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JULY 7-8, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 203

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

PALM ONE OF THESE BAD BOYS
SEE PAGE 11

THE WHERE IS EVERYBODY? ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

NOT HAVING IT: **(L to R) Bette Shapiro, Divina Sevilla and Aurora Zepeda want smoking banned at their apartment complex on Fifth Street.**

Council to consider apartment smoking ban

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Santa Monica may join a growing number of California cities and counties in banning smoking for new tenants in apartment complexes and condominiums Tuesday night.

The goal is to protect non-smoking tenants from secondhand smoke, a substance with at least 69 known carcinogens that can seep through walls, electrical sockets and travel through air ducts.

It is known to cause cancer and other health problems in people who have never smoked, and has particularly nasty impacts on children and the elderly, according to the National Cancer Institute.

As proposed, the ordinance would prohibit smoking in multi-unit residential housing, like apartment complexes, for all new tenants. Existing residents who smoke could continue to do so until they move out.

In a staff report, city officials ask the council to weigh in on a number of issues still up in the air, including how to determine if an existing unit should be considered smoking or nonsmoking, whether condominiums should be included in the ordinance and how the ordinance will be enforced.

Council members first considered the ban in December 2011. At that time, they chose to pass a prohibition on smoking in all new hotels, allowing owners of existing hotels to designate their hotels smoking or nonsmoking.

They put off the piece of the measure that would have done the same for apartment complexes and condominiums, however, when the concept hit a wall with council members concerned with individual liberties.

Hazy enforcement policies drew pointed questions from Councilmember Kevin McKeown.

"And how do you enforce something like this?" McKeown asked. "Will it be neighbors turning in neighbors? … Are we going to have police knocking on doors to check ashtrays?"

The current proposal recommends that violations be dealt with by tenants in small claims court rather than by any direct action of city staff or police.

Though council could consider direct enforcement, officials recommend against it, saying that "it is not clear how staff would gather evidence sufficient to prove violations in court."

Another method would be to require a nonsmoking clause in a tenant's lease.

That got a big thumbs up from Esther Schiller, director of Smokefree Air For Everyone and the Smokefree Apartment House Registry.

Including a nonsmoking clause in a lease gives apartment owners the right to evict a tenant who violates the agreement. That could be good for apartment owners, especially those concerned that tenants who contract illnesses from secondhand smoke may sue them.

"More and more we're hoping that landlords will realize that it's simply not a good

SEE SMOKE PAGE 7

Seventeen pledges to celebrate all shapes, sizes

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK Score one for girl power.

A 14-year-old Maine ballet dancer who led a crusade against altered photos in Seventeen magazine now has a promise from top editor Ann Shoket to leave body shapes alone, reserving Photoshop for the stray hair, clothing wrinkle, errant bra strap or zit.

And when Shoket or her staff do manipu-

SEE MAGAZINE PAGE 8

Gay rights leader lets Ark. roots take the reins

BY JEANNIE NUSS
Associated Press

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. Chad Griffin could have spent his first official day heading the country's largest and most influential gay rights group anywhere: in Washington, where he cut his teeth working for President Bill Clinton, or California, where he spearheaded a legal challenge to the state's same-sex marriage ban.

Instead, he came back to the Arkansas community where he spent his Sundays in a Baptist church and heard kids call him gay slurs in school, to show that he stands with young gay people in small towns across the country, not just on the coasts.

"One's state's borders should not determine one's rights," said Griffin, the new president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Arkansas helped shape Griffin into the leader he is today: a man uniquely qualified to fight a civil rights battle that will be diffi-

SEE GRIFFIN PAGE 9

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ext. 426
www.wiseandhealthyaging.org
WISE & Healthy Aging is a nonprofit social services organization

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, July 7, 2012

Lightsaber relay
Santa Monica Pier
10 a.m.
"Star Wars" fans everywhere have yet another reason to be excited about the inaugural Course of the Force lightsaber relay. Ashley Eckstein, voice of the character Ahsoka Tano in the television series "Star Wars: The Clone Wars," will team with Nerdist Industries' founder Chris Hardwick and the Nerdist Channel's Alison Haislip to lead legions of "Star Wars" fans from Santa Monica to San Diego and into San Diego Comic-Con International. The Course of the Force is a five-day relay for "Star Wars" enthusiasts to celebrate their love of the saga and support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For more information, visit www.courseoftheforce.com.

Fashion and murder
Blues JEAN Bar
1409 Montana Ave.,
1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Join fashion industry veteran Diane Vallere for the launch of her new fashion mystery novel "Designer Dirty Laundry." Vallere will be signing her new book about a fashionista who is framed for the murder of her fashion director. The book will be available for sale and signing, with complimentary drinks and cupcakes. For more information, call (424) 333-2992.

Get loud at the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
The Eurotones, a multilingual group specializing in classic continental, vintage dance and lounge, and Latin music, will have you dancing at the library at this outdoor concert. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. Seating is first-come, first-served. Although awnings will cover the audience seating areas, wearing sunscreen and sunglasses is recommended. For more information, call (310) 458-8608.

Sunday, July 8, 2012

Music in the mall
Santa Monica Place,
2 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Recurring every weekend, the Santa Monica Place will have several different and unique musical performances. With the sunny weather and no charge, it is a perfect place for families and friends to go and enjoy the music. For more information, call (310) 260-8333

Summer musical
Santa Monica Playhouse
Main Stage, 1211 4th St.,
12:30 p.m.
A fun twist on the classic, "Dorothy's Adventures in Oz" is a being presented every weekend this summer. With comedy and singing, it is ideal for many families. Birthday and Tea Parties are available in conjunction with every performance. Adult tickets cost $12.50, and kids 12 and under cost $10.50. For more information, call (310) 394-9779.

Monday, July 9, 2012

Night time jazz
Typhoon
3221 Donald Douglas Loop South,
2nd Floor, 8 p.m.— 9:30 p.m.
Located in the Santa Monica Airport, Typhoon is the perfect restaurant to spend an exciting Monday night, especially if you're in the mood for jazz. For more information, call (310) 390-6565.

Pier sign for a long time
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
If you're interested in landmarks, the Santa Monica Pier sign has just turned into one. Located at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean avenues lies the newly declared landmark. Attend City Hall's meeting to witness approval statement. For more information, call (310) 458-8341.

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



Life after 'Chappelle's Show'

Comedian Neal Brennan strives to make a name of his own

BY AMANCAI BIRABEN
Special to the Daily Press



THIRD STREET PROMENADE In the alleyway between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard next to the Third Street Promenade lies M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater. Though you wouldn't think much of the small building during the day, the laughing crowd and booming music is enough to attract curious bystanders.

And on every Sunday at 9 p.m., the theater is lit up with comedian Neal Brennan's weekly show "Neal Brennan and Friends," where he and several guest comedians perform an approximate 15-minute act.

"I always end up talking about black dudes, women, politics, and something cultural," Brennan said. "It's literally all just what I care about."

SEE **FUNNY** PAGE 7 BRENNAN



GOOD START

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Donavon Frankenreiter rocked the Santa Monica Pier Thursday for the 28th annual Twilight Concert Series. This Thursday's free show features Jamaica's The Mighty Diamonds. For a complete list of acts and other info, visit santamonicapier.org or call (310) 458-8901.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COLORADO AVE

Say goodbye to street parking

Because of the construction on the Exposition Light Rail Line in Santa Monica, parking on the south side of Colorado Avenue from Fifth Street to 17th Street will be relocated to side streets.

This construction will take place Monday, July 9 through Friday, July 20.

Parking spaces will move to Seventh Street from Colorado Avenue to Olympic Boulevard and 9th Street, 10th Street, 12th Street, Euclid Street, 15th Street and 16th Street from Colorado Avenue to Broadway.

"The Expo Light Rail project will necessitate loss of parking on the south side of Colorado Avenue," said Lee E. Swain, city engineer for Santa Monica. "This [construction] is to replace the Colorado parking loss."

The construction will consist of removing current striping and markings, installing new striping and markings, removing or relocating parking related signage, meters, wheel stops, handicap ramps and curb paint.

Once the construction is complete, parking south of Colorado Avenue from Fifth Street to 17th Street will be inaccessible.

Swain said that the funding for this specific construction is part of the Expo light rail budget.

"A lot of the funding for the light rail project is through Measure R," Swain said, referring to a half-cent sales tax approved by voters in November 2008 that is expected to generate $40 billion for transit projects over the next 30 years in Los Angeles County.

AMANCAI BIRABEN

DOWNTOWN

AFM announces conference lineup

The American Film Market, one of the world's largest gatherings of independent filmmakers and distributors, is set for Oct. 31 – Nov. 7 in Santa Monica.

The five-day conference series will occur at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and cover a range of topics including finances, marketing, pitches and micro-budget. This program allows its 700-plus attendees who come from over 70 countries to gain access to some of the industry's leaders and decision makers.

"This makes the AFM Conference Series unique and invaluable," Jonathan Wolf, executive vice president of the Independent Film & Television Alliance and managing director of the AFM, said of the event's global aspect in a statement released Friday. "We are looking forward to building on the 2011 inaugural, sold-out event by exploring topics that are most relevant to global filmmakers."

The Pitch Conference, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, will discuss the many different aspects that make a good pitch. Attendees will learn the basic rules of pitching from experts and volunteers from the audience will practice pitching to a panel and receive honest, frank feedback.

In addition to the conferences, the AFM allows for production and distribution deals to be closed, and according to AFM organizers, more than $800 million can and will be made during these eight days.

Because of its location, the AFM also fuels the local economy, and many restaurants and stores offer discounts to AFM attendees and participants. The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau estimated in 2011 that the market would contribute more than $100 million to the local economy over the next six years.

Visit the newly redesigned website at www.americanfilmmarket.com for more information.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

21 questions

Editor:

During the past few days an important government report in Japan said the Fukushima nuclear disaster was man-made. It could have been avoided, as in part, the nukes were not built strong enough. "Experts" knew the plant structures were not built to withstand massive quakes. And blame was placed on the Japanese people because they are said to have a culture that does not question authority.

But how different is our culture? And are we asking the important questions now about the two nukes outside of L.A., at Diablo Canyon and at nearby San Onofre? Can they withstand big quakes in California? Where are the emergency escape routes? Is the state and country ready to deal with nuclear disasters in our backyards? Do we even need nuclear power with the alternatives we have today?

Do we as Americans ask enough questions and get sufficient answers?

Andy K. Liberman
Santa Monica

Put the beast on a diet

Editor:

This letter is in response to the My Write column "Pipe dreams make bad policy," which appeared in the July 2 edition.

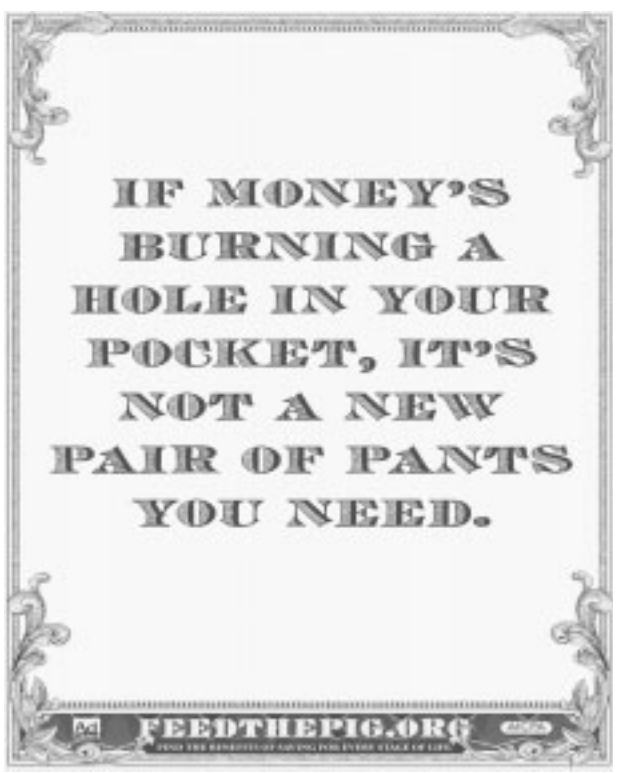
I feel Mr. Bauer's logic is a bit backwards in his rationale for why a development at 401 Broadway with no parking is "bad policy." He states that "traffic" is consistently Santa Monicans' biggest complaint. The only way to effectively reduce traffic is to reduce total vehicle trips. By building a development with no parking you are giving the residents the decision whether to own a car and to procure a parking place in nearby city-owned structures rather than forcing to pay for a parking space and pay for it. Because of the option, the latter would result in less vehicles trips than the former as some (I bet most) residents would forgo the car.

This would have been a win-win for all. An underutilized prime real estate location would have been developed in as little of a traffic aggravating manner as possible. To add a bonus the city could have captured some of the otherwise difficult to capture value by getting parking fees from those that did choose to own cars.

I agree with council member [Terry] O'Day, the financiers will catch up. This is a great sign that the developer pitched this and Santa Monica approved this. I am comforted knowing those with decision-making power "get it." Mr. Bauer is stuck in the mindset that has put us into a never ending cycle of traffic and car dependence.

Let's stop feeding the beast.

Zak Stern
Santa Monica





That Rutherford Guy

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

Everyone loses in a police state

IF YOU'RE DARK-HAIRED, BROWN-SKINNED and have the misfortune of living in Arizona in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in State of Arizona v. United States of America, get ready to be stopped, searched and questioned. Then again, if you're a citizen living in the U.S., this is merely one more component of the police state that appears to be descending upon us.

Thanks to a muddled decision handed down by the Supreme Court on June 25, Arizona police officers now have broad authority to stop, search and question individuals — citizen and non-citizen alike. While the law prohibits officers from considering race, color, or national origin, it amounts to little more than a perfunctory nod to discrimination laws on the books, while paving the way for outright racial profiling.

In one of this term's most controversial cases, the court was asked to determine whether federal law trumps Arizona's immigration law, the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act (S.B. 1070). A divided court struck down key provisions pertaining to the criminalizing of illegal immigrants (for not possessing their federal registration cards while working, applying for work or soliciting work) and warrantless arrests by police, declaring that "the state may not pursue policies that undermine federal law." At the same time, the court unanimously affirmed the Arizona law's "show me your papers" provision requiring police to check the immigration status of people they stop for any reason.

It's a mixed bag of a ruling that is being hailed as a victory by spin doctors at all ends of the political spectrum. President Obama, whose administration challenged the Arizona statute as attempting to preempt federal law, hailed the ruling as a clear referendum on the fact that "Congress must act on comprehensive immigration reform. A patchwork of state laws is not a solution to our broken immigration system — it's part of the problem." Meanwhile, Jan Brewer, Arizona's governor and a major player in the immigration wars, claimed the ruling as "a victory for the 10th Amendment and all Americans who believe in the inherent right and responsibility of states to defend their citizens."

Yet no amount of spin can detract from the fact that this ruling does little to recognize or counteract the real danger inherent in S.B. 1070, which is the erection of a prototype police state in Arizona. As Sgt. Trent Crump, a Phoenix police spokesman, made clear, all the pieces are already in place — all they're waiting for is the go-ahead.

By allowing Arizona police to stop and search people, citizens and immigrants alike, based only on their own subjective suspicions and visual observations, and by failing to address the core issue being debated here — namely, whether Americans have any Fourth Amendment protections anymore — the court has opened the door to a host of abuses, the least of which will be racial profiling. Without fail, we will be revisiting this issue again, especially in light of the fact that Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah have adopted similar laws.

Justice Harlan famously stated that "[o]ur Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens." However, S.B. 1070 and those like it have the very real potential to create both the perception and the reality that a new lower class of citizenship exists for one segment of citizens in the U.S. — those of Hispanic appearance. There can be no doubt that the effects of S.B. 1070 will primarily be felt by minorities. Citizenship and legal presence will be no protection against such racist policies. For now, in such an environment, the burden of proof will shift to compel those of Hispanic appearance to prove that their presence here is legal. The consequence of such a policy of enforcement is obvious: it will "contribute to racial balkanization" and lead to second-class status for those American citizens whose skin color is anything other than white.

The concept of citizenship, as the Supreme Court recognized in its seminal Fourth Amendment case Miranda v. Arizona (1966), involves the enjoyment of "dignity and integrity." At the very least, this means being "accorded a level of respect, regard, and autonomy in dealings with the police." This goes to the crux of the problem: there is no room for dignity and integrity in a police state. Yet with every ruling being handed down right now, we're being moved that much closer to such a state of affairs.

Frankly, when all is said and done, the mindset behind the Supreme Court's ruling is no different from that of Florence v. Burlington (which prioritized making life easier for overworked jail officials over the basic right of Americans to be free from debasing strip searches), or Kentucky v. King (police were given greater leeway to break into homes or apartments without a warrant), or Brooks v. City of Seattle (police officers who clearly used excessive force when they repeatedly tasered a pregnant woman during a routine traffic stop were granted immunity from prosecution).

These seemingly unrelated cases perfectly encapsulate how much the snare enclosing us has tightened, how little recourse we really have — at least in the courts, and how truly bleak is the landscape of our freedoms. What these respective rulings reveal is that the governmental bureaucracy has stopped viewing us, the American people, as human beings who should be treated with worth and dignity. That was the purpose of the Bill of Rights.

The Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures of our persons and effects was designed so that government agents would be forced to treat us with due respect. With this protection now gone, those who attempt to exercise their rights will often be forced to defend themselves against an increasingly inflexible and uncompromising government. Some will come under scrutiny for their political or religious views, others for the color of their skin, while still others may be targeted for merely being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or for trying to hold fast to some last shred of privacy.

In this way, the court's ruling sounds a warning far greater than the singular matter of how states deal with illegal immigration. To those who can hear it, it says beware: the police state is almost upon you.

Constitutional attorney and author **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute.

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The Q Line

Paying for schools

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is considering placing a bond on the November ballot.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Would you vote for a bond or is this not a good time to ask the community for extra funding?

Here are your responses:

"ANYTHING THE SCHOOLS NEED, THEY should get."

"YES, AS A LONG-TERM MEMBER OF this lovely city of San Malicious —and having a son that went through the school system here and ultimately ended up at Pepperdine — I would consider voting for a bond in November. But I would only think about it; that's not necessarily so, but I think it's a jolly-good idea."

"THERE IS NO GOOD TIME TO ASK Santa Monicans to continue paying for Malibu's schools. Our charity for this tenth of 1 percent — some of the richest people on earth — has gone on far too long."

"BETWEEN CITY HALL, SANTA MONICA College and the school board, this has to be the 32nd time in the last 10 years that we are going to endure another tax. They never end. Why? Because the parental dummies in this town get all misty eyed when not throwing taxpayer money at problems the school board is responsible for. Education is a business, in this town over $125 million a year. Why would you squander taxpayer funds on an inept school district leadership? Meaningful cuts could be made to a bloated budget. First would be to fire the entire school board, then bring in outside business leaders to run the district. I understand that the employees have not seen a raise in over five years. I know times are tough — an old management line — but anyone without a raise in five years must love education in spite of its leadership and taxes."

"HOW DARE THEY [SMMUSD] ASK the community for more money. We give, give, give — sales tax, property tax, special assessments. It doesn't stop. When are they going to make some change? How about lowering salaries and retirement benefits, reducing admin staff, eliminating non-district students who cost thousands of dollars each? There is already plenty of money. It just isn't being spent correctly."

"YET MORE BOND ISSUES. THESE IDIOT politicians, be it at the city, state or federal level are too stupid to realize this money has to be paid back. Enough with the bond issues, if you don't have the money now, do without it."

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"IN THE FORTY YEARS I'VE LIVED IN Santa Monica, like many others, I have consistently voted for school bonds. During that time I've seen teacher salaries cut, classes cut, good teachers dismissed and inferior teachers retained. I've seen the schools unsafe. Who has been using this money, and for what? Nobody knows. I'm done."

"OUR SCHOOLS ARE JUST EXCELLENT, AND I think we need to pay as much as we can to keep them in such excellent condition. I favor whatever measures we have to take, whether it's a bond issue or tax override to make sure that they have as much money as they need."

"YES, WE MUST FUND OUR SCHOOL FOR our children. We need to have our children go to school to learn to read, write and, I think is most of all in demand, to teach them social skills — and parents have to enforce it, enforce this. We had to teach our dog social skills, and if our dog did something wrong we have to pay the fine. Our children are out of control, and if we are paying for the schools for our children then we request that we put back God's prayers back into school and in the class. Everybody should be praying for our children."

"I CAN VOTE FOR A BOND BECAUSE bond money is used to purchase equipment and build better facilities that will last for generations. It's a good investment. We need the latest equipment and proper classrooms, gyms, pools, ball fields, etc. to compete in what is now a global market. Without those tools, we will all be lost."





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Rosemead slaughterhouse fighting to remain open

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMEAD, Calif. A slaughterhouse in a small Los Angeles suburb is raising a big stink as the owners fight an order to shut it down, accusing the city of discriminating against Asian culture.

Chinese American Live Poultry in Rosemead provides freshly killed chickens — head, feet and all — to many Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants in the San Gabriel Valley. It opened in 1991 and was allowed to keep operating after the city passed an ordinance prohibiting poultry slaughterhouses, so long as it did not improve or expand its facilities.

However, complaints about foul odors, traffic jams and escaped chickens moved the city to pass an ordinance two years ago ordering Cal Poultry Vikon Inc., which operates the family-owned slaughterhouse, to cease operations by May 12 of this year.

Owners Quan and Dana Phu sued, accusing city officials of racial and religious discrimination. They argued that the chickens meet the cultural and religious practices of Asian-Americans and Southeast Asian Buddhists, who use them as offerings to ancestors.

"They don't care about our kind of business or our culture," Quan Phu told the Los Angeles Times.

The chief priest at the Rosemead Buddhist monastery told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune that the use of chickens as ancestor offerings is a Chinese tradition and that Buddhists are supposed to be vegetarian.

"Buddhist services don't have any chickens or pigs or any animal offering," Bhante Chao Chu said.

Last month, U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee issued a preliminary injunction allowing the slaughterhouse to keep operating until the lawsuit is decided.

The public has an "interest in eliminating discrimination on the basis of race or ethnic origin," Gee said.

The controversy pinpoints the growing pains in a community that once was overwhelmingly white and Latino but is now more than 60 percent Asian. Over the past few decades, Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants flocked to the city of 54,000 that calls itself "Today's Small Town America."

It hasn't always been an easy transition. The city was sued in 2005 for failing to provide voter information in Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish as federal law required. It's newsletter only began being offered in languages other than English in 2008.

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Former Raiders DE Smith faces 3 new murder charges

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Anthony Wayne Smith spent seven years as a menacing defensive end for the Oakland and Los Angeles Raiders whose mission was to put quarterbacks on the turf.

Authorities believe that penchant for a game of violence turned into something more sinister shortly after Smith departed professional football.

Already awaiting retrial for a murder four years ago, Smith was charged this week with three additional murders, including the slayings of two brothers who prosecutors said were kidnapped and robbed by men posing as police officers.

The most recent charges paint a portrait of a man who authorities say turned to brazen crime, but leaves the question of why he needed to after a somewhat successful career.

Smith, now 45, was drafted 11th overall by the Raiders in 1990 and amassed 57 1/2 sacks and 190 tackles while as a defensive end in the NFL. In 1993, Smith had 12 1/2 sacks, helping put the Raiders in the playoffs. The team lost in the AFC divisional round to Buffalo 29-23.

Smith retired in 1998 and according to authorities took part in the murders of Kevin and Ricky Nettles in November 1999.

The siblings were kidnapped from a car wash in Los Angeles by two men posing as police officers, and they were later found shot to death, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. The victims' bodies were dumped about eight miles apart from one another.

Smith also was charged in the June 2001 killing of Dennis Henderson, who, along with another man, was kidnapped in Los Angeles by several gunmen, Gibbons said. The victims were put in separate cars, and while the other man was let go, Henderson's body was found in a rental car. Authorities said Henderson was beaten and stabbed to death.

Los Angeles police detectives began working on the trio of old murders in April 2011. Several search warrants were served and witnesses were interviewed, said police Cmdr. Andrew Smith. Investigators wouldn't say if Smith knew the Nettles brothers but said the former NFL player lived next door to Henderson's brother.

"We believe these were robberies, but we don't know the motive behind them," said Smith, who has no relation to the suspect.

Defense attorney Michael Evans declined comment about the new charges, saying he hasn't seen the evidence against his client.

In a court filing, prosecutors said all three victims were tortured. Smith also faces three counts of kidnapping, and along with special circumstances, is eligible for the death penalty. Prosecutors will make a decision on whether to seek capital punishment at a later date.

Meanwhile, Smith is jailed awaiting retrial on a murder charge in the 2008 killing of Maurilio Ponce. A jury failed to reach a verdict in April, splitting 8-4 in favor of guilt.

Prosecutors contend Smith lured Ponce to an Antelope Valley desert highway where the mechanic was beaten, stomped and shot over a business deal gone wrong.

Evans argued at trial that there was no physical evidence linking his client to the crime and Smith had no reason to kill Ponce.

Smith will be retried with a co-defendant. A third man, Eric Honest, was convicted of second-degree murder in April and is awaiting sentencing.

Smith's next court date is July 17.

FUNNY
FROM PAGE 3

Brennan is most famous for having co-created "Chappelle's Show" with writing partner Dave Chappelle, in which he directed the second season.

Brennan always knew he wanted to be in comedy. Because he was also interested in film making, he went to New York University for one year before dropping out. In his eyes, going to a film school when he already could write was a waste of money. He then started his career at age 20, writing for the MTV show "Singled Out."

Now, as a stand-up comedian, Brennan is faced with the constant challenge of coming up with multiple jokes and themes the crowd will find funny every week. He turns to a few broad themes that he personally likes to joke about.

The specific ideas for jokes, on the other hand, will simply come to him out of the blue.

Though Brennan knows not everyone may relate to his comedy, he doesn't try to change his sense of humor to fit others'.

"You're not going to get very far trying to please other people," Brennan said. "I don't say anything in my act that I don't believe."

After writing and directing comedy, Brennan began to consider actually performing it. Now, having been on stage for around five years, he's starting to find his groove.

However, because writing and directing is predominantly behind the scenes, he finds being a comedian more challenging.

"The main difficulty is writing jokes and then learning how to perform them," Brennan said. "You have to train your body to stand in front of people."

Brennan believes that you have to take your own chances in order to become a successful comedian. The only advice that someone usually can give is to hold the mic and move the stand out of the way.

He looks up to comedians such as Chris Rock and Chapelle, but even so, he's given them advice as a writer and director.

"There's been people that have helped me but I think it's never direct," Brennan said. "There's so few pieces of advice that are like, 'Here's what you gotta do.'"

Along with Rock and Chapelle, he likes the stand-up comedians Bill Burr and Bill Hicks.

"They're very intelligent. They talk about relatively difficult subjects and are able to make them funny," Brennan said.

From being a writer and director, Brennan had to learn how to smile and not be nervous on stage. He says that as a comedian you have to figure out how to write and learn how to perform, and then learn to do it simultaneously.

Though Brennan seems incredibly confident while he acts, he used to be outgoing only with people he knew.

"It takes time on stage [to stop being scared]," Brennan says. "I don't think you look at me now and think, 'He seems uncomfortable.'"

Brennan believes that performing is incredibly hard to achieve for most people. It's something that not even he has mastered completely.

When Brennan turned to becoming a comedian, that was an aspect that he definitely had to work on.

"It's difficult to perform because people would rather die than speak in public," Brennan said. "Human beings' biggest fear is public speaking."

For information on Neal Brennan's upcoming shows, visit www.nealbrennan.com

news@smpd.com

SMOKE
FROM PAGE 1

business decision to allow smoking in their apartments because it represents a liability they are not protected from," Schiller said.

According to a city staff report, apartment owners aren't interested in taking on the extra duties to enforce anti-smoking policies.

Another controversial piece of the ordinance required current tenants to declare whether or not they want the freedom to smoke in their apartments.

Incoming tenants would receive a list of smoking and nonsmoking units so that they could choose to avoid rentals near smokers if they wish.

If they did not respond to the call, the units would default to nonsmoking.

Those involved in affordable housing, and some members of the City Council, worried that the new rules could hurt elderly smokers or smokers in rent-controlled units with landlords that might use lighting up as an excuse to kick them out.

Officials have since revised that policy proposal, instead requiring nonsmokers to "opt-in" to smokefree housing, making the default designation for each unit "smoking" until that tenant moves out.

The City Council could reverse that Tuesday, if members wish.

Anti-smoking advocates hail the new ordinance as a good first step that would eventually lead to the end of smoking in multi-unit family housing throughout Santa Monica.

That doesn't mean it's enough, especially for Bette Shapiro and her neighbors Aurora Zepeda, Divina Sevilla and Mimi Tegegene, all residents of an apartment complex on the 2000 block of Fifth Street.

The women live next door to smokers. Conditions have gotten so bad that they drafted a petition to their management company begging for some kind of redress.

Walking into Shapiro's home, one would think that the ceilings and walls hadn't been finished. Each of the vents is covered in plastic in an attempt to keep the smoke from an adjacent apartment out of her home.

Before the management company helped her seal the vents, she had to sleep on the floor near her front door to escape the smoke.

Shapiro used to be a foster parent. Pictures of the smiling children that she's cared for cover her walls, framed in bright primary-colored frames.

"If I ever wanted to go back to it, I would never take them here," she said.

Tegegene, a 15-year resident of the complex, can no longer open her patio door or the kitchen window lest smoke invade her home. She's given away her patio furniture, her neighbors said.

A man who only identified himself as George — and George the First and George Michaels — is a smoker who lives in the apartment complex.

"I would veto that," George said, referring to the proposed ban. "I would be against it all the way."

George said that he's partially disabled, and that going outside to have a cigarette would be inconvenient.

One of the main arguments against the ban centers on that concept of property rights, that a man or woman should be able to smoke in their residences.

That doesn't fly with Zepeda.

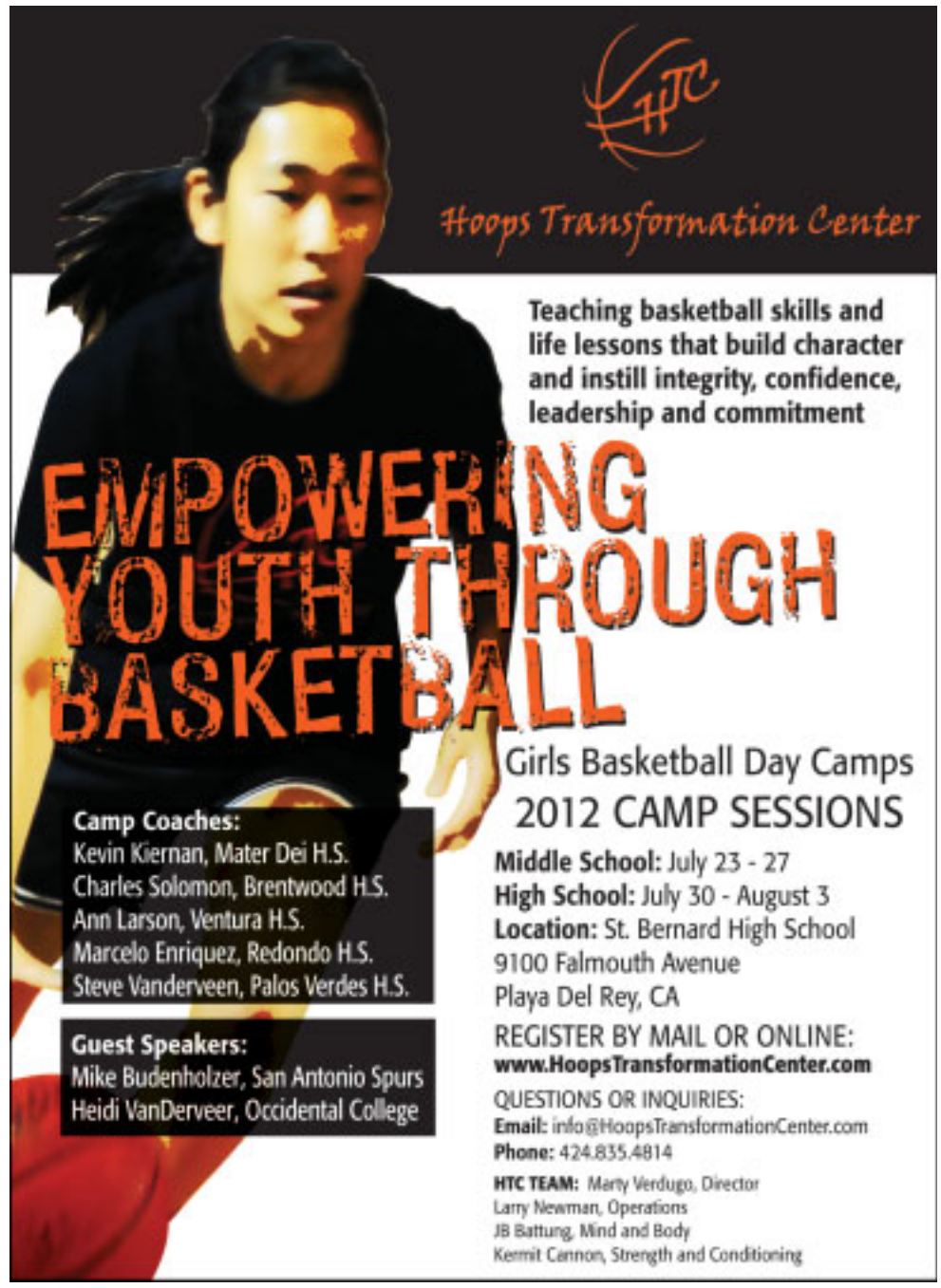
"They're choosing to smoke it. Why do I have to breathe it?" she said.

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MAGAZINE
FROM PAGE 1

late images, she vowed in the August issue, they'll post before and after shots on the magazine's Tumblr page for full transparency.

Shoket's promises are included in a "body peace treaty" that also commits the magazine to always feature healthy girls and models regardless of clothing size.

The young activist, Julia Bluhm, said Friday from her summer camp she's "really excited."

"I didn't think it would get this big," she said. "It's a really great surprise for me."

Julia and her mom, Mary Beiter, sat down with Shoket in New York in early May to discuss the thousands of signatures on the Waterville girl's online petition at Change.org. Julia declared victory after Shoket's announcement, ending with more than 84,000 signatures.

Now, two of her fellow bloggers from SPARK Summit, a group of girls and young women trying to end the sexualization of girls in the media, are targeting Teen Vogue to make the same commitment. They've collected more than 15,000 signatures since Tuesday.

Shoket did not identify Julia by name in her full-page declaration, which also denied the magazine ever changed the shapes of bodies and faces. She had no further comment Friday.

The editor did cite the support of the National Eating Disorders Association. The group's president, Lynn Grefe, lauded the effort as a first step but said far more must be done to promote positive body image and a more attainable standard of health and beauty in magazines and other media.

"I'm not saying it's a total victory," Grefe said. "Seventeen, Teen Vogue, Vogue, Cosmo, every magazine still has ads for diet products and other things that we find problematic, but in terms of the Photoshopping stuff, I believe that Ann is sincere and wants to really educate the consumer and work with the girls and show them what has been Photoshopped and how to recognize that."

Julia's mother also was pleased but agreed: "Certainly there's probably more that they could do, but these things probably come in stages, and something is something. Something is good. It opens the door. That's always the biggest hurdle."

Julia had asked Seventeen to run at least one unaltered photo spread a month, saying Seventeen and other magazines put pressure on girls to emulate perfect-looking models without realizing images have been doctored. Manipulated images, Grefe said, contribute to eating disorders, depression and low self-esteem among girls as young as 8.

Grefe noted that 40 percent of newly identified cases of anorexia are in girls and young women 15 to 19 years old. She cited research showing more than half of teen girls and nearly one-third of teen boys use unhealthy weight control behaviors, such as skipping meals, fasting, smoking cigarettes, vomiting and taking laxatives.

Girls who diet frequently are 12 times as likely to binge as girls who don't diet, Grefe said, noting that most fashion models are thinner than 98 percent of American women.

Izzy Labbe, a 13-year-old from Waterville who collaborated with Julia on the Seventeen petition, was thrilled at Shoket's response but agreed she could have gone further.

"The measures they're taking are fabulous, don't get me wrong, but I feel like they never admitted to doing anything wrong," Izzy said.

Audrey Brashich, a former teen model and editor of the now-defunct teen magazine YM, said the Seventeen pledge has far more potential for immediate, tangible changes in the minds of girls than a vow from Vogue editors around the world to ban models under 16 or those of any age with visible signs of eating disorders.

Vogue didn't address the widespread industry practice of digitally altering photos when it made the promise in May.

Brashich, who in 2006 published a book called "All Made Up: A Girl's Guide to Seeing Through Celebrity Hype and Celebrating Real Beauty," said she hopes Seventeen lives up to its promise.

"And if the magazine doesn't do all that," she said, "I hope Julia Bluhm and her 84,000 supporters are right there to point out its failures."

Associated Press writer **DAVID SHARP** in Portland, Maine, contributed to this report.

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and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
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GRIFFIN
FROM PAGE 1

cult, even after President Barack Obama came out in support of same-sex marriage this year. As the first Southerner to head the Washington-based group, Griffin has a knack for translating the fight for gay rights into language familiar to people in the Bible Belt. He sometimes borrows phrases from the pulpit — brothers and sisters, God's children — to advocate equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"This is nothing more than the golden rule," Griffin told community leaders during his visit last month. "Treat others as you wish to be treated."

It's a lesson that echoed throughout his childhood, which was steeped in Arkansas' cultural history of discrimination against African-Americans fighting for the same rights afforded to whites. In 1957, the state's governor and hundreds of protesters famously tried to stop nine black students — the Little Rock Nine — from entering Central High School.

"If you remember those famous photos from the '60s and the civil rights movement, you didn't only see African-Americans marching down the street," Griffin said. "You saw them marching arm in arm with their white brothers and sisters."

So, too, does Griffin want the fight for gay rights to extend beyond the usual suspects.

Griffin has shown he's up to that challenge by "building bridges to communities that we never expected to support us ..." said screenwriter and gay rights activist Dustin Lance Black, who spent part of his childhood in Texas. "And now (he's) going after people from our neck of the woods."

Griffin was born in Hope, as were Clinton and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, and grew up about 45 miles northeast in Arkadelphia. As a teen, he worked part-time at a local Walmart and did well in his classes, even as some of his peers called him nasty gay slurs.

"I wasn't even out to myself at the time, so I guess those people knew before I did," Griffin said.

Looking back, Griffin said he didn't know that he knew a gay person when he was growing up in Arkansas. Not that he lacked for role models, finding them in his family, community and in the state Capitol.

Griffin said he was inspired that "someone like President Clinton could come from a small town and rise and do ultimately what he did." So, Griffin went the political route, first as a page in Clinton's state Capitol, later as part of his presidential campaign and ultimately following him to the White House as part of the communications team.

There among Washington's movers and shakers, Griffin found his next challenge when actor-director Rob Reiner convinced him to move to California and run a charitable foundation.

Griffin, now 38, came out in his late 20s. And when he flew home to surprise his mom for her retirement ceremony as a school principal, he told her what she already knew: He's gay.

His mother looked at him and asked, "Did you think I would love you any less?"

Several years later, Griffin became the brains behind the historic legal challenge to California's same-sex marriage ban, known as Proposition 8, which voters approved in 2008. Without ever going to law school, he assembled an unlikely legal team — high-profile lawyers who represented both George Bush and Al Gore in the disputed 2000 presidential election — and found two same-sex couples willing to share their stories.

That case took another step toward the U.S. Supreme Court last month and David Blankenhorn, the chief witness who testified in favor of the ban, recently came out in favor of gay and lesbian unions.

Meanwhile, among advertisements for bingo games and lemonade pie in an Arkadelphia restaurant, Griffin began his next chapter as a gay rights leader, listening intently as community leaders shared small signs of progress. He received a warm welcome home: Dozens showed up for breakfast, and about 200 people turned out for his chat in Little Rock with Arkansas' lone openly gay lawmaker, state Rep. Kathy Webb.

But Griffin's message isn't widely accepted here, where in 2004 under Huckabee, about three-quarters of voters backed an amendment to the state's constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

"That can only be changed with another constitutional amendment," Gov. Mike Beebe told a group of high school students recently. "I don't see it happening in the foreseeable future."

Although Beebe and other top Arkansas Democrats oppose same-sex marriage, Griffin said he doesn't write anyone off.

"I think so, too, will Mike Huckabee support full equality for LGBT people soon," he said.

After all, the state's Supreme Court last year rejected a law that effectively banned gay and lesbian couples from adopting or fostering children.

Someday, Griffin said, he'd like to marry and have a family of his own. He is seeing a man from Massachusetts, but is quick to point out that he's not fighting for gay rights just for himself.

"My motivation really is the young people," Griffin said.

He met with some of them in Little Rock, including a 19-year-old college student, who is the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher. She started questioning her sexuality several years ago, and when her parents found out, she was sent to a camp to "pray the gay away."

When she came back, she lied and told them she was straight.

The student, who spoke on condition of anonymity because her parents don't know she is gay, said she has come out to some of her friends, but doesn't want to lose her parents.

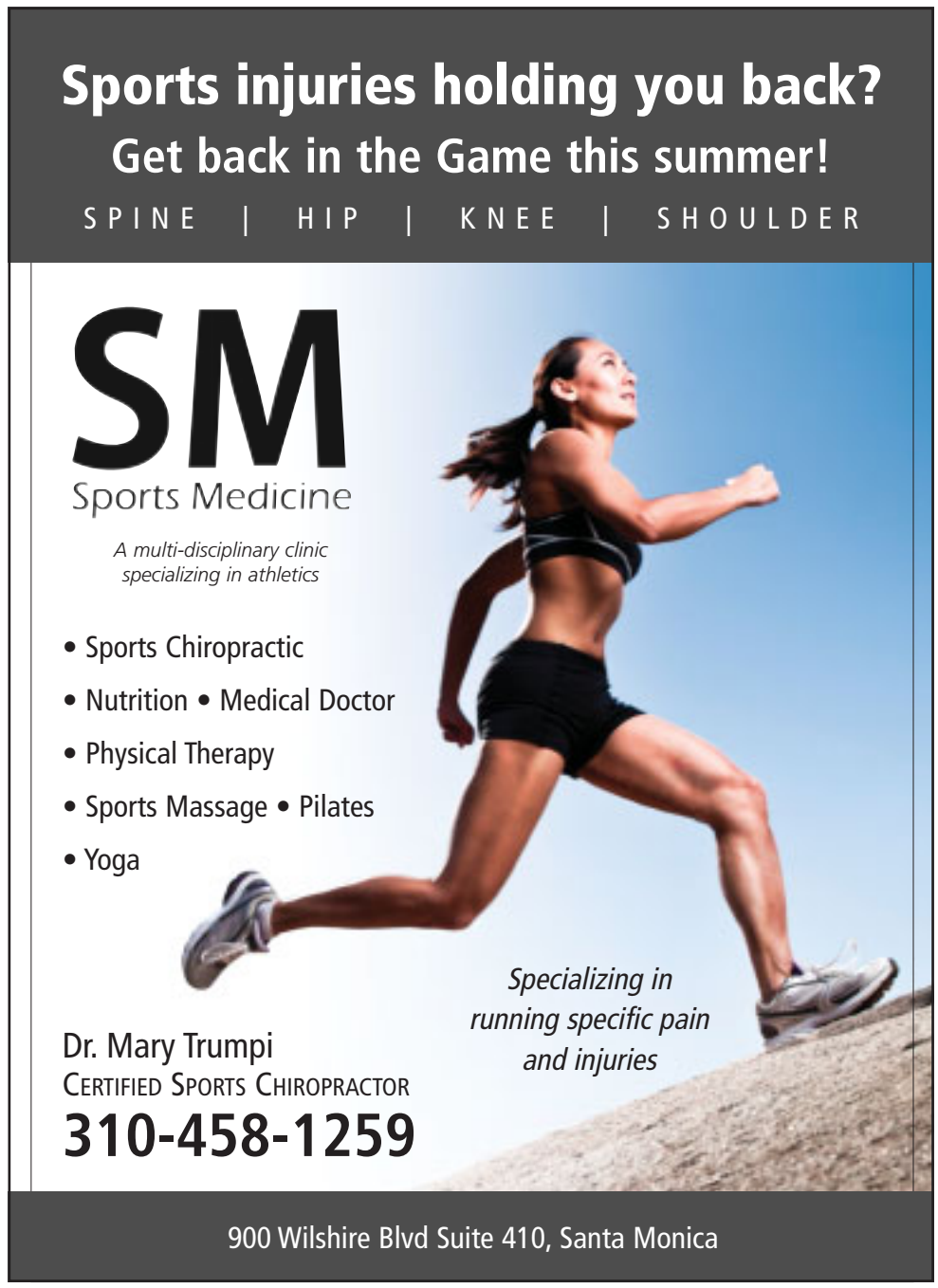
She said Griffin inspired her to do more for gay rights, and her voice shook as she asked Griffin how she could get her foot in the door.

"Kick that door down," Griffin said.









Poptails! A chilly cocktail served on a stick

BY ELIZABETH KARMEL
For The Associated Press

To me, summer is margarita season.

My favorite classic margarita is the "Topolo," which is served at Rick Bayless' Topolobampo restaurant in Chicago. It is properly shaken and served in an appropriately small martini glass. I can't stand trying to drink out of stemmed glasses that are too big for my mouth. I end up drenched in my drink instead of quenching my thirst!

When the bartender is perfectly on point, I can see tiny ice crystals in the shimmering liquid. Catching a few icy sips before the crystals melt is my perfect prescription to unwind. That first sip is always the best as the balance of ice cold and tart freshly squeezed lime juice, sweet orange liqueur and robust tequila join to make a refreshing and relaxing libation.

I know people drink them all year long but to me, a well-made margarita is a hot weather cocktail. Summer also is the only time of year (I think) a frozen margarita takes the lead in the great shaken vs. frozen debate.

The frozen margarita has taken repeated hits from professional bartenders and cocktail connoisseurs. But I don't understand why. I consider the frozen versions to live in their own separate (and fun!) category. We have all kinds of grades of beer, wine, steaks, etc. Why not different margaritas for different occasions?

This summer, I decided to make my own version of the Topolo margarita and — since I love the icy coolness — freeze it in fun frozen pop molds to make a decidedly adult cocktail treat. I called it a "poptail."

I love making these because they can be prepared up to a week in advance and are ready as soon as your guests arrive. Or as soon as you get home from work! I sometimes top the pops off with a slice of lime that freezes at the base, just for the look of it. You can embellish or not, depending on your level of craftiness!

My recipe is simple. I use freshly squeezed juice — a blend of tart lime and sweet orange — and sweeten it with powdered sugar. The powdery texture ensures the sugar dissolves, thereby eliminating the need to make simple syrup (the more common sweetener for cocktails). Start with 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar and add more depending on how sweet or tart you like your drink.

I also add a bit of salt to echo the salted rim of the cocktail glass (and to balance the sweetness). I like to use orange triple sec and a top-shelf aged (anejo) tequila to round out the flavor.

These days there are plenty of great frozen pop molds on the market. Pick your favorite and even flavor your pops to match the mold. The orange and vanilla creamsicle just might be the next "poptail" I tackle since I saw that classic pop mold in a catalog the other day.

The recipe is easily customized to suit your taste. You even can leave out the booze for the kids. Just be sure to use two different shaped molds so the pops don't get mixed up!

ELIZABETH KARMEL is a grilling and Southern foods expert and executive chef at Hill Country Barbecue Market restaurants in New York and Washington, as well as Hill Country Chicken in New York. She is the author of three cookbooks, including "Soaked, Slathered and Seasoned."



Photo courtesy Google Images

COOL IT NOW: **Making popsicles out of margaritas is a great way to get a buzz while keeping cool during the summer months.**

Margarita frozen pops

This recipe makes a classic strong margarita. If you want the "poptails" to be low-test instead of high-test, reduce the alcohol by half or double the other ingredients. If you want to make these pops without the alcohol at all, add the juice of 1 extra orange and an extra 1/4 cup of filtered water. Pour into molds and freeze per the manufacturer's instructions.

Because of the alcohol in these pops, they are a bit slower to freezer than traditional recipes. It's best to make them the day before.

Start to finish: 5 minutes, plus overnight freezing

Servings: About 8 (depending on the size of your molds)

1/2 cup fresh lime juice, about 5 to 6 large limes
Juice of 1 large orange (about 1/2 cup)
1/4 cup filtered water
Pinch of fine-grain sea salt
3/4 cup tequila
1/4 cup triple sec
2 to 4 tablespoons powdered sugar (to taste)

In a pitcher, combine the lime juice, orange juice, water, salt, tequila and triple sec. Stir well. Add the powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time and stirring well between additions. Taste to determine your desired sweetness, then continue stirring until the sugar is completely dissolved.

Fill the pop molds, stopping about 1/2 inch from the top. The liquid will expand to fill the sleeve as it freezes. Put the Popsicle handles in place and freeze overnight.

Nutrition information per serving (assuming 8 pops) (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 90 calories; 0 calories from fat (0 percent of total calories); 0 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 8 g carbohydrate; 0 g protein; 0 g fiber; 20 mg sodium.

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Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Old timers, Vol. 5: The Palm

THERE ARE A FEW RESTAURANTS LEFT IN Los Angeles that are icons. And in fickle Los Angeles it's not easy to keep a restaurant profitable for more than three or four years. But some become part of the local legend. One of these is the Palm, one of the great steak and lobster destinations in Los Angeles since its opening in 1975. The restaurant chain has 85 years of tradition since the first one opened in New York City. Now they seem to be everywhere.

One of the reasons that the Palm is successful is the ambiance. It's not overly fancy. And it's not like the new modern restaurants with tables in an open room so close together you feel like you are having dinner with the people at the next table. The Palm is crowded most of the time, and fairly noisy, but there are booths and wide aisles, so you're neither closed in nor seated with strangers.

There are cartoons on the walls. One story is that like some of the great restaurants in Paris, some of the early customers in New York couldn't pay their bills in cash, so they paid by drawing cartoons of famous people on the walls, and the idea stuck.

Another story is how the name was selected. The original owners were from Parma, Italy and wanted to name their new restaurant "Parma." But the city clerk issuing the license misheard the name because of the thick Italian accent, and gave them a license under the name "Palm" instead.

To go with the informal atmosphere, the food is straightforward and uncomplicated. And that's its charm. The pictures on the wall can be quite funny, and one shows a customer holding a big lobster in two hands eating it like we used to eat watermelon when we were kids.

Without a doubt the specialty of the house, and the dish that it is known for, is the tender, succulent, premium lobsters from Nova Scotia. And these babies grow big. There are some very good lobsters available around town, but I don't know any others this big.

The second big hit here are the steaks. Just about every well known cut is available, but for me the star is the prime, double cut New York strip sliced tableside. It's advertised as serving "two or three persons" but those "persons" must have one big appetite because I think it's enough for 4 to 6 persons — especially with the brandied peppercorn sauce. These steaks are aged and especially flavorful.

There's a much more complete menu, but the reason to come to the Palm is for those dishes — and the crispy fried onions that come on the side.

There is a typical wine list, with anything you would want to drink, but just as the food is basic and uncomplicated, so is the wine list. There are no fancy French wines worth buying, and I'm told that the Italian wines don't sell very fast. It's the basic California chardonnays and cabernets that sell. As with the dinners, the wine prices are toward the top of the scale.



John Blanchette *news@smdp.com*

HEFTY: **Palm restaurant server Kenny Howard hoisting a 4-pound lobster caught in the waters off Nova Scotia. In the background are cartoons of the rich and famous, a Palm trademark.**

If you go

The Palm
9001 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles
90069
(310) 550-8811
www.thepalm.com/

I belong to a men's group of old timers from the media industry that has lunch at the Palm once a month. We ended up there, in the "back room," because of the service. The servers are cheerful and competent. The food comes out quickly and hot. There's a good burger, always a delicious fish, and the chopped chicken Caesar I had there this month was one of the best I've ever had. And of course there are big plates of crispy onions passed around the table. We pay a fixed price of $35 including tax and tip and private room, which we think is a bargain.

And last month I was invited to a media dinner in the same room. It reminded me of a Roman orgy. There were about 50 people there. Waiters continuously brought out huge trays filled with plates of crab salads, huge lobster tails, pounds of sliced N.Y. steaks, hamburgers, and a lot more that I passed up. There was a good California cabernet. And the classic cheesecake and a huge carrot cake showed up at the end.

It gave us a chance to try all the signature dishes. And it drove home the restaurant's philosophy: no one leaves here hungry.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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Worries about drowning come with heat in U.S.

BY MARTIGA LOHN
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. As heat across a big chunk of the U.S. drives people into pools and lakes to cool off, public health officials are worried about a heightened risk of drowning.

Minnesota has had more drowning deaths so far this year than any time in the past decade, and officials in Illinois and Michigan are seeing an uptick in some areas, too. Drowning deaths historically go up in the summer months, but the intensely hot weather may also be putting even more people at risk as they flock to water for relief, some without swimming skills.

"When you've got more people out there, the chances of someone getting hurt or killed are increased just by the fact you've got numbers on the water," said Kim Elverum, spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "You've got ability and so on from one end of the scale to another out there."

Much of the central and eastern U.S. has experienced particularly hot weather in recent days, with temperatures climbing into the 100s in several cities. In the Midwest, even low temperatures have been setting record highs, meaning people aren't able to get relief even overnight.

In Chicago, Reggie Banks wondered whether heat drove his 22-year-old nephew, a strong swimmer who played high school water polo, into Lake Michigan on the Fourth of July. Mahlik Harris' body was pulled out of the water after he went missing while swimming in the lake, where he might have gotten a cramp that made it impossible for him to swim back to shore. An autopsy is pending.

"The beach was closed so there's no swimming after 7, but everybody was packed out there watching the fireworks and it's 100 degrees and they're thinking, 'Let's get into the water,'" Banks said.

Excessive heat-warnings were in place Friday for all of Iowa, Indiana and Illinois as well as much of Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Kentucky, and parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. The National Weather Service said it expected heat warnings and advisories to be continued or expanded on Saturday, with the heat largely centered over Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic states.

"I hate it," Brenda Jones, 55, said Friday as she sat on a covered porch outside her Detroit apartment building in a tank top and shorts. "When the sun hits the porch at 5 p.m., I run in and take cover. Give me fall."

Few states release hard numbers on drownings at this point in the year, but Minnesota counted 25 non-boating drowning deaths through July 5, the highest in a decade. The deaths happened in lakes, rivers and ponds as well as manmade pools, hot tubs and bathtubs. The numbers include four who fell through ice in the winter. In a state with a multitude of lakes, a warm year has driven even those who don't normally swim to the water.

The deaths include a 5-year-old boy who drowned off a dock, with his unworn life jacket still sitting on the dock. A 17-year-old boy died after trying to swim from an inflatable raft to an island, and a 20-year-old man died after jumping off a motorboat to swim, then struggling in the water.

"You have some inexperience out there with handling some of these situations," Elverum said.

Julie Gilchrist, a medical epidemiologist and pediatrician at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the heat wave should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to learn survival swimming skills — how to right one's body, swim to the surface, control breathing, float or tread water, and traverse a distance in the water. She said research shows swimming lessons even for children as young as age 1 can help protect them from drowning.

"Everybody needs to know how to swim," she said.

She urged people to swim at beaches or pools with lifeguards but not to rely on the lifeguard to track their children. Weaker swimmers should wear life jackets.

Storms that have knocked out power in some states have made riding out the heat even more difficult.

Some 200,000 people were without power Friday in West Virginia, and heat advisories were in place through Saturday for part of the state.

Robin Workman lives with her husband, three sons, daughter-in-law and grandson in Cabin Creek, W.Va. After the power failed, they all moved into a single room in her mother-in-law's home next door. They connected fans to the generator, laid mattresses on the family room floor and tried to stay comfortable.

Power popped on early Friday morning at Workman's home, but she was keeping the generator and gas cans handy just in case.

"My sister-in-law got power the other night and then lost it again. They didn't even have it 24 hours," she said, "so no, I'm not that confident."



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, for the following officers:

For four (4) members of the City Council	Full term of four (4) years
For two (2) members of the Rent Control Board	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica City College Board of Trustees	Full term of four (4) years

The nomination period for these offices begins on July 16, 2012, and closes on August 10, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

If nomination papers for an incumbent officer are not filed by August 10, 2012, the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election, August 15, 2012, to nominate candidates other than the person who is the incumbent, for that incumbent's elective office.

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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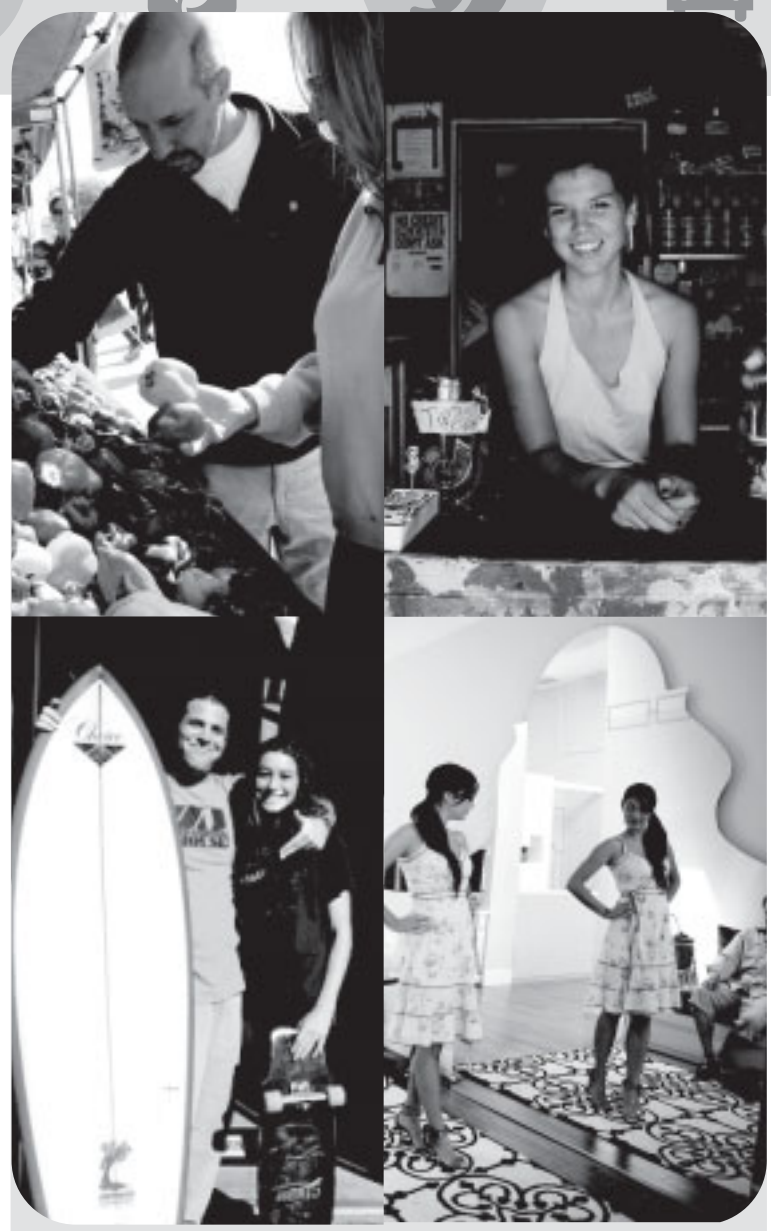


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U.S. economy adds 80,000 jobs in another weak month

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER & PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON The American job machine has jammed. Again.

The economy added only 80,000 jobs in June, the government said Friday, erasing any doubt that the United States is in a summer slump for the third year in a row.

"Let's just agree: This number stinks," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at the investment firm BTIG.

It was the third consecutive month of weak job growth. From April through June, the economy produced an average of just 75,000 jobs a month, the weakest three months since August through October 2010.

The unemployment rate stayed at 8.2 percent — a recession-level figure, even though the Great Recession has technically been over for three years.

The numbers could hurt President Barack Obama's odds for re-election. Mitt Romney, the presumed Republican nominee, said they showed that Obama, in three and a half years on the job, had not "gotten America working again."

"And the president is going to have to stand up and take responsibility for it," Romney said in Wolfeboro, N.H. "This kick in the gut has got to end."

Obama, on a two-day bus tour through the contested states of Ohio and Pennsylvania, focused on private companies, which added 84,000 jobs in June, and took a longer view of the economic recovery.

"Businesses have created 4.4 million new jobs over the past 28 months, including 500,000 new manufacturing jobs," the president said. "That's a step in the right direction."

The Labor Department's report on job creation and unemployment is the most closely watched monthly indicator of the U.S. economy. There are four reports remaining before Election Day, including one on Friday, Nov. 2, four days before Americans vote.

No president since World War II has faced re-election with unemployment over 8 percent. It was 7.8 percent when Gerald Ford lost to Jimmy Carter in 1976. Ronald Reagan faced 7.2 percent unemployment in 1984 and trounced Walter Mondale.

Patrick Sims, director of research at the consulting firm Hamilton Place Strategies, said that "time has run out" for unemployment to fall below 8 percent by Election Day.

That would require an average of about 220,000 jobs a month from July through October — more like the economy's performance from January through March, when it averaged 226,000 per month.

Few economic analysts expect anything close to that.

"The labor market is treading water," said Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute. She called it an "ongoing, severe crisis for the American work force."

The Labor Department report put investors in a sour mood.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 124 points. Industrial and materials companies, which depend on economic growth, were among the stocks that fell the most. The price of oil fell $2.77 per barrel to $84.45.

Money flowed instead into U.S. Treasurys, which investors perceive as safer than stocks when the economy is weakening. The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 1.54 percent, from 1.59 percent on Thursday.

Investors were already worried about a debt crisis that has gripped Europe for almost three years and recent signals that the powerhouse economy of China is slowing.

Earlier this week, the European Central Bank and the central bank of China cut interest rates in hopes of encouraging people and businesses to borrow and spend money.

For American investors, however, the jobs report fell into an uncomfortable middle ground.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke promised last month that the Federal Reserve would take additional steps to help the economy "if we're not seeing a sustained improvement in the labor market."

But some financial analysts said that the Labor Department report, while disappointing, was not weak enough to lock in further action by the Fed at its next meeting July 31 and Aug. 1.

The slowdown in job growth has been stark. From December through February, the economy produced an average of 252,000 jobs a month, twice what is needed to keep up with population growth.

But the jobs generator started sputtering in March, when job growth slowed to 143,000.

At first, economists blamed the weather for warping the numbers. An unusually warm winter allowed construction companies and other employers to hire earlier in the year than usual, effectively stealing jobs from the spring, they said.

But weird weather could only explain so much, and the bad news kept coming: The economy added just 68,000 jobs in April and 77,000 in May. Those figures reflect revisions from earlier estimates of 77,000 for April and 69,000 for May.

June's dud of a number made it clear that the economy has fallen into the same pattern it followed in 2010 and 2011: It gets off to a relatively fast start, then fades at midyear.

Offering some hope, the slowdowns the two previous years lasted just four months each.

From June through September 2010, the economy lost an average of 75,000 jobs per month. From May through August 2011, the economy added an average of 80,000 per month. Both years, hiring picked up significantly when the weak stretches ended.

To be sure, the United States is still suffering the hangover of a financial crisis and the worst recession since the 1930s. The economy lost 8.8 million jobs during and after the recession. It has regained 3.8 million.

The economy isn't growing fast enough to create jobs at a healthy clip. That is primarily because three traditional pistons of the economic engine aren't firing the way they normally do:

— Consumer spending since the recession has been weaker than in any other post-World War II recovery, partly because wage increases have been small. In such a weak job market, employers don't need to give big raises. And households are trying to pay off the debt they ran up in the mid-2000s.

— Housing has been a dead weight on the economy for six years. Home-building usually powers economic recoveries, but construction spending is barely half what economists consider healthy.

— Government, which usually picks up the slack in the job market when the economy is weak, isn't helping this time. Counting federal, state and local jobs, governments have cut 637,000 jobs since 2008. They have cut 49,000 the last three months.

In the first three months of this year, it appeared state and local government job losses were coming to an end.

SEE **JOBS** PAGE 15

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$?(&! What did that politician just say?

BY JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK What the $?&(! is going on with our politicians?

The mayors of New York and Philadelphia and the governor of New Jersey let loose with a few choice vulgarities over the past two weeks in otherwise G-rated public settings, including a town-hall meeting and a City Hall event.

And all three men knew full well the microphone was on.

While foul language has been uttered in politics before, the blue streak is making some wonder whether it reflects the coarsening effects of pop culture in this reality-TV era of "Jersey Shore" and "The Real Housewives," a decline in public discourse, a desire by politicians to come across as average Joes, or just a really hot summer.

First there was famously blunt New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie branding a lawmaker "one arrogant S.O.B." at a town hall last month (and using some stronger epithets in discussing his passion for the music, though not the politics, of Bruce Springsteen in an interview published in The Atlantic this month.)

Then New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, apparently having trouble stomaching a slew of puns in his prepared remarks for Tuesday's contestant weigh-in at City Hall before the Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest, chuckled, "Who wrote this s---?" to guffaws from the crowd.

Then it was Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter's turn on Thursday at a news conference where he discussed a shooting a few blocks from the center of the city's July Fourth celebration. He said he wasn't going to let the city's image be harmed by "some little ass---- 16-year-old."

"My sense is: Because they want to appear to be in tune with popular culture, politicians feel free to express themselves in profane ways," said Rutgers University political scientist Ross K. Baker. And he finds that troubling: "I honestly do believe that, in aping the coarseness of popular culture, people in public life are really dragging us into a discourse of fang and claw."

President Harry S. Truman was criticized for his use of such salty language — for his time — as "hell" and "damn." And many Americans were shocked by Richard Nixon's liberal use of profanities on the Watergate tapes, which made "expletive deleted" a pop-culture catchphrase.

In more recent years, then-candidate George W. Bush was caught on what he didn't realize was a live microphone describing a reporter as a "major-league ass----," and Vice President Dick Cheney hurled the F-word at Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy on the Senate floor.

In 2010, Vice President Joe Biden was heard using the F-word on live television in a whispered congratulation to President Barack Obama at the signing of his health care bill.

The seeming proliferation of political swearing reflects changes in both social norms and the media landscape, said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. Offhand remarks that might once not have been reported now get captured on video and posted online.

"Politics has been nasty" for years, Thompson said. "The difference is we now have media that show this stuff."

Nutter, who has used vulgarities before in response to street violence, has described his language as an "honest, clear, direct response."

Christie has built his political career on his brash style. His warning to people to "get the hell off the beach" as Hurricane Irene approached last year appeared in big front-page headlines around the state.

As for the lawmaker who was the target of the Republican governor's salty remark last month, he's not complaining.

"He actually gave me national attention," Democratic state Sen. Paul Sarlo said. "The term is more of an insult to my mom, who is not politically involved."

Still, Sarlo saw the comment as unbecoming of a governor who has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential contender.

The biggest problem with political figures using bad language is that it crowds out whatever they were actually trying to say, said etiquette expert Lizzie Post of the Emily Post Institute. "The words we're focusing on are probably not the ones they want us to," she said.

And what of the average citizens politicians are trying to reach — or, perhaps, emulate?

Kristina Klimovich, for one, doesn't like to hear them swear. "I think there's always a line, and as a public servant there are certain standards they have to adhere to," said Klimovich, of New York.

But Lisa Garfield of Springfield, Mass., said, "It makes them more human."

"I'm 52 years old," she said, "and I don't know anyone who's never used a cuss word in their life."

JOBS
FROM PAGE 14

"That turned out to be a temporary halt," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial. "Apparently, there's no end in sight."

The figure of 80,000 jobs came from a Labor Department survey of businesses and government agencies. Another survey, of American households, looks better. It shows the number of employed Americans rose by 381,000 the past three months — 127,000 a month.

The household survey can catch the self-employed and those working for very small businesses, who can be missed by the bigger business survey. But over time the two surveys usually tell the same story.

The unemployment rate last month was unchanged from May. But a broader measure of weakness in the labor market, the so-called underemployment rate, deteriorated for the second straight month.

In June, 14.9 percent of Americans either were unemployed, had been forced to settle for part-time employment, or had given up looking for work and were not counted as unemployed. The rate was 14.8 percent in May and 14.5 percent in April.

The Labor Department report left economists grasping for good news. Average hourly pay rose 6 cents in June, the biggest monthly gain in nearly a year. The average workweek grew slightly, the first gain in four months.

The extra hours and higher wages put more money in consumers' pockets. And companies hired 25,000 temporary workers, usually a sign that they will hire full-time workers soon.

"That we latch on to these modest positives speaks to the bias of low expectations," Greenhaus said.

Meantime, 12.7 million Americans remain officially unemployed.

When Deborah Masse, 49, lost a job in 2007, she had a job offer within six weeks. This time has been different. Since being laid off in October 2011, she has sent thousands of resumes and had several phone interviews but received no offers.

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Expungements: Burying Those Skeletons In Your Closet

Have you ever applied for a job, professional license, and/or school application where they asked if you have ever been convicted of a crime? If so, did you get nervous and distraught at the thought of having to circle "yes" and then explaining the circumstances of what happened years and years ago with your minor run in with the law? If this is a likely scenario for you or someone you know, help make those skeletons in the closet disappear by filing an expungement/dismissal motion. California Penal Code Sections 1203.3 and 1203.4 set forth the basic rules for expungements. This article focuses on some need to know legal rules and consequences with regard to expunging your record in California. Please note that this article examines the basic elements and procedures of expungements. If you or someone you know is filling out an application or reporting a past conviction to anyone in an official capacity it is advisable to speak with a criminal attorney about whether you must report the past conviction, even after the expungement process.

In terms of filing an expungement and clearing up your record, there are a couple preliminary questions that must be answered. First, was your past conviction for a felony or misdemeanor crime? Second, was probation granted and if so have you successfully completed probation? And lastly, once you have determined that you are eligible for expungement, what do you do?

If the answer to the first question is a misdemeanor, then you're on the right path! If the answer to the first question is felony, then there is another step that must be completed prior to filing an expungement. In order to expunge a felony conviction or have it dismissed from your record, a motion must be made pursuant to Penal Code Section 17(b) to first have the conviction reduced to a misdemeanor. Certain felony crimes, however, are never capable of being reduced to a misdemeanor and can never be expunged. Convictions that cannot be expunged or dismissed by law include any misdemeanor listed in Vehicle Code section 42001(b), any violation of P.C. 286(c), 288, 288a(c), 288.5, or 289(j), a felony under P.C. 261.5(d), and any infraction. Moreover, if you were never granted probation and instead went to State Prison, although there are options for clearing your record, the basics of expungements as explained in this article will not apply to your given scenario.

Once you have determined that your past conviction was a misdemeanor or capable of being reduced to a misdemeanor, move on to question number two: Was probation granted and have you successfully completed all the terms and orders of your probation? Typically, in misdemeanor cases, courts order that a defendant be placed on 1-3 years of probation and to follow all rules and regulations. If the court does not order probation, you're ready to file the motion! If probation was granted, the time period is over and done with, and you have fulfilled all the terms of the probation (including completing any classes, service work, and/or paid all fines) then you are also ready to file the motion! If probation is still open and has not been completed, a separate motion for early termination of probation must first be filed. If granted, and probation terminated early, then you are ready to file the motion! In sum, before a motion for expungement/dismissal is filed, probation must typically be successfully completed either by the passage of time or by early termination from the court.

Now that the motion is ready for filing, what do you do and how do you do it? California courts vary in terms of requirements for expungement/dismissal motions. For instance, some courts require a filing fee (usually around $60) and attached declaration (preferably by an attorney). All courts, however, require that a P.C. 1203.4/1203.4(a) Petition For Dismissal be completed and filed. In order to fill out this form correctly, a petitioner needs to obtain the case number, date of conviction, conviction charges, date of birth, driver's license number, last four digits of social security, and if possible the Criminal Identification and Information (CII) number. After entering the requisite information simply check the applicable boxes and sign/date the form. Additionally, along with the Petition, you should also attach a Court Order. The same information must be filled out on the Court Order; however, this form is for the judge to review and then sign/date. The signed Court Order is then stamped and recorded by the clerk certifying that a judge has ordered the case dismissed/expunged. Expungement/Dismissal Petitions typically take anywhere from one to three months for the court to review and complete.

Avoid the headaches and problems associated with explaining away your past minor run-ins with the law and get rid of skeletons in your closet today by filing an expungement! Call the Legal Grind to schedule an appointment to meet with a skilled and experienced attorney to help you navigate through this tricky process and answer any questions that you might have.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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TUESDAY
9:00am-12:00pm Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)

4:00pm-5:00pm (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month). Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, contract disputes, commercial disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, personal injury medical malpractice, and wrongful death.

5:00 - 7:00 pm Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumler. (Call for Appointment) at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café.

WEDNESDAY
11:00am-3:00pm Special Education Law (By appointment only. Also available by appointment on Mondays or Fridays from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm) Attorney Alison Arkin has extensive experience working with parfents of special needs children with a wide range of disabilities, and can help them obtain appropriate services from both school districts and regional centers. She has experience with every level of the process including obtaining appropriate assessements, representation at IEP meeting, mediations, settlement negotiations and hearings.

5:00-6:30pm Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields

THURSDAY
12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)
4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

FRIDAY
4:00-5:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only

4:00-5:00pm (1st & 3rd Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.

SATURDAY
10am-11:30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday/month) Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Will Contests, Probate, Elder Law Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, Construction Contracts Family Law including Divorce, Child/Spousal Support, Prenuptial Agreements, Personal Injury, Accidents, Premises and Product Liability, & Legal Malpractice with Attorney Richard Ruman. (By appointment only-Please call Call Dick at 310.273.7474)

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney SandeepAgarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)

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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56.7°

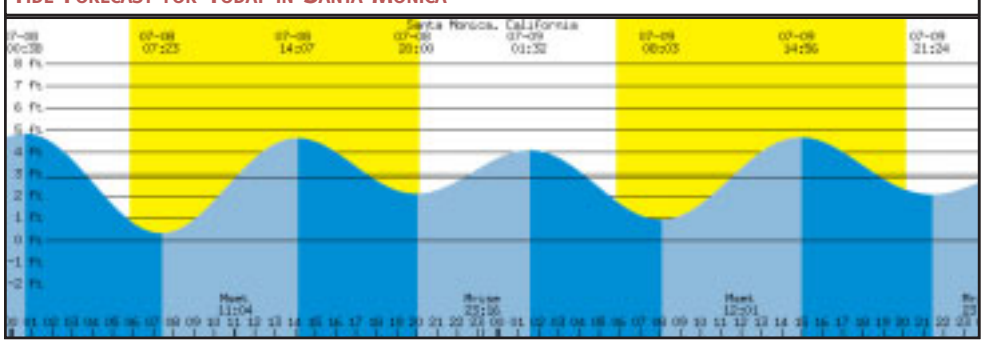
Swell Forecast

Looks like a knee to waist high day most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks similar in the AM, but with wind swell building later in the afternoons, reaching at least chest high at west facing breaks by sundown.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **July 4, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SBMA

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 or the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	as
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	as
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	as	as
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	as
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	as
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	as
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	as
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	as
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	as
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	as
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	as
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	as
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	as
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	as
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	B	as
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	as
Corbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	as
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	as
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A	as
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	as
Tuna Canyon.	A+	as
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	as
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	as
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	as
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	as

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

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
as -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

Rain, rain please go away: London slog for Olympics?

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON After a sodden spring, is Britain heading for a summer washout?

It's lurched from the cold, wet drizzle that dampened the queen's Diamond Jubilee flotilla on the Thames to a sea of mud at the Isle of Wight music festival to frequent delays at Wimbledon, where even the retractable roof couldn't make the event all strawberries and cream.

And now that the country has recorded its wettest June on record, should Olympic officials be concerned? The games are just 21 days away.

"Oh, goodness! It's only a bit of British weather," said Charles Powell, a spokesman for the Met office, the national forecaster. "It's naturally variable."

Britain is an island nation, at the mercy of winds scooping up water from the Atlantic Ocean and breezes bringing in dry air from the European continent. There's a reason trench coats are classic here. This is a country that can have four seasons in an afternoon, where one should never leave home without both an umbrella and sunglasses.

In other words, if the weather is not to your liking, hang on, it will change. Things weren't looking promising on Friday, though, as Britain's Environment Agency issued nearly 100 flood alerts. Forecasters warned Britain to brace for a month's rain in 24 hours.

And if things don't brighten up, London Olympic organizers say they are ready for every eventuality.

"The main thing is that we are used to it and we have planned accordingly," said Debbie Jevans, director of sport for the games. "It is something that is a fact of life. That is why our country is so lovely and green."

There are five different sailing routes at Weymouth, on England's south coast, in case of poor weather. The BMX cycling track has a cover and improved drainage following lessons learned from downpours during a test event.

Care has also gone into drainage at the equestrian venue at London's Greenwich Park. This is likely to be extremely important — several big British equestrian events, including the Badminton Horse Trials, were rained out this year because the ground was too sodden.

Plans have been drawn to make sure organizers and spectators get the most up-to-date information possible. Five Met Office forecasters will be embedded with the games and working around the clock, providing long- and short-range forecasts for the event, which starts July 27 and ends Aug. 12.

The sport most susceptible to rain is tennis, as any Wimbledon fan will tell you. Wet grass is problematic for players, who can easily slip and suffer injury — so you can't just "keep calm and carry on" the way athletes can if they are playing, say, beach volleyball.

Some extreme weather patterns may cause some delays if the safety of athletes and spectators is endangered. That includes thunderstorms and lightning bolts — as in the atmosphere, not the kind coming from the speedy shoes of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt.

Beyond that, the Olympics will go on.

That hasn't stopped bookmakers from going into overdrive over all the rain-soaked bets that can be placed. British bookmaker Ladbrokes has offered odds at 50-to-1 that it will rain every day at Olympic Stadium in east London. The odds are 25-to-1 that the weather causes the flame to go out during the opening ceremony and 500-to-1 that the person lighting the flame will be wearing an umbrella hat.

The only time rain is assured is during the opening ceremony. Director Danny Boyle has written it into his script and made provisions should the heavens not comply.

It's too early even for predictions, with the Met office saying it will have a good idea only five days before an event. London Games chair Sebastian Coe has proclaimed himself unconcerned, though he says he'll "have a flicker of nervousness about it" on July 27, the day of the opening ceremony.

Weather is a great unifying factor in Britain, where the BBC shipping forecast is a national tradition and where Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, won rave reviews for reading the weather report on TV during a visit to BBC studios in Glasgow, Scotland.

The sight of the heir to the British throne giving a credible performance as a weatherman prompted Britain's Sun newspaper to wonder if there was "any chance of reign?"

No matter what, the Brits will press on. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip have showed the way. During the Jubilee flotilla, they stood under an awning for hours, watching the parade through wind and rain as if it were blazing sunshine.

Beyond that, Olympic organizers are urging spectators to be prepared. Bring a hat. Bring an umbrella — a small one because big ones are banned.

And take sunscreen. Because you never know.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

Saturday, July 7
North Shore (PG) 1hr 36min
7:30pm
Discussion with director William Phelps, writer Randal Kleiser, and actors Nia Peeples, Matt Adler, John Philbin and Gregory Harrison to follow movie.

Sunday, July 8
In the Heat of the Night (NR) 1hr 49min
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (PG) 1hr 20min
7:30pm
Walter Mirisch will sign copies of his book "I Thought We Were Making Movies, Not History" at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby, and there will be a discussion with Mirisch between films.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:20pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
11:15am, 12:45pm, 7:30pm

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
4:05pm, 11:00pm

Rock of Ages (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
2:15pm, 5:10pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

Prometheus (R) 2hrs 04min
11:55am, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
10:30am, 1:45pm, 5:00pm, 8:15pm, 11:30pm

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
11:45am, 3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

Brave in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
2:15pm, 7:45pm

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm, 11:20pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

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

Turn Me On, Dammit (Fa meg pa, for faen) (NR) 1hr 16min
11:00am

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Your Sister's Sister (R) 1hr 30min
3:10pm, 7:50pm

First Position (NR) 1hr 30min
11:00am

Neil Young Journeys (PG) 1hr 27min
1:00pm, 5:30pm, 10:10pm

Safety Not Guaranteed (R) 1hr 25min
5:20pm, 10:15pm

To Rome With Love (R) 1hr 35min
11:40am, 1:20pm, 2:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:40pm, 9:40pm

Bill W. (NR) 1hr 44min
11:10am

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Savages (R) 2hrs 10min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:20pm

People Like Us (PG-13) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:45pm

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 4:55pm, 10:25pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
2:15pm, 7:35pm

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

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

Go with the moment, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Take a back seat, and let a situation play out. How you handle a personal matter, and the choices you make, could be very different as a result. An opportunity finds you when you are out and about doing your thing. Tonight: Ask more questions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are at your best when you are surrounded by friends. Honor what you need to do, but schedule an early dinner or a late lunch with those closest to you. You may have a lot of news to hear and also to share. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You move with the moment well. Your strong intuition points you in the right direction. An older relative or friend needs some of your time. You cannot keep putting this person on the back burner. Your caring means more than you know. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Read the tea leaves well. Detaching from an immediate situation could work. Do so, and you will see someone make a major change. Ultimately, you might feel as if you are taking a risk. You are. Trust in your desirability. Tonight: Let music help your mind drift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to get another opinion or feedback from someone else. The person you seek out has the ability to manifest solutions, even if you sometimes think he or she lives with rose-colored shades on. Tonight: Live it up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others often seek you out to learn more of what you desire. Investigate possibilities that are presented to you, then do what you want. A loved one enjoys your newfound freedom and willingness to express yourself. Tonight: Love the ones you are with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Of all the signs, you best know how to dance away with the moment. You also will not allow someone to upset the apple cart if you have special plans. Make sure you have some quality one-on-one time with that special person. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You become the ultimate romantic. Others might be used to your sensitivity to the mood and moment, but they may not have visualized this side of the quality. A partner might be jealous or very desirous. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Invite others over for a relaxing afternoon, and indulge in a mutual favorite hobby. You have a lot to offer and many innate talents. Be careful as to just how much you are willing to risk. A close friend acts on his or her feelings. Tonight: Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Return calls and answer emails, then decide what you would like to do. You might want to catch up on someone's recent adventures over a late lunch. Extremes dominate with moods. Do not hold your feelings back. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Let someone give to you. Sometimes you seem withdrawn or as if you do not want to receive anything. Break past that pattern and open up to possibilities. Be willing to make yourself uncomfortable, no matter what. Tonight: Go with the moment.

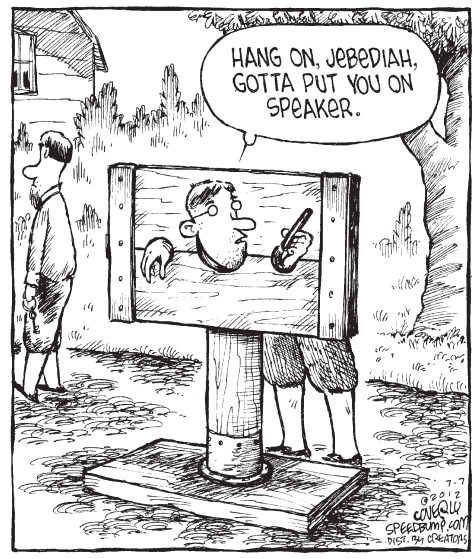
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your choices impact others, and few people can say no to you. Understand that you might be coercing someone who normally would not agree. Be careful here, as there could be a backlash. Tonight: Do what comes naturally.

Happy birthday

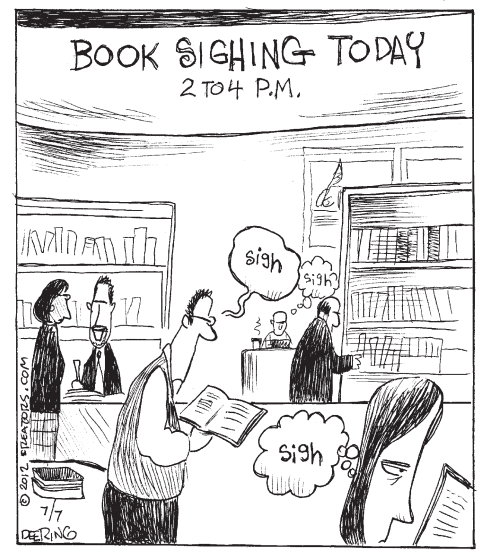
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you enjoy life and often find that you need to curb a tendency to overindulge. You have an unusual opportunity to understand some other culture or lifestyle. You also might travel more. If you are single, you could be delighted by a new friend who becomes more. This person could be an artist or a musician and is likely to be very spiritual. If you are attached, take a class together or schedule a trip you both have coveted; it will add to the flavor of your relationship. PISCES might be too emotional, even for you.

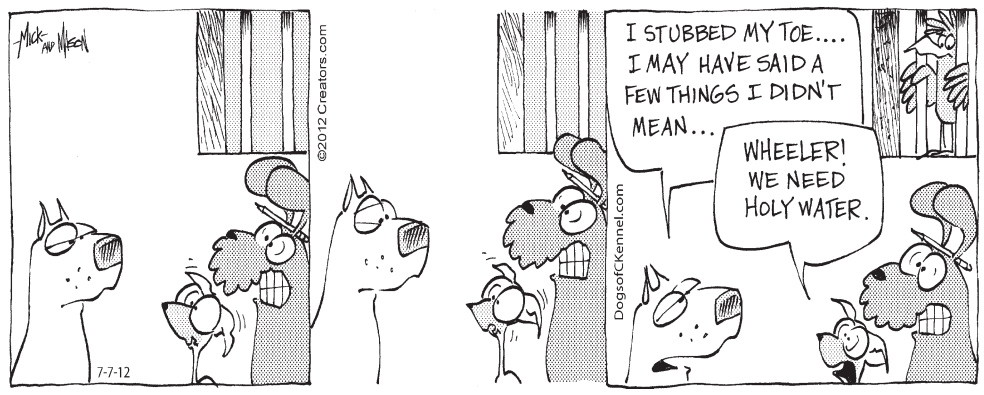
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



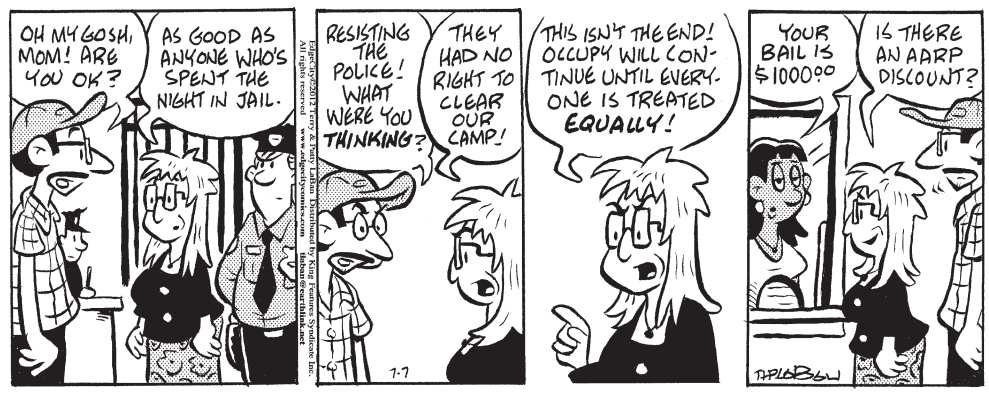
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



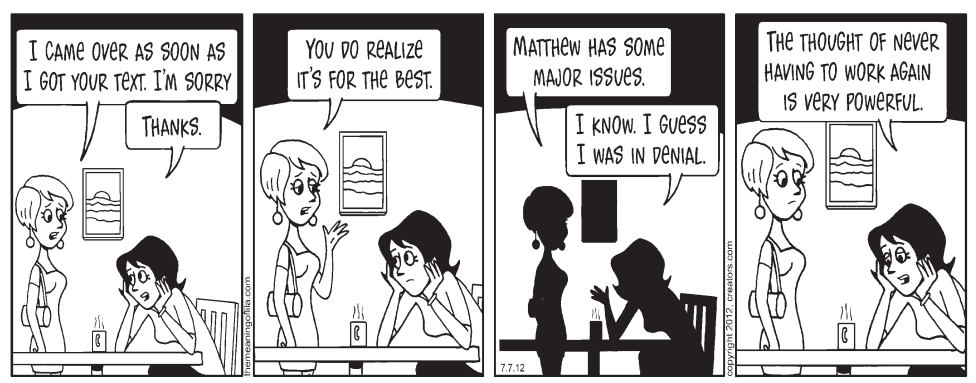
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

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.

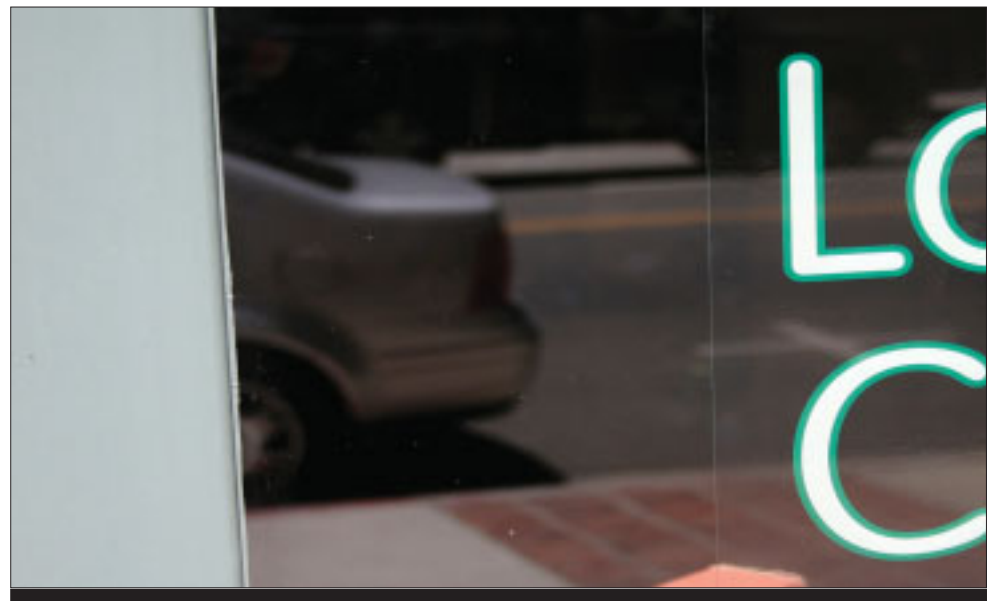
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@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 Grating
6 Paper buys
11 Heartburn
12 Rocker John
13 Cut off
14 Small-scale
15 To-do
17 Crew need
18 Annex
19 As a group
22 '80s defense prog.
23 Oil buys
24 Charred
25 Robin's love
27 Baseball team VIPs
30 "Joueurs de Cartes" painter
31 Tear
32 Lennon's love
33 Town center
35 Caterpillar, for one
38 Before
39 Mermaid's home
40 Exemplary
41 High homes
42 Standards

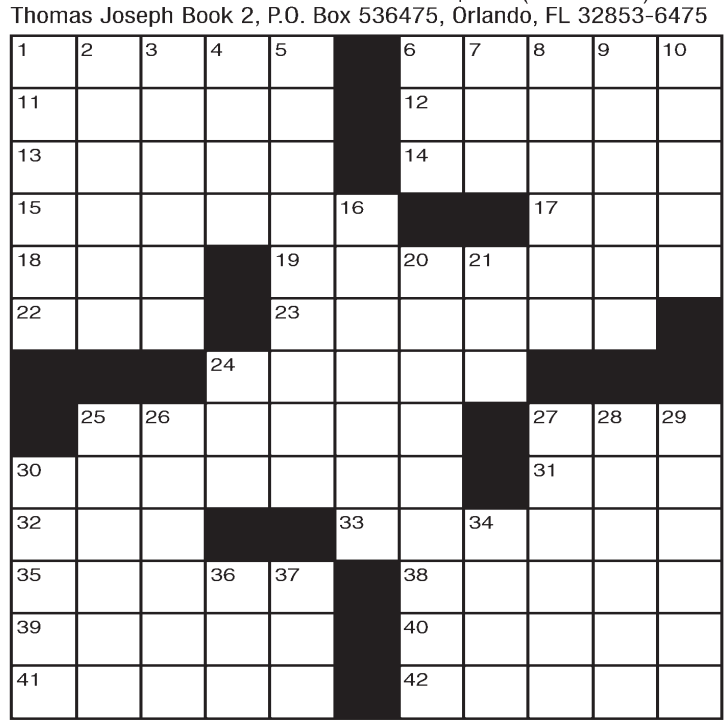
DOWN

1 Hodge-podges
2 Ancient
3 Paris' Rue de —
4 Dance move
5 Pantomime jester
6 "Stand" band
7 Yale student
8 With no markup
9 Swamp
10 Sleep sound
16 Frogs and toads
20 Store figure
21 Skill
24 Lingerie buy
25 Threaten
26 Islands off Portugal
27 Kitchen gadget
28 Sister of Moses
29 Hexes
30 Time separator
34 Computer menu choice
36 Brewery sight
37 Solution: Abbr.

F	A	C	E	S	■	M	O	C	H	A
A	L	A	M	O	■	O	T	H	E	R
D	A	R	I	N	■	S	T	A	R	T
■	■	O	L	G	A	■	A	N	D	Y
A	L	L	Y	■	D	O	W	N	■	■
M	A	C	■	A	S	T	A	I	R	E
P	S	H	A	W	■	I	N	N	E	R
S	H	A	R	O	N	S	■	G	I	G
■	■	N	I	L	E	■	A	T	N	O
B	O	N	G	■	T	U	B	A	■	■
A	V	I	A	N	■	S	I	T	E	D
L	E	N	T	O	■	E	D	U	C	E
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7-7

HUNGER READS THE MORNING PAPER, TOO.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Earlier this year, Tokyo artist Mao Sugiyama, 22, had elective surgery to remove his genitals, underscoring his commitment to an "asexual" lifestyle in which his behavior and attitude are supposedly completely irrelevant to whether he is male or female. Then, on April 8, he solicited diners to a meal (for the equivalent of about $250 each) in which his genitals were cooked and served, garnished with button mushrooms and Italian parsley. One applicant was a no-show, but five dined with him on April 13. According to a May report on Huffington Post, the well-photographed story "went viral" in Japan, and authorities repeatedly assured journalists that no law had been violated.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1911 – The United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia sign the North Pacific Fur Seal Convention of 1911 banning open-water seal hunting, the first international treaty to address wildlife preservation issues.

1915 – World War I: end of First Battle of the Isonzo.

1915 – An International Railway trolley with an extreme overload of 157 passengers crashes near Queenston, Ontario, killing 15.

1915 – Militia officer Henry Pedris executed by firing squad at Colombo, Ceylon - an act widely regarded as a miscarriage of justice by the British colonial authorities.

1928 – Sliced bread is sold for the first time by the Chillicothe Baking Company of Chillicothe, Missouri.

1930 – Industrialist Henry J. Kaiser begins construction of the Boulder Dam (now known as Hoover Dam).

1937 – Sino-Japanese War: Battle of Lugou Bridge – Japanese forces invade Beijing, China.

WORD UP!

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1.
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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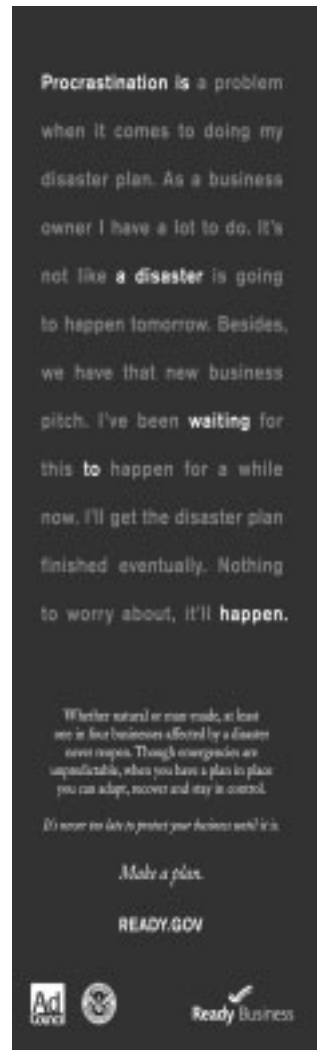
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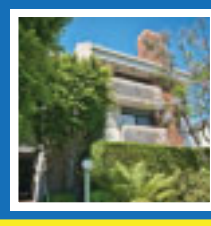


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