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Santa Monica Daily Press
JUNE 29-30, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 198



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAY CHEESE!
SEE PAGE 8

THE PREPPING FOR THE BIG MOVE ISSUE

New Miramar flyer targets dwindling city funds

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Leadership at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel fired off another round against the Huntley Hotel Friday morning with a flyer accusing its competitor of conspiring to deprive Santa Monica of $20 million in revenue by opposing new Downtown developments.

The flyer suggests that money would be particularly helpful in light of a $13 million projected deficit set to hit City Hall in 2017, and would save firefighters, police, affordable housing and Santa Monica's rich portfolio of social programs.

"The Huntley Hotel is trying to poison the minds of Santa Monica residents against new hotels in Downtown Santa Monica that would close our budget deficit," the flyer reads.

It goes on to list facts about the Huntley's size and density, suggesting that the hotel is one of the largest buildings in Santa Monica but actively opposes smaller development. It also alleges that Huntley representatives made disparaging comments about affordable housing, which

SEE FLYER PAGE 7

Ex-FBI agent faces tough questions in Bulger trial

BY DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON Lawyers for James "Whitey" Bulger used an admitted corrupt FBI agent Friday to suggest to the jury at Bulger's racketeering trial that he was not an FBI informant, a key contention of prosecutors.

John Morris, an ex-agent who admitted taking $7,000 in cash and two cases of wine from Bulger, was grilled by Bulger's lawyer about a 700-page file the FBI filled with information Bulger allegedly gave them while an informant in the 1970s and '80s.

Morris, who received immunity from prosecution, said he accepted gifts from Bulger while former agent John Connolly — who Morris supervised — was Bulger's FBI handler.

He acknowledged that he panicked when Bulger and his partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, were indicted in 1995 because he knew his acceptance of bribes from Bulger could be exposed.

"I was worried about whether I could be prosecuted," Morris said. "I certainly did not want my bad behavior known in any manner, shape or form."

Bulger, 83, is accused of participating in 19 murders during the 1970s and '80s while he was allegedly leading the Winter Hill Hang and simultaneously providing information to the FBI on the New England Mafia and other criminals.

Connolly was convicted of tipping off Bulger to the 1995 indictment, prompting him to flee Boston in late 1994 and remain one of the nation's most wanted fugitives until his capture in Santa Monica in 2011.

Morris acknowledged that he was con-

SEE TRIAL PAGE 10



FOUND A NEW PAL

Paul Alvarez Jr. editor@smdp.com

Rachel Grossman (right) pets Pam Cooper's dog Harley after just getting her cast off at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center on Friday. Harley has been a therapy dog since 2011. He and his owner are one of 70 People Animal Connection teams who visit with patients to help brighten their day.



Photo courtesy Bob Harington

KICK AND PUSH: Iraq war veteran Andrew Goldsmith skates down Highway 1 on an early leg of a 900-mile-long journey along the California coast to raise money for veterans.

Skating the coast for a good cause

BY COLIN NEWTON
Special to the Daily Press

PCH Most people wouldn't travel down the Pacific Coast Highway on skateboards while flying a huge American flag.

But then again, Andrew Goldsmith and Bob Harington aren't most people.

Goldsmith, 28, and Harington, 29, are skateboarding down the California coast to raise awareness for veteran causes and money for Afghanistan Veterans of America, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

They began their 39-day journey on June 1 in Brookings, Ore., and are scheduled to stop in Malibu on July 1 before continuing on to Tijuana, Mexico.

The trek is set to end on July 9.

Goldsmith said the stop in Malibu might be extended so they can be in Redondo Beach on the Fourth of July.

"We're ahead of schedule," he said.

Goldsmith and Harington, both veterans of Iraq, came up with the idea for the Veteran Skate Trek in 2008, during

SEE SKATE PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, June 29, 2013

Dole's barbecue cook-off
Santa Monica Place Center Plaza
395 Santa Monica Place, 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Three culinary finalists from across the country will face off in a barbecue battle. Attendees can participate in cooking demonstrations and raffles and try free samples of Dole products. Admission is free.

Walk for hope
Crescent Bay Park
2000 Ocean Ave., 4 p.m.
The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America is hosting a walk to raise money for those affected by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Dennis Haskins, who played Principal Belding from "Saved by the Bell," will emcee the event. "American Idol" contestant Casey Abrams will also perform at the event. A festival will begin at 4 p.m., and the walk begins at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Ronni Epstein at (561) 703-9950 or Repstein@ccfa.org.

SMC Independence Day bash
SMC Corsair Field
1900 Pico Blvd., 5 p.m.
SMC is celebrating Independence Day early with picnics on the lawn, live entertainment, exhibits and a night of fireworks. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 434-4000.

Dancing knights and flying cows
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
The Morgan-Wixson Theatre debuts a production of Monty Python's "Spamalot," a Tony Award-winning musical featuring a humorous cast of characters based off the movie "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." The musical follows the quest of King Arthur and his band of singing knights to search for the Holy Grail and their many mishaps along the way. The show will continue to run at Morgan-Wixson Theatre through Aug. 3, running on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $25 to $30 online at morgan-wixson.org and are also available at (310) 828-7519.

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Summer sale
Fred Segal
420 & 500 Broadway, 10 a.m.
The iconic shopping destination Fred Segal invites you to shop their annual summer sale, where you can find great deals on some designer threads. Plantine Sweets & Savories will set up a pop-up bakery throughout the entirety of the sale. For more information call (310) 394-1875.

Get to stretch
Santa Monica Pier
1 p.m.
Wanderlust Festival, the world's largest and fastest growing yoga and music platform, is coming to the Santa Monica Pier this Sunday. The gratis afternoon event will unite the community as yoga lovers hit the mat with some of the nation's leading teachers, take in tunes from acclaimed musicians and connect with other wellness enthusiasts in one of southern California's most beautiful outdoor venues. For more information on Wanderlust Yoga in the City dates and registration visit www.wanderlusty-itc.com

Lose yourself to dance
The Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 2 p.m.
Hart Pulse Dance Company is pleased to entertain you with their latest production, "Singe!" Learn what's hot in contemporary choreography. Cost: $20. For more information visit www.hart-pulsedance.com. Free parking at the AT&T building just south of Wilshire Boulevard on Lincoln Boulevard.

Neighbors up north
Wokcano
1413 Fifth St., 6 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Join Canadians Abroad in association with The Consulate General of Canada to Los Angeles, as they celebrate Canada Day in LA! There will be food and drink specials including the all-Canadian Caesar, giveaways and performances by Carmen & Camille and Jarvis Church. Cost: $12 to $20. For more information visit www.canadians-abroad.com/canada-day-in-la-2013/

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to **smdp.com/communitylistings**





Photo by Cameron Baird/Red Bull

COMPETE: In the championship match, Jo 'Golden' Myeong Hwan (right) and Bae 'Sound' Sang Hwan compete during Red Bull Training Grounds in Santa Monica on June 21.

For professional gamers, a dress rehearsal

BY DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

EASTSIDE Past desks covered with extreme sports magazines and refrigerators stocked with energy drinks, a small isolation booth has been erected smack dab in the middle of Red Bull's airy offices on Stewart Street near Olympic Boulevard. It's not for hosting meetings or employee breaks. It's for playing video games — very competitive video games.

The beverage company's North American headquarters played host recently to the chummy Red Bull Training Grounds ahead of this weekend's Major League Gaming Spring Championship in Anaheim, Calif. Red Bull is betting this new take on training for competitive gaming — or e-sports, as it's known — will give its players, to borrow Red Bull's slogan, wings.

The company, which is probably better known for sponsoring action sports stars and race cars than gamers, has previously hosted other e-sporting events, but Training Grounds marked the first time it focused on schooling players.

Despite being stationed amid cubicles, the inaugural Training Grounds event had most trappings of a typical mammoth e-sports event: lights, cameras, competitors, commentators and prize money. However, there was no live audience to cheer on the eight international e-athletes, and the gamers were only competing in one title, the real-time strategy game "StarCraft II."

"The idea behind Training Grounds is to find that happy medium between competition and training," said Rob Simpson, Red Bull's e-sports program manager. "While we do have a prize pool on the line ... focus is really on analysis and growing as players. I think it's a positive thing that people want to consume this kind of information."

SEE **GAMERS** PAGE 6

3 killed in southern California freeway crashes

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A head-on crash and a big-rig accident have killed three people and shut down parts of major southern California freeways.

The California Highway Patrol says one person died around 1:15 a.m. Friday on Interstate 10 in Santa Monica after a speeding wrong-way driver slammed into a westbound car at Centinela Avenue.

Friends tried to pull a man from the second car but he died when it was rammed by a third car and caught fire.

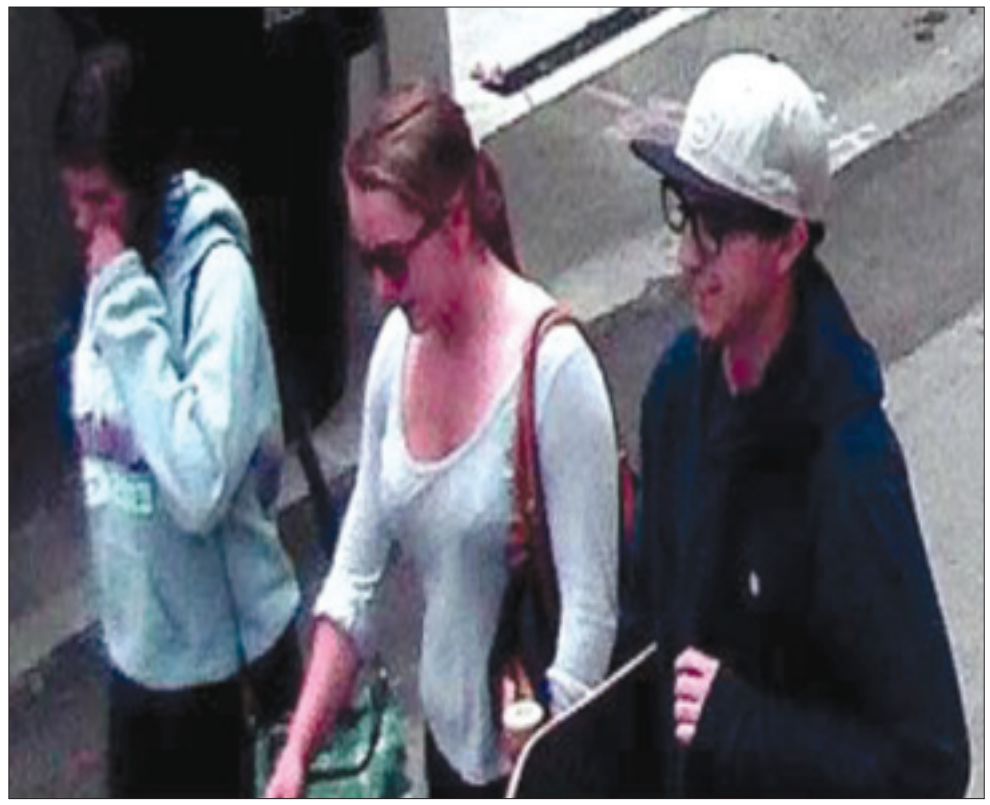
The wrong-way driver was cut free. He and the driver of the third car were arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.

All lanes of the westbound side of the freeway were closed in the vicinity of the collision and traffic was diverted at Bundy Drive.

The lanes were reopened shortly after 7 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol

Two hours after that crash, a man and a woman died in Hawthorne.

Authorities say their disabled car was on an Interstate 405 off-ramp when a big-rig smashed into it and overturned. The trucker was injured.



Photos courtesy SMPD

RECOGNIZE THEM? Suspects wanted in connection with an arson that took place Monday.

SMPD on the lookout for arson suspects

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY A search was underway Friday for three suspects wanted for questioning about an arson investigation in Santa Monica.

The fire broke out shortly before 2 p.m. Monday at a vacant lot between two residences located on the 600 block of 11th Street, police said.

Several surveillance cameras in the area captured the suspects in an alley running from where the fire started. A residence and property owned by a utility company were damaged in the blaze.



The male suspect was described as white or possibly Hispanic. He was photographed wearing black-rimmed glasses, a white baseball hat and carrying a red and yellow skateboard. The two female suspects were also described as white or possibly Hispanic, in their late teens with medium builds and brown and dark brown hair.

Anyone with information was urged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-2201 or (310) 458-8495 (24 hours).

Individuals who have information but wish to remain anonymous can call We-Tip at (800) 782-7643 or submit a tip at wetip.com. They can also call (800) 222-8477 or visit lacrimestoppers.org. Individuals whose information helps lead to an arrest may be eligible to receive up to $1,000.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Just read the paper

Editor:

I want to express my appreciation for your editorial ("Aren't they listening at City Hall?" June 22-23). You and your able reporter are indeed listening and have been reporting on controversial issues in our city with accuracy and fairness. For this I am grateful.

As for the recent City Council decision to survey community opinions about height and density and overdevelopment, that seems to be a tactic to avoid tough decisions. I note also on the Consent Calendar for the next council meeting several items which are outsourcing studies to the tune of thousands of dollars; studies on safe routes to school, pedestrian enhancement, resetting timing on traffic lights. C'mon.

When I was teaching sociology, if a student came in with a complicated, expensive design to study a simple matter, I would share the following: You don't need an elaborate study to gather simple information.

For example, if you want to know the number of gay bars in a certain section of Manhattan, you don't need a survey. Just ask the nearest cab driver.

In our case, perhaps it should be: Just read the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Eleanor Blumenberg
Santa Monica

Give someone else a shot

Editor:

When I read Oscar De La Torre's commentary, I couldn't decide if I should vomit or call Rod Gould and ask him out for lunch ("Funding for PYFC shouldn't be reduced," Your Column Here, June 25). Mr. de la Torre is always a victim. He's a victim of circumstance, of police conspiracies, of police targeting, and of rogue city accountants simply asking for accurate and lawful financial statements from a publicly-funded operation. Now, Gould is after him, and if the results of the Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) audit are available, there's probably good reasons for defunding the PYFC altogether.

There is no doubt that PYFC has done good things for the community in helping to reduce gang violence and membership through its programs. The problem is that the people that are running it are a bunch of overpaid crooks. When you are awarded city funds (and taxpayer dollars), as a nonprofit organization, it is your legal responsibility to accurately and truthfully account for the funds you are granted.

When Mr. de la Torre is asked to provide reporting and explain missing money and fuzzy bookkeeping, he again, still, always and as expected, plays the victim card. Another organization with new professionals (and a good accountant) should to be given the opportunity and funding to work with the youth of Santa Monica.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

Building slums

Editor:

Have you driven down Ocean Avenue lately and seen the Civic Center Village going up and up and up?

This construction is 320 units of affordable and market-rate housing and the parking to go with it. The enormity and density of this project is appalling. If there is any open space in there I can't see it. To me it looks like Santa Monica is building a slum of the future. If the project at the trailer park is going to be anything like this then fasten your seat belts, the roller coaster at the Santa Monica Pier isn't the only thing going downhill around here.

Richard Orton
Santa Monica

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Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Freedom of the press, barking pumpkin pie

LAST WEEK I NOTED THE ARREST OF two credentialed news photographers and a professor at Santa Monica College the day of the killing spree. No one else is paying attention to this in the wake of the more spectacular events, but if it turns out to be an infringement on the freedom of the press, it is very significant.

The media do not score well in public opinion polls (for some good reasons), and few citizens today seem to really understand how vital this Constitutional freedom is. But it was thought important enough by the discerning founding fathers to be enshrined in the very First Amendment.

(The first thing they proclaimed in that First Amendment was, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," something too many zealots and crazies jump past to get to their favorite part, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," which simply does not happen in 21st century America except in paranoid minds. But the "establishment of religion" part is an ongoing battle, from 10 Commandments tablets on courthouse lawns to mandatory prayers in schools to nativity scenes in city parks. But that's a different story. Or column.)

A trial date has been set for the three arrested that fateful Friday, and I believe all have retained attorneys, but the police reports have not yet been filed. I am working with the SMPD to be able to see those reports as soon as they are available. This could be dismissed by the City Attorney's Office before proceeding to trial, but of course that depends on the information filed.

It's always a problematic and thought-provoking struggle: freedom of the press versus the need of the police to be able to do their job. Both sides have been known to overstep the bounds. We'll see how this one plays out.

FIRST-CLASS PASSENGER ON A SINKING SHIP

I'm becoming a bit of a celebrity at Norms.

Or shall we say, a known party. It hit home when I was introduced the other night by an employee I knew to another, who was taking a dinner break at the counter across from me.

"Have you met (blank), our star server?" he graciously introduced.

"Hi," I said with a big smile, "my name's Charles."

A slight pause and a look I couldn't interpret, followed with, "I know." OK, that could be taken several ways. But the write-ups have been noticed and passed around the venerable diner, and most (when their dinner is not being interrupted) seem happy about it.

I already wrote about the assistant manager Tina who gave me a bit of a cold shoulder after I misreported (going on what several employees told me) that not all workers at the closing Santa Monica location would have jobs at other Norms. I subsequently reported that it is company policy to always make room for every employee within the chain when a location closes (which rarely happens), and she was, I think, just being loyal to her company and their employee-friendly policies, and took it personally. (I apologized, and we're now on smiling good terms again.) Everyone I've spoken to who works there says it's like a family.

An international family, the likes of which Brangelina can only dream. I haven't yet met the two women from Ethiopia or the two from Belgium and Lithuania, but I will. I've often seen but not interviewed Natalia, the student from Russia who's working two part-time jobs to get through school. The last time we took my wife's parents there for breakfast we were served by Tom, a tall dude from Thailand. There is also a woman from Cambodia.

There is, of course, Flora, born in Ghana, who has been there at the Santa Monica location for 33 years straight, except for the two weeks she worked at another location because of a fire 20 years ago. (She also pointed to where there used to be two big fireplaces, on either side.) That makes her a year senior to manager-chef Sam, one of three Sams there (plus six Joses and four Manuels), and not to be confused with Sam Jr., his son, also a cook. Flora is a rookie, however, compared to the cook who retired last year, with 40 years under his spatula.

These numbers seem amazing, but Norms VP Jerry O'Connell told me they regularly have celebrations for employees hitting 30, 35, 40 years with the company. In 2011, four 40-year parties, in 2012, five more. It sounds like the 1950s (actually, the first Norms opened at Sunset and Vine in 1949), when companies valued longtime employees and created a workplace that made people want to stay. Many regular customers I've spoken to at the Santa Monica location say it's the friendly employees that keep them coming back. And these are customers who have been going there a long time.

And then there is the imposing but smiling Muhammad, shiny pate, pencil thin chin ornament (not exactly a beard, more a sculpture), well spoken, born in Bangladesh, the general manager who makes me think of a genie and who indeed seems to use magic to juggle a staff of 60 to 80 and their schedules, made more difficult because he hires students with changing needs. And now he has the added task of finding the best place possible for them all among the other 17 Norms throughout the greater L.A. area. He's given lots of young people their first jobs, going on instinct where there is no resume. He hired someone new just a month ago, he told me, but already knew where he could shift that person after the July 17 closing.

The last time we spoke he noticed that the back of my business card has a quote from Frank Zappa, and broke into a big grin and proceeded to tell me at length what a huge fan he has always been. Now that's a manager I could work for. Hey Muhammad, it's almost Thanksgiving, are we going to serve barking pumpkin pie?

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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The Q Line

Building up

The City Council has ordered a survey to gauge how residents feel about development Downtown. We figured we'd cut to the chase and ask our readers what they think.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What are your feelings about development and why?

Here are your responses:

"I AM IN FAVOR OF RESPONSIBLE development of the city, things that are in the right scale and fit into our lifestyle, but I am definitely opposed to 20 story high-rise buildings especially on Ocean Avenue."

"I THINK WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS stop all development Downtown for awhile. It's getting much too big. It's getting too polluted, too crowded. We've got to stop for a couple of years, just think everything over. The Miramar project is one example. They're trying to make Santa Monica into San Francisco or Miami Beach and it's ridiculous. Let's all calm down and see what we can do to make Santa Monica a better place because right now the pollution and the noise and traffic is just killing us all."

"DEVELOPMENT HAS BECOME A RAMPANT disease in this city with no consideration to the residents and no concern about the unmitigated traffic. Sad to say but welcome to the developer's republic of Santa Monica."

"SANTA MONICA IS ON ITS WAY TO becoming a concrete canyon. Next time you stand in front of a six-story building and a one or two-story building see if you notice a difference. Now imagine a 22-story building sucking up an ocean breeze and daylight, and traffic and parking problems to go with it. That's our visionaries at work with the LUCE that lays a rotten egg. Do we need a builder to tell us all the benefits and programs that will be lost if we don't go along with their plans? I'd prefer to tell them what has been lost already and to go get lost."

"STOP BUILDING STUFF. NOTHING SHOULD be built that has more square footage than whatever was torn down to make room for it. Put up a large building, tear down a bunch of smaller ones, the rest of the area has to remain open space. Park, parking, either one."

"SANTA MONICANS FOR RENTERS' RIGHTS uses development to fund their social service programs, and expand their voter base. Development does not improve the quality of life for current residents. For example, the Village Trailer Park redevelopment was not approved until the owner agreed to convert the proposal from condos to rental housing. The Bergamot project has no home ownership proposals, no condos, all the housing is rental housing. The city wants to approve three new hotels so the 14 percent bed tax, the increased property taxes, and the sales tax revenue generated by the tourists spending money will fund more OPCC homeless shelters, more Step Up on Second housing for the mentally ill, and more Community Corp multifamily low-income rental housing. The residents get more traffic, more crime, no street lights in residential neighborhoods, no new parks (the park across from City Hall will be for residents of the adjacent low-income housing project)."

"IF THE CITY HAS AN AGENDA, THEY should state what it is. How many more people does the council want to squeeze into our city limits?"

"SMART DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL to our community's health. Right now, many of us leave town to do our shopping. Sometimes a well-stocked department store is needed, like Target. Well, have to go to Culver City for that. Development helps pay the bills. I love being a tourist destination. Does anyone realize how much revenue they generate for our schools and General Fund? Bring more, I say! Development along the Expo Line corridor is essential, too. What better place to develop new apartment units for people who will be using the Expo Line to get to work and school. So I say more hotels for tourists in Downtown and more apartments and condos, even upwards of 10 stories, along the rail line and along Santa Monica's eastern borders."

"THE CITY'S MISHANDLING OF THE Downtown plan, including the proposal for lots of opportunity sites with heights and densities that greatly exceed the low-slung scale of our Downtown will be a big factor in next year's council election. Our Downtown is rightly celebrated for its human scale and pleasing relationship to the ocean. You don't enhance a city like Santa Monica by building isolated towers that disfigure it."

"I THINK THE CITY IS MOVING TOO fast to approve every development project that is presented to it. Our Downtown is becoming a hornet's nest of cars and frustration trying to find parking. Most residents walk these days so the traffic appears to be coming from tourists and drivers from other parts of Los Angeles. I'm afraid we are scaring people away. I've heard it more than once from visitors who say they will never come here again to shop as it is too frustrating. If our City Council wishes to make Santa Monica a magnet for tourism they need to first be bold and innovative with traffic solutions. So far, they are simply turning to consult-

SEE QLINE PAGE 6

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The Q Line

QLINE
FROM PAGE 5

ants for answers and those consultants don't take residents' quality of life into account. What we have now is becoming unbearable. I can't imagine what it will be like here when all the mixed-use projects are built. We need to get the traffic and parking problems we have now solved before moving forward with projects that create more people and more cars."

"IS IT ANY WONDER THE COUNCIL members who support all the development also receive large sums to their campaigns for re-election? It's time to clean house and get rid of these council members! The bottom line is that the city is only interested in the almighty dollar."

"THE HEIGHT AND AMOUNT IS TOO much for this small town. There is no thought to traffic flow, parking and need for this. In fact, it is an avoidance of other problems in the city to have the council only read blueprints at every meeting, which I don't think they are qualified to do. Address the traffic, lack of left turn signal lights, violence and guns in a sector of the city, lack of employment for local people, bring some music into the parks, dances. If they need the money it is due to lack of fiscal management in the past and pensions for city employees really don't go high on my list of importance in life at the moment due to lack of any good employment here. So I think it is a diversion tactic, you build and then don't deal with the aftermath of it. Building is OK to some degree if there is some intelligent plan of what to do about supermarkets being available and other needs so you don't have to have a car, etc. There are many other issues to address."

"AT PRESENT, THE CITY OF SANTA Monica is already overdeveloped. To approach Santa Monica Place from the east along Colorado Avenue or Santa Monica Boulevard is glacially and painfully slow because of the traffic congestion."

"THERE ARE PLACES IN DOWNTOWN that I would like to shop, for example, REI, or stores in the mall or on the Third Street Promenade, but I avoid going there because I know I will have to creep along in traffic in order to get there. I am not going to ride my bike, as the City Council so blithely assumes I can be encouraged to do. I am 70 years old, a 35-year resident, I live 4 miles from Downtown. I prefer to shop in Brentwood where there still exist open-air parking lots and parking garages that validate."

"MORE DEVELOPMENT IN WILL MEAN yet more traffic congestion and, if the City Council and Planning Commission prevail in their relentless drive to appease developers (who contribute to their election campaigns), it will become even more stressful to visit our own Downtown. The Downtown area will be a destination for tourists only while we residents shop and dine elsewhere."

"MY FEELING ABUT ALL THE EXTREME new development is Santa Monica is becoming a 'cement city' losing all identity as a charming, inviting sea city."

"WHY IN THE WORLD IS OUR inspired (or impaired) City Council spending money to hire outside consultants for a 'scientific study' about development in Santa Monica? We residents have been telling them our opinions on development for years. We want less! There must be limits on height and density, not only in Downtown, but in every area of our city. May I repeat 'our city,' not the domain of the Planning Commission, the City Council or the developers."

"HERE IS A TOWN THAT HAS UNTIL now been pushing commercial development, increased beach tourism and more residential housing. While pushing all three the city has no sensible traffic plan in place. Roads are now too crowded both into and out of the city. Local streets cannot handle peak demand. The city approaches gridlock while the City Council promotes increased road usage. There should be no development now or in the foreseeable future until improved movement of traffic is a reality. The 10 needs to be widened. City streets need to be reconfigured to handle increased traffic. I am not at all sure city streets will ever be able to handle increased traffic. The new light rail system will not reduce traffic, but bring more traffic as well as more pedestrians to Downtown."

"AS A 40-YEAR RESIDENT OF SANTA Monica, I am dismayed at the intensity and the speed of development throughout Santa Monica, not just Downtown. I fully accept the need to adapt and change the residential and commercial areas in which people live. I feel that the various departments of the city's government have acted recklessly in ignoring the terms of the LUCE document, and have not seen fit to adhere to the concept of planning with an overview to the city as a whole. They give citizens of Santa Monica the impression that they care more for what they desire than what the residents and voters want. When will they finish the LUCE? When will they accept its terms? Why do they ignore opinions voiced at public meetings and in the local press? They seem to have forgotten that they are not despots, but they must answer to all the voters, and are responsible for the welfare and living conditions of all of the city's residents. Thank you for giving residents a chance to air our thoughts on this subject."

"SANTA MONICA IS ON LOCK DOWN thanks to bloated development and social engineering. There may be some good intentions mixed with the greed and indifference, but they don't excuse strangling our city into marginal livability. Name a more paralyzed part of L.A. County. It will then be too late, but when the smoke clears don't be surprised to see the folk who brought us our 'great leap forward' make the gang at the city of Bell look like choir boys by comparison. To quote a classic movie: 'It's Chinatown, Jake.'"

"ALLOW 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN HEIGHT above maximum allowed only in the eight designated 'opportunity' sites and only if there are exceptional community benefits along with exceptional iconic design solutions that are judged by a panel of architects and architectural critics neither living nor practicing in Santa Monica. Otherwise Downtown should maintain and restore where possible its beachfront scale and character while also emphasizing open space, landscape and 'walkability' per the LUCE goals."

"OUR DOWNTOWN IS ALREADY AT saturation in traffic, density and city services. Cramming more people and cars into this overcrowded space without adequate regard or planning for the citizens' safety or well-being is highly irresponsible. Our coastal skyline is a landmark that should be preserved, just as all the other California coastal cities have done by restricting height and density. The high-rise hotels are out of place and character for Santa Monica."

"OUR CITY IS INEXORABLY LOSING ITS special charm, relentlessly being transformed into a landscape that is increasingly overcrowded and frequently brought to a standstill by gridlock. We all appreciate that businesses expand our tax base, but there is a tipping point that we may have already passed where too much of a good thing becomes a bad thing. We are a green town and getting greener by the day. But the green that our City Council seems to value the most is not the color of grass but the color or money. A special seaside town like ours can retain its unique character only if it is treated with the careful planning and respect it deserves. Measured growth is good; growth with ever taller and denser structures is eroding the charm of Santa Monica as relentlessly as those endless tides are tugging at our sands."

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GAMERS
FROM PAGE 3

Simpson isn't just referring to the eight "StarCraft II" players who were gearing up for the MLG championship but also the 200,000 spectators who watched more than 20 hours of matches broadcast online by Red Bull. The inaugural event was as much of a promotional affair as it was preparation for players who will be battling in this weekend's MLG contest.

Since the e-sports genre first pressed start with arcade face-offs in the 1980s and LAN parties in the 1990s, there are more competitors than ever before, with a growing gap between seasoned pros and newbs. Those involved agree the more time gamers play in championship settings, the better they fare against the ruthless Zerg alien race in "StarCraft."

"I think the biggest issue for players is that no matter how much they practice at home, once they get up on a stage and have those lights and cameras in their faces, they get distracted," said Sean "Day(9)" Plott, a former competitor who now serves as an e-sports commentator. "They choke and start playing at a level far below what they usually do at home."

Besides providing a mock-up of a big-time competition, Red Bull applied the science it uses on other athletes to the gamers participating in Training Grounds.

"We're not just sponsoring them," said Lukas Cudrigh, Red Bull's head of digital media. "We're actually trying to make them better athletes by providing an environment where they can do things like increase their physical strength and learn about how better nutrition can impact their performance. No one is really treating these guys in that same way."

While e-sports has been around for more than 15 years, the genre is still considered niche in North America, though it's practically a national pastime in places like South Korea. That's been changing over the past few years, as technology has evolved, online spectating has skyrocketed and studies have shown professional gamers have sharper senses.

"It's not something you can necessarily practice for and measuring it tends to be gimmicky," said Michael Sepso, MLG's president and co-founder. "At the end of the day, I don't need to know Peyton Manning's visual acuity score to know he's better at seeing his receivers downfield. It's the same for pro-gamers. They see and respond to things quicker."

Sepso said he expects this weekend's MLG Spring Championship to top last year's contest, which drew more than 4.7 million online viewers and 20,000 spectators at the Anaheim Convention Center. During this year's competition, players will compete for more than $100,000 in "StarCraft II," "League of Legends" and "Call of Duty: Black Ops II" matches.



JUNK MAIL? **The latest flyer from the owners of the Fairmont Miramar focuses on tax dollars City Hall could receive if the hotel remodel is approved, along with other hotels in Downtown.**

FLYER
FROM PAGE 1

would be built next to the hotel under the Fairmont Miramar plan.

"Whose interests do you believe the Huntley Hotel is trying to protect: Santa Monicans [sic] or its own?" the flyer concludes.

Huntley officials dismissed the newest flyer as a distraction from the real issues, which it calls the "relentless traffic, destroying the character of the neighborhood and making it even more impossible to park in the city."

"The Miramar's flyer and website are part of a false smear campaign aimed at a small, local business and its owner," said Shiva Aghaipour, vice president of the Huntley Hotel. "It ignores the hundreds of residents who have come out to oppose the project, trying to make people think the Huntley is the only project opponent. Nothing could be further from the truth."

None of the quotes regarding affordable housing were made by the Huntley or "its agents," Aghaipour said.

Alan Epstein, an executive with MSD Capital and representative of the Fairmont Miramar project, said it was "disappointing that the Huntley continues to misrepresent its own statements and the actions of its employees and agents."

Ocean Avenue, LLC., the company that technically owns the Fairmont Miramar, is poised to invest millions into a major renovation of the site that includes a new building hitting 320 feet at its highest point.

The 280-room hotel, capped with up to 120 condominiums, is expected to bring millions in new revenues on its own. The $20 million figure was cited by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau at its 2013 tourism summit, and includes tax revenues from a wide range of projects under consideration for Downtown.

Several of those are hotels, including the redevelopment of the former Holiday Inn site and the hotel proposed for Santa Monica Boulevard and Ocean Avenue designed by Santa Monica-resident and famous architect Frank Gehry.

By the bureau's estimate, many of those projects would not be built until the end of the decade at the earliest, likely not in time to solve the budget deficits in Friday's flyer.

Projected revenues should not be the only reason that City Hall approves a development, but development is one option in solving that deficit problem, Epstein said.

"We think it's appropriate that all options to solve the city's impending shortfall be kept on the table," he said.

Future outreach efforts will be more positive, and focused on the merits of the Fairmont Miramar development, he said.

The flyer follows a first effort that hit the streets just two weeks ago leveled directly at Sohrab Sassounian, owner of the Huntley, that ruffled feathers throughout the city.

A grainy photo of Sassounian was accompanied with the phrase, "Who is Sohrab Sassounian?" and proceeded to relate allegations that the hotel owner had spent millions trying to derail the Fairmont Miramar's planned redevelopment.

It directed readers to a website, Huntleyfacts.com, that went into further detail about the Huntley's alleged attempts to take over community groups and use shell organizations to influence local elections.

E-mails immediately began circling from Santa Monicans Against the Miramar Expansion, a group organized over a year ago that has released two flyers against the Miramar plans.

The group — led by Rohnda Ammouri, an organizer with the Service Employees International Union and former employee of Sue Burnside, who does campaigns for the Huntley — solicited a response from community members opposed to the flyers, and helped them craft statements that alleged racism against Sassounian.

The sniping back and forth between the two hotels left City Councilmember Ted Winterer "frankly puzzled" since the Fairmont Miramar issue would not return to the City Council until spring of next year.

"Certainly the flyers don't influence my thinking about the project at all," Winterer said. "And many of the locals to whom I've spoken are turned off by the sheer excess of the publicity barrage, as mudslinging has never been an effective tactic in this town.

"It would be better if both sides of the issue took a deep breath and sought to engage in a civil debate when the time is right," Winterer said.

Others were outright upset by the flyer, calling it "fear tactics and false claims."

"They have the audacity to argue that unless the Miramar is torn down and replaced with their proposed massive new hotel, condo and retail project, Santa Monica's schools, fire and police will suffer large cuts," said Diana Gordon, co-chair of Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, which opposes the project.

"This from a developer who has gone out of his way to avoid paying California taxes for the Miramar," she said, referring to a Los Angeles Times article that revealed that billionaire PC magnate Michael Dell had successfully managed to avoid reassessing the value of the Fairmont Miramar property when he purchased it in 2006. Dell still owns the hotel.

Still, there is some sense that this flyer is more appropriate than the last, at least for Frank Gruber, a former City Council candidate and longtime Santa Monica columnist.

Gruber ripped into the Fairmont Miramar leadership on his blog for using a seven-year-old quote from one of his columns about the Annenberg Community Beach House in the first flyer, saying that he would rather they left his name off "one of the most unpleasant and misbegotten political mailers in Santa Monica history."

"With this one, at least the points that the Miramar brings up are relevant," Gruber said. "Not saying I agree with them all, or that Sohrab Sassounian should agree with them all, but it's at least dealing with issues and not the personalities."

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photo courtesy Nicole Goddard

SAMPLES: **It was a full house at one of Andrew Steiner's Cheese 101 classes on Montana Avenue.**

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Who cut the cheese?

BY TRACEY MCCRARY
Special to the Daily Press



STEINER

MONTANA AVE It is a fine thing indeed when we happen upon such a glorious creation as cheese.

Perhaps divine intervention played a hand the day a young traveler decided to pack an animal intestine full of milk before traveling what was probably several hundred miles on muleback enduring hot temperatures.

And to his dismay (but our eventual enjoyment), that milk had miraculously turned to cheese when he arrived at his destination. Of course, he didn't know it was cheese and was probably fairly upset that he couldn't guzzle a bagful of warm milk he'd been daydreaming about along the way. Suffice it to say, he must have been famished to test the unknown solidified creation. Maybe he wasn't so bright, or maybe he was a mad genius and had planned this all along. Whichever it was, I'm glad for it, because since that fateful day a long line of cheesemongers have perfected a multitude of dairy products for us all to appreciate.

I had the good fortune of taking a beginner cheese making course at The Gourmandise School of Sweets & Savories, but that only made me want to know more. So, after a little research, I found a class offered at Andrew's Cheese Shop on Montana Avenue. It was nearby and we would be able to sample several cheeses during the event. Score!

Andrew Steiner, the proprietor and instructor of Andrew's Cheese Shop, may appear a little rough around the edges upon first meeting, but there's no mistaking his love of cheese. He began by telling the class that he has a lot of pet peeves, which he would explain thoroughly so that we would know better when we came into his shop.

I think his biggest one was when people ask him for a "good" cheese. Per Andrew, you need to trust that all of the cheeses in his shop are good. That said, I distinctly remember him saying that he cannot determine what I might like because he's not me and therefore doesn't know what I like. It's very much the same with wine. Wine connoisseurs often ask questions like, "Do you prefer something robust or one that is more smooth?" and "What do you plan to pair with your selection?" or "Do you just want to enjoy this alone?" or "When do you plan to consume this?" Once he knows the answers to those types of questions, a wine (or cheese) connoisseur can better assess what type you may enjoy.

Andrew also gave the class a very clear explanation of what cheese really is. Using the story of the desert traveler as an introduction, Andrew explained that cheese results when milk is heated, agitated and combined with some form of enzyme or acid. It can also be described as the controlled spoilage of milk. The curds that separate from the whey (just like in the nursery rhyme) are what we consume when we eat cheese.

Of course, lots of factors combine to determine the flavor and texture of any given cheese. For instance, the diet of the animal whose milk is used to make the cheese can greatly influence the flavor. This, along with the surrounding soil and climate, are often referred to as "terroir," and terroir, more than anything, contributes to a cheese's unique flavor. In short, two cheeses made in two different locations using the exact same processes would not taste the same because of the difference in environment.



photo courtesy Nicole Goddard

BITE SIZE: **You don't have to travel hundreds of miles on a mule to get the best cheese around.**

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Throughout the two-hour class, Andrew delivered more fascinating anecdotes on the nuances of cheese. Ever wonder why cheddar cheese is orange? Apparently after a long day of grazing in the pasture, a cow will produce a richer, more flavorful milk. The farmers back in the day would often milk twice and the cheese made with the late day milk would be colored a yellowish-orange from the higher levels of beta-carotene. People noticed the orange cheese tasted better and in turn those wheels sold faster. So, the cheese makers, to boost sales, began mixing in annatto seeds with the curds to artificially color it orange. Luckily, now people aren't as easily fooled and we see cheddar cheeses without the added, unnecessary colorant.

And I learned that we owe a lot to monks. Not only do we credit them with inventing beer, but they are also responsible for creating a great number of cheese varieties. They figured out that by stepping on the cheeses and rubbing off the bacteria from their feet (gross, right?), a protective barrier was formed that helped the cheese to age better. The resulting moldy rinds are usually edible, but that doesn't mean you have to eat it. (Andrew recommended eating it only if you like but don't feel like there's a right or wrong way to eat cheese).

Another legend states that a monk left a half-eaten sandwich in a cave where cheese was aging and the mold that formed on the bread became airborne. It was unknowingly incorporated into the vat of cheese and instead of starting over they determined that the mold actually helped to protect the cheese from bacteria. And, of course, this is how we get the pungent and flavorful blue cheeses where you can literally see the veins of mold.

While filling our heads with all of this cheese knowledge, we also sampled a Camembert from France which was made from cow's milk, a goat's milk cheese from Spain called Leonora (my favorite), and another cow's milk cheese from France called Beaufort. There were several more tasty treats and an almost endless supply of rustic bread and wine to boot. It was a good night and a class I highly recommend for those interested in more cheese knowledge.

editor@smdp.com



The Better Option

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Google Images

FRESH TO YOU: The Burger Lounge in Downtown offers grass-fed beef with organically-grown veggies for a burger with less fat and fewer calories than factory farmed meat.

Where's the beef (come from)?

THE OLD CATCH PHRASE FOR FAST FOOD restaurants in the 1980s used to be: Where's the beef? The commercials featured an elderly woman who stood at the counter holding open a giant hamburger bun exposing a tiny, dried-out beef patty.

Now a more environmentally conscious generation is asking, where does the beef come from? More people are calling for a higher quality food product that is healthful and sustainable. Fortunately, these two aspects in food production have merged together to create a new concept in restaurants. Burger Lounge in Downtown is the latest of these quick service, enviro-health food restaurants.

Burger Lounge uses organic ingredients grown or raised in a sustainable environment providing their customers with more meals free of pesticides, hormones and antibiotics. Their menu is simple. It includes three basic patties of grass-fed beef, free-range turkey, or organic veggies in different variations. The menu also mirrors the typical hamburger joint with French fries, onion rings, shakes and salads.

On my last trip to the Third Street Promenade, my family and I decided to give Burger Lounge a try. I was intrigued by the concept and drawn in by the relaxed streamlined décor. I would have normally ordered the lean turkey burger or the quinoa veggie patty, but I was curious to try the grass-fed beef for its taste and texture. I ordered the Little Lounge without cheese, the half Fresh Vegetable Salad (to get my veggies), and shared a serving of onion rings and fries with the table.

The burger reminded me of my own homemade hamburgers I make with organic beef. It was tasty, but nothing special. I did enjoy the side salad with mixed greens, corn, jicama and other veggies tossed with their house-made lemon-basil dressing. We all found the fries soggy and limp and sent them back for a fresh batch. The service was quick and responsive, but the second batch of fries just wasn't crispy either; not worth the calories to me. I liked that they offer a quarter-pound burger, which is all that anyone really needs and the fresh cut onion rings were crispy on the outside and tender on the inside; very good.

Yes, compared to factory farmed meat, sustainable meat from animals raised on pasture contains less fat, fewer calories, and higher levels of essential omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E, and beta carotene. But is the grass-fed beef burger and organic sides at Burger Lounge healthier gram for gram than the traditional burger joint like Johnny Rockets around the corner? Let's break it down and see.

Burger Lounge meal 1: Little Lounge, one half of the Half Vegetable Salad, and a quarter of Half & Half onion rings/fries. Calories: 601, T Fat: 31g, Sat Fat: 7g, Cholesterol: 68 mg, Sodium: 1,074 mg

Burger Lounge meal 2: Lounge Burger, half of Half Vegetable Salad, and a quarter of Half & Half fries. Calories: 991, T Fat: 49g, Sat Fat: 11g; Cholesterol: 111 mg, Sodium: 1,627 mg

Johnny Rockets meal: The Original (smallest size), Side Salad, and a quarter of Half & Half fries. Calories: 1,522, T Fat: 95g, Sat Fat: 32g, Cholesterol: 175 mg, Sodium: 2,545 mg

Clearly the Burger Lounge's 4-ounce Little Lounge burger meal is the better option, and comparing burgers to burgers the Lounge's is significantly lower in calories, fat, saturated fat and cholesterol making it a lower calorie, lower fat option for your body compared to Johnny Rockets. It's still not an everyday meal, and I wouldn't call it a heart-healthy meal, but if you have to have your burger fix, this would do the trick with a lot less heart-clogging fats and sodium.

Grass-fed cows, while more sustainable, still take up a lot of room, use up a lot of water and release a lot of methane gas. The better choice would be to go meatless at least once per week, which would decrease the demand for any beef and reduce your carbon footprint along with your blood lipids. But supporting these positive environmental practices sends a clear message that the public wants to be served more of this type of food and it's a step in the right direction to helping our planet.

If you go

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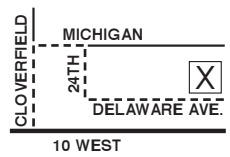
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TRIAL
FROM PAGE 1

cerned that he could potentially be prosecuted in the murder of Edward "Brian" Halloran, who prosecutors say was killed by Bulger after Connolly told Bulger that Halloran was cooperating with authorities against Bulger's gang.

Morris testified Thursday that he told Connolly about Halloran's cooperation. Another man, Michael Donahue, was killed during the same shooting because he happened to give Halloran a ride home that night.

Morris said he felt he had "no direct role" in the killings of Halloran and Donahue.

He said he agreed to cooperate with prosecutors because he "wanted to set things straight."

"I didn't want to carry that burden any more. I wanted to get out from under it," he said.

Morris acknowledged that there was pressure on FBI agents to cultivate informants who could provide information about the Mafia because bringing down the organized crime group was a top priority at the time.

Bulger attorney Hank Brennan repeatedly suggested that Connolly and Morris falsely portrayed Bulger as a top-echelon informant in the FBI's files so both of them could advance their careers. The defense maintains that Bulger bribed Morris, Connolly and others for information on investigations to help avoid prosecution, but say he was not an informant.

"The truth is, Mr. Morris, Mr. Bulger was buying, he wasn't selling, was he?" Brennan asked Morris.

"I didn't interpret it as a quid pro quo," Morris replied.

Brennan showed Morris two sets of reports on meetings with FBI informants, some purporting to be meetings with Bulger and some with other informants. In some of the reports, Connolly described information on gangland activities he attributed to someone other than Bulger. The same day or several days later, a report written by Connolly appeared in Bulger's FBI file, describing similar information.

"It's not real unusual that multiple informants can be reporting the same information," Morris said.

Brennan's cross-examination of Morris is expected to continue Monday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Kelly told Judge Denise Casper that Bulger's trial, which began earlier this month, is moving faster than anticipated. He said prosecutors could wrap up their case by the end of July, followed by the defense case.

SKATE
FROM PAGE 1

Goldsmith's second tour of duty.

It all started with a package from home.

"My mom sent me a road map of California," Goldsmith said.

The map was supposed to inspire Goldsmith to take a walking tour of the coast. The trip would be an adventure and a chance to publicize veteran causes.

Goldsmith had a slightly different take on it.

"Why not skate and roll when we can?" he said.

Now, American flag in tow and sticking mostly to California One, Goldsmith and Harington are rolling right down the coast and posting updates on Facebook and Twitter.

They keep safe and visible while on the road by wearing reflective gear and camp out in state parks or rest in small towns along the way.

A "support trailer" is available for the pair to camp in. One man drives while the other skates.

"I do the majority of the skating, but we're always changing," Goldsmith said.

It's easy enough for Goldsmith, who has been skating since he was a kid in Redondo Beach. Harington hasn't been skating quite as long.

"Bob has only been skating for three months," Goldsmith said.

"He's learning fast," he added.

On the road, the reaction has been good, Goldsmith said.

"People are passing, honking, waving."

But the best encounters are in person. Talking to people and hearing their reactions is rewarding, Goldsmith said. In Santa Cruz, Goldsmith and Harington were approached by a man who had heard about the trek.

"He talked for five minutes and was gone," Goldsmith said.

But not before he donated $500, he said.

The money goes to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. The organization offers free membership to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and provides services to help them with health, employment and education, Goldsmith said.

"They are about empowerment," he said. "Basically, helping vets help themselves."

More than 250,000 people are members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Goldsmith and Harington are also meeting with veterans wherever they can and collecting their stories, as well as encouraging community involvement in veteran issues.

After the trek, Goldsmith will be returning to Malibu in the fall to attend Pepperdine University and study law, he said.

"It's beautiful and it's close to home."

Goldsmith will attend the university on a GI Bill scholarship, he said.

"They're very supportive of veterans," he added.

The subject is never far from Goldsmith's mind, and he would like to use the study of law to advance veteran causes, he said.

To follow the Veteran Skate Trek, visit www.Facebook.com/ VetSkateTrek or www.Twitter. com/VetSkateTrek.

This article originally appeared in the Malibu Times.



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Gay marriage: In states, a hodgepodge lies ahead

BY DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON, DC Across the country, this week's landmark Supreme Court rulings on same-sex marriage have energized activists and politicians on both sides of the debate. Efforts to impose bans — and to repeal them — have taken on new intensity, as have lawsuits by gays demanding the right to marry.

The high court, in two 5-4 decisions Wednesday, opened the way for California to become the 13th state to legalize gay marriage, and it directed the federal government to recognize legally married same-sex couples. A federal appeals court on Friday lifted its freeze on same-sex marriages in California, saying the state is required to issue licenses to gay couples starting immediately.

But the rulings, while hailed by gay-rights activists, did not declare a nationwide right for gays to marry. Instead, they set the stage for state-by-state battles over one of America's most contentious social issues. Already, some of those battles are heating up.

In Pennsylvania, the only Northeast state that doesn't legally recognize same-sex couples, gay state Rep. Brian Sims, a Philadelphia Democrat, says he will introduce a bill to allow same-sex marriages. The bill may flounder in the GOP-led Legislature, but the issue is likely to be volatile in next year's gubernatorial race, pitting GOP Gov. Tom Corbett, an opponent of gay marriage, against any of three Democrats who favor it.

In Arizona, gay-rights supporters have begun circulating petitions aimed at repealing the state's 2008 ban on same-sex marriage by way of a ballot measure next year. With California's ban quashed, Arizona is now among 29 states with constitutional amendments that limit marriage to one-man, one-woman unions.

Gay-rights activists and Democratic politicians in several other states also hope to repeal the bans in their states — in Oregon, Ohio and Arkansas with possible ballot measures next year, and in Nevada and Michigan with referendums in 2016.

Ohio activist Ian James of FreedomOhio said his group's resolve to collect signatures "has been doubled" as a result of the Supreme Court decisions. And Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, a Democrat who favors repealing his state's ban, said the court action "underscores the urgency of extending the freedom to marry to all our citizens."

"Oregon has not yet lived up to the ideal of equal rights for all," Kitzhaber said.

In Indiana and West Virginia, some Republican politicians want to move in the other direction, joining the ranks of states with constitutional bans. Both states have laws that bar gays from marrying, but constitutional amendments are viewed as more durable measures that resist being overturned by litigation.

The leaders of Indiana's Republican-controlled Legislature had deferred action on an amendment during this year's session, opting to wait for the Supreme Court rulings. Now, with the backing of GOP Gov. Mike Pence, they say the Legislature will consider the ban in the session starting in January, possibly putting the question to voters later next year.

Micah Clark, executive director of the conservative American Family Association of Indiana, was pleased by that prospect.

"The future of marriage matters," he said. "And it belongs in the hands of Hoosier voters, not the courts, not Hollywood, and not the activists seeking to change it from what it is and always has been."

West Virginia, like Indiana, has a state law prohibiting gay marriages. Until now, though, it has not joined the parade of states taking a further step with a constitutional amendment. After the Supreme Court rulings, the leader of the large Republican minority in the House of Delegates suggested there is now an urgent need for an amendment,

"We don't know when someone might file a lawsuit or have some other issue come up where a judge can review that," said Tim Armstead. "We need to go to the next step."

Democratic Delegate Stephen Skinner, West Virginia's first openly gay lawmaker, disagreed. "There's really not much reason for a constitutional amendment, except to promote discrimination and promote homophobia," he said.

National gay-rights leaders expect that lawsuits seeking to expand gay marriage rights will eventually bring the issue back to the Supreme Court in a quest for a ruling that would establish a 50-state policy.

Lawsuits already are pending in a number of states. Some of those involved were heartened by the past week's rulings.

"What this does is establish very, very powerful precedents that we will be able to use in our case," said Mark Lawrence of Restore Our Humanity, which is backing a legal challenge by three same-sex couples to a ban approved by Utah voters in 2004.

Michigan's constitutional ban, also approved in 2004, is the target of a pending lawsuit by Detroit-area nurses April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse seeking a right to jointly adopt each other's children. The federal judge hearing the case had been waiting for the Supreme Court before issuing a judgment.

In New Mexico, two gay men from Santa Fe asked the state Supreme Court on Thursday to decide whether same-sex marriage is legal. The lawsuit contends that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples violates the state constitution, including provisions prohibiting gender-based discrimination and guaranteeing equal protection under the law.

New Mexico is one of only five states — along with West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Indiana — that has neither extended legal recognition to gay couples nor enacted a ban-gay-marriage constitutional amendment. There also is litigation in three states offering civil unions to gay couples, providing the rights and responsibilities of marriage but not extending that title.

In New Jersey, one lawsuit contends that civil unions do not fulfill a state Supreme Court mandate from 2006 that gay couples receive equal treatment to married heterosexual couples. The plaintiffs say they will soon file a motion arguing that, in light of the Supreme Court ruling, the only thing that is keeping the couples from equal treatment is the state law.

New Jersey's Democratic-majority Legislature passed a bill last year to legalize gay marriage, but it was vetoed by Republican Gov. Chris Christie. He says the matter should be decided in a referendum.

"There is no longer any excuse to delay," said Troy Stevenson of the gay-rights group Garden State Equality. "It is as immoral as it is impractical to force any New Jersey family to be stripped of critical economic and legal protections every time they cross the Hudson or Delaware Rivers."

Hawaii's civil union law, adopted in 2011, is being challenged in federal court by two women who want to marry rather than enter into a civil union. Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie, who supports a right to same-sex marriage, says the Supreme Court ruling on federal benefits for same-sex couples bolsters his argument.

Illinois also allowed civil unions in 2011, but efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in the recently ended legislative session fell short. The sponsor of the measure, Democratic Rep. Greg Harris, said the Supreme Court rulings should bolster efforts to revive the bill in the fall session.

Meanwhile, gay-rights lawyers are pressing ahead with a lawsuit on behalf of more than two dozen same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in Cook County. The suit also challenges an Illinois law that defines marriage as between a man and woman.

Gay-rights activists in some conservative states say there is no near-term prospect for softening their states' gay-marriage bans, and they're looking toward a more incremental approach.

In states such as Georgia, Idaho and Louisiana, these efforts include lobbying for local and statewide anti-discrimination laws that would extend protections to gays and lesbians.

In Wisconsin, a state that has tilted Democratic in national elections, Republicans now hold power at the Statehouse, and there's little discussion by gay-rights supporters of mounting an effort to repeal the gay-marriage ban approved by voters in 2006.

Instead, gay-rights activists there are trying to defeat a conservative group's lawsuit challenging a 2009 domestic partnership law that ended some legal rights to same-sex couples.

Wyoming has no constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, but proposals to permit civil unions and to ban discrimination against gays died in the latest legislative session.

State Rep. Cathy Connolly, the openly lesbian Democrat who sponsored those bills, says Wyoming's strong libertarian streak might be conducive to a legalization of same-sex marriage at some point in the future.

Federal rule could upend states' bans on shark fins

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Several members of Congress representing coastal states are voicing concern about a proposed federal regulation that could pre-empt state bans on buying or selling shark fins.

Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman of California is being joined by representatives of New York, Florida and Guam in seeking changes to a proposal they say would take away a state tool to protect shark populations.

California, Hawaii, New York and several other states have passed regulations on the sale and trade of shark fins, which are used in a soup considered an Asian delicacy. California's ban on the sale, trade and possession of shark fins will go into effect Monday after a compromise allowed time for restaurants and businesses to use up their existing supplies.

A letter from the representatives and the delegate from Guam states that a proposed rule by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries management division, the National Marine Fisheries Services, would undermine those laws. California state lawmakers were also circulating an opposition letter.

"If we are to address the problem of shark-finning head on, we must allow state and territorial statutes to complement the federal regulations and further the U.S. leadership in global shark conservation," states the letter, which has not yet been sent to the fisheries service but was given in advance to The Associated Press.

In addition to Huffman, it is to be signed by Democratic Reps. Sam Farr of California and Grace Meng of New York, Florida Republican Rep. Vern Buchanan and Democratic Delegate Madeleine Bordallo of Guam. Their letter is dated July 8, which is when the public comment period on the proposed rule is scheduled to end.

A request for comment was left with a press officer for the National Marine Fisheries Services.

The proposal under consideration says state and territory shark fin laws are preempted if they are found to be inconsistent with federal fishery management plans or regulations.

Conservation and animal welfare groups have begun circulating petitions against the proposal, but representatives of the fishing industry have argued that federal pre-emption is necessary to maintain fishing of commercially viable shark species.

Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 in an effort to strengthen federal laws against shark finning in U.S. waters and require that sharks be landed with their fins still attached. Since then, the fisheries service has been working to craft regulations to implement the act.

Conservation and animal advocacy groups said fishermen have been able to sidestep the rules by taking only the fins of sharks and dumping the carcasses back into the sea. Advocates say tens of millions of sharks are killed each year for the worldwide demand of shark fins and products.

Jill Hepp, director of shark conservation at The Pew Charitable Trusts, said states should have the right to go beyond federal rules in protecting shark populations.

"If this goes forward as they are proposing, this has the potential to undermine the states' shark fin trade ban and it would be a considerable setback for global shark conservation," Hepp said.

But John Whiteside, an attorney for Sustainable Fisheries Association, a Massachusetts nonprofit founded by four seafood processors, said the federal government should have the final say over regulations, especially fish caught in federal waters.

Not doing so would violate trade laws and run afoul of treaties the federal government has with governments around the world, he said. Commercial fishing groups were successful at getting exemptions in some states for certain species of sharks, such as the dogfish, a small shark also used for fish and chips that is sustainably harvested.

However, California provides no such exemption.

"You're building a wall around the state of California from which the free flow of legal goods is forbidden," he said. "If you have these states around the country that build these little islands, you can't have the free flow of commerce and that's what this country needs."

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **64.4°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
SSW swell eases, WNW swell eases, SSE tropical swell eases

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small NW windswell; New small long period SW swell starts to move in

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Shadowed SW swell moves in, small NW windswell

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Shadowed SW swell, small NW windswell

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 26, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 4
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 1
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.		
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las 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 Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	ns	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
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.	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter 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.	C	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 DWW 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's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

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

Heal the Bay

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Murray, Robson keep British happy at Wimbledon

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON When a 19-stroke exchange ended with Andy Murray's Wimbledon opponent slapping a forehand into the net, thousands of Centre Court spectators rose in unison.

They applauded Murray's first service break. They screamed for joy. They waved their Union Jacks and Scottish flags. It was only a third-round match, merely 12 minutes and three games old, yet to some that tiny early edge seemed massively meaningful.

So imagine the reaction, louder and livelier, when the second-seeded Murray finished off his 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 victory over 32nd-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain less than two hours later Friday to advance to Week 2. And then, for a moment, try to fathom what would happen if Murray ever were to win the final point of The Championships, as the Grand Slam tournament is known around here, and become the first British man in 77 years to hoist the trophy.

"You need to be professional enough to not let that stuff bother you and just concentrate on each match," said Murray, who has won 20 of his past 21 contests on grass, including runs to last year's final at the All England Club and a London Olympics gold medal. "I did a good job of that today. I played well. My best match of the tournament, so far."

The locals' hopes that Murray will follow up his 2012 U.S. Open victory with another major title, this time at Wimbledon, only increased in the aftermath of surprisingly early losses this week by seven-time champion Roger Federer, two-time winner Rafael Nadal and two-time semifinalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

All were seeded in the top six, and all were on Murray's half of the draw. Their departures mean the most daunting obstacle in Murray's path — until a potential final against No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic, anyway — might very well be surging expectations.

"There's a lot more pressure on me now, with them being out," Murray acknowledged after compiling 40 winners and only 14 unforced errors against Robredo, taking advantage of the zero-wind conditions under the closed retractable roof.

"I mean, I don't read the papers and stuff. But there are papers in the locker room," Murray continued with a chuckle, "so you see some of the headlines and stuff. It's not that helpful."

Nadal's stunning first-round exit, for example, was viewed mainly through the prism of how that result helped Murray, who could have faced the 12-time major champion in the semifinals. "Adios Rafa. Hello Andy. Wimbledon dreams again," read a headline in The Times of London. The Daily Mail's take: "Great start for Andy — Rafa's out."

All in all, then, Friday was a perfectly British day, and not simply because Murray won his third straight-set match in a row. The lone other remaining singles player from the host country, 19-year-old Laura Robson, made her way into the third round at Wimbledon for the first time, defeating 117th-ranked qualifier Mariana Duque-Marino of Colombia 6-4, 6-1.

That match, like Murray's, was played with the Centre Court covered because of rain that played havoc with the schedule, and Robson heard her share of rowdy support, too. She also was serenaded with the "Awwwwwww" that often accompanies a mistake by a player the crowd really cares about.

"I love when people get involved," Robson said. "Sometimes they do, like, a massive groan if I hit a double-fault, but I'm doing it as well. So, yeah, we're just living it together."

A few hours after Robson's match ended, putting her in Wimbledon's third round for the first time, a bookmaker sent out a release noting that her odds of winning the tournament went from 80-1 to 33-1.

Robson eliminated 10th-seeded Maria Kirilenko in the first round, part of a wild first week. All told, four top-10 men (each on Murray's half, coincidentally) and six top-10 women lost already, equaling the worst performance by the highest seeds at any Grand Slam tournament in the 45-year history of the Open era.

Speaking about the anyone-can-beat-anyone feel, 37th-ranked Jurgen Melzer of Austria said: "There has been so much talk about it, you cannot ignore it."

He did manage to put a stop to it, however, at least as far as Sergiy Stakhovsky was concerned. Two days after serving-and-volleying his way past defending champion Federer, Stakhovsky played like a guy ranked 116th, losing 6-2, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 to Melzer.

"I think," Stakhovsky said, "I just played stupid."

It's a common sight at major tournaments: An unknown player knocks out a big name, then fails to follow it up with another victory.

The same thing happened to 66th-ranked Eugenie Bouchard of Canada, who went from beating 12th-seeded Ana Ivanovic, the 2008 French Open titlist, on Wednesday to losing to No. 19 Carla Suarez Navarro 7-5, 6-2 on Friday. And 131st-ranked qualifier Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal, who eliminated four-time major champion Maria Sharapova in the second round, then bowed out 7-5, 6-2 against 104th-ranked Karin Knapp of Italy in the third.

"That was a huge win for me," Larcher de Brito said. "But it was tough for me to hang in there today."

Among Friday's noteworthy results: Grega Zemlja became the first Slovenian man to reach Wimbledon's third round by edging No. 29 Grigor Dimitrov 11-9 in the fifth set of a match suspended by rain Thursday night and interrupted again Friday; No. 24 Jerzy Janowicz's serves reached 140 mph and he delivered 30 aces in a straight-set victory over No. 15 Nicolas Almagro; No. 4 David Ferrer, the runner-up to Nadal at the French Open, also won, as did 35-year-old Tommy Haas.

In women's play, wild-card entry Alison Riske gave the U.S. a fourth woman in the round of 32 — no American men made it that far for the first time in 101 years — and plays Saturday against Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, who defeated No. 7 Angelique Kerber 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

Riske joins countrywomen Serena Williams, the defending champion; No. 17 Sloane Stephens; and Madison Keys. Stephens' third-round match against Petra Cetkovska of the Czech Republic was suspended Friday night because of fading light after they split the first two sets. Two other matches were halted in progress, one with 2011 Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova trailing No. 25 Ekaterina Makarova 2-1 in the third set.

Showers delayed play on a start-and-stop day, and four scheduled men's matches never even got going.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Now You See Me (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

White House Down (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:15am, 12:40pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:50pm

Internship (PG-13) 1hr 59min
2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Bling Ring (R) 1hr 30min
12:40pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm, 8:15pm, 10:45pm

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Now You See Me (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

White House Down (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:15am, 12:40pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:50pm

Internship (PG-13) 1hr 59min
2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Bling Ring (R) 1hr 30min
12:40pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm, 8:15pm, 10:45pm

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Man of Steel (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
10:15am, 12:55pm, 7:35pm

Monsters University (G) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 1:40pm, 2:40pm, 5:40pm, 7:40pm

World War Z (PG-13) 1hr 56min
10:20am, 4:05pm, 10:15pm

This Is The End (R) 1hr 47min
11:25am, 2:10pm, 5:10pm, 8:30pm, 11:20pm

White House Down (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
12:10pm, 3:25pm, 6:45pm, 10:10pm

Heat (R) 1hr 57min
10:30am, 1:25pm, 4:25pm, 7:25pm, 8:10pm, 10:25pm, 11:10pm

Monsters University 3D (G) 1hr 47min
10:15am, 4:40pm, 10:30pm

Man of Steel 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
4:15pm, 11:00pm

World War Z 3D (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:10pm, 7:05pm

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

Bidder 70 (NR) 1hr 10min
11:00am

Mud (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
4:00pm

Girls in the Band (NR) 1hr 21min
11:00am

East (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Frances Ha (R) 1hr 26min
1:30pm, 7:30pm

Much Ado About Nothing (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Before Midnight (R) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Kings of Summer (R) 1hr 33min
9:45pm

Scatter My Ashes at Bergdorf's (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11:15am

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

Happy Birthday

Nicole Scherzinger: Singer, the Pussycat Dolls, local resident and represented by Interscope Records, also in Santa Monica.

Order in tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You tend to be rather excessive when dealing with others, as well as yourself. Whether it is reacting in anger or indulging with a comrade, it is easy to go overboard. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS: (April 20- May 20)
★★★ What you are thinking and what you will share with others could be quite different. Sit on your feelings for a day or so, before you make a statement. If you want to make an impression, be firm. Tonight: Not to be found.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You need to know what is happening with others before you make plans. You will be a lot happier if you do what you want. Bring friends and loved ones together for a fun summer barbecue at your place. Be careful with your spending. Tonight: Do only what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ No matter what you do, others seem to notice you. Recognize what is happening here. You obviously are doing something that is working. Indulge an older friend or relative. Though this person might not clearly show it, he or she loves visiting with you. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ If you want to schedule a vacation, do. If you decide that you want to take off for a few days, there is no time like the present. You might be keeping some information to yourself. You have a sunny, upbeat manner that attracts many people. Tonight: If you want to, go exploring.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could be taken aback by what some friends share. A relationship is like a seesaw for you. One of you is up, the other is down. One wants this, the other wants that. Tonight: Follow your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Know that a boss or higher-up could be demanding. This person also could be an older relative or a parent. Honor what is happening, and let others make their own choices. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Juggle your plans with someone's request. You might not be pleased by everything that comes out in the next few weeks. Perhaps you don't know how involved you want to get in a major project. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner could give you more input than you might have asked or hoped for. This person doesn't mean to overwhelm you; it's just that he or she cares so much. Take the comments in the way they were meant to be taken. Don't read into them. Tonight: Go for the wild times.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Pressure builds around demands on the homefront and your expectations. Then, factor in a partner's or loved one's needs, and you could be as tightly wound as a corkscrew. Take care of yourself first; otherwise, you won't be able to give to others. Tonight: Entertain at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You don't need to go far in order to find a diversion. Walk out the door or pick up the phone. Be willing to spend time catching up on someone's news. You will lighten up the moment for yourself as well as for others. Tonight: Dinner at a favorite neighborhood spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Recognize that you don't need to spend a lot of money in order to enjoy yourself. Whatever you are doing, you seem to be able to balance your budget. If you go shopping, hold the receipts -- you could change your mind later. Tonight: Have too good of a time.

June 29-30, 2013

This year you open up to many changes, and you'll feel fortunate to be able to make the necessary adjustments. Lady Luck seems to be in your back pocket. You are at the beginning of a 12-year cycle; the first year is usually very fortunate. If you are single, you could meet quite a few potential suitors. What this situation forces you to do is decide what type of relationship you want. If you are attached, the two of you likely are about to begin a new phase in your relationship. ARIES knows how to get people energized, including you.

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

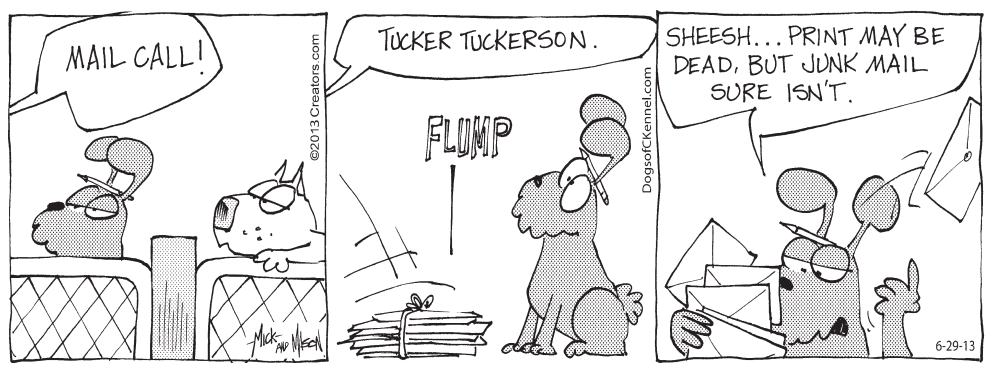
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



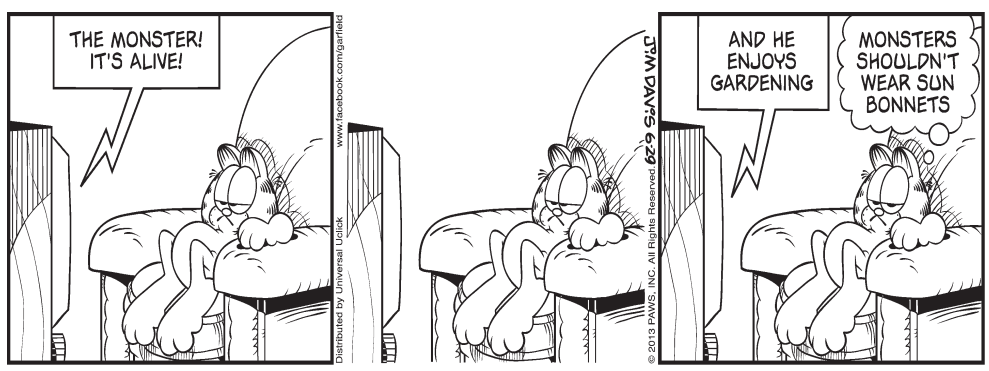
Strange Brew
By John Deering



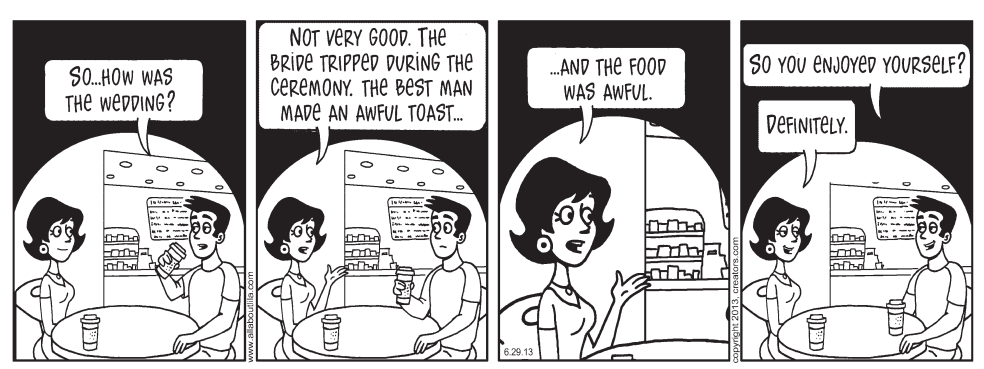
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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 ★★★★

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/28

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Kevin Herrera kevinh@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*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bother
7 Absurd
11 Spots
12 Comfortable
13 Like good behavior, jocularly
14 Sneaker problem
15 Streetcars
16 Dick's veep
17 Ticked off
18 Grammy winner Timberlake
19 Herring's kin
21 Exalted poem
22 Visitor to Rome in 46 B.C.
25 Stage signal
26 Late night name
27 Makes addresses
29 First-rate
33 Grounds
34 Equip anew
35 Corrosive stuff
36 Beach tent
37 Bowling site
38 Barcelona's region
39 Attire
40 Map key

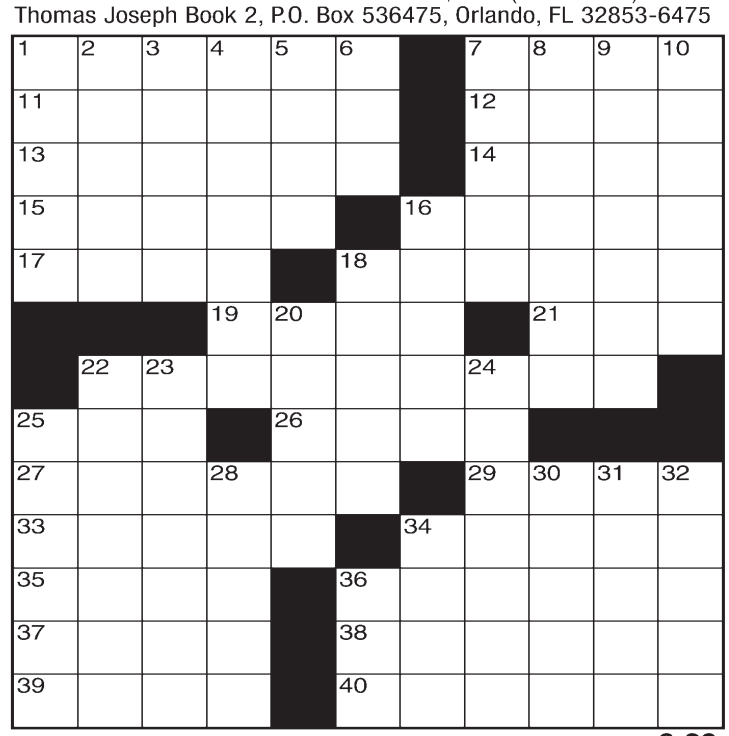
DOWN

1 Track trials
2 Texas player
3 Asparagus unit
4 Elegant cat
5 Reduced amount
6 Compass dir.
7 Falls
8 Books reviewer
9 Snowbird's destination
10 Power of films
16 Kenya neighbor
18 Quips
20 Jarlsberg feature
22 Island off Venezuela
23 Car option
24 Pledge drive reward
25 Blue hue
28 Ocean motions
30 No longer a minor
31 Nevada evergreen
32 Position
34 Exceptional
36 "East of Eden" brother

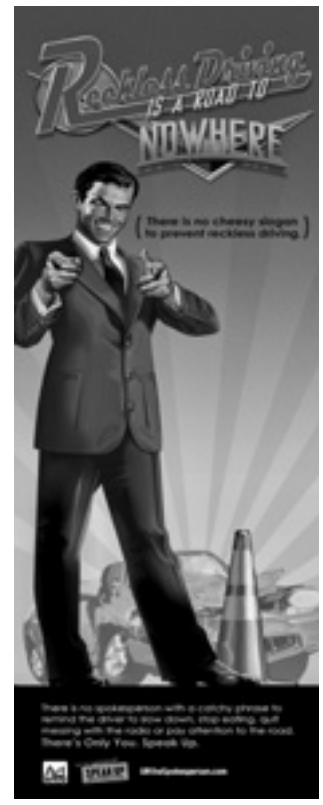
C	A	C	H	E	■	L	A	C	K	S
A	T	H	O	S	■	A	S	H	O	T
S	T	A	G	S	■	S	P	A	R	E
T	A	N	■	E	N	S	■	N	E	E
R	I	G	■	N	E	O	■	G	A	P
O	N	E	A	C	T	■	D	E	N	S
■	■	O	R	E	G	A	N	O	■	■
T	U	F	T	■	A	R	A	F	A	T
A	S	H	■	F	I	T	■	P	T	A
H	O	E	■	U	N	I	■	L	O	S
I	P	A	S	S	■	C	H	A	N	T
T	E	R	S	E	■	L	A	N	C	E
I	N	T	E	R	■	E	S	S	E	S

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



6-29



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Dennis Gholston, 45, with outstanding traffic warrants in Pennsylvania, decided in May that, even though alone in his car, he could not resist using a high-occupancy vehicle lane (HOV) on the New Jersey Turnpike near Carteret. His decision was even more unsound because, according to the officer who stopped him for the HOV violation, Gholston was hauling about $4,000 worth of heroin in the car, and he was charged with intent to distribute.

■ But What If the Device Falls Into the Wrong Hands? A 55-year-old British man whose bowel was ruptured in a nearly catastrophic traffic accident has been fitted with a bionic sphincter that opens and closes with a remote controller. Ged Galvin had originally endured 13 surgeries in a 13-week hospital stay and had grown frustrated with using a colostomy bag until surgeon Norman Williams of the Royal London Hospital proposed the imaginative operation. Dr. Williams, who was interviewed along with Galvin for a November 2009 feature in London's Daily Mail, wrapped a muscle transplanted from Galvin's leg around the sphincter and attached electrodes to tighten or loosen its grip.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1926 - Arthur Meighen returns to office as Prime Minister of Canada.

1927 - First test of Wallace Turnbull's controllable pitch propeller.

1928 - The Outerbridge Crossing and Goethals Bridge in Staten Island, New York are both opened.

1945 - Carpathian Ruthenia is annexed by the Soviet Union.

WORD UP!

mickle
\ MIK-uhl \ , adjective;
1.
Archaic. great; large; much.

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Data Management Developer. MS & 1 yr exp; or BS & 5 yr exp. Send resume to HR Guthy Renker, 3340 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

DISHWASHER
UPSCALE retirement community in Santa Monica is looking for a part time dishwasher to assist washing dishes and cleaning kitchen in the evenings. Pre employment drug test and clear criminal background required EOE If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application.

Reporting & Analytics Developer. MS & 1 yr exp. Send resume to HR Guthy Renker, 3340 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Taxi drivers needed. Age 23 or older, H-6 DMV report required. Independent Contractor Call 310-566-3300

Upscale assisted living community looking for PT and FT cooks to prepare delicious meals for senior clientele. Experience preferred. Pre employment drug test and fingerprint background check required. If interested, fax resume to (310) 314-7356 or come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application. EOE

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