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JULY 24-25, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 219

Santa Monica Daily Press

WERE WE WRONG ABOUT TOYOTA?
SEE PAGE 11

We have you covered

THE LOTS OF QUESTIONS OUT THERE ISSUE

Voters to decide expanded tenant protections

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica voters will have the chance this November to substantially bolster protections for renters, following a series of unanimous votes by the City Council on Thursday that authorized a ballot measure for this fall's election.

If approved by a majority of Santa Monica voters, the measure would extend eviction protections that tenants in rent-controlled buildings receive to all tenants living in multi-unit buildings in the city; give tenants additional time to correct lease violations before they could be evicted; and grant additional eviction protections to renters who are senior citizens and those who are disabled or terminally ill.

The council approved placing the measure on the ballot without dissent after Councilman Bob Holbrook, who had earlier said he opposed placing the measure before voters, shifted course.

He said he had believed the council could have enacted the additional protections without placing the initiative before voters but became convinced the changes would be more permanent if adopted in an election rather than by ordinance. He said he believes the measure will be challenged in court but said voters deserve to have their say.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said the council's move was a positive step forward.

"The additional protections are reasonable and have precedent in other communities, but will make a huge difference to thousands of households in Santa Monica where newer renters will be welcomed under the umbrella of city protection," he said.

Councilman Richard Bloom said the protections, if adopted by voters, will formalize practices that responsible landlords probably already take for granted.

Wes Wellman, of the Action Apartment Association, a landlord group, though, said the proposed rent control changes would have little practical effect.

He said placing the initiative on the ballot was a ploy by the political party Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights to draw more

SEE MEASURE PAGE 8



GIVING A SHOUT OUT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Italian superstar Jovanotti, aka Lorenzo Cherubini, performs at the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Dance Series on Thursday night.

No charges filed against de la Torre

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Prosecutors have declined to charge school board member Oscar de la Torre with a crime after reviewing evidence that the Santa Monica Police Department said proved he committed felony child endangerment in connection with a fist fight between two high school students.

At a press conference Friday afternoon, de la Torre said the investigation, which was first reported by the Daily Press Thursday, into his role in the fight was "an abuse of police practices with a malicious intent" and called on City Hall to open a probe to determine whether the police investigation was proper.

He said police officers may have launched the investigation in order to prevent him from running for a seat on the City Council. A vocal critic of police practices in the past, he said some officers may have wanted to keep him off the council, which determines the department's funding.

A two-term school board member, de la Torre had previously announced he would run for a seat on the council but decided not to enter the race, instead opting to seek a third term on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board.

He also serves as the executive director of the non-profit Pico Youth & Family Center, which offers mentoring programs for at-risk youth and receives funding from City Hall.

Calls to the District Attorney's Office were not returned.

The investigation into de la Torre stemmed from a fist fight between two Santa Monica High School students that took place March 16 in an alley next to the youth center.

After learning a fight was breaking out, de la Torre left the center and rushed to the scene, where he said a crowd of about 40 students was gathering around two boys engaged in a fist fight. He said he waited to intervene until he could gauge whether it was safe to step in.

SEE CHARGES PAGE 7

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Saturday, July 24, 2010

Meet and swap
REI Santa Monica
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 12 p.m.
REI in Santa Monica is hosting a Swap Meet, where you can find everything you need for the summer, from jewelry and clothing to bike and car parts. There will be free food and drinks provided, as well as music.
RSVP if you plan on attending by calling (310) 458 4370.

Summer signing
Barnes and Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m.
Three time Emmy-nominated children's television producer Gerry Renert will be reading his first ever children's book, "Nathan Saves Summer."
The Palisades resident will also be available for book signings after the reading.
For more information, call Liz Stahler at (213) 426-0386.

'Never' again
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Boom Kat Dance Theatre presents opening night of "NeverWonderLand," which has been reworked and updated following a successful three-week run in 2009.
The play reinvents and acts as a prequel to "Peter Pan" and "Alice in Wonderland," telling the story of Peter Pan and Alice as a brother and sister who get lost somewhere between London and the fairy tale land of NeverWonderLand. The play runs until Aug. 22 with 8 p.m. performances on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. shows on Sundays. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for students and $10 for children 12 and under. They can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com/event/116760 or (800) 838-3006.
For more information, call (310) 202-9229.

Sending out an SOS
25th Street between Pearl and Ocean Park Boulevard, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
33rd Street between Ocean Park and Pearl, 8 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Save Our Schools, which is trying to raise money to help the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, is holding two multi-family yard sales. The yard sales at each location will include lemonade stands, bake sales and other opportunities to donate to SOS. To donate sellable items to the 25th Street sale, visit smmef.org. To donate sellable items to the 33rd Street location, contact Lisa Blodgett at lisakblodget@gmail.com or Amy Levin at amy.levin@csun.edu.

Sunday, July 25, 2010

Illustration introduction
Paint:Lab
2912 Main St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
In the Introduction to Fashion Illustration Workshop, children ages 8-14 will learn the basics of creating fashion illustrations with color and pattern, while working with trends inspired by the runways of Europe. Using watercolors, markers, pen and ink, students will learn to create a professional portfolio-ready illustration, and learn how to add to it with embellishments, trims, and fabric swatches. There is a $35 fee which covers all materials needed for the class. For more information, contact Joanna at (310) 450-9200.

Rock 'n donate
The Air Conditioned Supper Club
625 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The Bryan Brothers and Bascom Hill perform a concert to benefit Save Our Schools, which is trying to raise money to help the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Bascom Hill will be performing tracks from their soon-to-be-released self-titled album. The Bryan Brothers, who are also a professional doubles tennis team, will be performing songs from their current EP "Let it Rip." Attendees must be 21 and over.
Tickets cost $10. For more information, call (310) 230-5343.

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.

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Chief Butts ruled ineligible in race for mayor

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

INGLEWOOD You've heard the phrase, "a day late and a dollar short."

Well it seems that former Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts was four days late in filing a change of address and voter registration form, forcing the Inglewood City Council this week to declare him ineligible to run for mayor of "the City of Champions."


BUTTS

In Inglewood, a candidate for office must be a resident and registered voter in the city for at least 30 days before filing nomination papers for public office. Butts filed his nomination papers on March 10, meaning that he would have had to been a registered voter and resident of Inglewood since at least Feb. 8, 2010, Inglewood city officials said. The County Registrar/Recorder claims Butts did not file his change of address and voter registration form until Feb. 12, 2010, making him ineligible.

Butts, who served as Santa Monica's chief of police for 16 years before leaving to become deputy director of public safety at Los Angeles World Airports, was in the middle of a competitive run-off election with Inglewood City Councilman Danny Tabor to succeed former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn. Dorn resigned in January just hours before pleading guilty to a misdemeanor conflict-of-interest charge for a low-interest loan he received from the city.

Butts received 23.63 percent of the vote in the June 8, 2010 general election, coming in just behind Tabor, who secured 26.24 percent. Since no candidate secured a majority, a run-off election was scheduled.

The Inglewood council on Tuesday voted to disqualify Butts and placed Councilwoman Judy Dunlap in the run-off, which will be held on Aug. 31 instead of Aug. 17 to give the clerk more time to prepare and mail sample ballots reflecting the change in candidates. Dunlap came in third in the June 8 election with 17.63 percent of votes cast.

The winner of the run-off will serve until November, at which time they will have to run again if they wish to secure a four-year term.

Butts' residency came into question during the campaign, when he was accused by one of his rivals of still living at his home in Ladera Heights and using his father-in-law's Inglewood address to establish a residency in Inglewood. Before serving in Santa Monica, Butts was the deputy chief of police Inglewood, the city where he began his law enforcement career.

In certifying the June 8 election results, Inglewood City Clerk Yvonne Horton asked the county clerk to clarify the dispute over Butt's residency. She believed, based on information she received from county staff, that Butts was registered to vote in Inglewood since December 2006, but in fact that was incorrect. Butts was registered to vote in Los Angeles on that date, not Inglewood.

Butts said he filed his paperwork with the county clerk on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, but that it wasn't entered into the system until four days later, making him ineligible. The clerk's office is not open on Saturdays.

Horton said she is bound by law to go with the date recorded by the clerk, however, she said she gave Butts four opportunities to sign a sworn affidavit detailing the manner in which he submitted the paperwork.

Butts refused, saying his attorney did not want him to sign anything in case a lawsuit

SEE **BUTTS** PAGE 7



PAINTING THE TOWN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Professional artist Kathryn J. Hall works on a portrait of her two daughters along side her other paintings during the first Montana Avenue Art Walk on Thursday afternoon.

Zsa Zsa Gabor in critical condition

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was in critical condition Friday after undergoing hip replacement surgery earlier in the week, her husband said.

Gabor, 93, had injuries to the right side of her body, including a broken hip, after she fell out of bed last weekend trying to get into a wheelchair at her Bel-Air home, said Prince Frederic von Anhalt, Gabor's husband.

Gabor initially appeared to be recovering after the hip surgery Monday at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, her publicist John Blanchette said.

Blanchette said von Anhalt told him Friday that "doctors were working very hard to stabilize her."

"Right now she's not communicative," Blanchette said. "Only time will tell."

He said doctors had taken Gabor off morphine and were putting her on another painkiller with the hope that would help the situation.

Blanchette said earlier Friday the actress might have suffered a stroke during surgery, but von Anhalt said doctors have not confirmed there was a stroke.

"It's just speculation," von Anhalt said. "We have to wait a few more days to see what is going on." Von Anhalt said his wife was conscious.

"She looks at us but doesn't know what is going on," he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

For the record

Editor:

I wish to correct several inaccuracies in Bill Bauer's recent opinion piece on the proposed one-half percent transactions and use tax ("Death and sales taxes" My Write, July 19). Contrary to Bill's assertion, City Hall does not anticipate any revenue reduction if the voters approve the tax and City Hall's finance staff did not make any such statement. A transactions and use tax is assessed differently than sales tax on some purchases. The resulting revenue impact therefore is not proportionate to sales tax revenue. Further, Hdl, City Hall's sales tax consultant, has studied 37 of the 79 cities that have enacted such a tax and found that the increased tax has no impact on taxable sales of any business type, and results in no decrease of city sales tax revenue. Bill's assertions are therefore inaccurate.

Rod Gould
City Manager, Santa Monica

Shouldn't be permitted

Editor:

Your article about Oscar de la Torre pretty much says it all about this self-proclaimed "community activist," who many believe is the one who has been actively engaged in polarizing the community along racial lines for his own political and economic gain ("School board member under investigation," July 22). With him on the school board it's no wonder why our once proud school system is failing.

But also troubling about your report is that the two Santa Monica High School "students" who were fighting are not even residents of Santa Monica, but outsiders whom the school district gives a permit that allows them to attend school here. One of these thugs is apparently an affiliate of a Santa Monica gang. Why are these violent outsiders allowed to attend school here in the first place, and why were both not expelled?

The City Council wants to add another tax to generate revenue for the schools. Wonderful. We cannot afford another tax increase for the schools, and certainly not so we can continue to fund a school district that permits violent gang members from outside of Santa Monica to threaten the safety of Santa Monica students.

In November we Santa Monica voters need to say no to new school taxes and make necessary changes on the school board and vote out the rascals that have led to the demise of our once proud school system.

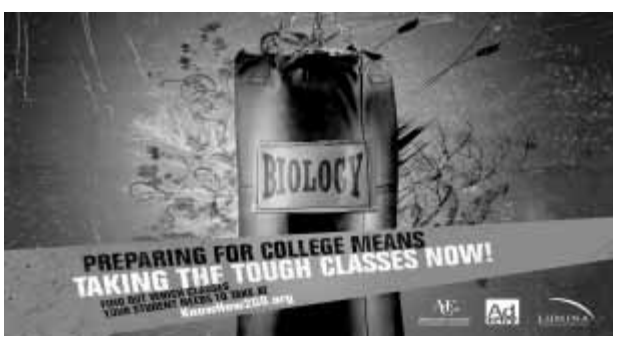
Helen R. McRoskey
Santa Monica

Take the bus

Editor:

Great column by David Pisarra ("Change for the bus, mister?" What's the Point? July 20) about how he was ready to take the bus to Downtown Santa Monica to avoid the pain of driving and parking his car there. Carless is the only way to go in an urban environment such as ours. I hope he has a refreshingly freeing experience, without his ball and chain car, and he should get some exercise and save money, too. The No. 7 Blue Bus runs frequently, so should work out for most of his trips. I choose to drive my bike most of the time, and usually find a good place to park it. I can also place it on the bus, if I wish. There will be better bike parking coming soon, to make this way of traveling more convenient.

Barbara Filet
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Busted by the annoyance police

IN THESE VERY SERIOUS TIMES, IT SEEMS that it's appropriate to get rid of some of the silly or outdated laws that are still on the books. I'm talking about things like it being illegal in Oklahoma to tease dogs by making ugly faces, Michigan's law that forbids a wife from having her hair cut without her husband's approval, and in Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, the law that prohibits people from "singing, whistling, or hooting" if it annoys somebody else. Wait a minute. That last one isn't an old law. It's an ordinance that was just passed by the South Carolina town.

Before you laugh at this law, I should make it clear that it is not in effect 24 hours a day. That would be ridiculous. It only applies to sounds that annoy somebody between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. It also only deals with these actions if they are performed in public. You can still sing in the shower, and you can still do your indoor hooting wherever you usually do it. And you thought Santa Monica was a beach town with goofy laws.

Chief of police, Danny Howard, doesn't want this ordinance to be fodder for people like me to ridicule. He pointed out that nobody is going to get a ticket just for singing in public. However, if that singing annoys other people, then they might get a $500 ticket.

When I first heard about this ordinance, it struck me that if there were just a slight twist to it, it would be the kind of thing that teenagers would like to be the law. That imaginary twist is that the law would apply only to parents, not to kids. If you've ever had a teenager and you started to sing in public, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Typical reactions include the rolling of the eyes, the shaking of the heads, and acting as if they've never seen you before. Similarly, if you talk in a normal voice, but they think it's embarrassingly loud, they would feel that a mere fine would be too lenient of a punishment.

But the law was not written by teenagers to apply to their parents. It was written by adults to apply to everybody. The part I find most intriguing is that it's not the decibels that are the issue. It's whether the sounds somebody makes annoy somebody else. The knee-jerk reaction to this law is that it's too broad. I think it may actually be too narrow.

Why stop at sounds that are annoying to other people? There are lots of annoying things that people do in public that could be outlawed. Here are a few off the top of my head:

In a better world, people who wear T-shirts that read, "I'm with Stupid" shall be committing an offense in all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Anyone walking down the street and talking into one of those cell phones with the ridiculous ear things so you can't tell if they're talking to you, if they're crazy, or if they're just self-important, should be arrested and not allowed to text for 30 days. If you're waiting for an elevator after you've pushed the button and someone joins you and pushes the button as if you wouldn't have had the knowledge or experience to have done it yourself, that person should be taken to jail immediately. If you're in a grocery checkout line, and the person in front of you has … .You get the idea.

THERE ARE LOTS OF ANNOYING THINGS THAT PEOPLE DO IN PUBLIC THAT COULD BE OUTLAWED.

Everyone could make a list of things that other people do that they find annoying. It might even be people who ask you to make lists. Again, the fascinating thing about the Sullivan's Island ordinance is that the crime is not based on the action of the perpetrator. It's based on the reaction of other people. So you can "sing, hoot or whistle" as loud as you want if it doesn't annoy anyone. On the other hand, if people have a negative reaction to what you do between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., you're in trouble. It's because of this last fact that I must insist that, just in case, everyone in Sullivan's Island only read my column either before eleven or after seven.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Taylor D'Andrea, Lenika Cruz, Rebecca Kheel, Dennis Lin
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Scott Zubor
scottz@smdp.com

Clayton O'Brien
claytono@smdp.com

Brittney Seeliger
brittneys@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

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On the Beat

NRO Robert Lucio

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There's no excuse for domestic violence

Q: I HAVE BEEN IN A DATING RELATIONSHIP for years and my significant other has become increasingly violent towards me. He gets aggressive and has on more than one occasion grabbed me and shook me. What can I do? I don't want him to go to jail but I am in fear that my situation will get worse.

A: Domestic violence is a serious national problem which affects millions of households. It crosses all cultural, racial, religious, and economic boundaries. Statistics indicate that 50 to 60 percent of the estimated 47 million couples in this country have suffered at least one violent incident, and 10 to 25 percent suffer domestic violence as a common occurrence.

The victims of domestic violence are primarily women and their children. It has been documented that domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding rapes, muggings, and even auto accidents. According to the FBI, 25 percent of all murders nationwide are the result of domestic violence and 30 percent of all female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.

Physical abuse of a spouse has been documented in nearly half of all the validated cases of child abuse and neglect in Los Angeles County. According to the Southern California Coalition of Battered Women, 63 percent of young men between the ages of 11 and 20 who are incarcerated for homicide in California, killed their mother's batterer. These statistics overwhelmingly demonstrate that all communities, including Santa Monica, are seriously affected by domestic violence. If you are in a violent home environment you are not alone!

If you feel that you are a victim of domestic violence, the Domestic Crisis Unit recommends that you take the following actions:

• Report the abuse! If you are in immediate danger, call 911. The operator will ask you questions in order to determine the nature of the emergency and provide the best possible response. To report an incident to the police after danger has subsided, call (310) 458-8491.

• Don't be reluctant to have the police arrest your spouse/partner. Studies show that when the police arrest a suspect for domestic violence, the offender is less likely to assault the victim again. The police are required, by law (under most circumstances), to arrest a suspected batterer when the victim shows visible marks.

• Talk to a trained professional to discuss what options are available to you.

Help for domestic violence is available from:

• Peace Over Violence (24 hours) at (213) 626-3393.

• Sojourn Shelter for Battered Women (24 hours) at (310) 264-6644.

• Domestic Violence Clinic (Restraining orders for victims of domestic violence) 1725 Main St. (8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday).

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The Santa Monica Police Department would like to introduce Officer Mike Boyd who will be the new neighborhood resource officer for the Pico Neighborhood (Beat 8). Since the inception of the NRO program 2 1/2 years ago, Officer Francisco Franco has been the NRO for the Pico Neighborhood, and he did so well that he has been chosen to be an investigator with Santa Monica Police Department. Officer Franco will be missed, but Officer Boyd comes to the NRO unit with experience and is ready to keep the pace that Officer Franco has set.

Mike Boyd became a police officer in 1995. His first duty as a sworn police officer was with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). As a CHP officer, Mike had the opportunity to work various assignments. He was a field training officer, a member of the CHP's Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.), and also assigned to the Protective Services Detail (PSD) which provides motorcades for the president of the United States. One of his last assignments with the CHP was with the Community Enhancement Response Team (C.E.R.T.). He gained valuable knowledge and experience in working together with different community organizations throughout Los Angeles County.

In 2001, Mike left the CHP to pursue a career with the Santa Monica Police Department. Since 2001, Mike has been selected as a scout for the department's Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) team, a defensive tactics instructor, and most recently, a temporary NRO. In late 2008, Officer Joe Cortez was deployed overseas for military duty, and Mike filled in as the temporary NRO for the Wilshire-Montana area (Beat 4). During his time as an NRO, Mike was instrumental in coordinating directed enforcement toward vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts.

Aside from being a police officer, Mike enjoys exercising and reading nonfiction books. He is an advocate for living a healthy and fit life style and also coaches a first grade boys basketball team in the South Bay.

Mike is dedicated to his new assignment as an NRO. He would like to continue building the community's relationship with police and strengthen the unity between the community members, businesses, and SMPD.

This column was prepared by **NRO ROBERT LUCIO** (Beat 6: Montana Avenue to Interstate-10, 20th Street to Centinela Avenue). He can be reached at (424) 200-0686 or roberto.lucio@smgov.net.



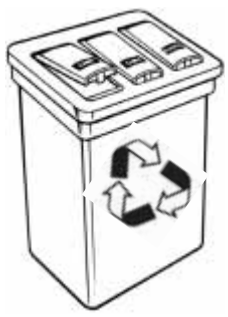
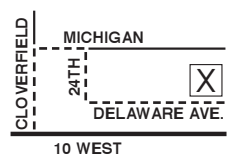





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The Q Line

The future of Expo

Santa Monica city officials recently have been debating what shape stations for the Expo Light Rail line should take. Some feel that they shouldn't be grand statements, while others feel that the stations should closely reflect the city's unique vibe.

This past week, Q-line asked:

What features and services do you think the stations should include?

Here are your responses:

"SINCE THE BUMS AND THE VAGRANTS will be the ones mostly using the stations, a pole should be taken among them. I know they will want the temperature controlled; heat for the cold temperatures and air conditioning for the warm temperatures. And don't forget the colorful but tasteful upholstery, and maybe a T.V. to wile away the hours. And of course ashtrays for the smokers and free coffee."

"THE STATIONS SHOULD OFFER A HAVEN for passengers that will protect them from the rain, sun and wind. Having said that, I wish to mention that the area from Ocean Avenue east to Fifth Street is, in my opinion, the most congested area in Santa Monica, with both human and automotive traffic. With all the traffic that will be entering into the parking garages of the new rebuilt mall and the congestion of the new Expo Light Rail line, attempting to cross over Lincoln Boulevard as motorists jockey for position to get on the freeway will be a sight to behold. Perhaps the rail folks will build a special elevated platform for folks to stand on, so they can watch and feel the unique vibes of the big congestion show that is soon to begin."

"L.A. AND SANTA MONICA CLAIM THAT they're broke, and whine that we need to fire teachers. This Expo Rail plan was conceived by crooked bureaucrats and their union lapdogs to be stupendously expensive. Yes it will create lots of jobs and make fortunes for builders, suppliers and lawyers, however these enormous costs could have been easily avoided if they ran it in the middle or sides of the freeway, and used a monorail. The stations only need to be a few metal benches with rain covers. Walt Disney built a monorail 50 years ago and it is still running today. The politicians' horrific rail plan will also displace people and businesses, and will interfere with traffic. However, our city officials could care less about blowing our tax dollars when they can reap huge profits from it. If it was up to them, we would spend a billion dollars on every station."

"WHATEVER FEATURES THEY DO HAVE, they should figure out some way to get rid of all the stinky, smelling bums that will be crowding up the place."

"YES, AS A LONG-TERM RESIDENT IN THE city of San-malicious and a former landlord, I think it would be a good idea for the Expo stations to reflect our world-renowned culture. Maybe some horses at the stations like at the Santa Monica Pier, or maybe some umbrellas; something to reflect the beachy feel of this lovely city by the sea."

"I DEFINITELY THINK THAT WHEN PEOPLE look at the Expo stations, they should know that they're in Santa Monica. We should try to use recycled materials when we're building it, and try to think green. We should have very good lighting since it will be used 24/7, have restrooms that will accommodate the handicapped and be easy for them to use, and have paint on the interior and exterior that resists graffiti. The main thing is keep it simple and easy to maintain."

"FIRST OF ALL, THE STATIONS HAVE TO BE wheelchair friendly, and have to have protection from the elements. They should have good restrooms, security, ample parking for the people who want to get out of their cars, parking for shuttle buses to take you from the parking structures to the station and if things work out fine, have enough space to put refreshment stands so everybody could have a wonderful time and take the train like we did in N.Y."

"IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE what we think the stations should include, and as far as closely reflecting the city's unique vibe, that started disappearing about 30 years ago."

"WOAH! I SMELL ANOTHER TAX COMING, but a very unique tax to support the new Expo Line stations that few people in Santa Monica want. Let's see, a building that reflects the unique city vibe? By unique vibe do you mean restrictive parking, traffic jams, jets, helicopters, excessive taxes and developer finance retirement plans for city hacks? What kind of building will reflect those vibes? Each station must be eight stories, with seven levels for low income housing. The entire building must be covered in solar panels, have waterless toilets on every floor and bicycle racks for each apartment. Flat screen televisions should be throughout the building, constantly praising the monetary blessings of our noble City Council, for the fiscal black hole the Expo Light Rail will become."

"IN REGARDS TO THE FUTURE OF EXPO, the fact is who cares what the shape and statement is of the light rail if it ends up like the city parking garage stairwells and restrooms, or the city park restrooms which are dirty, stinking and filthy-walled. What we need and desire is fundamentally clean places and a pleasant experience. This is just my experience from being a business owner and having my own office over 10 years in Downtown Santa Monica, and being a Santa Monica resident for over 30 years."

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

RESPONDING: **Oscar de la Torre (right) claims police are targeting him for speaking out.**

CHARGES
FROM PAGE 1

Police, though, said he "failed [in] his duty to take some action, verbal or otherwise, to prevent the physical endangerment as well as prevent the juvenile delinquency."

Two cell phone videos of the conflict, police said, showed de la Torre allowed the fight to "develop, continue, and escalate in its injury potential."

In a statement on Friday, the SMPD acknowledged the district attorney had declined to file charges against de la Torre but defended its investigation into his role in the fight.

"The Santa Monica Police Department has a duty to protect the children of this community. In this case, information was carefully and thoroughly investigated which cumulated in the District Attorney review," the statement read.

Sgt. Jay Trisler, a spokesman for the SMPD, denied police investigation was politically motivated.

At the press conference, held at the PYFC, de la Torre and his attorney, Wilfredo Trivino-Perez, said they are considering filing a complaint against City Hall alleging police officers broke the law by conducting an improper search of the youth center in the course of their investigation.

"There were no credible facts presented to get a search warrant. Nevertheless a search was [conducted]," Trivino-Perez said. "Confidential information was looked through, rummaged through and confiscated. And that is a clear violation of my client's rights."

Santa Monica City Attorney Marsha Moutrie on Friday said she did not believe de la Torre had a viable case against City Hall.

"I'm not particularly concerned about the city being held civilly liable, but we're always saddened by and attentive to any allegation that someone makes that they have been unfairly treated by the city government," she said.

The search warrant police obtained was legitimate, she added: "The search was approved by a judge and I assume that the approval was appropriate."

de la Torre played a video of the fight at the press conference, saying the footage, which lasted about a minute, showed he acted appropriately.

"The whole incident lasted less than a minute and I did what a responsible person would do and what I thought was the best that I could do being that I was by myself," he said.

After the fight ended, he said he was able to encourage the two boys involved in the fight to shake hands, diffusing tension among the crowd.

"I brought a peaceful resolution to the conflict — more than that I ensured that what was happening in the crowd did not escalate and no one was hurt," he said.

nickt@smdp.com

BUTTS
FROM PAGE 3

was filed for denying him due process.

"He had the option to come to the table and be able to still run in the race, but he chose not to do it," Horton told the Daily Press Friday. "I would have accepted that."

Butts told the Daily Press that instead of spending over $20,000 to fight the disqualification and possibly only hold the mayoral seat for roughly two months, he is going to use his resources to run for the four-year term in November.

"The real prize is in November," Butts said. "My whole intent was to run in November as an incumbent. So we don't end up doing that, but I still feel that voters of Inglewood need and are ready for change and I intend to run vigorously."

Butts said he is bolstered by his showing in the June 8 election, coming in second amongst a group of Inglewood elected officials with long ties to the community. That showed him the voters are looking for something new.

As for living at his father-in-law's house, Butts said he and his wife of 11 years live in the guest room and are trying to sell their Los Angeles home and purchase another in Inglewood. He said his drivers' license and car are registered at the Inglewood address.

"After being married to someone for 11 years, to be welcomed to live with your in-laws, I must be a pretty good guy," Butts joked.

His main rival, Tabor, had little to say about the disqualification, however, he believes he will have an easier time winning votes now that Butts is out. He too is focused on the November election, calling the Aug. 31 run-off a "primary."

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MEASURE
FROM PAGE 1

tenants to the polls in order to prop up its candidates.

"SMRR has pulled from its play book a time tested technique: putting new tenant protections on the ballot to enable the election to be a referendum on Rent Control," he said. "If the new tenant protections were as important as we are led to believe, they could immediately be adopted as ordinances by the existing SMRR council majority."

He added: "The number of annual cases that these new 'protections' will actually address can probably be counted on two hands — hardly worth the kerfuffle … and political warfare unless something larger is actually at stake."

nickt@smdp.com

THE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS ARE REASONABLE AND HAVE PRECEDENT IN OTHER COMMUNITIES, BUT WILL MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO THOUSANDS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SANTA MONICA WHERE NEWER RENTERS WILL BE WELCOMED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF CITY PROTECTION."

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City Councilman

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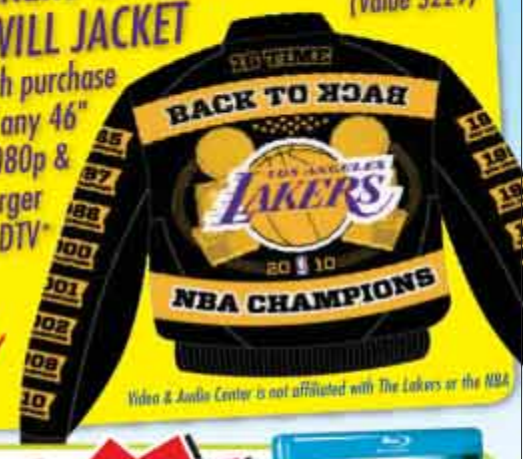
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Mexican official charged with aiding drug dealing

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO A Mexican law enforcement official who worked with U.S. authorities was charged with sharing confidential information with drug traffickers and arranging the arrests of his drug boss' rivals, according to a far-reaching indictment against a gang that ferries drugs along California's border with Mexico.

Jesus Quinones, the international liaison for the Baja California state attorney general's office, was among 43 defendants named in the federal racketeering complaint that alleges murder, kidnapping and other crimes. They are accused of working for Fernando Sanchez Arellano, who is widely considered the most-wanted drug kingpin in Tijuana, Mexico.

Quinones and 30 others are in custody, while 12 defendants remained at-large, authorities said. Most of the arrests occurred Thursday and Friday — 27 in the San Diego area and four in Mexico.

Quinones, 49, was arrested Thursday in San Diego during a traffic stop. He was a primary point of contact in Baja for U.S. law enforcement agencies and was a familiar figure at cross-border gatherings of government officials, including a Fourth of July party this month at the home of the U.S. consul general in Tijuana.

"We had a strong relationship with him, most of the (U.S.) agencies — federal, state and local," said Keith Slotter, special agent in charge of the FBI's San Diego office. "It was disturbing when he got caught up in this."

The indictment alleges that Quinones shared "information" with a cartel associate in March about a triple homicide in Tijuana. Days later, the associate, Jose Alfredo Najera Gil, phoned another cartel operative to report that Quinones was hoping the drug traffickers would buy him an apartment.

Quinones did not respond to a message left on his cell phone by The Associated Press. Jose Manuel Yepiz, a spokesman for the Baja attorney general, said his office had no immediate comment.

The arrest comes at a time of growing cooperation between U.S. and Mexican authorities working to topple Mexican-based drug cartels whose primary market is the United States. Mexico's attorney general says at least 24,800 people have been killed in drug-gang violence since President Felipe Calderon launched his military-led offensive in 2006.

U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy said none of the information that Quinones allegedly shared jeopardized anyone's safety. She, like other U.S. officials, insisted the arrest would not deter cooperation with Mexican officials.

Sanchez Arellano, also known as "El Ingeniero," or "The Engineer," is a nephew of the brothers who headed the Arellano Felix cartel, the Tijuana-based group that was once one of Mexico's top criminal organizations. Most of its leaders have been killed or jailed since 2002.

Sanchez's high-ranking lieutenant, Armando Villareal Heredia, 32, was also named in the indictment, but U.S. authorities were unaware if Mexican officials had him in custody. Sanchez was not named in the indictment and officials declined to say if he was facing any charges under seal.

Duffy said the arrests were a "significant hit" to Sanchez's organization.

"They're on their knees today, trying to recover from what happened," she said at a news conference.

Federal officials began investigating the defendants in January after an initial investigation by the San Diego district attorney's office. A task force consisting of federal and local authorities participated in the sting, using wiretaps and other technology to collect evidence.

Raids yielded a ton of marijuana, 30 pounds of meth and 15 pounds of cocaine.

SpaceShipTwo may make 1st glide test this year

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Virgin Galactic's space tourism rocket SpaceShipTwo may fly free in its first glide test later this year, a company official said Friday.

The six-passenger spaceship has been carried aloft three times attached to the wing of its special jet-powered mothership, including a July 15 flight with two pilots aboard for the first time.

That flight, conducted by spaceship-builder Scaled Composites LLC over California's Mojave Desert, allowed the crew to evaluate all systems and functions in the air, said Stephen Attenborough, an executive with Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic in London.

"Scaled are now evaluating the data from this recent captive-carry flight before we know when the first SS2 independent glide flight will be but there's a reasonable possibility that we could see it happen in the Fall," Attenborough said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Virgin Galactic also released the first photographs of SpaceShipTwo with its wings and tail structures in the "feathered" position, a unique and critically important element of the system created by legendary aviation designer Burt Rutan.

SpaceShipTwo will be carried by the mothership to an altitude of up to 50,000 feet, then released before its rocket engine ignites for a high-speed ascent into space, where passengers will experience a few minutes of weightlessness.

The spaceship's twin tails and portions of the wings will then rotate about 65 degrees upward to create high drag, slowing re-entry into the atmosphere and preventing a buildup of heat on the ship's skin.

At an altitude of about 70,000 feet, the tails will rotate back down to a conventional aircraft configuration for the glide back to a runway landing.

The photographs were taken as SpaceShipTwo was being prepared for its third captive-carry flight.

"Nobody's ever seen SpaceShipTwo with the wings feathered before," Attenborough said in a brief phone interview. "It's another sign of progress and quite an interesting view of the spaceship."

The mothership, a four-engine jet dubbed WhiteKnightTwo, carries the spaceship on the center of its wing between two fuselages.

The aircraft has made 33 flights and its testing is "substantially complete," Attenborough said.

Attenborough said that although both companies were pleased with the flight tests, "no corners will be cut in order to achieve arbitrary deadlines."

Virgin Galactic has said the test program is expected to run through next year before commercial operations begin. Some 300 clients have paid for a $200,000 ticket or placed a deposit, according to the company.

Brown seeks rollback of Calif. pension benefits

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown said pension benefits for state employees should be rolled back to contain rising costs in the state retirement system.

Brown told the Los Angeles Times on Thursday that he favors increasing the retirement age for new state employees while asking current workers to contribute more of their salaries toward their retirement benefits.

His ideas echo key changes made in contracts Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently negotiated with six labor unions as part of the governor's attempt to achieve long-term pension reforms.

Brown, the state's attorney general and a former governor, said public workers are being blamed for economic problems caused by Wall Street hedge funds and mortgage sellers.

"But at the same time, as I did as governor, I know when it's time to tighten our belt," he said.

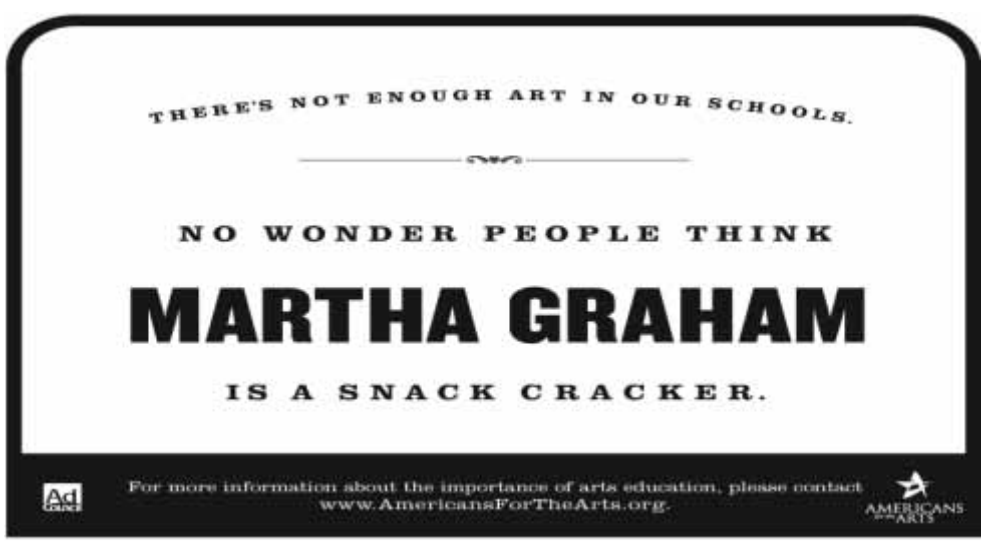
Brown said he would end a practice known as pension-spiking, in which public employee retirement benefits are inflated by promotions, overtime, bonuses and unused vacation time in a person's final year. Instead, benefits should be calculated on a worker's average base salary during the last three years of service.

For new state hires, Brown would raise the retirement age from 55 to 60, which is lower than the retirement age proposed by his opponent, Republican Meg Whitman.

The former eBay chief executive has proposed raising the retirement age to 65 for current and future workers. Under her plan, new hires would no longer receive a state pension but be eligible for 401(k)-style plans.

Brown wants to maintain pensions for all state workers.

Whitman spokeswoman Sarah Pompei said Brown's proposal fails to "fundamentally change the broken pension system that benefits the very public employee unions that are funding his campaign."







Tornante

Steve Parker
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Were we all wrong about Toyota?

NEWS CAME TWO WEEKS AGO THAT THE "black boxes" in Toyota and Lexus cars and trucks, which constantly monitor and record every usage aspect of throttle and brake position, vehicle speed, engine temp and much, much more, are showing overwhelmingly that the vehicles involved in "unintended acceleration" accidents were wrecked because drivers were stepping on the gas pedal, not the brake.

Accidents attributed to unintended acceleration have been blamed on sticky throttle pedals, floor mats which held the throttle open, problems with the drive-by-wire system and more. The problems resulted in a recall of Toyota/Lexus cars and trucks which worldwide amounted to more than 8 million vehicles, easily the largest recall in automotive history.

The company says they have reviewed about 2,000 black boxes of affected vehicles since March.

But it's not just Toyota which is reporting these results, which may appear favorable to the company. The Wall Street Journal reported the first week of July that National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) analysis of Toyota data recorders found cases in which throttles were wide open and brakes hadn't been deployed.

In an interview on NPR, a WSJ reporter said that NHTSA has found that "100 percent" of the Toyota black boxes seen by the agency so far have shown driver error was the cause of every accident. It's not known exactly how many black boxes NHTSA has examined.

This reports will stir up some very interesting conjecture focusing mostly on the politics of this massive recall, which has forever changed the way the Japanese industry will handle bad news coming from their own companies. And we also need to talk about one of world's biggest problems — how some of us just stink as drivers.

First, the politics. Toyota chieftain Akio Toyoda being grilled in front of a congressional committee was nothing short of a nation-changer for the people of Japan. CEOs simply don't do that … in Japan. Well, at least they didn't do that in the past.

They bow silently when there's a problem (but only if they get caught) and everything having to do with whatever the problem is becomes the past; in the publics' view, the head of the company has taken responsibility and it's time to move on.

And of course we'd expect this kind of report pointing to driver error coming from Toyota but the reports that NHTSA has come up with similar findings creates trouble, particularly for NHTSA and the congressional committee involved.

And if Toyota is cleared, what does NHTSA, and for that matter, congress, do? They can't simply apologize and kiss it goodbye. And more than that, NHTSA can't be seen by the American people as soft and simply acquiescing to Toyota; not after the agency finally got some gumption and opened serious investigations into the problem.

Congress very loudly and publicly went after NHTSA, and we all got caught-up in the momentum and started to believe that NHTSA was literally asleep at the wheel in spite of the Toyota/Lexus problems becoming public. And no matter the truth, two ex-NHTSA employees going to work for Toyota as advisors didn't go down very well with Americans.

Then there's the feeling in Japan (stoked by the media) of our congress going after the company in an effort to hurt their sales and create more buyers for domestic cars and trucks.

So what at first seemed like simply a very large recall became nothing short of what was called during the Cold War an "international incident" involving congress, the world's largest car-builder and tens of millions of car owners worldwide. It all became terrifically complicated and in many cases brought out the worst in the Japanese and Americans.

Then there are the deaths, gruesome, emotional and of course frightening and undeniable.

Which brings us to what's a huge worldwide problem whether or not this Toyota recall and spectacle ever existed.

This problem is that many of us are bad drivers, the kind of people who, when meaning to stop, hit the accelerator instead.

I frequently talk and write about how many other nations, particularly in Europe and Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia, have mandatory and intense driver education programs with severe testing. Many of those drivers are more than well-prepared for the task at hand when license time comes. Here in the U.S.A., obtaining a drivers' license is not much more difficult than finding the local DMV office.

But people were killed crashing their cars and trucks throughout the world throughout this Toyota fiasco, leaving us with a truth: there are a lot of bad drivers everywhere, no matter the education and testing.

If these reports from the black boxes are true, if these "unintended acceleration" incidents show driver error caused many of these wrecks, it seems altogether possible that Toyota can come out of all this smelling like a chrysanthemum. That's the name of the throne on which the emperor sits.

OOPS

In last week's article on the Nissan Leaf, we accidentally said the car's battery would be covered by Nissan for up to eight years. Well, that was GM. Nissan has not yet announced the warranty on the Leaf's battery. According to the NY Times this week: "On the basis of a consumer survey it sent out last week, Nissan may be feeling the pressure to match the recent surprise announcement that the Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid will come with an eight-year, 100,000-mile battery warranty."

STEVE PARKER is a two-time Emmy Award-winner who has covered the world's auto industry and motor racing for over 35 years. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues website at www.SteveParkerMotoring.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REPORTS

On **TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010, at 5:45 p.m.** the Santa Monica City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the approval of the Stormwater Parcel Reports, describing each parcel within the City and the amount of each parcel's Stormwater Management Fee and Clean Beaches Special Tax for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Stormwater Management Fees are a funding source for watershed management activities, including periodic upgrades and construction of drainage facilities, maintenance of the storm drain system, catch basin cleaning, public education, runoff pollution control enforcement and other programs that protect the economic, recreational and biological resources of Santa Monica Bay from urban runoff pollution. Each Fee is billed through the L.A. County Tax Assessor on one's 2010-11 property tax bill. The hearing will be held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 213, CITY HALL, 1685 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, at which time the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the Reports. A copy of the Reports has been filed with the City Clerk's Office and is available for review. Further information may be obtained by calling the Watershed Management Program Coordinator, (310) 458-8223.





Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

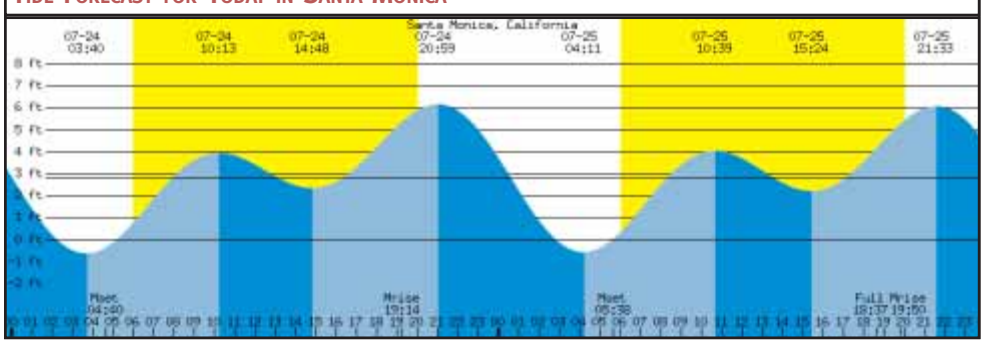
Swell Forecast

Looks to be chest high as well.

Long Range Synopsis

Our next southerly swell is due from the Pitcairn system mentioned above. Size should run chest high max for 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 **July 21, 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 -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Ginsburg Family Foundation, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NBA

Heat soaring in off-court business moves as well

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI Eric Woolworth has worn button-down shirts to work for the last two weeks, instead of short-sleeve polos.

With good reason.

Those polos say "Miami Heat."

"I can't wear them because I can't go out without getting accosted," said Woolworth, the Heat president of business operations. "You can't go out to eat or to a supermarket. You know, everybody wants to talk to you about what's going on. It's crazy."

Don't misunderstand. This is a problem the Heat are thrilled to have.

When Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade made simultaneous announcements on July 7 that they would be teammates in Miami, followed by LeBron James' decision that lured 10 million television viewers and worldwide attention one night later, Heatmania became an instant phenomenon in the sports business world.

The waiting list for Miami season tickets is growing rapidly, fans willing to pay a non-refundable $100 fee to join. The NBA says the Heat are tops in merchandise sales, with James, Wade and Bosh having three of the five best-selling jerseys. Businesses all over South Florida are trying to cash in on the act, with everything from a LeBron Burger to a "Heat Suite" replete with a Ferrari rental now available.

To think, the season is still more than three months away.

"We are playing in a different sandbox now," Woolworth said.

Indeed, the impact — social and financial, on-court and off-court — James, Wade and Bosh may end up having together in their newly formed supertrio is already becoming apparent. Some estimate their collective financial impact on South Florida could exceed $1 billion, not even taking into account the $329 million in playing contracts they have with Miami through 2016.

"What this is going to bring to the city of Miami, what winning brings period, what excitement brings, is togetherness," Wade said. "Everyone wants to be together. Everyone wants to be a part of it. People are going to come. They're going to flock to Miami."

And when they do, they'll need something to eat, things to do and places to work and sleep.

Ideas in those fronts are coming in bunches.

Hungry? The LeBron Burger has been added to the menu at OneBurger in Coral Gables. It starts with Kobe beef (a nod to Los Angeles Lakers' star Kobe Bryant, the leader of the two-time reigning NBA champions), with Swiss cheese, an onion ring (think championship ring) and jalapenos (for heat, er, the Heat).

Stressed? Get the "LeBroyal Treatment" for $149 at Seven Seas Aveda Spa & Salon at the Newport Beachside Hotel, a collection of six items, an homage to James' new jersey. It features a massage, manicure, personal training session, jet-ski rental, gift package and to top it off, a six-pack of beer.

Busy? Squeeze some work in before a Heat game at the Latitude One International Business Center, which will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week near AmericanAirlines Arena with hopes of "luring corporate ticket buyers, out-of-town executives and media" looking for places to get some business tasks completed before tip-off.

Sleepy? For $2,500 a night, high-end guests can enjoy the "Heat Suite" at The Gansevoort Hotel in Miami Beach, including a rental of a Ferrari F430, private cabana access, some of James' favorite snacks and an iPod with his favorite tunes. The Hotel Victor will offer its $10,000-a-night penthouse to a randomly selected Facebook fan for $163, the Heat trio jersey numbers. Downtown Miami's Epic hotel is offering season-ticket holders discounts, while the Mandarin Oriental will have "Live Like LeBron" weekends, including basketball-shaped cookies.

And those are just a few promotions. There's countless others.

"Our phones are ringing a little bit and our team is actually really excited to sell it," said Brett Orlando, the Gansevoort's general manager. "We actually have a little competition going on for our staff here. The first person who books it, they get a prize, too. But the reaction has been pretty incredible. I think we were one of the first out of the gate with something this fun and exciting for the city."

The epicenter of Heatmania, of course, is the team's downtown arena.

By the time James chose Miami, the entire available allotment of Heat season tickets was gone (some corporate plans remain, as do seats held back for single-game and other plans). Phone banks at the arena were overloaded by callers, the team website saw a giant surge in traffic, people stop by daily at the ticket windows asking for information on when single-game tickets will be available, and even the Summer Groove charity series of events hosted by Wade and Alonzo Mourning saw a huge spike in sales, undoubtedly because of all the Heat buzz.

"At the beginning of July, while Wimbledon is going on and the World Cup is going on and baseball season's in full swing, the NBA is dominating headlines around the world," Woolworth said. "And in a city like Miami, it absolutely takes over everything. The news, the business news, the local news, the front page, the back page, the lifestyles section, everything is now about the Miami Heat."

It's similar to what hit Miami in 2004, when the Heat acquired Shaquille O'Neal. Two years later, Miami won its lone NBA championship.

The building was sold out every night back then as well, just as it will be this year. But the Heat will do things a bit differently this time around, Woolworth said. Through partial-season plans, single-game offerings and other initiatives, the Heat hope to attract a different crowd for each of their 41 regular-season home contests, instead of the same 19,600 faces every night.

"We know the interest is clearly out there," Woolworth said.

While Miami is saying hello, Toronto and Cleveland are saying some liquid good-byes to Bosh and James as well.

In Cleveland, the Great Lakes Brewing Co. quickly went through 30 gallons of specially made "Quitness," a dry hopped India pale ale that leaves a bitter aftertaste, perfectly describing the mood of Cavaliers fans after James' decision. And in Toronto, Bosh's farewell is being marked by a champagne cocktail drummed up by Senior Sommelier William Predhomme of Canoe Restaurant and Bar which features sparkling wine, Ice wine, syrup, lemon, black cherries and a mint sprig.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, July 24

Billy Wilder Double Feature:
The Apartment (NR) 2hrs 05min
Irma La Douce (NR) 2hrs 27min
7:30

Sunday, July 25

Billy Wilder Double Feature:
Double Indemnity (NR) 1hr 47min
Ace in the Hole (NR) 1hr 51min

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Kids Are All Right (AMC INDEPENDENT) (R) 1hr 44min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

The Kids Are All Right (AMC INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation) (R) 1hr 44min
12:00pm, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Predators (R) 1hr 47min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (Digital Presentation) (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

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

Despicable Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Despicable Me 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 35min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:00pm, 12:50pm, 3:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm, 11:15pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
10:10am, 12:40pm, 3:10pm, 5:50pm, 8:30pm. 11:10pm

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) (CC/DVS — Close Captions and Descriptive Video) 1hr 51min
10:55am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

Toy Story 3 in Disney Digital 3D (RealD 3D) (G) 1hr 49min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:25pm, 10:05pm

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

Exit Through the Gift Shop (R) 1hr 43min
11:00am

I Am Love (R) 2hrs 15min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

The Secret in Their Eyes (R) 2hr 24min
11:00am

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

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work (R) 1hr 39min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

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

Lavanderia (NR) 2hr 10min
10:30am

South of the Border (NR) 1hr 33min
11:00am

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

Grown Ups (PG-13) 1hr 42min
12:00pm, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
11:00am, 2:30pm, 6:00pm, 9:30pm

The Last Airbender 3D (RealD 3D) (PG) 1hr 43min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:05pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Ramona and Beezus (G) 1hr 44min
10:45am, 1:25pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13) 2hrs 4min
10:40am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Stay out of sight, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Pressure builds to go to a key event. Don't fight it. Once you are there, you'll discover how much you enjoy yourself. A parent, older relative or friend seems to be pressuring you. Perhaps you need to act on your feelings. Tonight: Could go till the wee hours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21)
★★★★★ Grab an opportunity to travel or perhaps meet someone halfway. Getting out of your daily life and setting recharges your energy. At the same time, you'll gain a perspective and see how unimportant certain issues are. Tonight: Go for the offbeat.

GEMINI (May 22-June 20)
★★★★ Stay close to home. Right now, you would prefer to be with one person rather than a group. You cannot revamp a partner's or friend's thinking. Only through example can you learn. Tonight: Remember that you are best as a duo.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and don't worry about being a wallflower. Notice how many people call and/or invite you over. Avoid a controlling individual. Tonight: Let someone else play out his or her perfect night, with you in it!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Complete a project in order to make time for others. You might want to share a hobby with a loved one or play chef at a barbecue. Many might opt for a day hiking. Your energy recharges the more you take on, within reason. Tonight: Keep it nice and easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Whether you are with a child or act like one, a good time is had by all. Your playful openness attracts many. Many of you could find yourself amorously inclined, and perhaps with someone new. Tonight: Be naughty and nice. Have the time of your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You come from a basically grounded point of view. The problem lies in the fact that the basis from which you make your judgments is rapidly changing. As a result, your view could be invalid. Don't hesitate to hold up a mirror. Let go rather than hold on. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Even if you have no plans as the sun dawns, the situation rapidly changes. Someone you care about reaches out and proposes a delightful scenario. You also can reach out for this person. The humor in what occurs is that plans continually transform today. Run from a power play. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be sensitive to your budget. The bottom line is that you need to care about your budget more than others. Someone close hears you but doesn't honor your boundaries. Realize when enough is enough. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost. Make that statement your mantra.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Consider a situation carefully, especially if it involves certain people you value. If you start pushing to have your way, you might win the battle but lose the war. Use good sense when dealing with others in general; many might not bend to your whims! Tonight: Only where you want to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take some much-needed personal time. You have been groping with an issue, and probably need time to process it. You will discover that you come up with results you had not dreamt possible. Go off and explore an art show or some other place of interest. Tonight: Not visible.

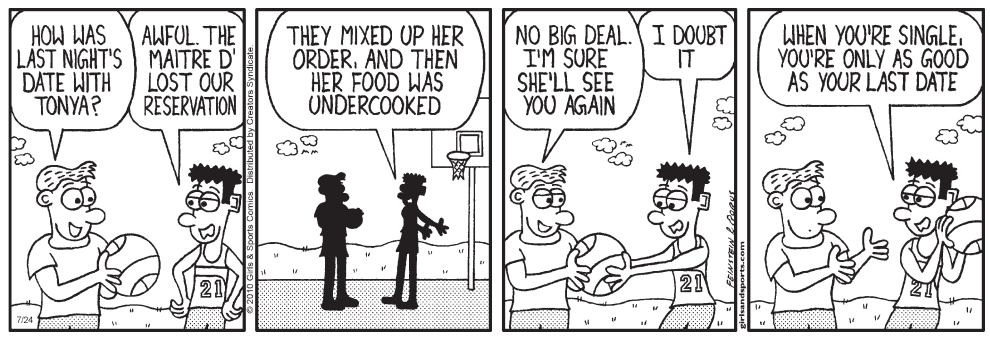
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others are serious and want what they want. You can say either yes or no. Trying to find a path of moderation isn't likely. Don't lose sight of long-term goals. Tonight: Where friends are.

Happy birthday

This year, you often look at ways to become more efficient. Flow with changes. With the tension that could surround this year, make sure to schedule check-ups with your doctor and dentist. Don't fool around if you don't feel up to snuff. If you are single, you might meet someone who could be quite possessive, or vice versa -- be careful. If you are attached, the two of you would benefit from taking up a stress-buster hobby together. CAPRICORN can be controlling.

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

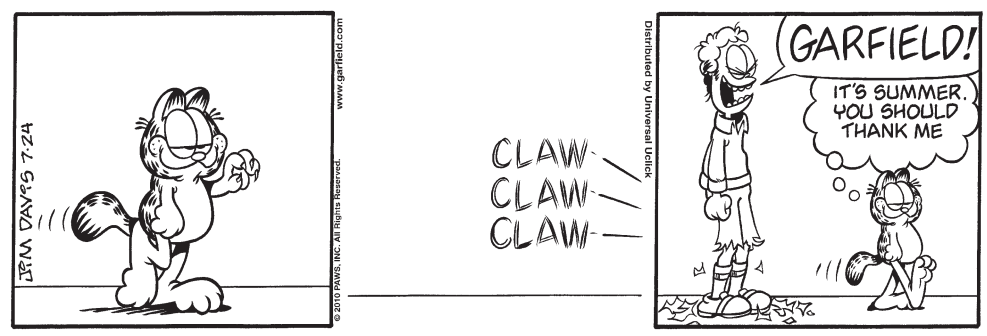
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



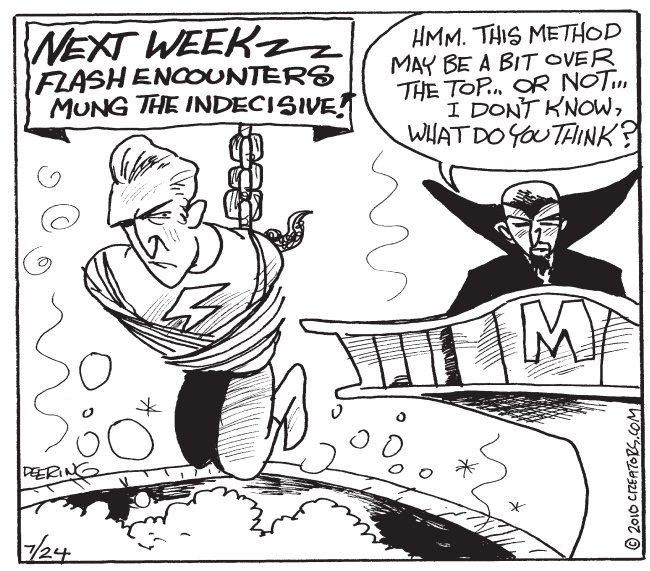
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



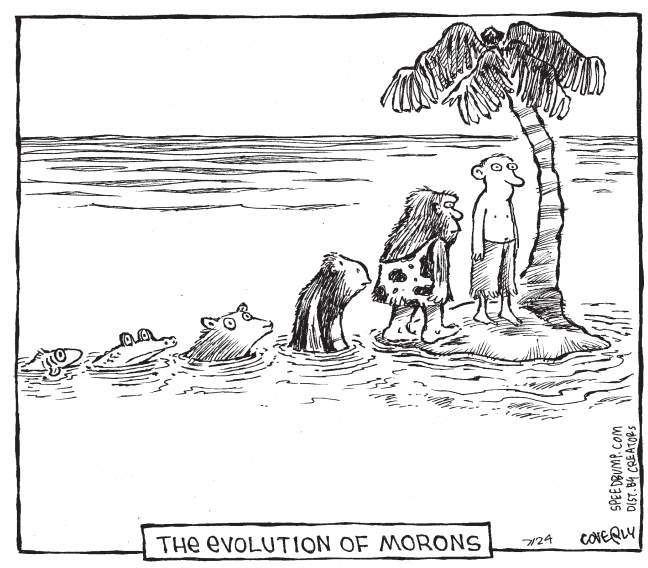
Garfield
By Jim Davis



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 ★★★★

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

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

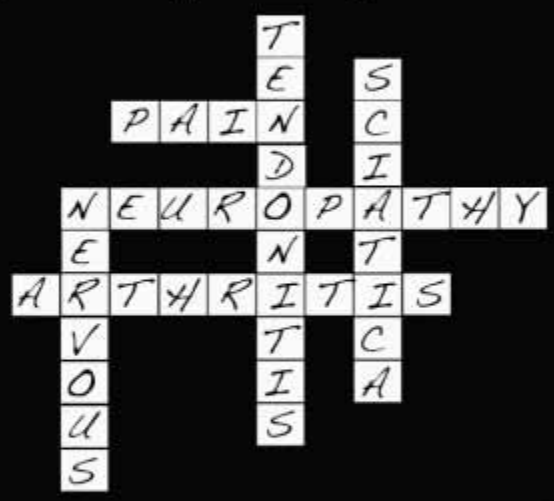
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(Most Insurance Accepted)



MYSTERY PHOTO

Photo by Alejandro Cantarero Jr.

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 Splinter group
5 Outfits
9 Kind of power
10 Holiday visitor
12 Poet Breton
13 Future tales
14 Enthuses
16 Quarterback Marino
17 Hosp. sections
18 Heartfelt
20 Arm art
22 Dull
23 Personal
25 Valentine trim
28 Americans in Paris, e.g.
32 Head scratcher's words
34 Old soldier
35 Hr. part
36 Pizzeria seasoning
38 Nigeria neighbor
40 Backpack material
41 Pie piece
42 Motor sound
43 Forest grazer
44 Some babies

DOWN

1 Mexican state
2 Senior
3 Road sights
4 Spy's crime
5 Out of bed
6 Bus. abbr.
7 Quiet plane
8 Game quest
9 Bob of "Full House"
11 Entertained
15 Trailblazer
19 Freshwater fish
21 Stadium section
24 Lengthens
25 An arm and a leg
26 Traveling
27 Singer Stevens
29 Arthurian isle
30 Mortises' partners
31 14 pounds
33 Dead duck
37 Pita sandwich
39 Injury soother

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

Yesterday's answer

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

■	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				■

7-24

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 12 18 28 36 43
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 15 17 43 45
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $12M

Fantasy 5: 13 18 22 24 32

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 6 6
EVENING: 6 0 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:43.99

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

■ Jihadists: They blow themselves up by mistake (such as Pakistani terrorist Qari Zafar did in June); they botch airline shoe- and underwear-bombing and buy the wrong fertilizer for urban car bombs; they brag too much; and they watch far too much Internet pornography. Evidence amassed by Daniel Byman and Christine Fair, writing in the July/August issue of The Atlantic, has led them to suggest that America and its allies should treat jihadists as "nitwits" rather than as "savvy and sophisticated killers" (the latter being an image that helps them with recruiting). It is possible, the authors conclude, that there has not been a truly competent jihadist terrorist since Mohammad Atta led the Sept. 11, 2001, missions.

■ Matadors: Christian Hernandez, 21, making his big-time bullfighting debut at Plaza Mexico in Mexico City in June, ran from the ring trembling in fear at the first sign of his bull. He was then coaxed to return and man-up, but once again fled and immediately submitted his resignation. Though Hernandez was contrite ("I didn't have the ability. I didn't have the balls."), he was arrested for violating his contract and released only after he paid a small fine.

■ The West Tennessee Detention Facility (Mason, Tenn.) made a video pitch for California inmates, hoping some would volunteer to be outsourced under that state's program to relieve overcrowding. The hard-timers should come east, the video urged, because of West Tennessee's "larger and cleaner jail cells, 79 TV channels, including ESPN, views of peaceful cow pastures, and ... the 'Dorm of the Week,' (with its inmates) staying up all night, watching a movie and eating cheeseburgers or pizza," according to a March (2007) description in Nashville's Tennessean. "You're not a number here," said one inmate. "You come here, it's personalized." (California's outsourcing program is facing a lawsuit from the prison guards' union, anxious about job loss.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1604 Samuel de Champlain discovers the mouth of the Saint John River, site of Reversing Falls and the present day city of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

1662 The Dutch attempt but fail to capture Macau.

WORD UP!

fulgurate \ FUHL-gyuh-reyt \ , verb; 1. To flash or dart like lightning. 2. Medicine . To destroy (esp. an abnormal growth) by electricity.

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YARD SALE
2628 Kansas Ave. Sunday, July 25th.
8:30a.m.-3p.m.
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724 Ashland Ave, #4
2+1, st, fr, new cpt,
upr, pkg-2 **$1600**

1835 20th St, #2
2+1, st, new wood flr, pkg,
Section 8 okay **$1843**

BRENTWOOD

11767 W. Sunset, #207
1+1.5, upr, st, fr, hdwd, pkg,
pool, ln, gar **$1450**

11757 Kiowa, #1
2+1.75, st, dw, pkg, ln **$1700**

WEST L.A.

1920 Manning Ave, #2
SNG, lwr,st, fr,htpl, tstr,
ln, cpt, **$875**

1760-1/2 Malcolm Ave
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$1250

1657 Federal Ave, #5
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MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh dr. units 9&10 stove, fridge, blinds, vinyl, utilities included, on-site laundry, parking, no pets, $950 & up/mo $1000 off move-in (310)737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12309 Culver Blvd. #14 stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, utilities included, intercom entry, gated no pets. $1075/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $1000 & up $1000 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. #113 Single, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $875 (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 3, 1bdrm/1ba $1095/mo. stove, fridge, time/carpet,floors ceiling fan blinds, parking, laundry, no pets. $1000 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100795355 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as STREET PHOTOZ, 1810 W. 12TH ST, #101, LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : BERLIN A. ROBERTS, 1810 W. 12TH ST, #101, LOS ANGELES, CA 90006 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: BERLIN A. ROBERTS
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/10/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/10/2010, 7/17/2010, 7/24/2010, 7/31/2010

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District
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2004 Marine Street
4 Bed, 4.5 Bath
$1,489,000
Sunset Park Gem
W/ Finished Basement
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2:00pm - 5:00pm

Recently Reduced!



124 Idaho Avenue #303
3 Bed, 3 Bath
$1,250,000
Beautifully Remodeled
Corner of 2nd & Idaho
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY July 24th
12:00am - 3:00pm

New Listing



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#208
2 Bed, 1.75 Bath
$519,000
Bright Condo
With Huge Balcony!
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2:00pm - 5:00pm

Price Just Reduced!!



1000 Westgate #211
1 Bed, 1.5 Bath
$459,000
Spacious Condo
Great Location!
Open Sunday
July 25th
2:00pm - 5:00pm

New Listing



For Sale / For Lease
2682 34th Street
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$1,099,000
or $4,000 / Month
Great Home
Open Sunday July 25th
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Price Just Reduced!!



1325 Washington #E
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July 25th
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New Listing



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North of Montana	$3,495,000	$1,347,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,899,000	$779,000
South of Wilshire	$925,000	$580,000
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$589,450
Ocean Park	$1,439,000	$799,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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