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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 206

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE MAKING NOISE ISSUE

MORE HONORS FOR SAMOHI
SEE PAGE 3



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

OUT FRONT: **Management at Saint John's Health Center was found guilty of illegal union busting. Nurses rallied at the hospital on Thursday, calling on management to allow them to hold an election to see if colleagues favor a union. Councilman Kevin McKeown (far right) joined the group.**

Judge: Saint John's intimidated nurses

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MID-CITY Bolstered by a federal judge's ruling that Saint John's Health Center engaged in illegal union busting, nurses at the hospital on Thursday staged a rally there demanding they be allowed to hold an election to determine if a union is favored by a majority of caregivers.

For years, nurses at Saint John's have fought with management for the right to hold an election. By forming a union, the nurses hope to have more control over patient care — including the number of nurses assigned to a particular floor — and compensation so that the hospital can attract and retain quality registered nurses.

Nurses claim administrators have, since 2008, illegally interrogated them, barred off-duty employees from campaigning for the union effort and have threatened to arrest them. Nurses said they were prohibited from wearing ribbons stating, "Saint John's RNs for Safe Patient Care."

Last month, a federal administrative law judge ruled in favor of the nurses and the National Labor Relations Board, saying Saint John's violated federal labor laws. The judge ordered Saint John's to stop harassing and intimidating nurses and to post, by July 17, a document at the hospital stating the nurses have the right to organize.

"It takes courage to stand up to your employer and that's what we had to do," during the trial, which took place in March, said Lori Hammond, a nurse with nearly 31 years experience at Saint John's.

"Management has attempted to create a culture of fear to keep our colleagues from supporting the union," Hammond added. "Today, we are not afraid. Our management was found guilty. We are clearly within our rights to stand up for ourselves. It's the right thing to do and we won't give up."

Representatives from Saint John's said in a statement they have asked nurses in favor of joining the California Nurses Association to "modify" their activities after trying to "disrupt activities at the hospital," and are

SEE NURSES PAGE 9

City releases taxi cab franchise rankings

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Responding to calls for more transparency in its taxi cab overhaul plan, City Hall officials this week released new information about how they determined which cab companies should be allowed to operate in Santa Monica under a proposal the City Council will consider later this year.

The push to shift Santa Monica's open-entry cab system to a franchise-based system where only approved operators would be allowed into the market has long been the subject of controversy among taxi companies.

But tensions increased last month after City Hall staff released its list of the five companies out of 13 applicants recommended to receive franchises. Cab drivers staged a protest in front of City Hall and several companies faulted officials for failing to explain why certain operators were left off the recommended list.

The stakes were high, taxi companies said, because the franchise proposal could mean 39 of the 44 companies currently licensed to operate cabs in Santa Monica would be forced out of the market. The total number of cabs in the city also would be reduced to 250 from 463.

Don Patterson, who headed the committee that selected the recommended companies, defended City Hall's evaluation process as fair.

This week, officials released the ranked list that showed applicants' cumulative scores in 10 categories including financial viability, experience and quality of proposed business plan, each of which received 20 percent weight in the evaluation.

Fleet composition received 15 percent

SEE CABS PAGE 8



Michelle Terris *news@smdp.com*

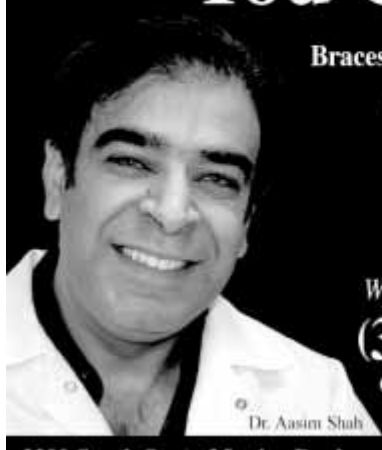
HOLDING PATTERN: **Taxies wait around in Santa Monica for people who need their services. The city is in the process of deciding if they should get rid of certain cab companies from the area.**

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Friday, July 9, 2010

All-around performance
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Join Scottish actor/singer/writer/director Alan Cumming for a night of storytelling, music and laughter. Recommended for adults only, "Alan Cumming: Uncut" is a one-man cabaret show that features songs by Sondheim, Bacharach and Kander and Ebb.
Tickets start at $60. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Shakespeare on deck
Powerhouse Theatre
3116 Second St., 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on the Powerhouse Theatre's redwood deck, to enjoy Shakespeare the way you only could in Santa Monica. Bring a picnic or purchase food and drinks at the theatre. Admission is free.
For more information, call (310) 396-3680.

All that jazz
Third Street Promenade
1300 block of 3rd St., 1:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
A Summer Jazz Festival featuring student performers from Crossroads School For Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica.
For more information, call (310) 829-7391.

Saturday, July 10, 2010

Job fair
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd., 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Want to work at the remodeled Santa Monica Place?
A number of retailers ready to set up shop at the mall will be on hand. For more information, visit www.santamonicaplace.com.

Construction deconstructed
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 8:30 a.m.
If you've ever been curious about how your tax dollars are being spent then this is for you. Join city officials on a three-hour tour of public construction projects and improvements throughout the city. The tour departs from the Main Library. The bus used for the tour is accessible to those with disabilities. The library is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10. For more information and to reserve a spot, contact Bridget Stermer at (310) 458-8301.

Who cut the cheese?
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Morgan-Wixson Theater Group presents a musical adaptation of Jon Scieszka's book, "The Stinky Cheese Man." This unique take on classic fairytales is performed by a cast of children, complete with musical numbers, plenty of dancing, and a man made of cheese.
Ages 4 and up.
For more information call (310) 828-7519.

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



City Hall honors McCabe's fixture

BY TAYLOR D'ANDREA
Special to the Daily Press

PICO BLVD Santa Monica officially has a new holiday to celebrate.

Today, June 9, has officially been named Peter Case Day in honor of the long-time resident and musician who has been a fixture at the famous McCabe's Guitar Shop for over a decade.

City Hall is expected to issue a proclamation to Case, honoring him for his continued service to the community as a musician, songwriter, and teacher. However, his time here has not been easy. In early 2009 Case underwent emergency open-heart surgery, an experience which he said showed him how much love he has in the community.

"The support has been fantastic, I was very thankful that I have great friends and a great community to offer it," Case said. "When I first came to Santa Monica, I knew right from the beginning that I wanted to live here. I like the aspects of the smaller town that Santa Monica has. There's always a real sense of community."

Case has come a long way since he first moved to Santa Monica over 20 years ago. Has he just released a new album — "Wig!" — which is his first album since surgery. Recorded in only three days, Case says the release is extremely exciting.

"It's a rock 'n' roll/blues record, and soon I'll be on the road, going out and playing for the first time since my surgery. It feels great."

Case has performed at local venues such as Santa Monica College, the Alligator Lounge, the Morgan-Wixson Theatre and the Ash Grove, formerly located on the pier, where he was a regular artist.

However, he feels most at home in McCabe's, where he both plays and teaches.

"My first show there was in 1984, and I've been teaching and playing there ever since,"

SEE **CASE** PAGE 8

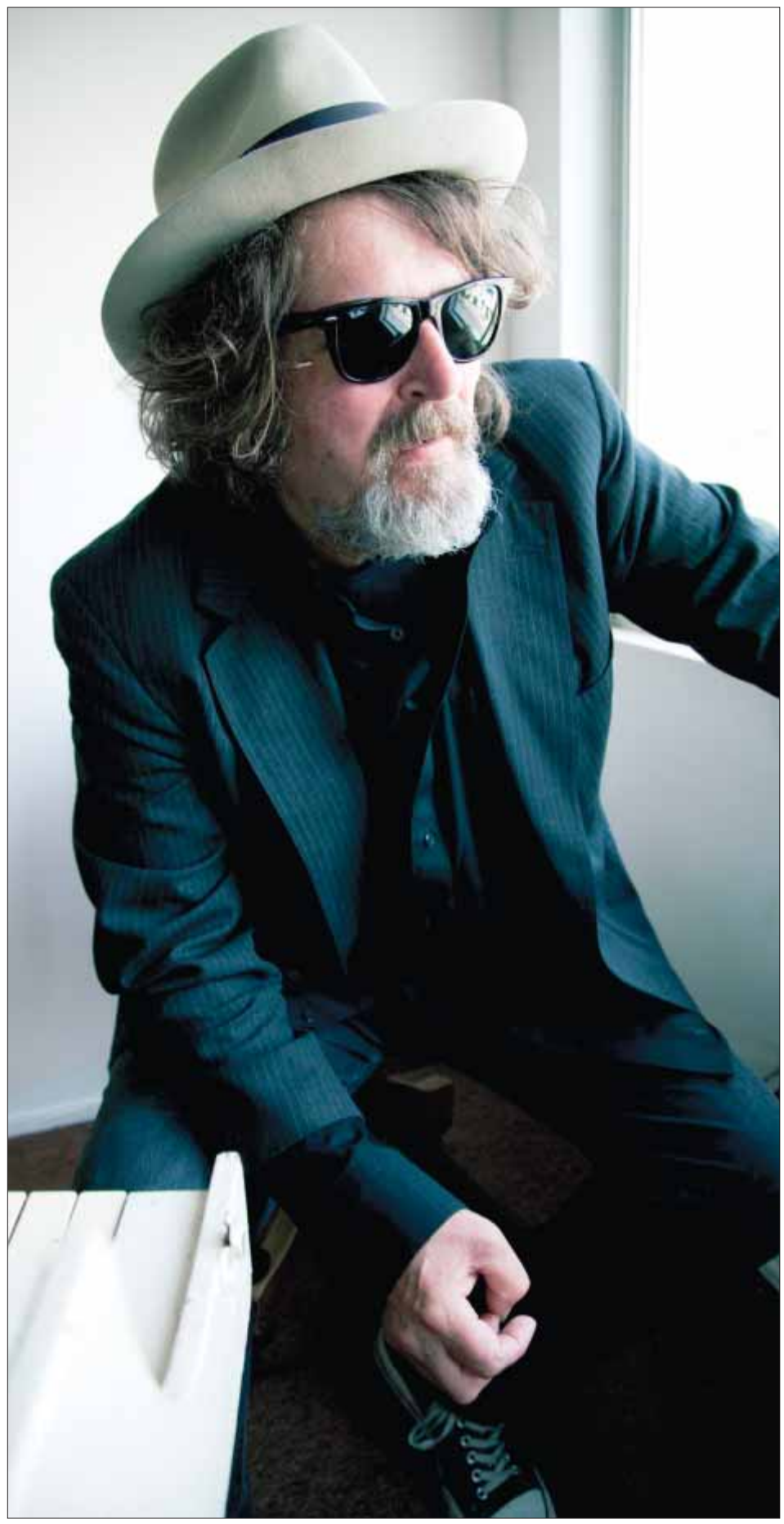


Photo courtesy Ann Summa Photography

TOO COOL: **Local musician and McCabe's mainstay Peter Case will play two shows tonight at the guitar shop to promote his latest album, 'Wig!,' which he recorded following open heart surgery.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi's Walker, Nakao earn honors

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The Vikings' dream softball season continues to bear fruit.

Cal Hi Sports named Santa Monica High School's Celisha Walker and Kaile Nakao to the All-California Medium School's First Team this week. Walker was named as a pitcher, Nakao as a shortstop.

"They had incredible seasons," Samohi Head Coach Debbie Skaggs said. "They are very deserving of those awards."

The duo, along with a strong lineup, helped lead the Vikings to its first-ever California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section softball title. Samohi won in Division 4 last month.

These latest honors are not the first for the Vikings this season. Walker was tapped as Player of the Year. Nakao was named to the CIF-SS Division 4 First Team. Skaggs was awarded Coach of the Year.

Walker is signed to play for New Mexico State next season. Nakao will play for Hawaii.

The season was the last for Skaggs, who retired after 24 years in the dugout. She said that being away from softball hasn't set in, but thinks that it will begin to hit her once the school year begins.

The search for her replacement is in its early stages as Skaggs said she has yet to meet with Daniel Escalera, Samohi's new athletic director. She said there is no front runner.

SAMOHI FOOTBALL OPENS SEASON ON ROAD

Santa Monica High School's football team opens the 2010 season with three games on the road.

The Vikings will face Leuzinger, Palisades and Villa Park all on their opponents' turf.

VIKINGS' 2010 SCHEDULE:

- Sept. 10, at Leuzinger
- Sept. 17, at Palisades
- Sept. 23, at Villa Park
- Oct. 1, vs. Valencia
- Oct. 8, vs. Centennial
- Oct. 15, at Inglewood
- Oct. 22, vs. Beverly Hills
- Oct. 29, at Morningside
- Nov. 5, vs. Culver City
- Nov. 12, vs. Hawthorne

* All games begin at 7 p.m.

* Samohi plays home games at Santa Monica College

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wrong time for tax increase

Editor:

Just when you think you've heard it all, the City Council is opting for an additional transaction tax ("Council approves sales tax for November," July 8). These morons are certifiably crazy, except for Bobby Shriver, who seems to be the only elected official whose brain is firing on all cylinders. I don't know what they're smoking down there at City Hall, but it must be some good stuff. These people are not living in the real world, and don't have a clue as to the financial hardships of their constituents or local businesses. If this ridiculous tax passes, I can guarantee that I will not purchase anything in the city of Santa Monica, with the exception of food, which isn't taxable (yet). This tax, should it pass, will reduce or completely stop my frequenting restaurants and other businesses, which will in turn hit the owners and wait staff directly in their pockets. This situation is beyond sad. As for the six members that voted to put this on the ballot, if this isn't proof that they need to go, I don't know what else is. We need to vote them out ASAP.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

Federal hubris

Editor:

The FAA has some nerve ("FAA wants $100K for flight path info," July 7)! They want to charge $100,000 to share the results of the 250-degree test for single-engine aircraft departures conducted out of Santa Monica Airport (SMO). The residents of Sunset Park and Ocean Park have been negatively impacted by this flight pattern test, conducted from December to June of this year.

That route put residents and their homes in danger as the 250-degree turn from the end of the runway put the planes directly over Sunset Park homes. Imagine if the single engine plane that crashed on Penmar Golf Course last week would of been flying per the FAA test! It would of crashed down on a home on a Sunset Park street. There is a reason that the planes fly straight out to the shoreline – safety! This is just another example of an imperious federal authority that feels it can control airspace over our homes, even though the city of Santa Monica owns the airport. They are not supporters of our community and will do anything to keep the airspace open and without any controls, without regard to the safety of residents who have supported the airport since its opening in 1919.

The best thing we can do is lobby our local, state and federal officials to restrict flight patterns and aircraft types in and out of SMO.

Take back the airport!

Erin Foley King
Santa Monica





That Rutherford Guy

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

The assault on religious freedom

THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS A MARVELOUS thing. It is what stands between us as citizens and an authoritarian regime. It affirms our right to freedom of speech, freedom of the media, freedom of religion and the right to assemble and protest — in other words, that we not only have the right to be difficult but different, as well, and cannot be discriminated against for being either.

Unfortunately, caught up in our politically correct sensibilities, we have largely lost our appreciation for those rabble rousers who exercise their First Amendment rights. Nowhere is this more evident than in society's increasing intolerance for religious freedom — religion tending to breed followers who, oftentimes at odds with society's mores, are both difficult and different. This tension between political correctness and religious freedom is heightened in such cases as Phelps v. Snyder and Christian Legal Society (CLS) v. Martinez, which present scenarios that test our tolerance for expressive yet politically incorrect First Amendment activities.

In Phelps v. Snyder, which will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court this fall, the justices will be asked to decide whether the First Amendment protects the right of a rabidly anti-homosexual Christian church to protest at high-profile funerals and spout hateful rhetoric.

CLS v. Martinez, which is far less colorful yet also involves what critics perceive to be religiously based, anti-homosexual sentiment, was recently decided by the Supreme Court. At issue was whether the CLS student group at the University of California Hastings Law School could restrict its membership to individuals who share their Christian beliefs, particularly as they relate to sexual conduct, and still be granted access to campus resources and forums.

The court's 5-4 ruling against CLS reeked of anti-religious prejudice. In concurring with the majority, Justice Stevens declared, "Although the First Amendment may protect CLS' discriminatory practices off campus, it does not require a public university to validate or support them." That's where the Supreme Court got it wrong: There's no "may" about it. The First Amendment clearly protects CLS' right to exclude those whom they believe violate the tenets of their religion, on or off campus. To put it another way, whether or not one approves or agrees with CLS' point of view, they have a First Amendment right to be different and stand apart from the crowd. Yet in ruling as it did, thereby imposing a forced integration upon the Christian student group, the Supreme Court succeeded in enshrining an oppressive political correctness as a central tenet in American society and in American university life and undermining not only the freedom of association but the freedom of religion, as well.

The expressive freedoms enshrined in the First Amendment were not grouped together by chance — they are interconnected and, thus, will rise and fall together. As historian Roland Barton recognizes: "All freedoms hang together. Civil liberties scarcely thrive when religious liberties are disregarded, and the reverse is equally true." That is why governmental attempts to diminish religious freedom are so dangerous: if religious believers lose their rights, we all lose our rights.

Frankly, all Americans, whether or not they subscribe to a particular religious belief, should be worried that the expansive right to "freedom of religion," the bedrock of the First Amendment, is systematically being dismantled by the courts. Indeed, in recent years, the federal courts have chipped away at religious freedom to such an extent that even non-verbal forms of expression in public have been deemed to be illegal (a coach bowing his head out of respect while student athletes offer a pre-game prayer; a student wind ensemble's choice of an instrumental arrangement of "Ave Maria" at their high school graduation ceremony, etc.). Consequently, we have gone from a nation where religious freedom was highly prized to one in which religion is being privatized and forced out of public institutions and public life.

The separation of church and state, nowadays interpreted as prohibiting any public recognition of religion at all, is more deeply entrenched in America than anywhere else. Religion has been relegated to the sidelines of public debate. Among elites it is held in low esteem — something useful for weddings and funerals but otherwise dispensable. A skeptical, iconoclastic state of mind is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the knowledge classes. Their commitment to the culture of criticism is understood to rule out religious commitments. The elites' attitude to religion ranges from indifference to active hostility.

Those who have adopted this secular outlook frequently cite the "wall of separation between church and state" as justification for censoring, silencing and discriminating against religious individuals, especially in the public schools. The threat posed by this extreme secularism is that religion and religious people are not merely kept separate from the school system but are instead forced into a position of utter subservience.

Rest assured, if this trend continues unchecked, it will not be long before "freedom of religion" is done away with altogether and replaced with a more restrictive, government-sanctioned "freedom of worship" that limits people of faith to worshipping in the privacy of their church, synagogue or home.

If we do not maintain the ideal of religious freedom, then the only alternative is a form of secular society and government that respects no one's freedom or opinions at all. After all, as history illustrates, a long secular trend always leads to authoritarian government and, in some extreme examples, to despotism.

Constitutional attorney and author **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

June Gloom in July?

I CAN EXPLAIN IT IF THIS BRIEF LOOK BACK at July 4 seems a bit "disjointed." (And no, that's not an endorsement for the November marijuana initiative.) Monday, being an extension of the holiday, felt like Sunday. So when Tuesday rolled around, I suddenly found myself "column-less" a day later than normal. Adding to my dilemma is the weather. For the past few weeks of June Gloom I've felt like I was in a bleak Ingmar Bergman movie. (As opposed to his musical comedies?)

Speaking of Bergman, here's a bit of rarely printed trivia. When forced to travel, Bergman would ship his furniture ahead so that his new residence would feel just like home. Now that I think about it, maybe there's a reason it's rarely printed.

But back to July 4. Sgt. Jay Trisler, the Santa Monica Police Department's community relations and public information officer, said that arrests in Santa Monica over the holiday weekend were down 25.7 percent from last year. Nationally, I'm not sure about arrest rates, but there were more than a few people who wish they could turn the clock back. (If you're going to eat soon, or just have, may I suggest that you turn to the crossword puzzle now.)

One of those few would have to be Eric Smith, 36, who attended a big Fourth of July party on Long Island. Unfortunately, in the process, he blew his arm off with fireworks. Obviously we're not talking sparklers.

It seems Smith used a 3-foot long metal tube to shoot mortars. Police believe that he leaned over the device to ignite it and didn't get out of the way in time. Smith's left arm was severed at the shoulder. (Ouch!) He was rushed to a hospital but doctors weren't able to reattach the arm. I could make a joke here but, thankfully for all of us, I won't.

Then there's Damon Evans, 34, who on July 3 was the athletic director at the University of Georgia with a $500,000 yearly salary. On July 5, he was unemployed. On the third, Evans was pulled over by police and charged with DUI. Also arrested was Courtney Fuhrmann. She was charged with disorderly conduct after she got belligerent with police and had to be restrained. While Evans, a married man, insisted that he and Fuhrman were "just friends," police found a pair of her red panties between his legs. Uh, oh.

Ironically, before each University of Georgia home football game, Evans' taped video message was played for the crowd, "If you drink and drive, you lose." As it turns out, he did both. On the bright side, at least Evans didn't lose an arm. (Of course after his wife gets through with him, who knows?)

Also over the holiday was the 95th annual Nathan's Hot Dog eating contest at Coney Island (televised live on ESPN, which gave a free hour last night to LeBron James, speaking of hot dogs). The Nathan's event struck me as gross on many levels. For example, with much of the population in third world countries near starvation, we've got bulimic models and eating contests. To hungry people in Darfur, Bangladesh, or North Korea, seeing Americans forcing food down their gullets must be a bit galling. (To judge for yourself, go to YouTube and type "Nathan's 2010 eating.")

The winner, and for the fourth year in a row, was Joey Chestnut, who stuffed his face with 54 hot dogs in 10 minutes. (He once ate 380 wonton shrimp in eight minutes.) At Nathan's, Chesnut consumed 15,000 calories. Afterwards, however, he had to guzzle a bottle of that revolting-looking Pepto Bismol.

At least Chestnut won. The 20 other slobs, and at least one slobette, got bupkes, other than major heartburn. Watching the video, I had a feeling that one of these days some contestant is going to croak off in midbite. That would certainly get a lot of hits on YouTube. (And maybe a few laughs from some folks in Bangladesh.)

Chestnut is a professional competitive eater, a "gurgitator," who earns a six figure annual income. (Maybe he has an endorsement deal with Pepto Bismol?) Imagine little Joey in grade school when his teacher asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. A gurgitator?

Given the American obesity epidemic, I'm not sure eating contests are something we ought to promote. Look around, there's a fast food place on every corner. The whole country is one big eating contest. Then again, I should talk. In college I used to ditch class to sneak off to Pink's Hot Dogs on La Brea and feast on a minimum of five dogs (with chili!) and an orange soda. But at least I ate slowly and savored the delicious grease.

So, as June Gloom and the Bergman movie drags on, I ask how was your July 4? In my opinion, if you didn't drink Pepto Bismol, get arrested, or lose an arm, you're ahead of the game.

To get a hilarious look into the world of competitive eating, go to www.ifoce.com. As for **JACK**, when he isn't dreaming about Pink's hot dogs, he can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Filling the coffers

Santa Monica city officials are currently polling voters' interest in possible ballot measures to raise taxes to cover what appears to be a looming budget gap for years to come,

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you be interested in paying increased taxes to maintain current services, or do you think City Hall should look elsewhere to cover the deficit?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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RAND study: Pot prices would plummet if legalized

LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A ballot measure to legalize marijuana in California would so upend supply and demand that pot prices could plummet by as much as 90 percent and possibly undercut the tax windfall that supporters have touted to sell the initative, a study published Wednesday found.

The study by the nonpartisan RAND Drug Policy Research Center forecasts some interesting scenarios if California in November becomes the second state, after Alaska, to legalize pot for recreational use by adults and the first to tax commercial cannabis sales.

Pot prices could drop from $375 an ounce under the state's current medical marijuana law to as little as $38 per ounce before taxes as legal pot suddenly becomes available to the public, RAND researhers concluded.

"Right now, when individuals purchase drugs, they are paying for the drug dealer taking risks of being arrested," said Beau Kilmer, the center's co-director and the report's lead author.

The exact amount of revenue legalized pot would bring California is still up in the air. The ballot initiative authorizes counties to license and tax commercial pot sales to adults, leaving it up to local jurisdictions to decide what kind of tax rates to apply to marijuana.

The researchers said legalization could bring substantially more revenue if California sees an influx of "marijuana tourism" similar to Amsterdam, where pot is legally sold at coffee shops, and if out-of-state dealers purchase California cannabis to sell back home.

"You would certainly guess that if it's cheaper to produce it in California legally than to import it from Mexico, it would reduce imports from Mexico," Jonathan Caulkins, a Carnegie Mellon University who also worked on the study, said. "Presumably, it would decrease them a lot."

Yet intervention from the federal government, which classifies marijuana as an illegal drug, or regulations limiting marijuana sales to California residents, as is the case now with medical marijuana, easily could defeat dreams of tourists flocking to the coast on pot vacations, Caulkins noted.

RAND analyzed existing research on marijuana prices, cigarette taxes and current pot consumption and applied modeling techniques to determine possible outcomes if pot were to be legalized.

The California Board of Equalization studied the financial impacts of pot while evaluating a bill introduced in the Legislature last year that would have taxed and regulated marijuana like alcohol. Sales taxes and a $50 per ounce excise tax on commercial pot sales would generate $1.4 billion for the state, according to that study.

But that estimate could prove overly optimistic, depending on how pot users and sellers respond to the idea of paying hefty taxes on a weed that can be grown at home, the RAND anaylsis said.

Consumer prices for pot would rise to about $91 an ounce if local governments adopt that same $50 an ounce tax scheme following passage of the ballot measure — still substantially lower than what Californians pay now but high enough to create incentives for growers to sell the drug under the table to avoid paying the government duty.

"When the purchase price goes way down, that cuts down on sales tax revenue, which was $400 million of the $1.4 billion (estimate)," Caulkins said. "What could adversely affect the excise tax is the gray market" that could be created by tax evaders.

Another difficulty the researchers said they faced in trying to tally the economic benefits of marijuana legalization is not knowing how many local governments, if any, would decide to license and tax marijuana sales and if they do, at what rate.

The RAND team was more certain that legalizing adult use of marijuana would cause pot consumption to go up in California, although they said they could not say by how much. Under one model they used, it would grow by about half and under another it would double, reaching rates last seen in the late 1970s.

"We have to realize that marijuana legalization in California would not be a marginal change, it would be a large change," Kilmer said.

The researchers did not try to draw any conclusions about whether legalizing marijuana was good public policy and instead hoped their findings would make voters question "any estimates of revenues and consumption that claim precision," Kilmer said.

RAND, a nonprofit think tank headquartered in Santa Monica paid for the research to educate voters ahead of the election, he said.

Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, who co-directs the RAND Drug Policy Research Center, acknowledged that as a California voter, she was uncomfortable with "the lack of specificity" in both the ballot measure and the bill that would have put pot in the same regulatory category as alcohol.

"Neither was sufficient for us to get an idea of what the effect of this was, and as a voter that was disturbing to me," she said.

Dale Gieringer, president of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said legalization advocates have long expected marijuana prices to go down and pot use to go up if criminal penalties were removed.

"Overall, this report casts more smoke than light on the issue , but that is in the nature of any academic study where so many basic facts remain in dispute," Gieringer said. "The most important lesson to be taken away is that the benefits of legalization depend strongly on how it is implemented.

Some veteran growers in far northern California oppose legalization, fearing it would increase competition and cut profits, while others are embracing it as a way to legitimize their line of work.

"I think it will get a big vote up here," said Dan Hamburg, a former Mendocino County congressman and medical marijuana advocate who has endorsed Proposition 19. "Even though you would think all the growers will be against it, I don't think the smarter ones look at it that way. They realize the marijuana-growing counties have a lot to benefit from being legal ... because people up here have been doing it for 40 years."

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Talk about a steal of a deal

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

SATURDAY, JULY 3, AT 10:09 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard (Santa Monica BMW) regarding a burglary alarm. Upon arrival, officers saw the garage bay open and brake lights to a BMW going on and off. Thinking it could possibly be a mechanic working late, officers checked the back of the building and saw the rear gate lock had been removed. Officers entered the location as the BMW started to back out of the garage bay. Officers detained the driver of the vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the driver did not own the vehicle and was in the process of stealing it, police said. The suspect, Terrel Richardson, 21, of Los Angeles was arrested for burglary, vehicle theft and possession of stolen property. His bail was set at $25,000.

SUNDAY, JULY 4, AT 7:35 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1100 block of Seventh Street regarding a suspicious person banging on a resident's door. Upon arrival, officers contacted the person who was knocking. The man told officers his girlfriend was inside the apartment using meth and he wanted her to get out. Officers went to the apartment to check on the girlfriend. Officers made contact with someone inside and noticed signs of narcotic use. Officers were able to determine that the female was not inside. However, the resident, Charles Bybee, 40, of Santa Monica, was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $25,000.

SATURDAY, JULY 3, AT 8:17 A.M.,
Officers were patrolling the area of the 1200 block of Lincoln Boulevard when they observed a vehicle with expired registration. Officers stopped the vehicle for the vehicle code violation. Upon contacting the driver and passenger, officers said they could smell marijuana emitting from the interior of the vehicle. The passenger stated that he had hashish in the vehicle and it belonged to him. Further investigation revealed that the driver, Asia Smith of Venice was driving without a license. Smith also had a warrant from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Smith was arrested for failing to have proper tags on the vehicle, driving without a license and the warrant. Her bail was set at $35,100. The passenger, Danny Campbell, 47, of Los Angeles, was arrested for possession of concentrated cannabis and possession of marijuana. His bail was set at $10,000.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, AT 4:30 P.M.,
Officers were flagged down in the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding an attempted fraud. The witness told officers that the suspect entered the jewelry store and attempted to purchase a $5,500 bracelet with a credit card. When the clerk asked for identification, the suspect left. Officers located the suspect a short distance away. The suspect was allegedly in possession of merchandise from numerous stores on the promenade that totaled $823.95. The suspect was in possession of identification and credit cards that did not belong to him, police said. The suspect, Jarrett Limanni, 32, a transient, was arrested for burglary, forgery, receiving stolen property, theft, use of stolen credit cards, warrants and a probation violation. He was not eligible for bail.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, AT 10:49 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1000 block of 14th Street regarding an assault. When officers arrived, they made contact with a witness who told officers that he observed the suspect hit, kick, and choke him with a coat hanger and take his shirt. The suspect left prior to the arrival of the officers. An officer located the suspect a short distance away and he was allegedly in possession of a coat hanger. Apparently the suspect and victim knew each other. The suspect, Balbinder Sihota, 51, a transient, was booked for robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. His bail was set at $50,000.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 AT 3:06 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2600 block of Ocean Park Boulevard (Clover Park) regarding a report of vandalism. Upon arrival, Santa Monica Airport personnel told officers they saw the suspect, who was with a group of people, write graffiti on the jungle gym in the kids play area. As officers started approaching the group, the suspect started walking toward the baseball field. As the officers followed the suspect they could see he was staggering. The suspect allegedly fell down as he was on the baseball field. Officers felt the suspect was too intoxicated for his own good and called paramedics. Officers said the suspect was in possession of two markers. He was arrested for vandalism and a probation violation. The suspect was identified as Hugo Martinez, 18, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $10,000.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, AT 10:55 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 400 block of Hill Street regarding an armed robbery report. Upon arrival, the victim stated he was in the alley west of the 2900 block of Main Street when a subject walked up to him and demanded his phone. The suspect allegedly pretended to have a handgun. The suspect fled with the victim's phone. The victim went to a friend's house and called his phone. The suspect answered and stated he would give it back for $1,000, police said. Further investigation led to the arrest of Tradel Faniel, 24, of Hawthorne for robbery, extortion and participation in a street gang. His bail was set $190,000.

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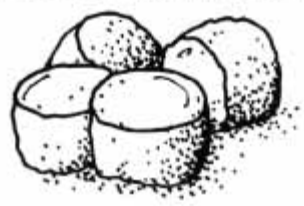
Editor in Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.





This was our message in the 1970's...
Some things just don't change

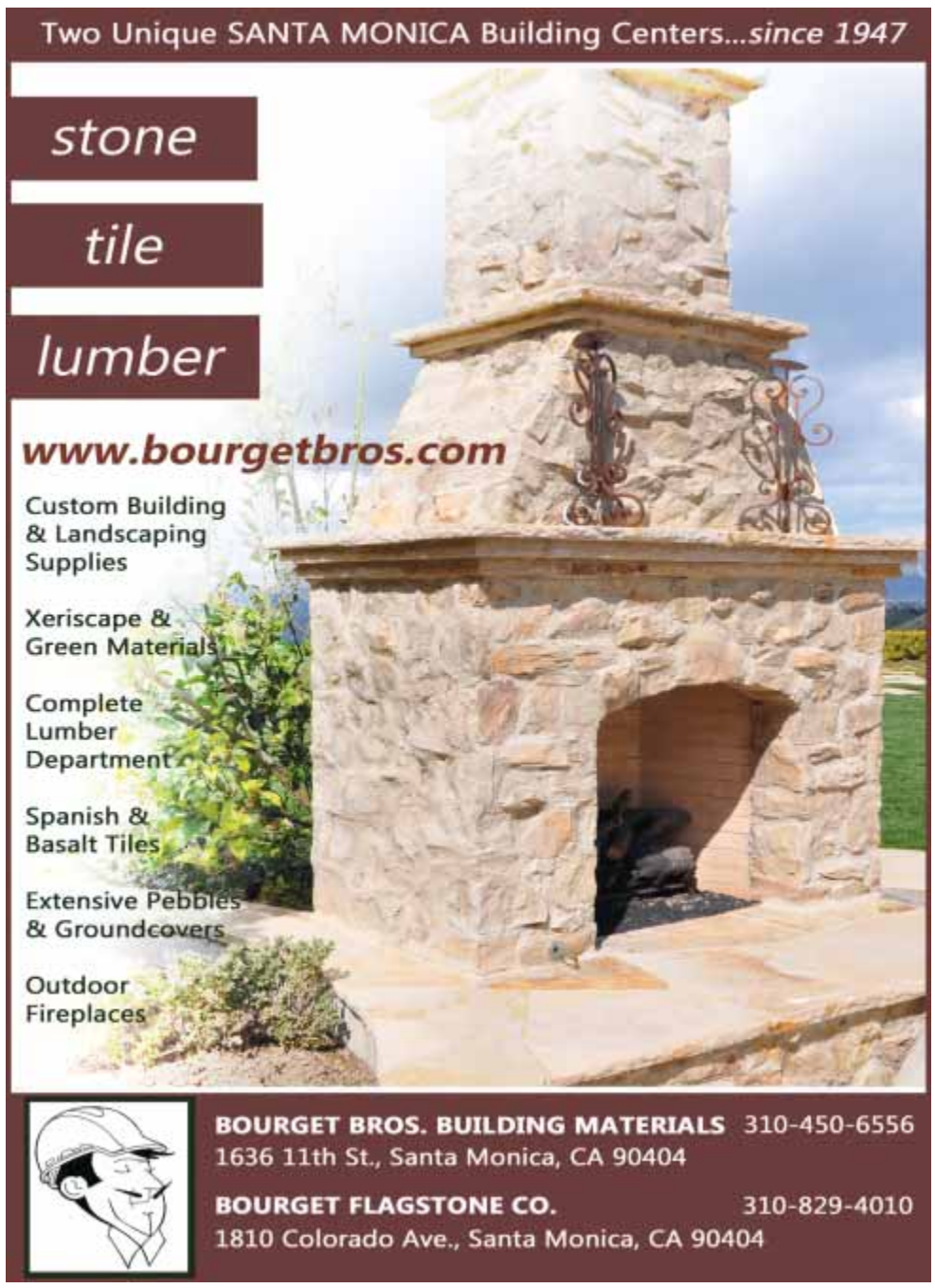
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CASE
FROM PAGE 3

he said. "It's a great community center that people from all over the world come to visit."

With this in mind, it's fitting that Case will debut his new album at that location. In honor of the release of "Wig!", Case is scheduled to perform two shows tonight at McCabe's — at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Case hopes to continue to play in Santa Monica, and he says he will return to teaching at McCabe's in January after going on the road with his new album.

"I like being on the road but I also like teaching, and I think it is a great thing for me to be doing."

One thing is for sure; Case will forever be remembered in Santa Monica history.

"Peter is an incredible songwriter and performer, someone who keenly observes the human condition and finds a way to match words with music to express a feeling, an opinion, and a perspective while entertaining an audience, and, in fact, usually raising the roof," Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown said.

news@smdp.com

> THE SUPPORT HAS BEEN FANTASTIC, I WAS VERY THANKFUL THAT I HAVE GREAT FRIENDS AND A GREAT COMMUNITY TO OFFER IT," EXPRESSED CASE. "WHEN I FIRST CAME TO SANTA MONICA, I KNEW RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THAT I WANTED TO LIVE HERE. I LIKE THE ASPECTS OF THE SMALLER TOWN THAT SANTA MONICA HAS. THERE'S ALWAYS A REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY."
>
> Peter Case, musician

CABS
FROM PAGE 1

weight, and Santa Monica-based companies were given an 8 percent edge. Other evaluation categories included: level of discount offered to seniors and the disabled, quality of dispatch system and owner's character.

In order of ranking, the five cab companies recommended to receive a franchise are: Metro Cab Co., Yellow Cab, Independent Cab Co., Bell Cab and Taxi Taxi.

The other eight companies were also listed in order of ranking in a report released Wednesday by City Hall.

It's unusual to release such a detailed account of how city staff evaluated applicants who responded to a request for proposals, Patterson said.

But "due to the nature, size and complexity of this franchise award, additional information may be helpful for the council and community," he said.

The City Council is expected to decide in September whether to award the franchises to the recommended companies.

Patterson said City Hall does not expect to change its recommendations before then.

"We stand by the recommendations," he said. "We went through a very long, detailed process in evaluating the RFP responses."

By Thursday, he said there had not been an outcry from cab operators decrying City Hall's rankings.

nickt@smdp.com

> WE WENT THROUGH A VERY LONG, DETAILED PROCESS IN EVALUATING THE RFP RESPONSES."
>
> Don Patterson, Business and revenue operations manager



NURSES
FROM PAGE 1

planning to file an appeal.

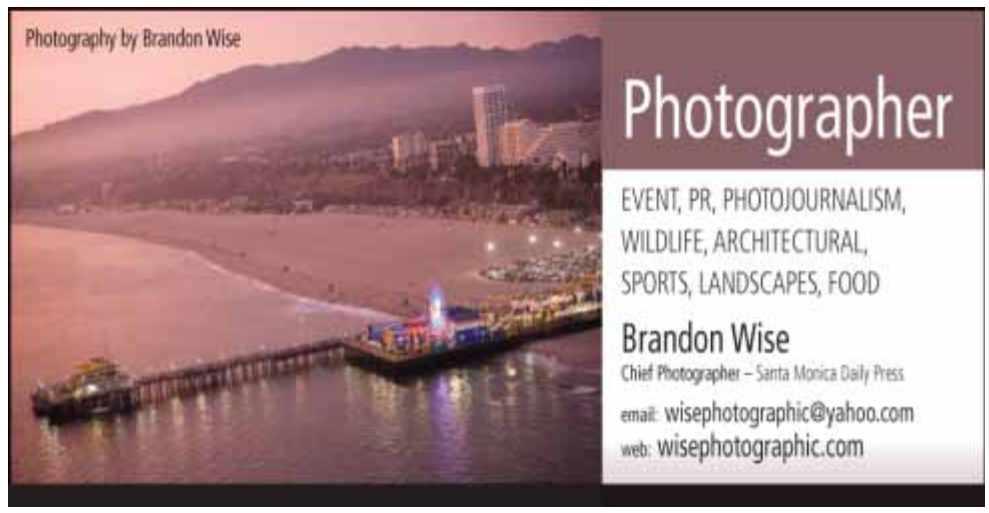
"We need to balance the interest of those employees who may support the union and those who do not want to lose their rights and pay dues," a statement from the hospital said. "We also have a responsibility to ensure patients and their families do not have to face additional angst and concern above what they are already experience at a difficult time in their life. The union filed [complaints] against certain actions we took to try to maintain this equilibrium."

Nurses were joined on Thursday by representatives from various unions and Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, and have support from state Assemblywoman Julia Brownley and state Sen. Fran Pavley, who both represent Santa Monica.

McKeown, who stood by hotel and grocery workers during their efforts to unionize and maintain wages and benefits during the last 12 years, said he is supportive of the nurses at Saint John's who want to unionize and called on the hospital to play fair.

"Union busting is disgusting," McKeown said as roughly 20 nurses stood near the hospital holding banners, one reading "Saint John's Management Guilty."

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Conditional Use Permit 10-004, 1932 Wilshire Boulevard. The applicant (Walgreens Co.) requests a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow the retail sales of alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) within an existing retail establishment located in the C6 (Boulevard Commercial) zoning district. The 14,516 square foot retail pharmacy will provide 66 square feet of storage and display area for the proposed sale of beer and wine. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.18.020 a Conditional Use Permit is required for the off-site sale of alcohol within an existing retail use.[Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT: Walgreens Co. / Robert M. Silverman. PROPERTY OWNER: Chana Szames Trustee & Esther & Robert Berger, Trustees.**

Conditional Use Permit 10-014, Santa Monica Place, 3rd Level Food Court. The applicant requests approval of Conditional Use Permit (10CUP014) to modify the hours of on-site sale and consumption of beer and wine (Type 41) within the Santa Monica Place, 3rd Level Food Court. The proposed hours of beer and wine service are 10AM to 2AM, daily with complete closure of the outdoor patio by 12 midnight. The food court consists of ten (10) food vendor tenant spaces and a 9,704 square foot dining area comprised of 347 indoor seats and 447 outdoor seats. [Planner: Grace Cho] **APPLICANT: The Macerich Company, Santa Monica Place. PROPERTY OWNER: Macerich Santa Monica, LLC.**

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

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

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment (TA09-006) to amend the off-street parking requirements for Santa Monica Place. Amendment to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.08.030 to modify and clarify the off-street parking requirements for Santa Monica Place. [Planner: Paul Foley] **APPLICANT: Macerich Management Company, Inc. LOCATION: Downtown Redevelopment Plan Area (395 Santa Monica Place)** *Continued from June 16 and July 7, 2010.

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to amend sections of the Zoning Ordinance in order to implement State law regarding density bonuses for projects that include affordable housing. Modifications of and additions to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.04.10.14.040, 9.04.10.14.050, 9.04.10.14.060,9.04.10.14.070, 9.04.14.080, and 9.04.10.090, and sections that cross-reference these sections of the Zoning Ordinance to codify, in part, the provisions of Interim Ordinance # 2176 (CCS) and subsequent extending ordinances and to comply with Government Code Section 65915, which requires cities to adopt implementing ordinances providing affordable housing incentives. [Planner: Travis Page] **APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

City of Santa Monica

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

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



Play Time
Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Michael McGee vs. the vampires

IF YOU WANT TO SEE ACTING AT ITS VERY best, then you must see Michael McGee's extraordinary performance at the SFS Theatre on Melrose.

The play is "St. Nicholas," by the highly acclaimed Irish playwright Conor McPherson ("The Weir," "Shining City," "The Seafarer"). Beautifully written as it is, however, McPherson's story here is not as compelling as his other works. While you are thoroughly charmed and engrossed by McGee's ongoing monologue, it is a bit like listening to a good friend recall a dream he had — for an hour and a half.

Whereas in "The Seafarer" the plot revolves around a crucial card game between the protagonist and the devil, "St. Nicholas" is a game of wits between a man and a vampire. It's a power play — a play about power. And, as McGee explains, "Vampires don't have the power to make a man do evil, they have the power to make a man want to do evil." Except in this case the vampires are not all that evil, and not very scary, either.

What they engage their enthralled captive in is a nightly prowl to bring attractive young people back to their mansion for a raucous party. Since he is prone to nightly forays in the local pubs even before he meets the vampires, this doesn't seem like such a stretch for him. Moreover, the vampires only occasionally bite someone, and when they do the victim doesn't become a vampire. In fact, he doesn't remember anything about the orgiastic evening at all.

Meanwhile, McGee's character (identified as "Man") is struggling with his own crises. A theater critic locked in a boring marriage, he is engulfed in ennui, a sense of futility, contempt for his profession, doubts about his professional capabilities, and a desire to escape from his life in ways other than in a perpetual alcoholic stupor. So he is ripe for a leap into the supernatural.

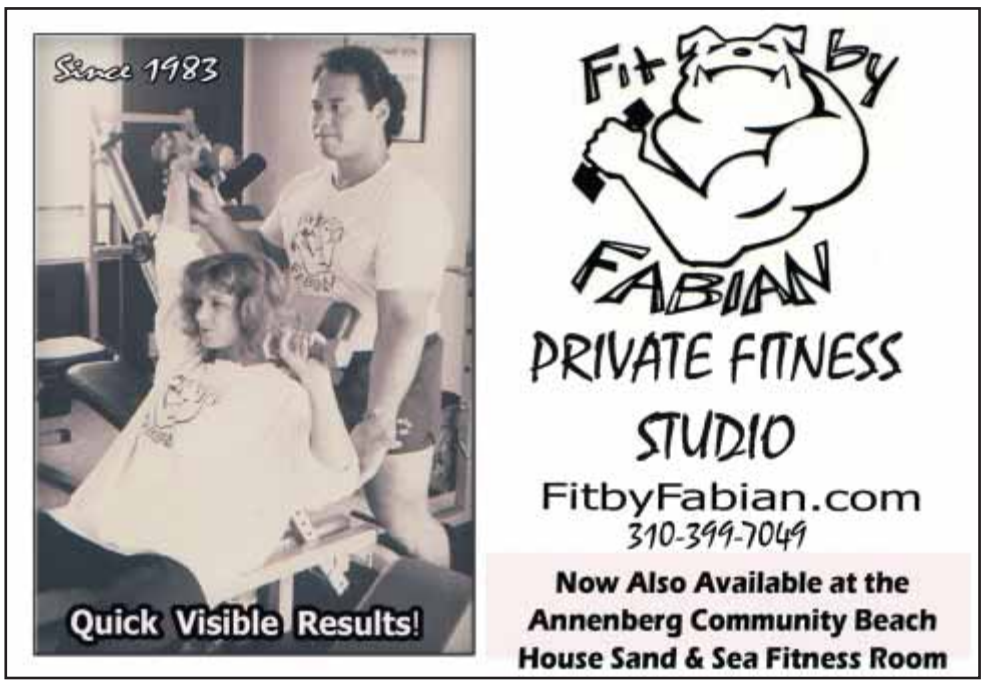
McPherson is quoted as saying, in an interview at ifc.com, "Even though my work can go to quite dark places, ultimately I do want to get it to a place of affirmation because we're here on earth and we've got to make a go of life." And this affirmation is reflected in the title of this play, "St. Nicholas."

As director Scott Paulin (who, by the way, does a dynamite job of directing) explained, "Christmastime appears in McPherson's plays repeatedly as a metaphor for happy times, the joy of family … and hope."

And so, does McGee's character eventually overcome his doubts and his anomie? One can only hope.

"St. Nicholas," produced by Second Story Theatre, will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. through July 25. The SFS Theatre is located at 5636 Melrose Ave. (at Larchmont), in Los Angeles. Call (323) 960-5296 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.





BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'The Lightning Thief'

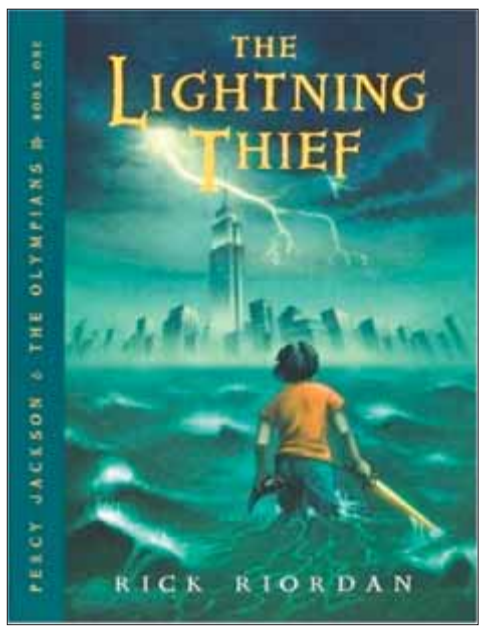
By Rick Riordan • Thorndike Press

THERE ARE STORIES PEOPLE TELL OF mortals and immortals at one time living together and producing offspring — half man and half god. They are stories found in our mythology. Ages pass and the stories are forgotten or at least relegated to story books. But what if there were some truth to it?

Author Rick Riordan works from that premise presenting the young adult reader a story of Percy Jackson, a 12-year-old, who all of a sudden, has strange things happening around him. Percy is one of the offspring of one of the gods of Olympia. We discover he is the son of Poseidon. He must be sent away and schooled for his own protection.

If this premise sounds familiar, it is. J.K. Rowling did a whole series with Harry Potter who was the offspring of supernatural beings. Riordan seems to be attempting to ride the same theme. He puts Percy in danger as when Zeus' lighting rod is stolen and suspicion is that he is the culprit. Being the offspring of one of the gods puts you in danger of attack by the monsters of myths. We meet the Minotaur and the Furries. Percy is befriended by a satyr who has taken on the job of protecting Percy.

Percy escapes to Camp Half Blood for protection. Potter had his Hogsworth. Percy has his Camp Half Blood. This is where the offspring of the gods come for safety.



Soon he is given a quest. He must find and recover the lightening bolt. Once he finds it he is to return it to Zeus. Percy along with his protector, Grover, the satyr, and Annabeth, a girl who can make herself invisible, venture out on the quest.

Percy is easy to identify with. When it comes to the idea of mythological creatures being real, well, that takes some imagination. But I think the young adult reader will be able to provide that,

Contact me at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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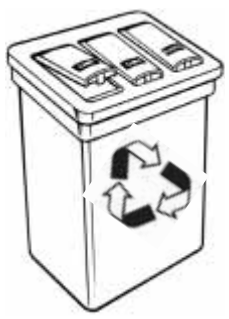


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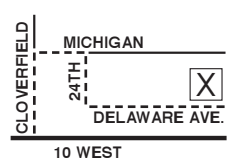
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

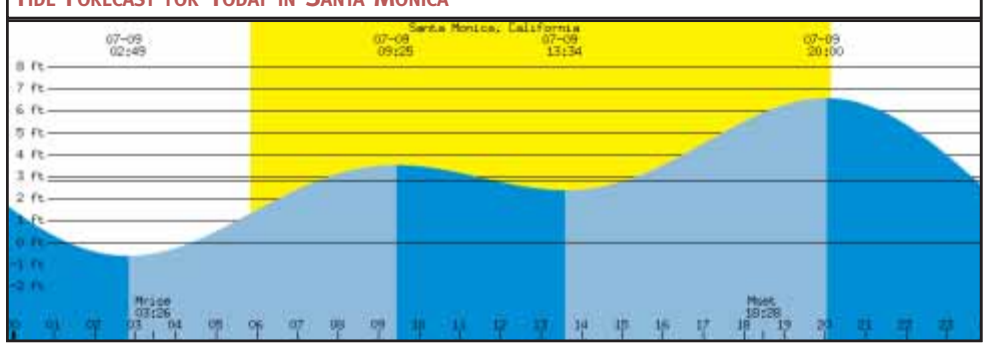
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, more along the lines of waist to chest at south facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks smaller yet, more along the lines of waist high max at south facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **June 29, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

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FIFA WORLD CUP

Group of champs ready to expand

NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

JOHANNESBURG The World Cup champions are an illustrious and exclusive bunch. Only seven countries belong, and just twice in the last 40 years have they welcomed anyone new.

Well, start making way. On Sunday, there's going to be another name on that list.

Spain and the Netherlands are each seeking their first title in the World Cup final at Soccer City. The Dutch have had two cracks at it already, earning that dreaded "best team never to have won the World Cup" title after coming up short in 1974 and again four years later. Spain has had its own issues, underachieving at major tournaments for 44 long years before winning the European title two years ago.

"The group deserves this, but we want more," sublime Spanish striker David Villa said. "We are happy to be in the final, that was our objective. But now we want to be champions."

For all the hype over the South Americans and hope about the teams from Africa, the final will be a Europeans-only party for a second straight World Cup. And few should really be surprised that it's come down to Spain and the Netherlands.

Spain is, of course, the reigning European champion, the game's second-biggest title after the World Cup. It's lost just two matches since November 2006, and its playing style bears a striking resemblance to Barcelona, which has run roughshod on just about everyone the last few years.

When it's on, Spain is awe-inspiring. Its backline of Carles Puyol, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and Joan Capdevila is more like a wall — and just try getting anything by goalkeeper Iker Casillas. Any team would be thrilled to have any one of Villa, Xabi Alonso, Xavi, Andres Iniesta, Fernando Torres or Cesc Fabregas, let alone all of them.

Opponents know Spain's game is based on possession and flow, and good luck trying to disrupt that. When someone does, the Spanish are like a swarm of bees until they get it back. Germany seemed to be the class of the World Cup after routing England and Argentina by a combined 8-1 in the knockout rounds. But the Germans had only a handful of chances in Wednesday night's semifinal loss, and looked out of sync all night.

"I am sure the Spanish can win any game," Germany coach Joachim Loew said, "because they are dominant and it's hard to contain their attack."

The Dutch aren't exactly slouches, though. They won all eight of their qualifying matches, and are perfect in South Africa, too. Not since Pele's brilliant Brazil squad in 1970 has a squad had a chance at winning the World Cup with an unblemished record.

Neither has looked particularly flashy here. At times, in fact, both Spain and the Netherlands have been downright tough to watch. One of Spain's losses came in the group-stage opener to Switzerland — Switzerland! — and it needed a late Villa goal to get past Paraguay in the quarterfinals after both teams missed penalty kicks.

The Netherlands has squandered all kinds of chances in front of its net, often winning by just a goal. It beat Uruguay 3-2 in the semifinals, but the game was in doubt far longer than it should have been. Perhaps the best thing you can say about the Dutch is they've had one heck of a party in South Africa.

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2314 and 2315
(CCS) (City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinances Numbers 2314 and 2315, which were adopted by the City Council on June 22, 2010.

Ordinance Number 2314 (CCS) amends the Municipal Code to allow for one six month extension to the one year plan check time period. On a temporary basis and because of the state of the economy, the Ordinance also adds one additional six month extension for plan check applications and an additional 180 day extension to start construction.

Ordinance Number 2315 (CCS) makes minor modifications to the code provisions governing taxi cab franchises, including clarification of taxicab operating and signage requirements, business license provisions and penalty amounts. The ordinance also amplifies the hearing procedures for violations of taxicab rules and regulations.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption. Their full text is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature:
Hoodlum Priest (NR) 1hr 41min
Bus Stop (NR) 1hr 36min
Discussion between films with actor Don Murray
7:30pm

Call theater for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Get Him to the Greek (R) 1hr 49min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:55pm, 10:35pm

Knight and Day (PG-13) 1hr 50min
10:50am,1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

The Last Airbender 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 43min
10:30am, 1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:40pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:40pm

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

Despicable Me (PG) 1hr 35min
10:00am, 12:40pm, 3:20pm, 6:00pm, 8:40pm, 11:10pm

Despicable Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Grown Ups (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Knight and Day (PG-13) 1hr 50min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Toy Story 3 in Disney Digital 3D (RealD 3D) (G) 1hr 49min
10:15am, 1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:15pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:15pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (Digital Presentation) (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
10:10am, 1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

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

The Girl Who Played with Fire (R) 2hrs 24min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm 10:00pm

South of the Border (NR) 1hr 33min
1:00pm, 3:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky (R) 2hrs 13min
4:10pm

Anton Chekhovs "The Duel" (NR) 2hrs 13min
5:00pm

Cyrus (R) 1hr 46min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Grown Ups (PG-13) 1hr 42min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:05pm, 10:45pm

The Karate Kid (PG) 2hrs 20min
10:30am,1:35pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:05pm

The Last Airbender 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 43min
12:30pm, 3:05pm, 5:45pm, 8:30pm, 11:15pm

The Last Airbender (PG) 1hr 43min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Predators (R) 1hr 47min
10:50am, 1:35pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
12:20pm, 3:20pm, 6:20pm, 9:20pm

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ A conversation early on could be irritating. Learn to let go of these feelings before they damage your mood. Note a tendency to enjoy solution-finding even more than in the past. Tonight: You could meet someone out of the blue.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be aware of what you have to offer, and don't act out because of your insecurities. You offer a lot in any situation. A child or loved one could be unusually delightful. Allow your imagination to play a bigger role. Tonight: Be impulsive -- yes, you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ While others could be reactive and lose their way, you will respond quickly with ideas. Yes, you could be irritated at first. Pick up the phone rather than just think about someone. Tonight: The unexpected occurs.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes. Thoughts go to money and perhaps buying a gift. Although it's the thought that counts, you want your choice to be meaningful. Be more aware of your image. Tonight: Vanish ... mystery can be very alluring.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Zero in on what is important. You cannot, nor should you, settle. Mercury, the planet of communication, moves into your sign, adding to your already strong ability to present your case, verbalize and charm others. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Be careful how you direct your energy. You could be irritated with one person but take it out on another. You will tend to overthink things in the next few weeks. Sign up for a yoga class or some other stress-buster. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Clearly, you are in the mood to take off and do something very different. Your smile and charming manner could help disguise your true feelings. Just don't play games with your head. Know what you feel. Tonight: Take in new vistas. Split town, or at least try a different haunt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You work best with one associate. You know it, and others know it, too. A meeting could take your mind and energy off of where it should be. Center yourself, and maintain your priorities. A talk is essential in order to keep a relationship working. Tonight: Find a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others seem to have the wherewithal to bypass you or act as if they couldn't care less. Stop with the assumptions and be logical. Let someone choose what he or she wants. You cannot change this person anyway. Tonight: Go with another's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Pace yourself and get as much done as possible. You want to leave work with as much done as possible. News from a distance could be off. Some important details are being left out. Look at what isn't being said. Tonight: A roommate or family member needs extra attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You have difficulty staying present in the moment. You are already gone for the weekend. Your ability to read between the lines in an important conversation could be key. Screen calls. Save personal calls for later. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Know what is going on with a family member or someone you care about. There could be an element of deception. Your checking account decides to take a roller-coaster ride. Learn to say "no." Tonight: Head home.

Happy birthday

This year, you often are so focused or possibly irritated that you allow important details to slip. You do remain aware of your finances. If you remain flexible, you are likely to have a very unique opportunity, which could impact you by leaps and bounds. If you are single, you'll meet someone out of the blue. Don't decide that this is it for at least a year. You will see many changes. If you are attached, you feel as if you are constantly adjusting to your sweetie. Make that OK for now. The favor will be returned. GEMINI understands you a little too well for your comfort.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

ARITHMO™ CrossMath

+ × − ÷

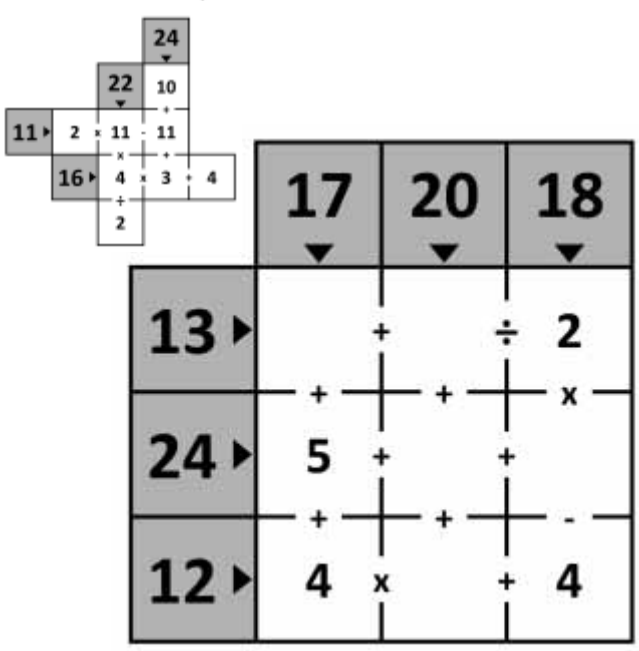
• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

2, 8, 8, 10, 11

Solution 38 for Thursday





MYSTERY PHOTO

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Stunned
6 Greenish brown
11 Seething
12 Blow away
13 Statue setting
14 Computer shortcut
15 Towel word
17 Compared with
18 Tolerate
20 Scope
22 Blunder
23 Bane
26 Eric Clapton hit
28 Comic legend Richard
29 "Royal Wedding" star
31 Status —
32 Skilled
33 Courage
34 Scottish isle
36 Famed surrealist
38 Berry of "X-Men"
40 Movie chimp
43 Island ring
44 Supply food for
45 Edible mushroom
46 Sculpting medium

DOWN

1 Racket
2 Onassis nickname
3 Last elected Whig president
4 The heavens
5 Woodland grazer
6 Deli choice
7 Hobbyist
8 "Heroes" actor
9 Poet Pound
10 Boxer Spinks
16 Pouchlike part
18 Composer Bartók
19 Important times
21 Rappelling need
23 Go to sea
24 Foot ailment
25 Aphrodite's son
27 Singer Patti
30 Wine choice
33 Enjoy one's triumph
34 Counterfeit
35 Green Hornet's aide
37 Basics
39 Building wing
41 Buddhism branch
42 Mine matter

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16	■	17			
18	19			■	20	21			■	■
22			■	23					24	25
26			27		■	28				
29					30		■	31		
■	■	32				■	33			
34	35			■	36	37			■	■
38				39	■	40			41	42
43					■	44				
45					■	46				

7-9

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 8 18 45 47 50 Meganumber: 36 Jackpot: $43M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 6 9 10 21 Meganumber: 24 Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 10 21 22 32 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 8 5 EVENING: 7 2 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:45.70

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Vying in recent years with Washington, D.C., as the nation's "district of calamity" is Detroit, whose previous mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, was in May ordered to prison to serve 1-1/2 to 5 years after repeatedly violating his probation on his conviction for obstruction of justice. In June, Detroit's school board president Otis Mathis resigned under fire, then tried to un-resign by offering to cure himself of the behavior that started his downfall, specifically, Mathis' touching and fondling himself during several one-on-one meetings with the school system's General Superintendent, Teresa Gueyser.

■ In the space of about 30 minutes on a June morning, according to a Dayton Daily News report, Brian Horst, 35, shoplifted several packages of meat and a jug of Mad Dog 20/20 wine from a store, inexplicably rolled a stainless-steel tank of carbon dioxide on wheels away from a restaurant, and disabled an ATM by pounding it with a rock (after several witnesses spotted him in conversation with the screen, apparently trying to reason with the machine or possibly with an imaginary employee inside it).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1922 Johnny Weissmuller swims the 100 meters freestyle in 58.6 seconds breaking the world swimming record and the 'minute barrier'.

1932 The state of São Paulo revolts against the Brazilian Federal Government, starting the Constitutionalist Revolution

1943 World War II: Operation Husky – Allied forces perform an amphibious invasion of Sicily.

1944 World War II: Battle of Normandy – British and Canadian forces capture Caen, France.

1944 World War II: Battle of Saipan – Americans take Saipan.

1944 World War II: Battle of Tali-Ihantala – Finland wins the Battle of Tali-Ihantala, which is to date largest battle of north Europe. Red Army withdraws its troops from Ihantala and digs into defensive position, which ends the Vyborg–Petrozavodsk Offensive.

WORD UP!

sibylline \SIB-uh-leen\ , adjective; 1. Prophetic; oracular. 2. Of, resembling, or characteristic of a sibyl; prophetic; oracular.

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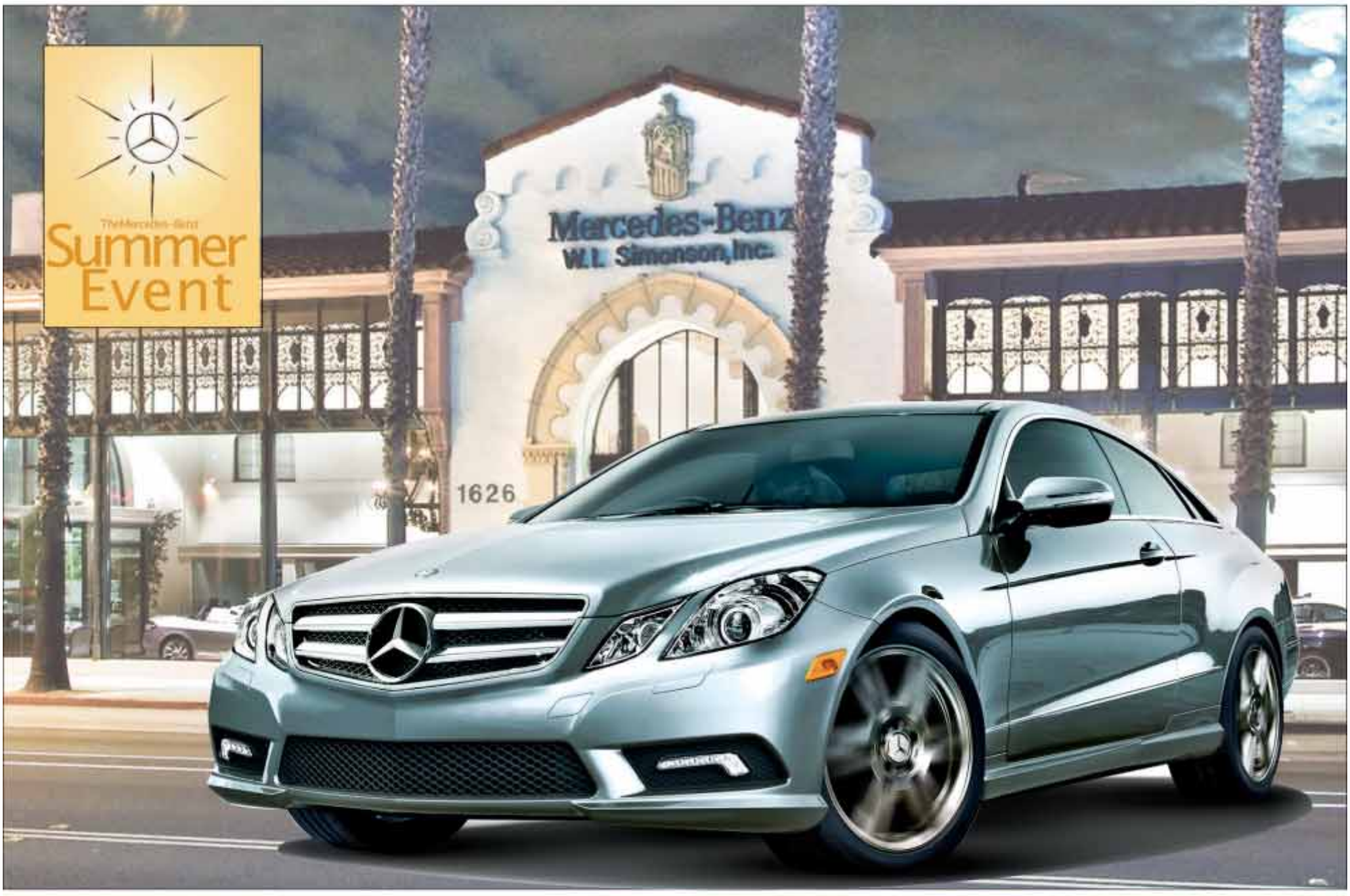
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