arrested in neighboring Glendale.

Another 26 people named in the indictment already were in custody and 16 were being sought, authorities said.

Those already in custody included Real's mother, Maria "Chata" Leon, 44. Twice deported as an illegal immigrant, she was arrested in April and charged with felony reentry into the United States from Mexico. The federal indictment accuses her and some of her children of drug-dealing and other crimes. Authorities seized 35 firearms during the raids.

Authorities contend the gang members are part of a generations-old group that controls cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking in their area, levying "taxes" on dealers that they share with the Mexican Mafia prison gang. Prosecutors contend the gang also stages home invasion robberies, extorts money from businesses and sells guns in the graffiti-scarred neighborhood.

The gang members, which used clothing with skull designs to identify themselves, virtually control their neighborhood through violence and intimidation, authorities contend.

"Today's enforcement action deals a major blow to a ruthless criminal organization whose violence and brazenness has made them notorious even among other street gangs," said Robert Schoch, special agent in charge of the Los Angeles office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Monica Diaz at the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8215, or by e-mailing your request to monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

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Study reveals financial impact of RIFT

FROM **MEASURE** PAGE 1

where six-sevenths of the council finds that applying the limit would cause an unconstitutional "taking" of the owner's property.

The initiative qualified for the November election when a petition consisting of more than 10,000 signatures was submitted during the spring, SMCLC spending roughly 10 weeks drumming up support at supermarkets and other locations of public assembly. The council ordered an impact study of RIFT shortly after the petitions were submitted.

If passed, the provisions of the initiative would be written into the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), which will dictate development for 20 years or longer.

While the measure has received support from a large sector of the public, several city officials and business leaders have blasted RIFT as hijacking the public process that has taken place in the formulation of LUCE.

Among the opponents is Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, who said that RIFT was written by a small group of individuals without any public process, adding that it has divided the community and calling it "the rift."

"The LUCE on the other hand has been an extraordinary public process," Bloom said.

Several RIFT supporters pointed out they attended numerous LUCE meetings over the past few years but saw their wishes for a lower-scale city ignored by the process.

"What I come to believe … is there is failure to listen to residents," Mary Marlow, a board member with the Ocean Park Association, said. "That is why you're seeing RIFT come up."

But RIFT could have several unintended consequences, according to a team of economic and traffic analysts who concluded that while the initiative appears to be successful in its intention to reduce traffic, it would discourage small local retail and favor businesses that would generate more traffic, such as offices and chain stores.

The consultants compared the economic and traffic impacts based on three different scenarios, including a "baseline" projection that assumes current conditions imposed on development continues, the passage of RIFT and the adoption of LUCE.

Their findings showed that a system based on RIFT would result in 4 percent fewer vehicular trips in 2023 than the baseline projection, the initiative's outlook showing that it would generate only one percent fewer traffic than if LUCE was adopted in its current incarnation.

The reason can be attributed to the transportation demand management plan that would be imposed on developers under the LUCE, which makes the pledge of no new net trips, according to the consultants.

Jeff Tumlin, a principal of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, added that RIFT would cause a scarcity in development, leading to higher rent for businesses.

"As a result, higher value uses such as office and formula retail will tend to out compete local service for new space," Tumlin said. "The result is that there will be a modest increase in vehicle trip rates in to Santa Monica."

A loss in commercial development under RIFT could also lead to approximately $11.8 million less in revenue for the general fund as compared to the baseline projections and $11.4 million less compared to LUCE.

The majority of the loss will come from the hotel's transient occupancy tax, sales tax and business license tax.

"Residential development produces revenue from fewer sources than commercial development and generally speaking, commercial development does a much better job of offsetting public service cost," Paul Silvern, a consultant with Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler, Inc., said.

Several RIFT proponents criticized City Hall for employing consultants who they say represent major developers. They pointed out that the consultants have worked with City Hall on LUCE in the past, including economic analyst Bill Whitney, Silvern and Tumlin.

"The city spent $100,000 of residents' money to 'swiftboat' RIFT," Diana Gordon, co-chair for the SMCLC, said. "Despite residents pleas for a fair, complete and impartial study, the city paid their insider consultants, who represent major developers and who are promoting a whole lot of new commercial growth for Santa Monica to 'study' RIFT.

"It's like paying foxes to do a thoughtful, unbiased study on how best to use hens."

Councilmembers Pam O'Connor and Bob Holbrook were appointed to draft an argument against the measure while Councilmember Kevin McKeown was tapped to prepare a defense of the measure. Both arguments are due by July 8.

Holbrook expressed some concerns he had with the initiative, particularly its potential effect on hospital construction, pointing out that many people rely on the facilities in Santa Monica.

"Personally, I think it's a mistake to move authority away from elected council," Holbrook said.

McKeown said that there is a misperception that LUCE and RIFT are at adds with one another, adding that RIFT doesn't stop all growth, but rather paces and manages it.

"It doesn't appear to cripple our local economy, what it does is cut commercial expansion by about half and many people in this community think cutting by half would be a good thing," McKeown said.

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Policy proposes reporting cases to superintendent

FROM **DISTRICT** PAGE 1

"The superintendent will be required to keep all cases," Mike Matthews, the assistant superintendent for human resources, said. "We just think it's good practice."

Another change will make it the district's responsibility to provide abuse prevention curriculum to ensure all children are educated on child abuse, learning ways in which they can identify an unsafe situation.

"It's our responsibility to have curriculum at every level," Matthews said.

Changes could also be in store for the sexual harassment policy, which is scheduled to come before the board for the first round of discussions on Thursday.

The staff will recommend that cases of sexual harassment be reported to the superintendent through the confidential incident report form.

The policy will also require that employees avoid closed-door meetings with only one student after school. The policy addresses incidents involving students.

The policy revisions were studied following the formation of an ad hoc committee in May, the district inviting a group of parents and teachers to review existing procedures.

> **"THE WORK OF THE PARENTS HAS RESULTED IN A POLICY THAT WILL STRENGTHEN REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE PART OF BOTH TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN."**
>
> Oscar de la Torre
> President, Board of Education

"The work of the parents has resulted in a policy that will strengthen reporting and accountability on the part of both teachers and administrators to ensure the safety of our children," school board President Oscar de la Torre said.

The ad hoc committee met last Thursday to review the proposed changes.

Michael Chwe, a Lincoln parent and ad hoc committee member, said that more discussion is needed before the district rushes into adopting a new policy.

"A new policy is required immediately, but at the same time, the purpose of establishing a new policy should be to better protect the children in the SMMUSD, not to simply make the SMMUSD appear more responsive," Chwe said.

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A rash of suicides reported in national parks during 2008

BY MIKE STARK
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY Having mailed a farewell letter to his family back in Minnesota, Jerry O. Wolff stepped off a shuttle bus on a sunny Sunday morning and disappeared into Utah's rugged Canyonlands National Park.

"I am gone in a remote wilderness where I can return my body and soul to nature. There is no reason for anyone to look for me, just leave me where I am," he wrote.

No trace of Wolff has been found since he was last seen May 11. Park officials assume the 65-year-old biology professor committed suicide.

Millions of people come to national parks each year to enjoy the splendors of wildlife and natural beauty, but a tiny fraction arrive with a grim agenda.

So far this year, at least 18 people have committed suicide in America's national parks, from the swamplands of the Everglades and the beaches of Cape Cod to the rain-soaked forests of Olympic National Park and the bleak expanse of the Mojave Desert.

For some, the parks are apparently just a convenient place to end it all. Others, though, seem to seek out the beauty and solace of these spots.

"Parks hold a special place in people's hearts," said Al Nash, a spokesman at Yellowstone, where five suicides have been recorded since 1997. "There are some individuals who feel it's important to have that kind of connection in those final moments."

As for Wolff, Jim Hughes, the police chief in his hometown of Sartell, Minn., said the St. Cloud State University professor had been to Canyonlands before for research. As for why he apparently took his life, Wolff had "some personal issues," the chief said. But he said he had no details.

The day after Wolff disappeared, searchers found the body of a 27-year-old man who drove into Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction, Colo., parked on the side of a road, walked about 200 yards away and shot himself.

At the same park last October, a 57-year-old woman drove her station wagon off a 250-foot cliff. A few weeks later, a 63-year-old man drove to an overlook at the park called Cold Shivers Point, sat on a rock outcropping overlooking a valley and shot himself.

"It's become known in this area as a place that suicides are happening, but you can be sure the staff here are doing everything we can to prevent them," said Joan Anzelmo, superintendent of the Colorado National Monument.

Rangers are trained in suicide prevention, and park officials are contemplating closing certain areas at night and adding more guardrails. Employees in places like Grand Canyon are taught to keep an eye out for notes taped to steering wheels.

Ten people have killed themselves at the Grand Canyon since 2004, the most of any park in recent years, according to the Park Service. The 1991 movie "Thelma & Louise" — which ends with the pair driving off a cliff in a classic Thunderbird convertible — has been blamed by some for a string of copycat suicides at the Grand Canyon, even though the scene was actually filmed at a state park in Utah.

Former tough-guy actor sets sights on U.S. Senate

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. Sonny Landham carved out a tough-guy reputation in a series of big-screen roles, from roughing up Sylvester Stallone to getting tossed out a window by Carl Weathers. He pulls no punches in his newest role: Libertarian challenger to a man known for political toughness, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Now 67 and living in northeastern Kentucky, the man who played Billy Bear in "48 Hours" and was killed by an alien in "Predator" admits his action-movie days are behind him. "I think I'm having wild action when I take two aspirin with my hot chocolate at night," he quipped.

The actor known for his powerful physique, booming voice and his American Indian heritage says he's serious about his longshot bid, because too many politicians are indifferent to voters' problems.

Landham refers to McConnell, a four-term Republican, as "Boss Hogg" after the corrupt politician from "The Dukes of Hazzard" TV show. He bluntly called Democratic candidate and millionaire businessman Bruce Lunsford an "elitist."

Even President Bush is a target: "He took us into a war on lies," Landham said, claiming the actual intent was "to put 'Big Oil' back into Iraq."

To qualify for the November ballot, Landham must collect at least 5,000 valid petition signatures by Aug. 12. State Libertarian Party Chairman Ken Moellman said the petition drive began recently and he believes Landham will make it.

But the bid includes some campaign baggage that seems scripted for Hollywood, instead of socially conservative Kentucky. Early in his acting career in the 1970s, Landham bared it all in adult films.

Asked whether that could hurt him politically, Landham replied, "What can I do? That was a part of my life you cannot call back."

But he does express regrets.

"If I was going to do it now — knowing that I'm going to have four children, knowing that I was going to run for office — no, I wouldn't make that choice," he said. "But at the time I made the choice of getting a paycheck, staying alive for your big break."

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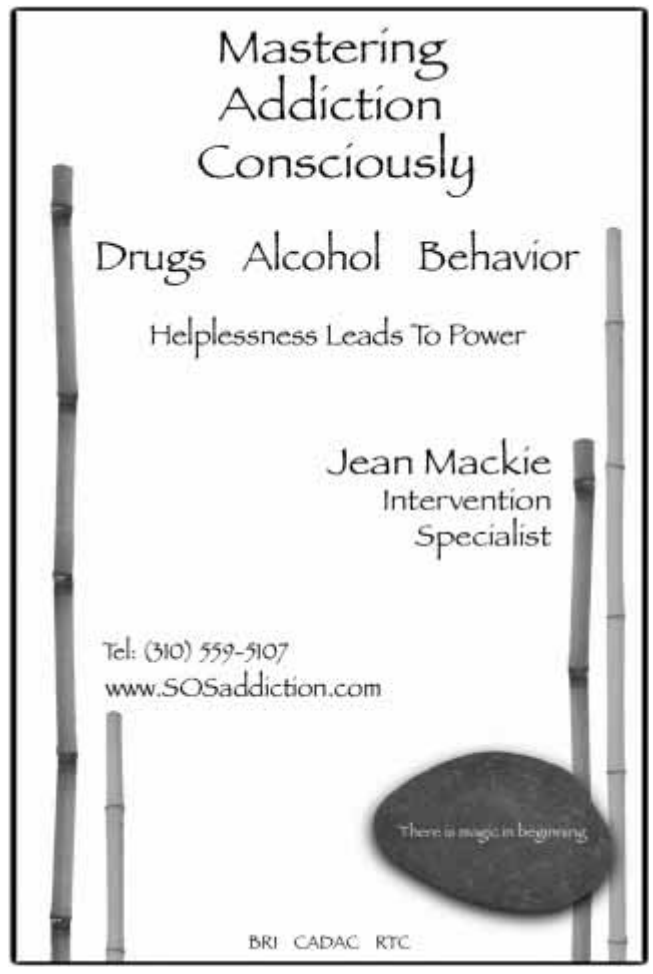

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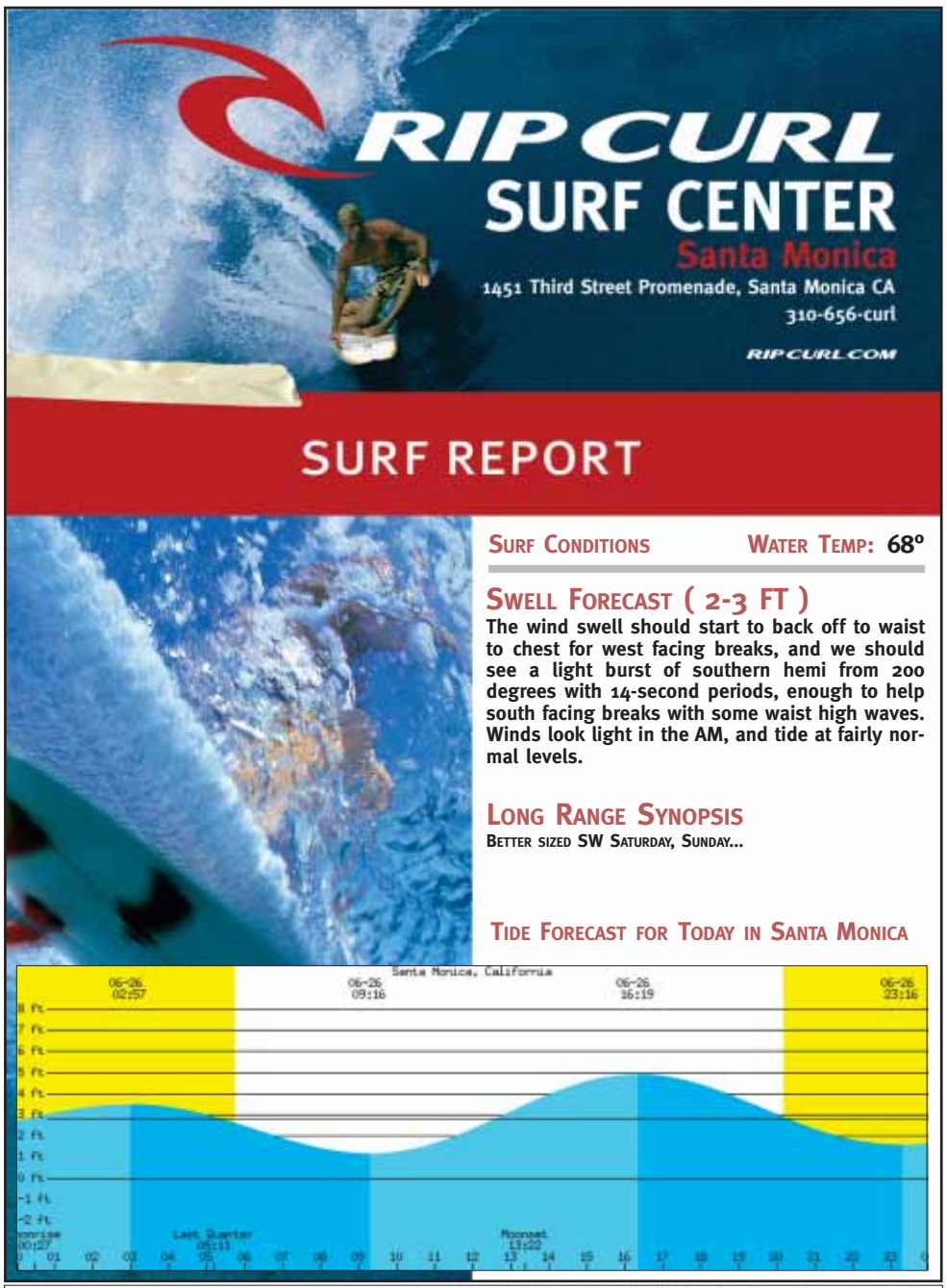

NFL

Walker's alleged attacker appears in Nevada court

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS A man accused of robbing and beating Oakland Raiders receiver Javon Walker alleged in court Wednesday that police pressured his girlfriend to press charges against him in a domestic violence case before he was arrested in the Walker case.

"My fiance, she was forced by the police, because of the other matter, to go forward with these accusations," Arfat Fadel said as he appeared by videoconference before a Las Vegas justice of the peace.

The judge, Eugene Martin, advised him to consult with his newly appointed public defense lawyer, Jeremy Storms, who told Fadel not to discuss the case in open court.

The judge also refused Fadel's request to reduce his $13,000 bail in the domestic violence case and set a preliminary hearing for July 9 on felony kidnapping, coercion and misdemeanor domestic violence battery charges. Fadel remained jailed at the Clark County Detention Center.

Las Vegas police spokesman, Officer Ramon Denby, declined comment on Fadel's accusation because he said investigations were continuing in both cases.

Denby said Fadel had not cooperated with investigators trying to identify a second man suspected of beating Walker.

Fadel faces multiple felonies, including kidnapping, robbery, battery and conspiracy in the June 16 robbery and beating that left the 29-year-old Walker unconscious on a side street off the Las Vegas Strip. He is scheduled to make an initial appearance on those charges Thursday in Las Vegas Justice Court.

Walker, who was hospitalized for what police said were facial injuries and a concussion, told police he lost about $3,000 in cash and $100,000 worth of jewelry in the robbery. The money and jewelry had not been recovered, police said.

Lt. Clinton Nichols said Walker spent several hours club-hopping late June 15 and early June 16 before "willingly" getting into Fadel's black Range Rover with Fadel and the other alleged assailant.

"The suspects knew who Mr. Walker was. He did not know who they were," Nichols said Tuesday, and added that Walker "probably had a little too much to drink."

Denby said investigators were tracing Fadel's history in previous places where he lived, including Buffalo, N.Y.

Fadel pleaded guilty April 14 in Las Vegas to malicious destruction of property, a gross misdemeanor, stemming from allegations he threw a rock through the windshield of a woman's rental car in April 2007, court records show. He was given a suspended six-month jail sentence after promising to pay $579.44 in restitution, move to New York and provide proof of employment there.

Fadel's lawyer in that case, Osvaldo Fumo, recalled representing Fadel on a number of misdemeanor trespassing cases, and said Fadel told the judge he wanted to move to Buffalo to take care of his daughter. Fumo said he was no longer represented Fadel.

Police have released a grainy black-and-white surveillance videotape image of the other suspect who they believe is still in Las Vegas.

Walker, a first-round draft pick in 2001 by the Green Bay Packers, was traded to the Denver Broncos in 2006 and released last February before he was signed by the Oakland Raiders to a six-year, $55 million deal. The team has declined comment, and Walker's agent, Kennard McGuire of Richmond, Texas, has not responded to messages.

NHL

Hockey's No. 1 pest interns with Vogue

BY BEN WALKER
AP National Writer

NEW YORK Sean Avery squeezes between two tables full of diners, careful to avoid jostling anyone. He quickly skims the menu at a favorite SoHo eatery and orders: the pizza with black truffles, please.

The NHL's No. 1 pest is ready to dish — about food, fashion and a most curious job as an intern.

At Vogue magazine.

"People seem to find it strange that I worked there," the New York Rangers forward said this week. "I don't."

"Fans see my on-ice character, my persona. Pushing it as far as it can go. Play it to the max, crazy. Sometimes over the line," he said. "Off the ice, what do I do?" he said. "I'm in love with music. I'm in love with clothes."

With occasional hits on MTV and the dating scene with Elisha Cuthbert and Rachel Hunter, he's more than hockey's best-known agitator.

Avery made People's "Sexiest Scars" list for a gash on his lip and recently showed up in a tabloid gossip column, where his head-to-toe black outfit at an R.E.M. concert looked "straight out of a 1998 J.Lo video."

So much energy, so many interests. But how to put them all together?

One night before the playoffs, in a hotel room in Pittsburgh, he wrote a letter to Vogue editor in chief Anna Wintour.

"I was wondering what I would do this summer," he said.

Pretty soon, the 28-year-old Avery reported for work in a Raf Simons dress shirt, nice jeans and a bow tie.

During his month at the bible of couture, Avery did most everything. He helped set up photo shoots, served as guest editor for the Men's Vogue Web site and just wrote a farewell essay. Didn't get coffee for the bosses, but made copies.

Oh, and he spilled a plate of beef Stroganoff over a woman in the cafeteria.

"Got her pretty good," he said.

Making a mess, that's sort of how Avery does it in hockey.

He once led the league in penalty minutes and during this year's playoffs, Avery parked himself in front of New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur, waving his hand and stick in his face.

The next day, the league put in the so-called "Avery Rule" to prohibit such shenanigans — he got his revenge by scoring three goals in the series victory. But he lacerated his spleen in the following round against Pittsburgh and was finished.

MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Diminished Capacity (NR) 1hr 32min
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13)
1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15

Iron Man (PG-13) 2hr 6min
1:10, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45

Get Smart (PG-13) 1 hr 50 min
1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35

Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min
1:25, 3:50, 6:20, 8:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs.
1:25, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 2 hrs 20 min
12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 10:10

Get Smart (PG-13) 1 hr 50 min
1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 9:00, 9:40, 12:15

The Happening (R) 1hr 31min
2:10, 3:20, 4:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30, 12:20

Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20

Wanted (R) 1hr 48min
12:01 am

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The Edge Of Heaven (NR) 2hr
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55

The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30, 7:20

Mongol (R) 2hr 6 min
1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

War, Inc. (R) 1hr 47min
4:30, 9:45

Hannari: Geisha Modern (NR) 1hr 35min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
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You Don't Mess With The Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:00 am, 1:50 pm, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

The Love Guru (PG-13) 1hr 28 min
11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min
1:00 pm, 4:05, 7:10, 10:20

The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:30 a.m., 11:30am, 1:10, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10

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

Surprises happen, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Though your energy might be misplaced, triggering all sorts of confusion, you cruise out of a situation with ease. Others might be left holding the bag! You might not have the control or direction you desire. Tonight: If you're uncomfortable in a situation, leave!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take your time and don't pressure someone. You could go within and be a bit touchy or difficult. Knowing your limits could be more important than you realize. Tonight: Surprises happen!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want as well as what you need. You could be confused by a flaky boss or supervisor. Clarity is not this person's strong suit. Listen to the words surrounding a situation. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Investigate a change with an eye to the unexpected. How you deal with someone and the choices you make could be rather dynamic and shocking. Laughter takes you in a new direction and helps you gain a perspective. Tonight: Know when to say enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your vision of possibilities could get bruised by someone at a distance. You might not understand all the ins and outs of a situation. Consider revising your opinion and relax with someone you care about. Tonight: Whirling through the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Investigate possibilities with an eye to new beginnings. How you deal with someone or the end results could be quite different from what you'd anticipated. Unexpected developments involving a partner or friend could have you shaking your head. Tonight: In the game of life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to try another approach or different style. Investigate possibilities rather than close down. How you view a situation or what you decide to do could be far more complicated than you think. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Easy does it. You could be deferring to someone you would prefer not to. Listen to yourself when dealing with an associate. Perhaps you might be more instrumental than you believe in shaking up the status quo. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Investigate your options. Be open to some fast thinking and high creativity. For some of you, it might be something as simple as a new perspective or a reasonable risk. Hop into that risk without flinching. Tonight: Ever fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might want to try something very different or become far more creative. As you look at issues differently, opportunities come up left and right. Check out an investment with care. Realize what is going on. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ How you deal with someone could change with an unexpected and perhaps abrupt insight. You will grow and gain if you pull back. Know that you might not be hearing the whole story. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your abrupt attitude or general unpredictability surprises many, not just those in your immediate circle. Be careful — you could impact a situation in a negative manner. Tonight: Take a breather from everything! You need it!

Happy birthday

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

This year your public image makes a difference. Be sensitive to how you project yourself, and that it is in sync with who you are and what you want. Others also frequently think you are the cat's meow. You have a way with people and a style that is quite unique and enticing. If you are single, you are likely to meet a very significant person to your life's history within the next few months. Your financial well-being and security score high winter on. If you are attached, the two of you will be looking at making your nest egg a lot bigger. Plan a long-dreamed-of trip sooner rather than later. ARIES pushes you into the limelight.

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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 ★★★

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

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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

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

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By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

By Jim Davis

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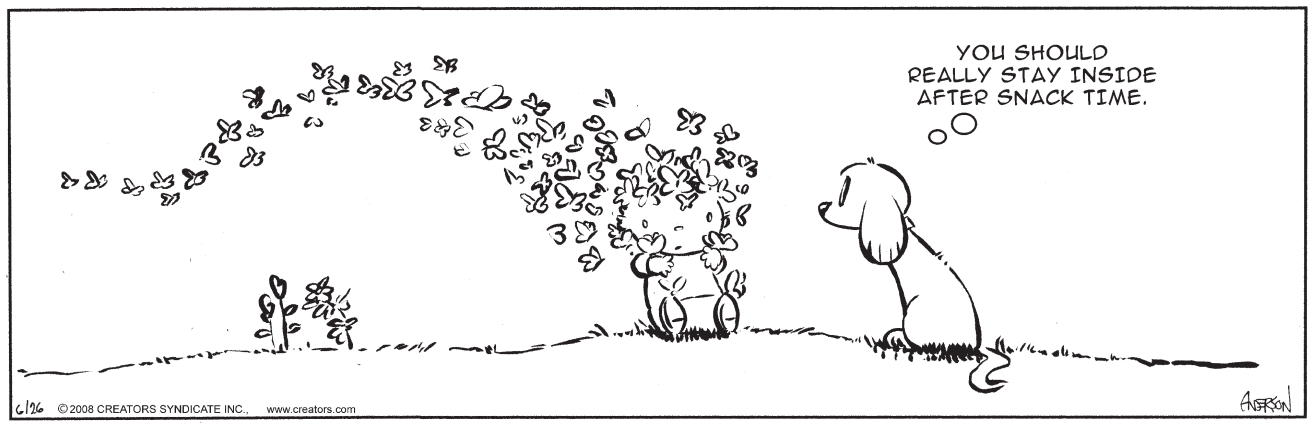
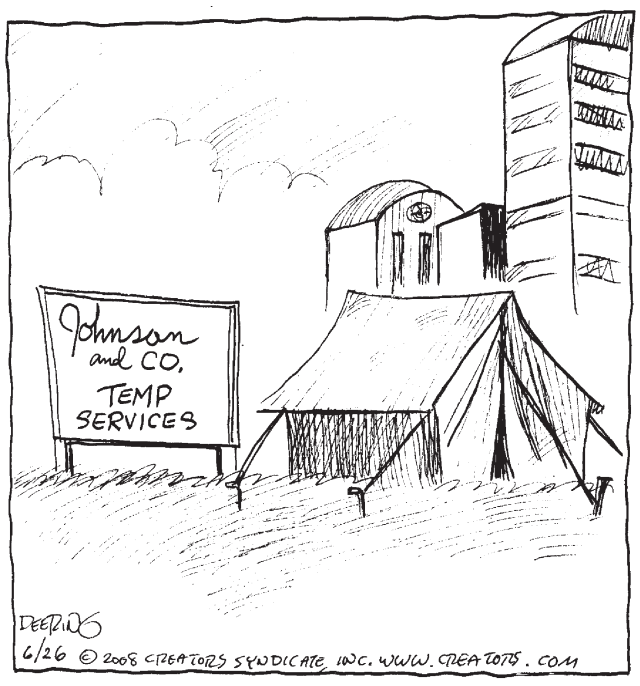


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

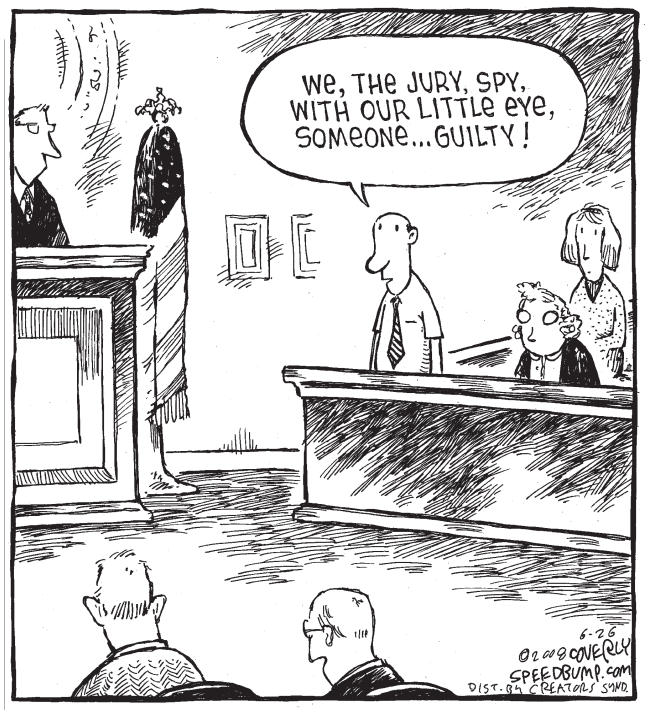
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Baby-sitter's bane
5 Smackers
10 Radioer's word
12 Metal fastener
13 Digression
14 Love, to Luigi
15 Take the cup
16 Fanged monster
18 Walks
20 Party staple
21 Finished
23 Chicago trains
24 Home for José
26 Whirlpool
28 Search for gold
29 Sneaker part
31 Cunning
32 French brandy
36 Cardigan, e.g.
39 Court-room oath
40 Sensuous dance
41 Mason's partner
43 "Lou Grant" star
44 Took an oath
45 Under-handed
46 Till bills

DOWN

1 Scuffle
2 TV's O'Donnell
3 Geriatrics topic
4 Poet Hughes
5 Pack full
6 Walk unevenly
7 Steered clear of
8 How we roll along
9 Brews
11 Come-back
17 Put away
19 Distress code
22 Annals
24 School fundraiser
25 Dish, perhaps
27 M.B.A. or Ph.D.
28 Trattoria choices
30 Tennis feat
33 Ford's predeces-sor
34 Dote on
35 Road markers
37 Like some cheese
38 Major, for one
42 — Jima

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

Yesterday's answer

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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	42			
43					■	44				
45					■	■	46			

6-26

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EVENING: 4 4 1

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2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:46:37

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A prominent chef once wrote, "If you're going to kill the animal, it seems only polite to use the whole thing," and recently restaurants specializing in such "nose-to-tail" cuisine have opened in several cities, according to a May report in Toronto's National Post. The hamburger at New York City's Tasting Room includes cow heart, liver, bone marrow, tongue, flat-iron, brisket, shank and clod. New York's Casa Mono features dishes of lamb's tongue, duck hearts and the red combs on top of the rooster's head. San Francisco's Incanto serves lamb necks, pig trotters and venison kidneys. Said Incanto's executive chef, "It's about viable cuts of meat that we have thrown into the trash can for years. ... When it comes to food, we (have been) very wasteful."

■ In April, as the police officer approached the motorist relieving himself on the side of the road in South Kitsap, Wash., the man explained that he had consumed "a bunch" of beers but was not driving drunk. According to the officer, the man said he was slurring his words because "his dentist advised him his mouth was too big for his tongue."

■ Comedian Aries Spears pleaded guilty in April to assaulting a woman in the audience during his act at a New York City club. Said prosecutor Elizabeth Pederson, ridiculing Spears' initial explanation: "You can't high-five a woman's breast."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1870 the first section of the boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J., was opened to the public.

1945 the charter of the United Nations was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco.

1948 the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

1950 President Truman authorized the Air Force and Navy to enter the Korean conflict.

WORD UP!

forlorn \fur-LORN; for-\, *adjective*:
1. Sad and lonely because deserted, abandoned, or lost.

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OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for a Dining Room Supervisor, to oversee and manage our dining room server staff. The shift is 11a-8p Wed-Sun, must be available on holidays. Benefits eligible after 90 days. Must have previous restaurant and supervison experience and great customer service skills. If interested, please fax resumes to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405 or email crodezno@brookdaleliving.com EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community is looking for evening receptionists, FT and PT. The shift is from 4p-12a and must be available weekends and holidays. Must have great customer service skills and previous experience is a plus. Also responsible for computer data entry. If interested please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for dining room servers to help serve our senior residents. Prior serving experience is preferred, but will train. Shifts available are 11a-8p and 4-8p, PT & FT. Must be available on weekends and holidays. Benefits eligible for all FT. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for caregivers and medication technicians for a variety of shifts 6a-2:30p and 2p-10:30p. FT and PT available. Must have previous experience with seniors and a great attitude. Must also be available on weekends and holidays. If interested, please fax a resume to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

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***Terms and conditions.** Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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..from the Sellers..

Dear Kate,

Now that the dust has settled and the money is in the bank, Marian and I want to thank you ever so much for all your hard work in negotiating the sale of our home. It is always a real pleasure to work with true professionals and you're the tops.

We don't know what we would have done without you. All we really had to do was follow your recommendations while you created the market, found the right buyer and completed the sale. The details, the paperwork and the legalities involved in selling a house are unbelievable, yet you had everything so well organized that it all flowed along smoothly.

And your sensitivity to personalities and integrity kept things focused and away from unimportant side issues.

We almost wish we had a second house so you could sell it for us. Certainly anyone on the Westside who does have a house to sell, absolutely must call on you if they want to deal with only the very best.

Many, many thanks,

Marian & Bill

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Asking Price $2,349,000

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North of Montana	=	$ 3,943,000	$ 1,792,800
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,950,667	$ 1,002,758
South of Wilshire	=	$ 878,385	$ 686,486
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Statistics updated every Wednesday

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