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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 213

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

BASS DIVA PLAYS PIER
INSIDE

THE **FULL HOUSE** ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

COLORFUL: Candice Kim, with the Coalition for Clean Air, stands in front of a display of non-toxic nail polish at Cute Nails on Tuesday. The coalition was on hand for the kick-off of the Healthy Nail Salon Program co-sponsored by Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

Taking toxins out of manicures

Santa Monica becomes first in SoCal to launch safety program

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN BLVD Cute Nails Salon owner Anh Nguyen has been working in the nail industry for 23 years, but she started to notice the chemicals in the products used were affecting her health.

Nguyen, who has owned the salon for more than 10 years, said her eyes would get red and she had difficulty breathing.

"But because I enjoy the work so much, I didn't have a choice to work without these chemicals and I didn't know I could do nails in a healthier and safer way," Nguyen said.

But that changed Tuesday when the salon was the first to express interest in participating in the Healthy Nail Salon Program, a joint collaboration between the city of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative.

Santa Monica is the first city in Southern California to kick off the program. The aim of the program is to promote using healthier, less toxic nail products and officials hope Santa Monica's 30 nail salons will participate in the program. The city by the sea follows San Francisco and Alameda County.

Nguyen said she learned about ways to protect her health when doing manicures and pedicures. The salon employs two workers, including herself.

"I was excited to hear about the … program and I learned how to improve my salon practice for the benefit of my health and my workers' health and my customers' health," she said. Nguyen wasn't sure how long it would take for her to get rid of all the toxic nail polishes.

Some of the requirements to be a part of the program include avoiding nail polishes that have a "toxic trio" of chemicals (toluene, dibutyl phthalate and formaldehyde), using a required ventilation unit to improve air quality, working with particular nail polish thinners without toluene and methyl ethyl ketone and using nitrile gloves for workers.

SEE **NAILS** PAGE 8

Huntley lawyers demand retraction from Miramar

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SECOND STREET Lawyers for the Huntley Hotel demanded Tuesday that owners of a rival hotel rescind what they consider defamatory statements about the Huntley's owner and shut down a slam website within a week.

Rick Zbur, an attorney with Latham & Watkins, which represents the Huntley Hotel, alleged that Ocean Avenue LLC., the company which owns the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, defamed Huntley owner Sohrab Sassounian in two flyers released in June and a website called HuntleyFacts.com.

SEE **HOTELS** PAGE 10

Famous artist, producer join campaign to save 'Chain Reaction'

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER A renowned artist has become involved in the campaign to save "Chain Reaction," the sculpture designed by the late Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Paul Conrad.

Famed artist Edward Ruscha made a $5,000 donation a week and a half ago to the campaign, said Paul Conrad's son, David Conrad.

Conrad said television writer and producer Norman Lear, who produced iconic sitcoms "Sanford and Son," "The Jeffersons," and "All in the Family," will possibly be helping the campaign with fundraising in the future. Lear hasn't made any financial contributions, Conrad said.

"He has pledged his support and he's a

SEE **SCULPTURE** PAGE 10

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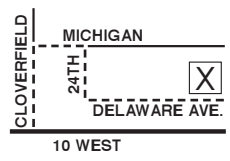
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Planning Commission meets
City Hall
1685 Main St., 6 p.m.
Items on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting include public hearings of development agreements and environmental impact reports for a Hampton Inn & Suites hotel on Colorado Avenue and a Marriott hotel on Fifth Street. For more information, call (310) 458-8341.

Arts center fundraiser
Library Alehouse
2911 Main St.,
6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Join staff and residents of the 18th Street Arts Center for a night of conversation, good cheer and fine craft beer. Ten percent of the proceeds during the event and anytime during the day will support the center. For more information, call (310) 453-3711.

Politics on screen
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica Public Library presents The Political is Personal Film Series, a summer series of monthly documentary screenings. This month's selection is the 2012 "We're Not Broke" film on how U.S. corporations have been able to hide over a trillion dollars from the government, and how seven fed-up Americans from across the country take their frustration to the streets, and vow to make the corporations pay their fair share. Admission is free. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Housing Commission in the house
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 4:30 p.m.
The Housing Commission, which focuses on providing affordable housing in the city, will meet in the Community Meeting Room at the Ocean Park Branch Library. The commission will discuss housing-related agenda items to be considered by the City Council, as well as legislation relating to housing at the state and federal levels. The commission will also interview applicants for a spot on the commission.

Get fit
Third Street Promenade
1318 Third Street Promenade,
5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
A new women's fitness equipment and clothing store, Athleta, is opening on the Third Street Promenade. The first 100 people to arrive will receive a free fitness class and Marie Claire goodie bag. There will also be refreshments and demonstrations of fitness exercises. There is no charge to attend. E-mail EventsMC@hearst.com to RSVP.

Summer art, music festival
Montana Avenue between Sixth and 17th streets
5 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Participants can enjoy art, music and food at a summer festival at one of Santa Monica's signature shopping areas.

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**



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy Tom Bonner

SANTA MONICA-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

MID-CITY

UCLA Health ranked fifth in country

The UCLA Health System in Santa Monica and Westwood was ranked fifth among hospitals in the nation by the U.S. News and World Report. The system was also ranked the best in California and in Los Angeles, according to the report released Tuesday.

UCLA Health was one of about 4,800 hospitals across the country to be considered for the rankings. It placed among the top 20 hospitals for 13 of 16 medical specialties such as neurosurgery, cardiology and heart surgery and orthopedics.

Hospitals were ranked based on four indicators — largely their reputation among medical experts and how successful the hospital was in keeping patients healthy. Hospitals were also ranked for their efforts to improve patient safety and other factors, including nurse staffing, patient volume and technology.

– KRISTEN TAKETA

CITYWIDE

Health center receives funds to visit underserved

The Westside Family Health Center received a $50,000 grant to support its free mobile health clinic, according to a statement released Tuesday.

The Rose Hills Foundation grant will support the center's 36-foot mobile exam room unit, which brings medical services to seven locations around Santa Monica, including five high schools. The nonprofit Westside Family Health Center provides services to low-income and uninsured individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

It is important to bring services directly to underserved communities since it can be difficult for individuals to travel to health centers, said Debra Farmer, president and CEO of Westside Family Health Center.

Healthcare is also not readily available in some areas, Farmer said, and sometimes individuals do not feel comfortable sitting long in a waiting room.

"It's a matter of building up a relationship with various people before they access healthcare," Farmer said.

The fees and government assistance the nonprofit organization brings in don't begin to cover the costs the center faces, Farmer said.

"We're constantly out there looking for grant money to support our programs," she added. "(This grant) will help us keep that mobile unit running."

The Westside Family Health Center provides free services to more than 9,500 low-income and uninsured individuals in Santa Monica, according to the statement.

– KT

Bike Trains offer alternative commute

ILEANA NAJARRO
Special to the Daily Press

COUNTYWIDE A collective of cyclists from across Los Angeles County is coming together to offer a fun and eco-friendly commuting alternative: bike trains.

While work is underway to gain nonprofit status, for the past two months the volunteer group LA Bike Trains has directed cyclists to meet up or join others riding to work along pre-designated routes — including one into Santa Monica — following a leader, or conductor, said Nona Varnado, co-founder of the group and staffer at the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.

Varnado explained that bike trains are a global phenomenon, often as an activity amongst friends. LA Bike Trains, on the other hand, hopes to transform the concept into a more inclusive and strategic enterprise including creating a smartphone app that will facilitate coordination.

"I don't think there's anyone who's done this as a business," Varnado said.

Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in the county with bicycles providing a solution, Varnado said. In Santa Monica, a city that boasts having the largest bike center in the nation with lockers and showers for commuters, bicycles have been embraced as an alternative form of transportation with bike lanes and parking spaces all across the city.

As the group of bike train volunteers completes the legal proceedings for nonprofit status, Varnado said that they have already successfully brokered a deal with the bike shop Orange 20 Bikes in Hollywood to offer a discount package for LA Bike Trains participants that includes a bike, lock and helmet for $550 before tax.

She added that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation has expressed interest in supporting the group after writing a piece about them on the LADOT Bike Blog.

One of the motivations behind running a structured network of bike trains across the county was the lack consideration for those who use bicycles as their main form of transportation such as fewer bike-friendly forms of infrastructure than needed, Varnado said.

"Los Angeles does not think of bicycling as transportation but as recreation," Varnado said.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ROLLING: A cyclist makes his way down Main Street on Monday during rush hour.

Wesley "Wes" High, conductor of the bike train from Sunset Triangle Plaza in Silver Lake to about Ninth Street and Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica, said that he joined LA Bike Trains because he wanted to play a role in supporting the bicycle community beyond his work for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's Neighborhood Bike Ambassador Program.

"I don't think there's enough done to make Los Angeles a bike-friendly place," High said.

High, who works for the local advertising agency Phelps, said that the part of his bike train route that goes through Santa Monica is a pleasant difference from other areas, including Beverly Hills, where bike lanes have only recently been added.

Peter Dzewaltowski, transportation planner for Santa Monica, noted that partly due to the city's efforts to enact an award-winning bike plan in the last few years, it comes as no surprise that the city's rankings in the National Bike Challenge showed 76 percent of Santa Monicans use bicycles for utilitarian purposes.

"It's an everybody wins kind of circumstance when we get someone to forgo an automobile for an alternative form of transportation," Dzewaltowski said.

Beyond a bike train's logistical benefits, High said that the social element of riding with others is something

SEE **BIKES** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Development is taxing

Editor:

Normally I am a big fan of the opinions of Bill Bauer. However, on the Miramar development I find him to be a fanatic on the wrong side of the issue ("Real facts about Miramar renovation," My Write, July 15).

The Miramar is not a hotel development. It is a luxury condo development. Under the current proposal the number of hotel rooms would be reduced by roughly 10 percent. It is a lot less than certain that the Miramar is going to generate big income for the city. City Hall only gets a small portion of the additional property taxes. The amount of additional hotel room tax, given that there would be fewer hotel rooms, could be modest.

Most importantly, the additional residents who will be moving into the new condos are going to require a pro-rata increase in additional public safety and public welfare services. To date there has not been a comprehensive study comparing reasonable expectation of additional tax revenue with the costs of City Hall providing services for all of those new residents. Such a study should also factor in the loss of tax revenue from the Huntley Hotel that would be caused by taking away its ocean views.

The proposed development is double the size of what is allowed by our zoning code. There are many of us that believe in equal protection under the law, and take issue with our city adopting a George Orwell "Animal Farm" government where some people are more equal than others. Clearly the Huntley Hotel was a big mistake done at a time when residents were not paying attention to development. But the fact that the city made a bad mistake a long time ago is no justification to repeat that mistake today.

The Miramar development is the antithesis of being environmentally friendly. The Miramar is proposing tearing down a huge 10-story building and throwing an incredible amount of material into the trash. The Miramar development's demolition will create giant amounts of dust, which will fill our air with all kinds of toxins. The Miramar development will massively increase the future use of electricity, gas and water on the property. The Miramar development is the highest of all possible water usage, at a time when the city is experiencing a big water shortage. Most importantly, the Miramar development would be using double its fair share of natural resources.

And finally, as a matter of fairness, there should be consideration of all the residents who invested their life savings into buying a home with an ocean view, having their primary asset plummet in value because their ocean view is taken away. It is one thing for those who were not paying attention to their neighbor's right under the zoning code. It is a completely different matter when the problem is caused by City Hall giving a single property owner triple the height, and double the density, that is allowed by the zoning code.

Jeff Segal
Santa Monica





After the Bell

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Penny saved is not a penny earned

WE ALL KNOW THAT A PENNY SAVED is not a penny earned. To save a penny you have to earn almost two pennies. The government takes one for taxes, and you save the other (if you don't spend it).

So part of investing properly is to try to minimize taxes by whatever legal means are available. And there are lots of them. There are many more for people that earn a lot of money, but there are some for people who are not big corporations or are not in the highest tax bracket. Most tax-saving devices for medium-income people are well known and taken advantage of by accountants who file tax returns for their clients.

But today I want to just tell Bill's story, which is one that not as many people take advantage of as they might.

Bill works for a hedge fund company and makes a very nice living. Until last year he was paying about $150,000 a year in state and federal taxes. But with a big mortgage on his house, two car loans, a daughter in a fancy college and a son in private school, Bill didn't have much left over in discretionary dollars.

So Bill's wife Betty formed a "C" corporation named Services by Betty (SB). She was going to call it Betty's Services, but didn't like the acronym. SB began providing services to Bill by doing research on the companies his firm was interested in. Each week she gave Bill computer printouts she found on the Internet concerning those companies. This helped Bill a lot in his work.

For these services Bill paid SB about $4,000 a month. This was a tax deduction for Bill and reduced the family taxes by almost $2,000 a month.

SB had a medical plan which covered Betty's family and all of the family medical expenses were paid by SB. It also paid for Betty's car and car expenses, and for the furnishing and upkeep and utilities for that part of the family home Betty used for her business. Since SB is a C corporation, none of its income (or expenses) go on the family joint tax return.

Betty also hired her college-age daughter to help with SB, and paid a wage to her which helped her college expenses. Since the daughter had no other income, but had some expenses, the tax on this wage was very small.

When all was said and done, SB had a very small tax to pay, and the corporate rates for low-income companies is very small, so there was negligible tax on the corporation.

The bottom line is that Bill reduced his top percentage tax rate a few points, and saved about $20,000 a year. That turned out to be just enough to pay for his son's private school, a cost that is not tax deductible. And a good time was had by all.

These little tax helps can make life easier. Be sure you have a good tax advisor to help you find them.

ROTTEN APPLE

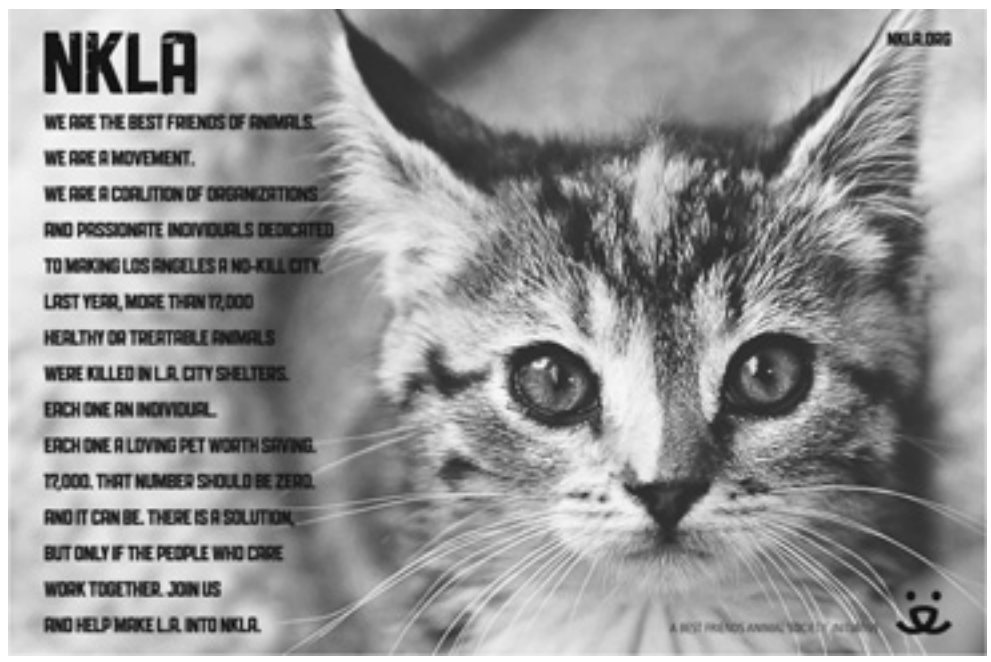
Watching Apple Inc. stock continue to drop is, of course, depressing to those of us who own it. But, as they say, every cloud has a silver lining. So I've been recommending the sale of the January 2015 380 put. At $57 one put brings in a premium of $5,700. That's a nice little income. The only risk is that if Apple goes down below 380 during the option period you might be forced to buy 100 shares of the stock at $380 a share, for a cash outlay of $38,000. But owning 100 shares of Apple at that price, when it pays over 3 percent in dividends, doesn't seem like much of a penalty. And since you already took in $5,700 the net cost is really only just over $32,000 or $320 a share. It's hard to believe that one could be so lucky!

In addition to watching my losses in Apple, I'm carefully watching my losses in copper. I thought it was a good investment when it was about 15 percent higher than it is now, partly because of the increase in housing construction and partly because I see the U.S. economy going up, but it hasn't happened. But I don't think I'm wrong on this except for the timing, and if it was good then it's even better now.

Several banks have just downgraded commodities in general, and gold and copper specifically. I think it's a good time to buy for the long term (1-2 years).

That's all for now. Stay tuned in a couple of weeks for more tax tips.

For information about **MERV HECHT** and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.



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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com
Ameera Butt
ameera@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
editor@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Charles Andrews, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Hank Koning, John Zinner, Linda Jassim, Gwynne Pugh, Michael W. Folonis, Lori Salerno, Tricia Crane, Ellen Brennan, Zina Josephs and Armen Melkonians

NEWS INTERN
Ileana Najarro
editor@smdp.com
Kristen Taketa
editor@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Michael Yanow
editor@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

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FAX (310) 576-9913
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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taxpayers say 'no mas'

A JUST-RELEASED SURVEY BY PROBOLSKY Research shows that most California voters now oppose new or increased local taxes. A majority, 55.5 percent, would vote "no" on a local measure that would increase taxes to maintain service levels, while only 34.8 percent would vote "yes."

Admittedly, a poll is just a snapshot of attitudes during a moment in time and those views can change in response to new information. For example, in November of last year, San Diegans elected a new mayor — an election being the ultimate poll of public sentiment. Now that the new mayor is facing multiple accusations of sexual harassment, many of his top supporters are calling for his resignation, and were an election -- or poll — held today, it is quite certain the mayor would come out on the losing end.

Last fall, voters approved Proposition 30, a $50-billion tax hike that increased income taxes on the upper-middle class and wealthy and sales taxes on everyone. This lead many on the left side of the political spectrum to pronounce that the last vestiges of the California tax revolt of 1978, which gave us Proposition 13, had collapsed and the public was anxious to usher in a new long-term era of higher taxes.

The Probolsky survey of voter attitudes toward local taxes provides a strong indication that the left's expectations were premature and that the Sacramento tax-and-spend lobby may be a victim of both its own success and excess. After all, Proposition 30 was sold as a solution to the state's perennial budget problems and as the salvation of public education. While voters acquiesced to a higher tax burden, they now see that there is enough money to provide the governor and lawmakers with a 5.2 percent raise and a 4.5 percent increase for state workers. Looks like they have come to the logical conclusion that government is doing well enough.

Those in government will make the argument that state and local taxes are not the same because they fund different services. Thus, even if voters don't want to spend more locally this doesn't mean they don't want more money to go to Sacramento.

But this argument ignores the real-world concerns of taxpayers. Former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil coined the phrase, "All politics is local." In one sense, so too are taxes since they come from the locality of the taxpayer's wallet. When arguments are made that some level of government needs more, the taxpayer's first reaction is to look to see how much it will cost them. If they have little or nothing to give, arguments about the competing needs of federal, state or local government don't get much traction. By passing Proposition 30, voters believe they have done their part and government at all levels should make do with what they have.

[I]F (VOTERS) ARE NOT WILLING TO GIVE MORE MONEY TO LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE THEIR SUPPORT, WHY WOULD ANYONE THINK THEY WOULD WANT TO PROVIDE MORE TO THE SACRAMENTO POLITICIANS, WHO FARE MUCH WORSE IN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS?

Further evidence that resistance to new taxes is strong is revealed by the response to another poll question. Voters in general have a positive view of their local elected officials. With this in mind, if they are not willing to give more money to local officials who have their support, why would anyone think they would want to provide more to the Sacramento politicians, who fare much worse in public opinion surveys?

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Ride safely

A local attorney is giving bicycle helmets away in an effort to raise awareness of bike safety.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think a law should be enacted to make wearing bike helmets mandatory for adults?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.



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State officials seek record fine in pipeline explosion

SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO California regulators on Tuesday called on Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to pay at least $300 million in fines in connection with a deadly 2010 gas pipeline blast in what they said would amount to the largest fine ever levied by the state Public Utilities Commission.

In an amended brief filed in the pipeline case, the commission's safety division cited the eight people killed and 38 homes destroyed in the blast in the San Francisco Bay Area suburb of San Bruno and said there were steps PG&E could have taken to prevent the explosion.

"The tragedy in San Bruno, which was directly caused by PG&E's unreasonable conduct and neglect for decades, was the worst disaster in the history of California electric and/or gas utilities," the safety division said in its filing.

Regulators had originally called for a $2.25 billion penalty against PG&E, though it would consist entirely of funds the utility has spent or promised to spend on pipeline system improvements ordered by the commission.

Consumer advocates and San Bruno officials had objected to that penalty. San Bruno officials said it was tax deductible and "littered" with credits and perks to benefit PG&E that would amount to a net penalty of almost nothing to the company.

The lead PUC attorneys probing the blast abruptly quit the investigation after the penalty was announced, with one, Robert Cagan, calling it "unlawful" in an e-mail sent to radio station KQED.

Under the amended brief, $300 million of the $2.25 billion would go into the state's general fund in the form of a fine. Additionally, PG&E shareholders, not ratepayers, would be on the hook for a significant share of the costs to fix the pipeline system, said Tom Long, the legal director of The Utility Reform Network, a utility watchdog group.

"What the safety division announced today is finally a real penalty," Long said. "It will actually require PG&E shareholders to pay real money."

Tom Bottorff, PG&E's senior vice president for regulatory affairs, characterized the revised penalty as overly punitive and said it would backfire by making it difficult for the utility to raise "the capital necessary to maintain the extraordinary investment in safety currently under way, or raise billions of dollars more for safety improvements mandated by the CPUC."

"In its zeal to punish PG&E, the staff of the California Public Utilities Commission has lost sight of our important shared goal of making PG&E's natural gas operation the safest in the country as quickly as we possibly can," Bottorff said in a statement.

The National Transportation Safety Board unanimously agreed in 2011 that the blast was caused by what board chairman Deborah Hersman called a "litany of failures" by PG&E, as well as weak oversight by regulators.

Separate from the NTSB investigation, investigators at the utilities commission blamed PG&E for the explosion, which occurred when an underground pipeline ruptured at the site of a decades-old faulty weld, sparking a massive fire.

PG&E has accepted liability for the disaster in numerous public statements but has denied most of state investigators' allegations that the utility violated safety rules.

The penalty recommended Tuesday still must be reviewed by an administrative law judge and the five-member commission itself, both of which can offer amendments or counter-proposals before a final vote.

Court sides with Yahoo in data collection lawsuit

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Yahoo has won a court fight that could help the public learn more about the government's efforts to obtain data from Internet users.

The U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which reviews government requests to spy on individuals, ruled Monday that information should be made public about a 2008 case that ordered Yahoo Inc. to turn over customer data.

The order requires the government to review which portions of the opinion, briefs and arguments can be declassified and report back to the court by July 29.

The government sought the information from Yahoo under the National Security Agency's PRISM data-gathering program. Details of the secret program were disclosed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who has fled the U.S.

The program came to light in early June after The Washington Post and Guardian newspapers published documents provided by Snowden. It allows the NSA to reach into the data streams of U.S. companies such as Yahoo, Facebook Inc., Microsoft Corp., Google Inc. and others, and grab emails, video chats, pictures and more. U.S. officials have said the program is narrowly focused on foreign targets, and technology companies say they turn over information only if required by court order.

Yahoo requested in court papers filed June 14 to have the information about the 2008 case unsealed. A Yahoo spokeswoman hailed Monday's decision and said the company believes it will help inform public discussion about the U.S. government's surveillance programs.

The government hasn't taken a position on whether details of the case should be published as long as it's allowed to review the documents before publication in order to redact classified information, according to the court order.

Mark Rumold, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation specializing in electronic surveillance and national security issues, called the ruling incremental and said he was reserving judgment until the case details are actually released.

"It remains to be seen how forthcoming (the government) will be," Rumold said. "The administration has said they want a debate about the propriety of the surveillance, but they haven't really provided information to inform that debate. So declassifying these opinions is a very important place to start."

The unsealing of such secret rulings is not unprecedented, but it is rare. The last time that happened, Rumold said, was in 2002, in a case regarding the Patriot Act.

For many celebs, Comic-Con an annual pilgrimage

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Trekking to San Diego for Comic-Con is usually just another summertime destination for the likes of "The Walking Dead" mastermind Robert Kirkman. However, this year's pop-culture bonanza will serve as a major milestone for him: the 10th anniversary of the comic series that spawned a hit TV show and undead phenomenon.

"Bigger is always better," he said. "I know some people say, 'Hey! It used to be this quaint little convention where you could buy back issues, but damn it, now Samuel L. Jackson is walking around, and it's annoying.' I think Comic-Con casts a huge spotlight on the comic industry. It only seems to get bigger, and I think that's good for everybody."

Over the past decade, the fan-driven event has transformed like an Autobot from a comic book celebration into a multimedia pop-culture extravaganza with presentations featuring celebrity appearances, casting announcements and never-before-seen footage from upcoming films and shows. This week's 44th annual event, which officially kicks off Thursday and runs through Sunday, is shaping up to be no different for famous Comic-Con veterans.

Hugh Jackman is taking his fourth trip to the convention. Last year, he made a surprise appearance with the robot brawler "Real Steel." Jackman will spend this week in San Diego hyping "The Wolverine," the upcoming stand-alone "X-Men" spin-off that marks the actor's sixth time playing the iconic comic character that rocketed him to stardom.

"It's gold," said Jackman. "I love being with the fans. I'm excited to show them some stuff at the presentation. It's gonna be fun."

"The World's End" director Edgar Wright is also making a return trip to the San Diego Convention Center to promote his upcoming end-of-the-world bar-crawl adventure with stars Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. He first attended in 2004 for his zombie farce "Shaun of the Dead," and surprised audiences last year by unveiling test footage for Marvel's "Ant-Man."

"It's definitely nerve-racking," said Wright. "In the case of showing the 'Ant-Man' footage last year, I'm glad I did it. I was the one who was questioning (Marvel studio president) Kevin Feige a little bit. I kept asking him, 'Are you sure this is a good idea?!' He was like, 'Totally! They're gonna love it.' I had doubts and was very happily proved wrong."

Other films expected to be bandied inside the cavernous Hall H include the big-screen adaptations of best-sellers "Ender's Game" and "Divergent," and reboots of "Godzilla" and "RoboCop." It'll also be a showcase for sophomore outings of "Captain America," "Thor," "The Amazing Spider-Man," "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," "The Hunger Games" and "How to Train Your Dragon."

The cast and creators of several TV shows will be on hand to tease upcoming seasons, including returning fan-favorites "The Walking Dead," "Game of Thrones," "True Blood" and "Once Upon a Time," as well as new shows like "The Vampire Diaries" spin-off "The Originals," android buddy cop drama "Almost Human" and "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."

Alex Kurztman and Roberto Orci, the screenwriters behind movies like "Star Trek" and the upcoming "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," will be in attendance to debut the first episode of their new Fox series "Sleepy Hollow," which finds an out-of-time Ichabod Crane battling supernatural forces in modern times.

"It's important to let people into the process," said Kurztman. "Fans respond to authenticity. They may not always like the choices that we make, but we didn't have anything like this growing up. ... Comic-Con demystifies the process, but there's still magic."

Patton Oswalt opted to record his upcoming Comedy Central special and comedy album in San Diego this week because he said it's the place where most of his fans will be present. While in town, the geeky actor-comedian is also appearing on a panel for the second season of the cartoony Adult Swim series "The Heart, She Holler."

"It's nice because people have very specific questions about what you've worked on," said Oswalt. "Because they're very passionate about it, and you're very passionate about it, it's a much better conversation than with someone who has to do 20 interviews in one day."

On the video game front, Warner Bros. will be showing off the interactive Dark Knight prequel "Batman: Arkham Origins" and Sony is inviting the public to test out the upcoming PlayStation 4 console for the first time. "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone will chat about their game, "South Park: The Stick of Truth," at a panel.

Despite the continued influence of other mediums, there will still be plenty of actual comics at Comic-Con. Neil Gaiman will discuss returning to his seminal "The Sandman" series, and this year's convention will mark the 75th anniversary of the Man of Steel with several versions of Superman costumes from film and TV on display on the show floor.

DC Entertainment publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee will again face fans' queries during a panel. This year's Comic-Con marks the 26th convention for Lee, who will be showing off "Justice League"-themed cars that he designed parked across from the convention center at Petco Park. The super-rides will be auctioned off for charity.

"It's both an exhausting and re-energizing event," said Lee. "You do the panels, the press, and you interact with fans. Once you walk out of Comic-Con, you're completely exhausted because you've been going non-stop until three in the morning every night, but you're also super-excited about the art form and the business."



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Saturday July 20, 2013

Please join Santa Monicans for Safe Access (SAMOSA) on Saturday, July 20, 2013 at 12:00 noon in Airport Park for a BBQ! It's free! There will be fun, easy picnic games. Prizes of $100, $75 and $50 will go to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners! And, there will be live acoustical music plus a display of Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and other '60s art. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) and their medical marijuana advocacy. SAMOSA is a large (and growing!) coalition of fellow Santa Monica residents organized to bring sensible rules to the City to permit safe,local access to medical marijuana. The coalition works together with MPP to ensure that this is accomplished in a way that is sensitive to and respectful of all Santa Monicans. Join Santa Monicans for Safe Access on Facebook to learn more!

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

USEFUL DEVICE: **City Hall's new Healthy Nail Salon Program will raffle off two of these Salon Pure Air machines to businesses that join the new initiative. The machine purifies air.**

NAILS
FROM PAGE 1

Salons also need to fill out an application and attend a free training session, which will be held toward the end of the summer, according to Lisa Fu, outreach and program director for the collaborative.

She said the first salons to join will qualify to win one of two free ventilation units. The units remove dust and fumes from the air.

Once they are part of the program, a certified "Healthy Nail Salon" will have a seal on the front of their establishment and free advertising and promotion by City Hall and the collaborative.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor, the "toxic trio" can cause nausea, difficulty breathing, headaches, dizziness, and numbness, among other symptoms.

Fu said in a study released in 2011, salon workers experienced health problems such as trouble breathing, skin, nose, throat and eye irritations, reproductive problems, and even cancers.

The changes will also benefit nail salon customers, according to Julia Liou, manager of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and a public health administrator at Asian Health Services.

"There are a lot of consumers looking to go to [salons] that are less toxic, more healthy so I think this will improve their customer base and it'll be better for their business," she said.

Karl Bruskotter, toxic use reduction coordinator for the Office of Sustainability and Environment, said salons in the program can take the nail polishes with toxic chemicals to the Household Hazardous Waste Center for disposal.

"Those chemicals are very nasty," Bruskotter said. "I think for the nail salon workers and the customers that come in here to get pampered a little bit, they shouldn't have to risk their health to do that."

For more information on the program and how to join, visit sustainablesm.org/healthynailsalons.

"I WAS EXCITED TO HEAR ABOUT THE SANTA MONICA HEALTHY NAIL SALON PROGRAM AND I LEARNED HOW TO IMPROVE MY SALON PRACTICE FOR THE BENEFIT OF MY HEALTH AND MY WORKERS' HEALTH AND MY CUSTOMERS' HEALTH."

Anh Nguyen
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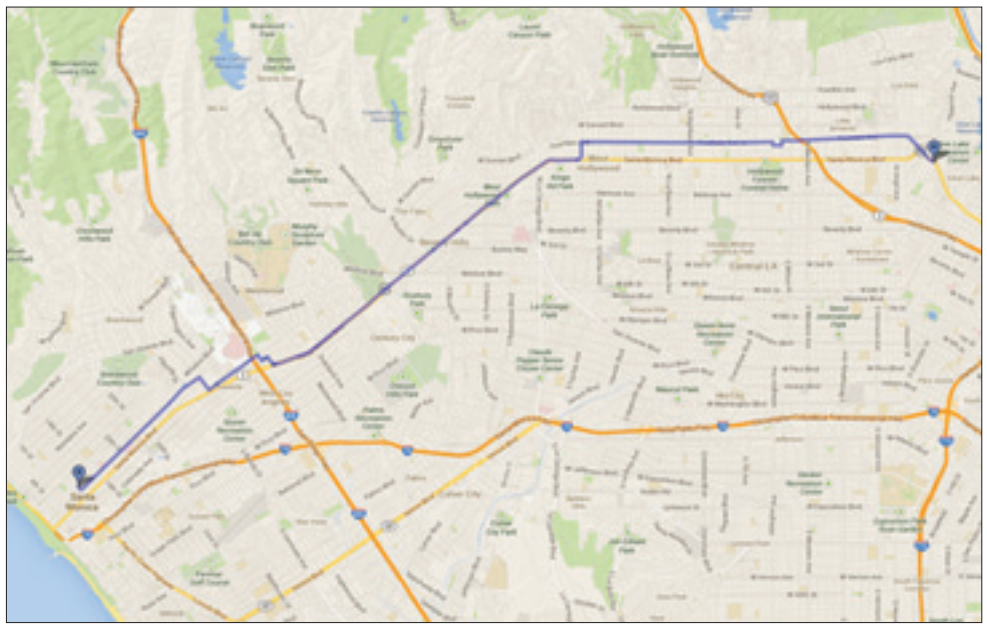
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Map courtesy LA Bike Trains

TREK: One Bike Train begins at Sunset Triangle Plaza in Silver Lake and ends in Santa Monica.

BIKES
FROM PAGE 3

worthwhile.

"Usually when driving to work you have thousands of cars around you but you don't interact with others," High said.

Varnado remembered that during one of her bike trains a rider got a flat tire. The whole train moved aside to help and in about five minutes the bicycle was repaired and they were all on their way. She added that the trains are considerate of everyone with the slowest and fanciest dressed setting the pace for the whole train to ensure no one gets too exhausted or messy on their way to work.

While participation numbers have been low, Varnado has hopes for the group's future and its expansion.

"If you can do this in Los Angeles, you can do it elsewhere," Varnado said.

For now there are only eight set routes available but Varnado said those interested may fill out a commuter survey on the group's website at www.labiketrains.com as the conductors are crowdsourcing for potential new ones. She added that the website and survey link will be updated soon.

> **IT'S AN EVERYBODY WINS KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCE WHEN WE GET SOMEONE TO FORGO AN AUTOMOBILE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF TRANSPORTATION,"**
>
> **Peter Dzewaltowski**
> Transportation Planner for Santa Monica

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SCULPTURE
FROM PAGE 1

friend of the family, so he just stepped in to help out," Conrad said.

The sculpture became the center of attention two years ago when a Building and Safety official noticed children climbing on it. There is concern that the inner structure may have deteriorated over the years. The observation led to a recommendation that City Hall remove the piece from its public art portfolio and either donate it to another institution or get rid of it altogether.

Community members took up the torch for the sculpture and were told that the only hope of saving the piece was to raise $400,000 by Feb. 14, 2014 to pay for what City Hall has declared necessary repairs to make the sculpture structurally sound.

Conrad called Ruscha and Lear's involvement "two very big boosts for our campaign."

"I think it's really big. One of the arguments we've heard in the past is '[is]this really art?' and to have someone of Ed Ruscha's caliber supporting it means yes, it is art," Conrad said. "And Norman Lear, we just know that he is well-connected and going to be very helpful."

Supporters will gather at the sculpture on Aug. 6 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in memory of the victims of the 1945 nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. They have also planned a fundraiser for "Chain Reaction" at the Bergamot Station Arts Center on Aug. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ameera@smdp.com

HOTELS
FROM PAGE 1

The flyers accuse Sassounian of opposing the redevelopment of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel out of personal greed and a desire to prevent affordable housing from coming online next to the hotel. (Affordable housing is required by local code for developments that include market-rate housing. The proposed Miramar redevelopment includes condos for purchase.)

The website further explores those claims and accuses Huntley representatives of taking over local neighborhood groups and trying to manipulate local elections by putting money behind anti-development political action campaigns.

Ocean Avenue LLC. must take down the website and take back other statements or the law firm will take "appropriate steps in response to your damaging communications and activities," Zbur wrote.

Fairmont Miramar leadership stood firm in its short response to the two-page document on Tuesday.

"We stand behind every factual statement in our flyers, and look forward to the opportunity to respond point by point to Mr. Zbur's letter," said Alan Epstein, an executive with MSD Capital, the company that is handling the Miramar's redevelopment.

The Fairmont Miramar owners, who include billionaire Michael Dell, have said in the past that the flyers and website came in reaction to attacks by the Huntley Hotel and its "political operatives."

The Huntley Hotel has been accused of organizing opposition against the Fairmont Miramar project like Santa Monicans for Responsible Growth, or SMRG, a group that appeared during the November 2012 election.

SMRG opposed the Fairmont Miramar Hotel redevelopment and actively campaigned against it, using space provided by the Huntley Hotel. The group also received $50,000 from a Nevada-based computer science company, the owner of which would not claim the Huntley as a client, but "liked" it on the social media site Facebook.

It recently came to light that another group, Santa Monicans Against the Miramar Expansion, had ties to Rohnda Ammouri, a political organizer.

Ammouri helped coordinate the response to the first flyer released by Ocean Avenue LLC., which showed a grainy photo of Sohrab Sassounian under the words "Who is Sohrab Sassounian and why is he spending millions to smear the Miramar?"

In the letter, Zbur said that the Huntley had only distributed publicly available information about the Fairmont Miramar project and the tax status of Dell.

A Los Angeles Times article delved into property taxes paid by Dell and his companies for the Fairmont Miramar property, which Dell bought in 2006. The hotel was not reassessed under a California law that governs property tax assessments because the hotel did not technically change ownership.

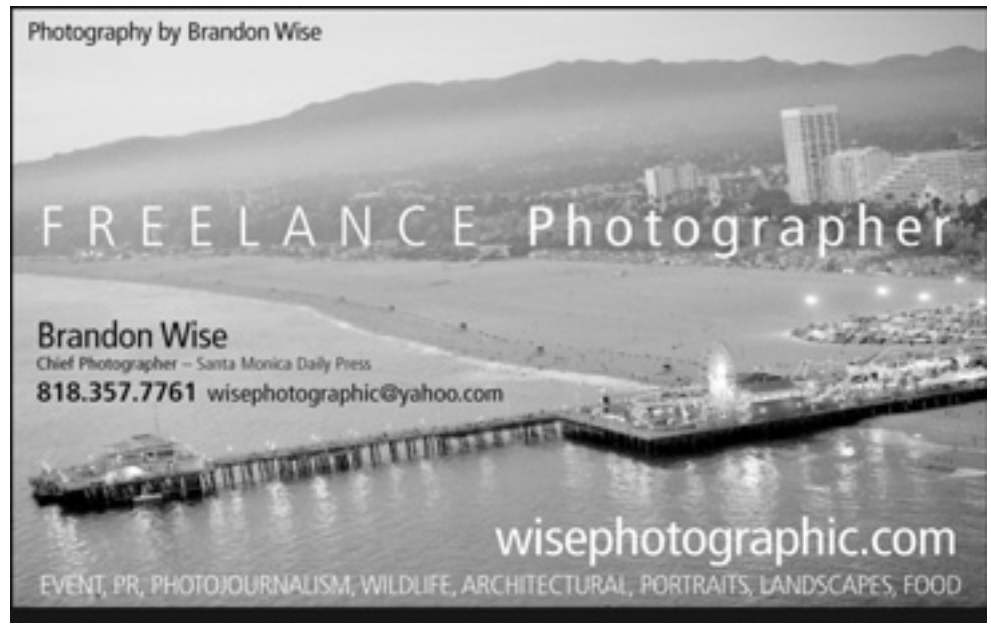
That saved $1 million per year in property taxes, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Zbur characterized Sassounian and the Huntley leadership's concerns as civic-minded opposition to an oversized development that would disrupt the residential character of Second Street, which transitions from a business district to neighborhood over the course of a block.

The Fairmont Miramar project is expected to go before the City Council for final approval or denial in 2014. The current proposal involves a 21-story tower capped with a spire reaching 320 feet. It will include 280 hotel rooms and up to 120 condominiums. Half of the lot on which the hotel sits would be open space.

ashley@smdp.com





AG Holder criticizes stand-your-ground laws

MIKE SCHNEIDER & PETE YOST
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. Stand-your-ground laws that allow a person who believes he is in danger to use deadly force in self-defense "sow dangerous conflict" and need to be reassessed, Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday in assailing the statutes that exist in many states.

Holder said he was concerned about the Trayvon Martin slaying case in which Florida's stand-your-ground law played a part.

But he added: "Separate and apart from the case that has drawn the nation's attention, it's time to question laws that senselessly expand the concept of self-defense and sow dangerous conflict in our neighborhoods."

George Zimmerman was acquitted over the weekend of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges in Martin's 2012 death in Sanford, Fla. Holder said the Justice Department has an open investigation into what he called Monday the "tragic, unnecessary shooting death" of the unarmed Miami 17-year-old.

He urged the nation then to speak honestly about complicated and emotionally charged issues. A day later, he seemed to shift away from the specific case to one of those issues — the debate over stand-your-ground.

"There has always been a legal defense for using deadly force if — and the 'if' is important — no safe retreat is available," Holder told the NAACP.

The country must take a hard look at laws that contribute to "more violence than they prevent," Holder said during a speech before an NAACP convention in Orlando, about 20 miles from the courthouse where Zimmerman was cleared of the charges three days earlier. Such laws "try to fix something that was never broken," he said.

Martin's shooting shined a light on Florida's stand-your-ground and similar laws around the nation. Most say a person has no duty to retreat if he is attacked in a place he has a right to be and can meet force with force if he fears death or great bodily harm.

Sanford's police chief cited the law as his reason for not initially arresting Zimmerman in February 2012. Zimmerman told police Martin was beating him up during the confrontation and that he feared he would be killed.

Though stand-your-ground was never raised during trial, Judge Debra Nelson included a provision about the law in the instructions that allowed jurors to consider it as a legitimate defense.

"But we must examine laws that take this further by eliminating the common-sense and age-old requirement that people who feel threatened have a duty to retreat, outside their home, if they can do so safely," Holder said.

The defense skipped a chance to ask that Zimmerman have a stand-your-ground hearing before trial. If the judge had decided there was enough evidence that Zimmerman acted in self-defense, she could have tossed out the case before a jury heard it.

"Stand-your-ground laws license vigilantism and we should all worry about that," said Benjamin Jealous, the NAACP's president and CEO, after Holder's speech.

Holder on Tuesday only briefly touched on a possible federal civil rights case being brought against Zimmerman. And legal experts say such a case would be a difficult challenge.

Prosecutors would have to prove that Zimmerman was motivated by racial animosity to kill Martin. The teen was on his way back to his father's fiancee's house after going to a store when the neighborhood watch volunteer saw him and followed him in the community of about 50,000, which is about one-third black.

Civil rights leader Al Sharpton, who has been one of the most vocal champions of a federal investigation, acknowledged Tuesday there are possible legal hurdles. Still, he said "there is also a blatant civil rights question of does Trayvon Martin and the Trayvon Martins of this country have the civil right to go home."

Saturday's acquittal has inspired "Justice For Trayvon" protests around the nation. Most have been peaceful, although vandalism and violence happened in Los Angeles.

Dozens of protesters carrying signs demanding justice for Martin crammed into the lobby of Florida Gov. Rick Scott's office Tuesday and refused to leave until the governor either met with them or called lawmakers back to Tallahassee to address issues like the state's stand-your-ground law. Many planned to spend the night in the Capitol building.

Despite the challenges of bringing a federal civil rights case, some NAACP members said they wanted swift action.

Tony Hickerson, an NAACP member from Seattle, said he would be disappointed if he doesn't see the Justice Department taking action within a month.

"I heard what he (Holder) said, and I don't question his sincerity, but I'd like to see swift action in this case, and I haven't seen that yet," said Hickerson. "His words were eloquent but I need to see some action before I get enthusiastic."

Added Hickerson, "This is a very obvious case. How much thinking do you have to do?"

In his comments referencing the Zimmerman case, Holder offered a story from his own personal experience — describing how when he was a young black man his father had told him how to interact with the police, what to say and how to conduct himself if he was ever stopped or confronted in a way he thought was unwarranted.

"I'm sure my father felt certain — at the time — that my parents' generation would be the last that had to worry about such things for their children," Holder told the NAACP convention. "Trayvon's death last spring caused me to sit down to have a conversation with my own 15-year-old son, like my dad did with me. This was a father-son tradition I hoped would not need to be handed down."

As cyber attacks detonate, banks gird for battle

CHRISTINA REXRODE & MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

It's a war game, Wall Street style.

Banks large and small are girding for an elaborate drill this week that will test how they would fare if hackers unleashed a powerful and coordinated attack against them.

The exercise is being called "Quantum Dawn 2," and if the name sounds like a video game, it's also meant to convey the seriousness of the threat.

Cyberattacks on the banking industry are growing more frequent and sophisticated and the list of assailants is ever-changing: crime bosses who want money, "hacktivists" who want to make political statements, foreign governments that want to spy on U.S. companies. A successful, widespread attack on the industry would shake confidence in the banking system, and the possibility has banks and regulators on edge.

Jamie Dimon, CEO of the country's biggest bank, JPMorgan Chase, acknowledged that attacks are becoming more complex and dangerous, no longer carried out by "fairly simplistic" hackers commandeering people's personal computers.

"Now you're talking about state-sanctioned folks, hundreds of programmers," he said in a call with reporters this spring, "taking over not just PCs but servers and mainframes."

JPMorgan and its peers like Bank of America, Citigroup and Wells Fargo have signed up for Thursday's drill, which is being organized by Wall Street's biggest trade group, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, or SIFMA.

About 50 banks and organizations will participate, including government agencies like the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the FBI.

During the drill, bank employees will be stationed at their normal offices, and will be blasted throughout the day with bits of information that could indicate an encroaching hacker attack. They'll monitor a simulated stock exchange for irregular trading and will be pressed to figure out what's going on and how to react while sharing information with regulators and each other.

As the name suggests, this isn't the first Quantum Dawn. The original drill was in November 2011, and it attracted scant attention and only about half as many participants. But that was before a wave of cyberattacks last fall, when big banks were forced to temporarily shut down their websites after attackers bombarded them with traffic — akin to overwhelming a phone line with too many calls.

"If you went to banks three years ago, and said, 'What are your top five risks?', probably none of them would put cyber on there," said Karl Schimmeck, SIFMA's vice president for financial services operations. Now, he said, the calculation has changed.

THE BARRAGE

Software giant Symantec calculates that cyberattacks against U.S. businesses jumped 42 percent last year. Banks, though, are reluctant to give more details about how they're affected, financially or otherwise, for fear of becoming a target, and attacks often go undetected and unreported.

HIGH ALERT

Whatever the number, banks and the government are on high alert. President Barack Obama warned about international hacking against the banking industry in February's State of the Union address. He later met with JPMorgan CEO Dimon, Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan and other business leaders to discuss the threat.

Big banks have started listing cyberattacks as a potential risk factor in filings for regulators and investors. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates national banks, recently held a call with community bankers to warn them that they're not free from danger either: Since September, attacks have been increasingly aimed at businesses with fewer than 250 employees, the OCC says.

IMPOSSIBLE VICTORY?

Banks realize the threat isn't going away. If anything, the possibility of an online attack will grow as customers do more transactions online and banks outsource operations to other companies whose systems might not be as secure.

Says Greg Garcia, a former DHS official who now runs the consulting firm Garcia Cyber Partners: "If someone asks, 'When are you going to stop cybercrime?' Well, when are you going to stop crime?"

YOUR MONEY

The banks downplay the risk of hackers tapping into any individual customer's account. For most, that will never happen, the banks say, and even if it did, the customer wouldn't be responsible. Customers would have to go through certain steps to get their money back, like filing a claim, showing that they weren't negligently tossing their account information around and giving the bank time to investigate. But federal regulations protect retail customers from being held accountable when money is removed from their accounts without permission.

A DRILL BY ANY OTHER NAME

As for the title of Thursday's drill, the one that sounds more appropriate for an action movie than a bank security exercise, it came about during the creation of the original drill in 2011, which was organized by the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council.

National security staff at the White House wanted exercises to have names, preferably with two words. According to the FSSCC, a federal government official who was involved in the planning suggested the title after noticing some media reports about the dawn of quantum computing.

Schimmeck points out that a similar exercise in Britain had a title at least as curious: It was called "Waking Shark."

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **67.8°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Old Southern Hemi energy fades

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
New round of SW-SSW groundswell on the rise through the day -
plus sets for standouts in the western part of the region

FRIDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
New SW-SSW groundswell builds further through the day -
plus sets for standouts in the western part of the region

SATURDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high occ. 5ft
Long period SW-SSW swell continues

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 10, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 3
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.		
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	B	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	ns	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	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
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	C	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.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

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

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

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

NBA

Wolves' Muhammad adjusting in his NBA role

BY W.G. RAMIREZ
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS As hard as the start of his NBA career has been, Shabazz Muhammad wouldn't have it any other way.

The rookie swingman for the Minnesota Timberwolves got off to a quiet start in his first two games in the NBA summer league, averaging 7.5 points in 24 minutes while shooting 6 of 16 from the field.

It's a big difference, from playing with boys to men, as he found out Monday as the Phoenix Suns squad overcame a 24-point deficit and closed on a 10-2 run thanks in part to a turnover by Muhammad. With the score tied at 89 and 3.3 seconds remaining in the game, Marcus Morris took a sideline inbounds pass, dribbled twice and nailed a jumper just in front of Phoenix's bench.

Moments earlier, the spotlight was on Muhammad. And while taking an inbounds pass, the 6-foot-6, 225-pound forward fumbled the ball away.

"It was a hard one for us today, we were up (big) and gave up the lead and it just didn't go our way tonight," Muhammad said. "I tried to get on the floor and it didn't do my way, some plays go like that. We want to win. This is hard; this feels like a real game. You see the environment over here; everybody is pretty upset, as I am."

Nevertheless, with all he has been through since the days he played AAU basketball, through his short-lived career at UCLA and plenty of off-court distractions surrounding his father, Muhammad is exactly where he wants to be.

"It's hard on me, I'm a young guy trying to figure it out," Muhammad said. "(But) my confidence level is always high. There are a lot of good guys in the summer league, and I'm just going to continue to do what I've got to do and just play a little bit better."

When Muhammad arrived at UCLA last year, he was expected to help lead the Bruins back to glory. But he had to sit out the first three games of the season and repay $1,600 in impermissible benefits after the NCAA and UCLA found Muhammad accepted travel and lodging during three unofficial visits to Duke and North Carolina, travel arrangements made by his father, Ron Holmes.

It was also revealed in a Los Angeles Times story in March that Holmes shaved a year off of his son's age when he was young to give Muhammad an advantage against younger competition on the summer AAU circuit and in high school. Holmes also ran into trouble of his own with the law.

Minnesota summer league coach David Adelman, son of Timberwolves coach Rick Adelman, said the team's first-round draft pick may find things easier in the NBA.

"In some ways," Adelman said, "I hope this is kind of a breath of fresh of air, like: 'You've made it, you're in the NBA and now let's just learn the NBA game and get better every day and there's nothing to prove.' We just want him to get better every day. His attitude has been very forthright and he just wants to learn."

Adelman said Muhammad needs to improve his physicality and ball handling.

"In the NBA, the guys, they range from being so big, or so quick, or so physical," Adelman said. "And every night you have to have a different game in how you play. I think that's something that's going to grow. I think he's always been the strongest guy, and a lot of guys are like that when they come into the NBA. Now it's a matter of how do you change up your game night to night with the matchups you have."

Muhammad said summer league assistant coach Shawn Respert has been instrumental in working with him daily.

"I love that he has a tremendous motor and great knack to compete," Respert said. "Until he learns some of our system and some of the progression we have in our offense, he's got to just slow down a little bit, and that way his brain can just process what we're trying to accomplish after the first option, and to the second and third options of our plays. And then when he gets that down, he can speed up again."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Beyond the Walls 1hr38min
The film's director, David Lambert, will join the audience for a discussion after the showing. A Belgian beer reception will follow.

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

Monsters University (G) 1hr 47min
1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Despicable Me 2 (PG) 1hr 38min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Now You See Me (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

White House Down (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
1:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

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

Lone Ranger (PG-13) 2hrs 29min
12:10pm, 3:40pm, 7:15pm, 10:40pm

Despicable Me 2 (PG) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

Pacific Rim in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
3:40pm, 10:00pm

Pacific Rim (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
11:15am, 12:30pm, 6:45pm

World War Z (PG-13) 1hr 56min
5:00pm, 10:45pm

Grown Ups 2 (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:25pm

This Is The End (R) 1hr 47min
11:10am, 1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Despicable Me 2 in 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
2:15pm, 7:30pm

Heat (R) 1hr 57min
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

World War Z 3D (PG-13) 1hr 56min
2:15pm, 8:00pm

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

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

Fill the Void (Lemale et ha'halal) (PG) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Unfinished Song (Song for Marion) (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Much Ado About Nothing (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

20 Feet from Stardom (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

PUT YOUR FEET UP TONIGHT, GEM

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You can expect a change in how you view your downtime and the people around you. Keep in mind that your reaction will have much to do with the outcome. Tonight: Chat with a trusted confidant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Know when to defer to someone else, as a situation could be much more significant than you think. Pressure rises, and it streamlines the possibilities. Tonight: Make plans to go out for dinner with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your ability to move through problems and change direction reflects your optimistic perspective. A friend could change course when you least expect it. You see a unique quality evolve in a meeting. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You will feel empowered. Your creativity saves the day with an unanticipated problem involving someone you put on a pedestal. Everything changes in time, so don't worry about what is said or what is happening -- just stay centered. Tonight: Do only what makes you smile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might hear shocking news. By the time you recuperate, you could be rethinking a decision with more care. Consider what needs to happen in order to make you feel more comfortable. Accept change, as it seems to be inevitable. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Understand that you must keep communicating, even if you don't want to. You subconsciously might want to sever the tie with someone. Once you are in a meeting with this person, you will detach and see a situation from a different perspective. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be wondering how much is "enough." Think through a problem carefully, especially if you are hearing the same reaction from others. Take a break for several hours, or take the day off. Tonight: Pay bills first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You'll want to switch gears and head in a new direction Trust that you will have the opportunity to do so. The offers that open up after a shakeup could be quite surprising. Use your knowledge of a situation to turn it around. Tonight: Ask for something you've been wanting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ You might not want to overextend yourself. Your sixth sense and ability to see beyond the obvious could be strong right now. You will see the unexpected playing a big role in a new relationship. Tonight: Kick back.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You know what you would like to happen, just as a key person in your life knows what he or she would like to happen. Look to similar long-term goals rather than squabble over petty matters. Tonight: What you want -- just not alone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might be a little too sure of yourself, which is why you could have a difficult encounter with someone whom you feel has power over you. At the risk of creating uproar, take a step back from the situation and say that you have had enough. Tonight: Write an important letter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your ability to detach allows you to recognize the high road and figure out the best way to proceed. Use care with your funds, as a sudden expense could shock you. Tonight: Use your ingenuity.

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

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

This year the unexpected plays a dominant role in your community or your professional life. You might not know what will happen next. At first, you could have difficulty seeing anything positive emanating from all the surprises; however, you soon will understand how your creativity can point you in a new direction. If you are single, a relationship could have wild swings. Do not hesitate to date others until you are sure of what you want. If you are attached, the two of you might be welcoming a new addition, or a positive reflection of your bond will come into play. SCORPIO's intensity can weird you out.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

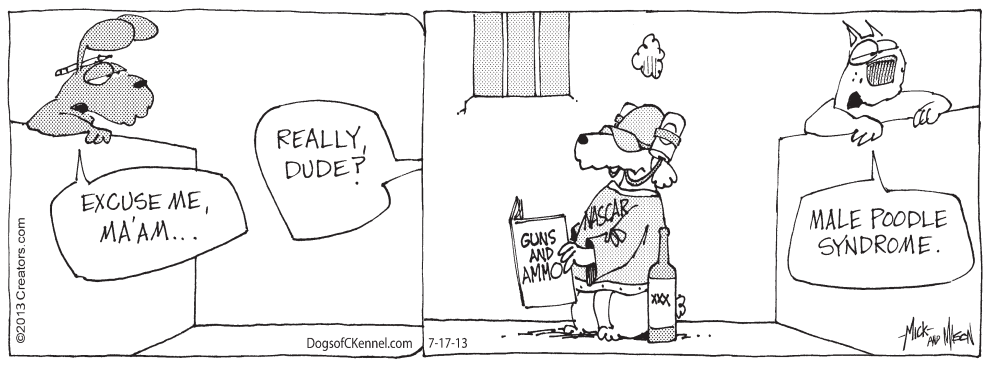
Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



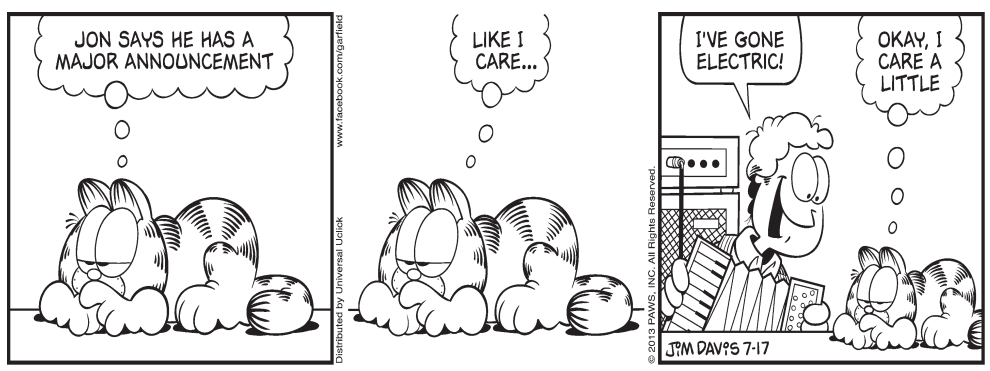
Strange Brew By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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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 Gets misty
7 Illegally off base
11 Answer source
12 Spiced tea
13 "Shoo!"
14 Refer to
15 Tusked mammal
17 LAPD bulletins
20 Famed fur tycoon
23 Lot sight
24 Long-horned grazer
26 Numerical prefix
27 Brouhaha
28 Writer Tarbell
29 More irritable
31 Wee bite
32 Rocker John
33 Historic times
34 Mascara targets
37 Sacred bird of Egypt
39 Swear
43 Jargon
44 Dog medicine
45 Nervous
46 Complex

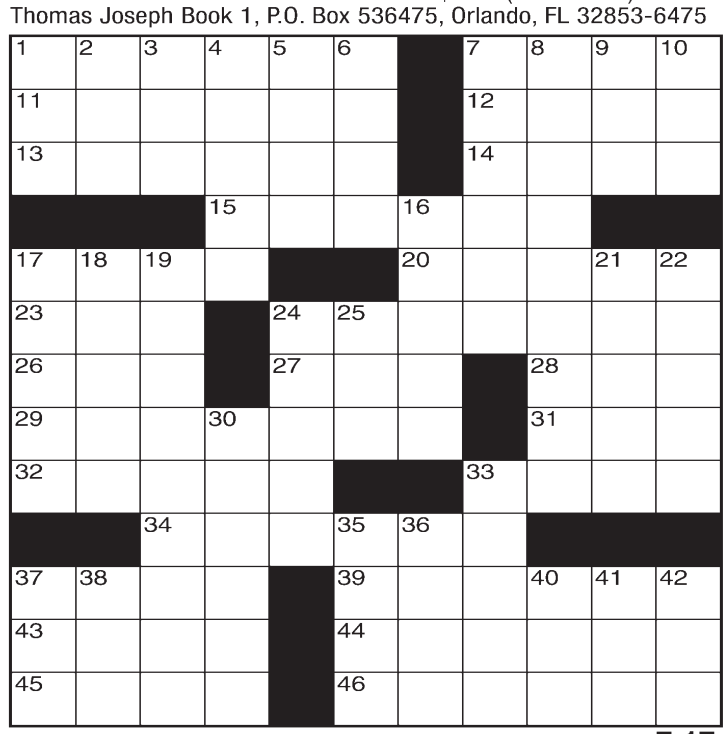
DOWN

1 Watch chain
2 Iron source
3 Comic bit
4 Flat-bottomed boats
5 Radius partner
6 Banana leftover
7 Point a finger at
8 Imitating a tea-kettle
9 Granola bit
10 Golf position
16 Barber's need
17 Keen
18 Gauge setting
19 Reacting angrily
21 Hit from the past
22 Gathers
24 Makes headway
25 Sports drink suffix
30 Comfort-ably warm
33 Texas player
35 War backer
36 School on the Thames
37 Glacier makeup
38 Mis-behaving
40 CPR expert
41 Deter-mined
42 Attempt

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

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



7-17

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/13
2 8 22 35 37
Power#: 6
Jackpot: $116M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/12
4 5 25 27 51
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: $20M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 7/13
1 2 6 25 40
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: $33M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/16
2 8 12 31 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/16
MIDDAY: 6 0 3
EVENING: 5 5 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 7/16
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:41.91

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

■ In Lytle, Texas, in May, just 33 people voted for candidates for three openings on the school board, including the only voter who cast a ballot in District 1. Christina Mercado was the 1-0 winner, but someone else voted for her. Mercado cannot vote for District 1 candidates because she does not live there, and neither does the one candidate who opposed her. However, according to Texas law, Mercado can legally represent District 1 on the school board.

■ Rewarding the Breast Disguises: (1) An April crime report in San Francisco, noting that a female driver had rammed another car in a parking-space dispute, noted that the victim gave officers little help. The man could not tell officers the model car that hit him, and certainly not a license plate number, but he "was able to give a detailed description of the suspect's cleavage." No arrest was reported. (2) Colombian prisoner Giovanni Rebolledo was serving a 60-year sentence (as a member of the "Los Topos" gang charged with extortion, kidnapping and torture) when he escaped and decided on an extreme identity change in order to move about in the country. He became "Rosalinda," complete with, according to Colombia Reports news service, "impressive" breast implants, but nonetheless was identified in May in a routine traffic stop and arrested.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1918 - The RMS Carpathia, the ship that rescued the 705 survivors from the RMS Titanic, is sunk off Ireland by the German SM U-55; 5 lives are lost.

1932 - Altona Bloody Sunday.

WORD UP!

scabrous
\ SKAB-ruhs \ , adjective;
1. full of difficulties.
2. having a rough surface because of minute points or projections.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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