



Santa Monica Daily Press

CLASS OF THE PAC-10
SEE PAGE 18

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE DIVERSITY ISSUE

VA lengthens lease extension

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST L.A. A homeless housing project at the Veterans Administration campus is closer to fruition after federal officials this week announced a major development that would make it more feasible for potential service providers to overcome one of its biggest obstacles — securing financing.

The Department of Veterans Affairs notified City Hall on Monday it was extending the term of its enhanced sharing

agreement for the Building 209 Homeless Housing Project — which would convert three existing facilities on the VA grounds to support homeless services — from 40 to 55 years.

The relative short time-frame for the lease was a concern for advocates of the long-awaited housing initiative, fearing that potential homeless service providers would not be able to find the necessary financing and tax credits to make the program a reality.

“This indicates good faith on the Veterans

Administration to address the significant constraints with moving the project forward and a very quick response to address that constraint,” Barbara Collins, the housing manager for City Hall, said.

The project had been mostly stagnant since former VA Secretary Jim Nicholson announced last August that three buildings located in the northern part of the campus would be used to support the homeless veteran population.

The buildings were originally constructed for mental patients and had been collecting

dust for more than 25 years.

The City Council, frustrated with the slow pace of the initiative, issued a non-binding resolution last month calling on federal officials to move the project along. In a meeting with VA representatives, the council learned it may be more than a year before the veterans could move into the buildings, the slow timeline attributed to a lack of room to move the patients who currently occupy one of the buildings.

SEE PROJECT PAGE 14



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

PLAYING THE PART: Audrey Alvarez, 13, tries on tactical gear used by the Santa Monica S.W.A.T. team during Tuesday's National Night Out Block Party as her friend Linda Viveros, 11, looks on. The city was among 11,000 communities that participated in the nationwide festival.

Celebrating community policing with National Night Out

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY If there was one area local law breakers avoided hitting on Tuesday evening, it was a small stretch of

Olympic Drive.

Nearly 1,000 people took to the street in celebration of the annual National Night Out Block Party, a Santa Monica Police Department-sponsored event recognizing the importance of strong community relations.

The city was among 11,000 communities that participated in the nationwide festival, which marked its 25th year. The SMPD has hosted the party for more than

SEE NIGHT OUT PAGE 15

Spreading awareness to an Afro beat

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Tonight's Twilight Dance Series performers prove that it's possible to have fun while having a heart.

Afro pop stars Oliver “Tuku” Mtukudzi of Zimbabwe and Rocky Dawuni of Ghana will take the stage tonight at 7 p.m. to perform their songs of hope and social change. Both artists have used the enormous celebrity they have gained in their home countries to shed light on diverse issues including bringing clean water to Ghana and Zimbabwe's food crisis.

“In Africa, and especially in Ghana, every day you're dealing with issues that need attention,” Dawuni said. “A politician within a four-year term can only deal with a minute part. We as musicians, it's imperative that once you have the opportunity to gain attention you are the forefront of these issues.”

Dawuni, who spends part of the year in his home country of Ghana and the other part in Pacific Palisades, is actively involved with humanitarian organizations including UNICEF, the Carter Center and the Global Fund. Eight years ago, Dawuni created the annual Rocky Dawuni Independence Splash Festival in Accra, Ghana's capital. Every year,

SEE CONCERT PAGE 13



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Calendar

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Join in for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad — politics, the economy, society, and culture. Discussion moderator, Jack Nordhaus, is a former college history professor.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave., Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

Friday, Aug. 8, 2008

Salsa the night away

1334 Lincoln Blvd, 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Beginners and experienced salseros alike can pick up new moves at Isabelle Pampillo's Friday Socials in Santa Monica. The night consists of a 90-minute class followed by a social hour of drinks and dancing where dancers can practice their dips and turns. There is a \$20 charge for the class, dancing and drinks. For information, call (310) 392-3493.

Calling all gymnasts

5433 Beethoven St., Multiple times

Broadway Gymnastics School offers youth, kinder, special education and competitive team camps every weekday through Aug. 29. Sign-ups are available for the day, week or entire summer. The spectacular gymnastics and sports camp incorporates exercise and education into a fun-filled day program.

Gymnastics paired with other sports as well as art, drama, fieldtrips, and swimming ensure children will get the most out of each day. Camp is filled with an exciting array of activities to captivate all ages. Before and after care is available and can be arranged at registration. Visit www.broadwaygym.com/summercamps2008.php or call (310) 450-0012 for more information.

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.



Cyclist takes battle against lung disease to the road

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Mark Junge took one deep breath, and set off on a life-affirming mission.

More than six years after the retired historian from Wyoming was first diagnosed with chronic lung disease — blood clots to be exact — Junge is living a dream, defeating what he once believed was impossible given his condition — a 538-mile cycling trip from San Francisco to the Mexico border, oxygen container in tow.

It's all part of an effort to raise awareness of a little-known yet common disease called COPD, a disorder that has struck more than 12.1 million American adults.

"Our objective is to show people that with a portable oxygen concentrator, you can go out and do things, whether it's a bridge party, going out and meeting friends and the grandkids, or what I'm doing, which is a long-distance bike ride," Junge said.



Photo courtesy Mark Junge

SEE AWARENESS PAGE 14 **RIDING HIGH:** Cyclist Mark Junge takes a break during his ride from San Francisco to Mexico.

Feds arrest hospital CEO in homeless health case

BY SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A hospital CEO was arrested Wednesday and federal agents raided three medical centers as part of an investigation of a scheme to recruit homeless people and bill government programs for millions of dollars in unnecessary health services, authorities said.

The hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties submitted phony Medicare and Medi-Cal bills for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of homeless patients — including drug addicts and the mentally ill — recruited from downtown's Skid Row, state and federal authorities alleged.

A lawsuit filed Wednesday by the city said the hospitals used homeless people as "human pawns."

While treating minor problems such as dehydration, exhaustion or yeast infections, the hospitals allegedly kept homeless patients in beds for as long as three days and charged the government for the stays.

Those ailments didn't medically require hospitalization, authorities said.

Over four years, a mentally ill woman identified as "Recruit X" was admitted to all three hospitals for conditions she said she never had, such as shortness of breath and chest pains. After her stays, she would be returned to Skid Row and use money she received for participating in the scheme to buy crack cocaine, authorities alleged. She was never treated for drug addiction.

The investigation was sparked in 2006 by a Los Angeles police probe of reports that hospitals were dumping homeless patients on the streets. Search warrants were served at City of Angels Medical Center, Los Angeles Metropolitan Medical Center and Tustin Hospital and Medical Center, the FBI said. None of the hospitals returned calls seeking comment.

FBI agents arrested Rudra Sabaratnam, 64, chief executive officer of City of Angels hospital, and Estill Mitts, 64, who operated the 7th Street Assessment Center, where people are screened for health needs, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.



WORK IN PROGRESS

Alexandra Bissonnette news@smdp.com

Bob Aptaker, Macerich Co.'s vice president of development, leads a tour of Santa Monica Place on Wednesday, providing city officials, business leaders and the media a chance to see first-hand the transformation of the mall into an open-air shopping center. Construction is on schedule and the mall is expected to re-open toward the end of 2009. Aptaker said 1,900 tons of steel will be used along with 1,700 yards of concrete. More than 50 percent of materials were re-used and Macerich plans to recycle roughly 95 percent of materials removed during the remodel.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

For the record

Editor:

I am writing to respond to the “LEADing the way” letter in your Aug. 5 paper. I have tremendous respect for Debbie Mulvaney as a caring member of our community, and major advocate for our public school. However, as a co-author of RIFT, who specifically worked on the exemptions, I felt it important to correct numerous factual errors in her editorial. She stated that development by the Boys and Girls Club, the Pico Youth and Family Center, and medical centers that support hospitals, would be impaired by RIFT. Section 2(A), excluded the following from the cap: All child and adult day care facilities, all schools, all places of worship, all hospitals, and all government facilities. Per the plain language of RIFT, there is no limit to development by the Boys and Girls Club, the Pico Youth and Family Center, or any medical building on property owned by UCLA or any other government agency.

In addition, she stated that RIFT was developed by a small private group. This assertion is false. RIFT was created by the combined efforts of Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Pico Neighborhood Association, Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, and Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition. The language was than reviewed and endorsed by 10,295 Santa Monica residents, who provided the signatures to put RIFT on the ballot. I agree with Debbie that public schools need more help from the city, but the 1/13th of 1 percent, in increases in the city’s budget, that RIFT will allegedly take away, is not the problem. The cause of the school funding shortage is that helping public schools is not a priority for the city. Our city has a budget of almost \$6,000 per resident. There is plenty of money to share. However, government entities do not like to share with other government entities, and it will probably take a new CEPS initiative to get our city’s public schools the funding that it needs.

Jeff Segal
Santa Monica

Sounding off

Editor:

One of my favorite items in the SMDP is your weekly “Q-Line,” and I wish every paper had something like it. I also wish we could get our City Council members to read it. It is so much better than the “yes” and “no” polls because it states the reasons for the callers’ decisions. For example, the calls regarding the destruction of our ficus trees were overwhelmingly against this slaughter, and the callers showed a knowledge of the importance of these trees to our environment, something our council seems not to know, or not to care about.

And most recently the callers came out against LUCE, proving how it would be bad for Santa Monica. But is the council listening? Hell no! So our problem is not the economy – it’s our leaders, stupid! Let us hope our voters will study the past actions of our council members who are running again, and the promises of our new candidates, and finally elect a council that will honestly represent the people of Santa Monica.

Cecillia Rosenthal
Santa Monica



Your column here

Doreen Orion

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Staycations have a few shortcomings

WITH THE SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON nearing an end, but no end in sight for high gas prices, more Americans have opted to vacation close to home. With this trend expected to continue, the term, “staycation” was born. Chamber of Commerces in cities across the land now market local activities and destinations to their own citizens. Many pundits are predicting that the Great American Roadtrip is coming to the end of the road. For those who can afford to get away, are staycations truly as beneficial as stationary vacations?

Here are three myths about the staycation:

1) Staycations are easier than “real” vacations.

When most of us dream about getting away from it all, we actually mean we want to get away from it — all of it — even for just a few days. We can’t completely relax or recharge with all the distractions and responsibilities embedded into our usual surroundings. That’s why many people who could work at home choose not to: They know they don’t have enough discipline to stay on task. When the task becomes something that’s supposed to be fun — like vacationing at home — most of us find it very difficult to say “no” to things like checking e-mail, paying bills, answering the phone, doing errands, etc. and what should be a week off, turns into a few hours, at best. We may even revert to our usual paths of least resistance, like our familiar and not really optimal ways of unwinding — like vegging in front of the TV. Thus, taking ourselves out of our usual routines when we remain in our usual surroundings is actually more difficult.

2) Staycations provide the same benefits as “real” vacations.

Part of the joy of traveling is meeting other people who are also away from their usual lives and being able to share experiences with them. That won’t happen if most of us start taking staycations. Going elsewhere on vacation is a wonderful way to keep ourselves stimulated by new challenges and exposure to new surroundings and ideas. Getting away from home and from what’s familiar, removing ourselves from our comfort zones is a necessary part of growth. Sharing new, foreign experiences and adventures also binds us as families and as a national culture. We can read about diversity, and try to teach our kids about it, but unless we go out and experience it, we’ll

never truly understand different peoples and cultures. And, what a shame if we don’t get a chance to come back to our homes and share what we’ve seen and experienced with friends, neighbors and co-workers who have themselves, traveled other places.

3) It’s environmentally irresponsible to drive somewhere just for a vacation.

It’s interesting that this issue is only coming up because the price of gas has increased — it’s not like the effect on the environment of burning fuel suddenly became a bad thing. But now that we are all suffering along with our planet, people are taking a righteous stand whenever someone “wastes” energy. It’s important to remember that on vacation, each spouse is not commuting to work daily in separate cars — let alone even more mileage used if the kids drive vehicles of their own. If gas prices worry you, consider going somewhere that has good public transportation. Or, if traveling by car, rent an energy efficient one, or bicycles for the entire family to use once you get to your destination. What about taking the train? The solution to the energy crisis shouldn’t be to do away with our mobility, it should be to develop the technology and the means to stay mobile, and use whatever best alternatives are available to us now. The more demands we make on our current modes of energy efficient transportation, the better and more widely available they will become.

When contemplating whether to staycate or vacate, remember that remaining at home for recreation may not be as easy as it seems. Even if you are able to ignore the usual demands and responsibilities, just feeling their pull and mustering the energy to resist them can be draining in and of itself. Even worse is the temptation to stick with what’s familiar, rather than challenge and stimulate yourself and your family with new experiences. While it may be difficult to get past the price of gas when considering what to do on your time off, just consider what the true price of the staycation might be.

DOREEN ORION is a psychiatrist who traveled for a year with her psychiatrist husband around the U.S. in a converted bus. She is the author of “Queen of the Road: The True Tale of 47 States, 22,000 Miles, 200 Shoes, 2 Cats, 1 Poodle, a Husband, and a Bus With a Will of Its Own (Broadway Books).” For more, visit www.QueenOfTheRoadTheBook.com.

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YOUR OPINION COUNTS
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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

 Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The cat is loose

A STUDY A FEW YEARS BACK IN THE Journal of Paleolimnology suggests that instead of water, Jesus actually walked on an isolated patch of floating ice in the Sea of Galilee.

Paleolimnologists everywhere must have unscrewed bottles of sparkling cider in celebration of the professor of oceanography at Florida State University who studied the geological core samples from 1,500-2,500 years ago that revealed the existence of protracted cold spells. At the same time, the professor himself dismissed insinuations from critics that he should feel guilty for potentially turning upside down one of the basic tenets of Christianity, saying, "If you need miracles to prop up your faith, then maybe your faith is weak to begin with."

Still, whether Biblical, oceanographic or commonplace, aren't some assumptions so sacred that divulging otherwise should be on a need-to-know basis only? Should the estimated 2.1 billion Christians across the globe be informed if DNA tests someday prove that Jesus was actually God's nephew, not his son?

My mom used to take my sister and me each winter when we were growing up to the New York City Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" at Lincoln Center. Chills of excitement raced through my body every time the Nutcracker won his battle and became the Prince in the Land of Snow when his mask magically disappeared.

I was in college when my mom took me back to see "The Nutcracker" for the first time since I was little. However, instead of goose bumps, I got a headache. There were no tingles as I watched the male ballerina very un-magically toss his mask stage right. I never should have gone back. It was like a part of my childhood died at that moment.

And I never should have learned to surf the Web. That way, I never would have stumbled across the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest. Inspired by the opening line, "It was a dark and stormy night," from Edward George Bulwer-Lytton's 1830 book, "Paul Clifford," the annual literary competition challenges writers to compose the worst possible opening line for a novel.

Until I discovered the contest, I had been under the impression that "It was a dark and stormy night" was the first line of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven." I was given that impression by my father, who, for years, repeated the line and quizzed me on its origin, which he always said was "The Raven."

When I called my dad with the facts after quadruple-checking the line's origin, he replied simply with, "Huh. How about that." To be fair, I suppose there's never a good way or time to realize that your parents don't know everything. For the record, though, my mom actually does know everything. Just ask her.

Wouldn't Dorothy have slept better at night if she hadn't found out that the Wizard, the guy rumored to be the only one bright enough to figure out how to get her home, was actually an average Joe not quite bright enough to cower behind a floor-length curtain that at least hid his legs? Imagine how many Prozac prescriptions the pharmacist in Oz had to fill once word spread that the city's mighty and powerful deity was a fraud.

The Fox network once aired some specials, "Breaking the Magicians' Code: Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed." Aren't magic shows immensely enjoyable? Did anyone really want some creepy masked man on Fox spoiling all of those cool illusions? Ever wonder about the folks who watched those Fox specials and then ran down to their basements afterwards to try and saw in half women wearing hideously sequined costumes? Ever wonder what else those people do in their basements?

There's no un-ringing the bell once the cat's out of the bag. "The Simpsons" was essentially ruined for me once I found out the guy who does Bart's voice is a woman. I definitely never wanted to know that Dick Cheney prefers Diet Sprite. I'll forever associate Wendy's chili with fingertips ever since someone (falsely) claimed to find one in a meal. Blue dresses everywhere probably would have preferred if Monica Lewinsky had just thrown hers away (or at least brought it to the dry cleaner) so we all could have been spared from thinking of private presidential matters every time we see a similarly colored frock. And just imagine the panic that would ensue if the American Medical Association ever formally announced chicken soup doesn't cure the cold that isn't contracted by leaving the house with wet hair.

Other than the Santa Claus, Easter Bunny and Tooth Fairy myths, there's nothing anyone should assume that everyone knows, or needs to know.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

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The Q-Line

Let the games begin

There was some controversy surrounding the International Olympic Committee's selection of China as the host nation for this year's Summer Olympics due to that country's human rights record.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Given China's history of human rights violations, will you be more or less likely to watch the games?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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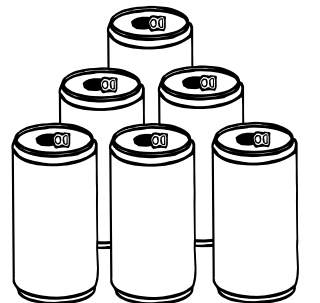
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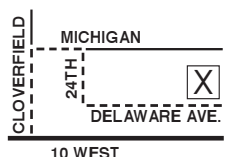
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Proposed Changes to Metro Bus Service

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- > Line 33 local service proposed to operate from Main/6th in downtown LA to Main/Sunset in Venice.
- > Line 333 limited stop service proposed to operate from Union Station to Ocean/Santa Monica.

5pm, Wednesday, August 13
La Cienega Tennis Center
325 S La Cienega Bl
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

If you are not able to attend but would like to comment, write to:
customerrelations@metro.net, or

Metro Westside/Central
December 2008 Service Change
One Gateway Plaza, 4th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by August 13, 2008.



Greek monastic food gets the cookbook treatment

BY DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press Writer

MOUNT ATHOS, Greece In a secluded Orthodox Christian sanctuary, the phone is ringing again for Father Epifanios Milopotaminos.

Ever since he wrote a cookbook sharing his secrets for feeding his fellow monks, Milopotaminos' cell phone rings constantly with requests to speak at seminars, appear on television and do cooking demonstrations. He's an unlikely candidate for sudden celebrity; in the nearly four decades since he took charge of cooking on the secluded Mount Athos sanctuary, little about what he does has changed.

"It's the same way meals were prepared 100 years ago, or 50 years ago," Epifanios says of the meat- and dairy-free diet, much of it cooked over a log fire. "It's a clean diet that people once ate across the eastern Mediterranean."

This year he shared that diet, collecting 126 of his recipes in a book that provides a rare glimpse into life in this community of some 1,500 monks in 20 monasteries that strictly limits outside access, including barring women.

And people appear to like what they see. "People are curious because we use different ingredients and different methods," he says.

Epifanios already has appeared on a popular Greek cooking show and his publisher, Synchronoi Ozizontes, says the leather-bound cookbook has sold 12,000 copies, a healthy figure for the local market.

Athens nutrition scientist Paraskevas Papachristou says books such as Father Epifanios' get a great deal of attention because Greeks generally want to eat healthier.

Whether people actually make the recipes is another matter. Papachristou says the interest is at odds with an overall trend away from Mediterranean diets because people cook less and eat more convenience foods.

Published in April, "Cooking on Mount

Athos" (so far available only in Greek) offers unpretentious, tasty recipes. Don't expect arugula with balsamic vinegar. Rather, lots of chickpeas and bitter wild greens.

"Monks at Mount Athos don't eat meat," says Epifanios. "The word butter is never mentioned in the book, and we don't add flour to thicken sauces. We just let the ingredients boil down."

Epifanios' catalog of recipes is divided into seafood — with and without backbones, according to different fasting categories — or vegetables. No desserts at the Holy Mountain.

Slow cooking suits the heavily bearded monks, who rise well before dawn and spend much of their day in prayer.

"We have a lot of time, without families, wives and children to tend to," Epifanios says.

"Everyone has a secondary job. One monk may be a librarian, another may write books, or make wooden carvings, or weave prayer knots, or be an icon painter, an incense maker, a winemaker, or a cook," he says.

Unlike the typical Greek priest, Mount Athos monks have a ruffled appearance, many with hands hardened from manual labor. They often can be spotted on the mountainous peninsula driving a tractor or a worn-out van.

Epifanios — who calls himself a cook, not a chef — says his meals are rooted as much in centuries old church practices as in common sense. Unfashionable ingredients such as broad beans, artichokes and okra, which many older Greeks still associate with poverty and often are ignored by the young, remain staples here.

"People are less in touch with their natural surroundings nowadays," Epifanios says. "They used to eat what they found around them and what they could gather."

"Now they try Chinese, Indian food, and dishes from — I don't know — Finland before they realize that what they really liked all along was the meals their grandmother made them."

Blueberry growers await upshot of acreage increase

BY SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

BURBANK, Wash. Ten years ago, Jim Lott had never even tasted a blueberry, let alone thought about planting the fruit at his southeast Washington farm.

Then came reports about the fruit's health benefits, an onslaught of consumer demand and blueberry-laden products, and research showing that soil additives such as sawdust could help give the bushes the acidic soil they crave. Today, Lott has 125 acres of juicy blueberries to harvest.

He isn't alone. Blueberry acreage has exploded worldwide — from British Columbia to South America and the United States to China — leaving some to wonder how much growth the market can bear.

Prices for fresh blueberries have begun to level off after several record years, and processors are waiting longer before committing to buy from growers. Fruit marketers, too, are trying new tactics, including promoting blueberries in China and Canada — not to increase U.S. exports, but to keep those countries' blueberries inside their own borders.

But more growth is on the horizon, raising worries of a market crash.

"The whole industry has been doing really quite well, but it has grown so fast over the last couple of years that returns are starting to drop pretty sharply," Lott said. "All of a sudden, there'll just be too many blueberries one year, and they won't be worth anything."

Worldwide blueberry acreage has more than doubled in the past decade, from 62,800 acres in 1997 to 144,800 acres last year, according to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council. Most of that growth was in the Western Hemisphere — some 50,200 additional acres in South America and 32,000 more acres in North America, primarily the U.S. and British Columbia.

The harvest is expected to keep growing, since commercial blueberry bushes need four to five years to come into full production. Add in the fact that most blueberry farmers grow only the one crop, and it's easy to understand their concerns about oversupply.

"We've had the best of both worlds: increasing supply and increasing pricing, really driven by the whole health interest in blueberries," said Mark Villata, the blueberry council's executive director.



Real Simple Food

Amanda Cushman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Culinary students need seasoning

THERE IS A SMALL, LESSER KNOWN eating establishment in Santa Monica at the Art Institute on Ocean Park Boulevard and 31st Street. They have a culinary program that hosts a restaurant named Bistro 31. I have heard of the place for years but due to their very limited schedule — I think they are only open regularly in the summer — I had never been able to check it out.

Well, the other day I took a friend there for lunch and must say was not overly impressed.

The place is charming and filled with light, the service attentive and eager to please. The students are in training so they are the ones cooking, serving and clearing the tables. There is a manager who was clearly in charge that came over to check on things so they are supervised, but the woman who waited on us was a little unsure of what the items on the menu were and which item looked like what.

I mention this because my guest ordered an entrée which she delivered and we both saw it was an appetizer but she was convinced we were wrong. After a brief discussion we had it whisked away thereupon the manager came by to smooth things over. He gave us the appetizer gratis as the entrée would now take another 10 minutes.

All that aside, I enjoyed my appetizer which was described as a tuna tataki roll. It came cut into small cylinders wrapped in thin slices of cucumber with some sort of sauce decorating the plate. It was lovely although a bit light on the tuna for my taste and there was a strange choice of garnish, a few fried wonton strips, something that didn't quite go with the delicate texture of the rolls. My friend ordered a salad that they described as thinly sliced squash with vinaigrette. It was Chayote which is a squash that one rarely sees in restaurants that was drizzled with dressing and was delicious.

For my entrée I had a chicken Caesar that was OK, a bit odd as they chose to serve the chicken on the edge of the plate in a pile so it wasn't dressed or tossed in with the salad which gave it little flavor. It seemed like quite a small portion for an entrée salad and I didn't think it was very good. After the mix-up with my friends' entrée arriving as an appetizer we both shared it — a thinly sliced serving of salmon carpaccio which was very well seasoned. When his entrée did arrive it was baked salmon served with mashed potatoes and garnished with a round of fried wonton skins and filled with some small mixture of herbs, it looked nice but it had already garnished my appetizer and his mistake appe-

Caesar Salad

Serves 6

Ingredients

1 head romaine lettuce, washed, torn into pieces, dried
1/4 baguette
olive oil
salt and pepper
1 egg
2 cloves garlic, peeled
juice of one lemon
1 Tb. Worcestershire sauce
3 anchovies
3/4 cup olive oil
1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
shaved parmesan, garnish

Procedure

1. Place the lettuce in a bowl and refrigerate.
2. Heat the oven to 400.
3. Cut the baguette into small cubes. Toss in a bowl with olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread out on a baking sheet and toast until golden, about 10 minutes. Remove and set aside.
4. Combine the egg, garlic, lemon, Worcestershire sauce and anchovies in a processor and process about 1 minute. Add oil slowly through the feed tube. Add cheese, salt and pepper to taste and process. Adjust seasoning.
5. Toss some of the dressing with the lettuce.
6. Arrange the lettuce on 4 plates. Sprinkle with the croutons, shaved cheese and extra dressing if desired.

For Chicken Caesar: Use 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breast, pounded thin and marinated in 1/4 cup olive oil, juice of one lemon, salt and pepper and grill for 4 minutes each side. Slice and serve over the salad.

tizer so I thought it could have been something else. His salmon was slightly overcooked and seemed a little bland.

I enjoyed sitting in the light filled dining room but I would say the food needs some re-working.

I think a great Caesar salad is a winning dish so here is my version which I believe to be better than most restaurants.

AMANDA CUSHMAN is a culinary educator who has cooked professionally for 25 years. She teaches privately for groups of two to 20 students. She has developed hundreds of recipes for cookbooks as well as food magazines and Web sites. She can be reached amandascooking@gmail.com.



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Record number of U.S. voters may cast paper ballots

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO Come November, more Americans might cast their ballots on paper than in any other election in U.S. history.

That wasn't supposed to happen. If everything had gone according to the government's \$3 billion plan to upgrade voting technology after the hanging-chad fiasco in Florida in 2000, that sentence would read "electronic machines" instead of paper.

Instead, thousands of touchscreen devices are collecting dust in warehouses from California to Florida, where officials worried about hackers and fed up with technical glitches have replaced the equipment with scanners that will read paper ballots. An Associated Press Election Research survey has found that 57 percent of the nation's registered voters live in counties that will be relying on paper ballots this fall.

The number of registered voters in jurisdictions that will rely mainly on electronic voting machines has fallen from a high of 44 percent during the 2006 midterm elections to 36 percent. (Much of the rest of the electorate consists of voters in New York state, who will be using old-fashioned pull-lever machines.)

In fact, because of growth in the electorate over the past decade, expansion of absentee voting rules, and expectations of high turnout for the contest between Barack Obama and John McCain, some experts are predicting a record number of Americans will cast ballots on paper this year.

"More people will be using computer-read paper ballots than at any other time in the nation's history," said Kimball Brace, head of Election Data Services, a consulting firm. "As you get more registered voters and more people in the pool, it exacerbates this bigger issues of paper."

In 2000, about 97 million registered voters lived in counties that relied on some form of paper ballot, Brace said. That figure is expected to top 100 million this fall, according to the AP data.

The return to paper creates extra stress on an already-strapped election system. Cash-poor counties will have to spend tens of millions of dollars printing ballots. Voters, many of them first-timers, may wind up confused by the ballot formats and frustrated by long lines of people waiting to use the scanners. And counting all the paper could hold up the results of the election.

"After 2000, there was a widespread revulsion about paper — everyone had the mental image of the guy cross-eyed looking at the punch-card ballot," said Doug Chapin, director of the watchdog organization Electionline. "But there's no silver bullet. You're trading one set of problems for another."

All states but Idaho have junked the punch-card ballots that caused so much trouble in Florida. But many plan to use paper ballots that require voters to fill in

ovals with a pen. The ballots are then read by digital scanners.

Unlike touchscreens, paper can't malfunction or be hacked into. But it has to be printed, shipped and securely stored before and after Election Day. Counties already paying to warehouse electronic machines will have to buy reams of card stock, print extras in multiple languages, pay for delivery and eventually destroy the unused ballots.

In counties that are on their third system in three presidential contests, officials are retraining workers in how to use the equipment and demonstrate it to voters. Broward County, Fla., which was caught in the punch-card maelstrom in 2000, has produced guides showing voters how to feed their paper ballots into the scanners.

Other counties making the switch, including some of California's largest, are planning to collect ballots at polling places and pay workers overtime to feed them into industrial-size scanners at central offices.

None of that is likely to prevent voters from making other sorts of mistakes, such as filling in the wrong oval or using the wrong color pen.

"A lot of officials are in damage-control mode because they're going to try to limit the problems of switching to paper," said Mike Alvarez, an expert in voting technology at Caltech in Pasadena. "You will have ballots not showing up, being printed wrong, the litany of mistakes voters make with these ballots, and then there's incredible pressure in a crowded polling place for people who are trying to make their decision."

As Brace put it: "Paper is traditionally the device that the public is really good at screwing up."

In 2000, about 61 percent of registered voters lived in counties that relied on some form of paper ballot, whether punch-cards or fill-in-the-oval forms, according to Election Data Systems. Only 13 percent of voters lived in counties that used touchscreens or other e-voting devices; the rest used pull-lever machines.

With fewer than 100 days until Nov. 4, the first concern for many election officials is making sure they will be able to get all their ballots printed between the time the national, state and local slates have been selected and Election Day.

California, the nation's biggest electoral prize, with more than 16 million people registered to vote, abruptly outlawed most electronic machines last summer, creating a potential crunch in the highly specialized ballot-printing industry. San Diego contracted with a Washington state company after local businesses said they couldn't produce the 3.5 million extra ballots in the two-month window.

Many paper ballots may wind up in the shredder.

Last week, Ohio's secretary of state ordered all 53 counties using electronic machines to print paper ballots to accommodate voters in November who opt out of e-voting. A similar order during the primary resulted in the pulping of more than a million unused ballots after only 14,484 voters asked for them.

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Anti-China protesters gather in San Francisco

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Two days before the opening ceremony of the Olympic games in Beijing, two dozen activists gathered outside the Chinese consulate in San Francisco to protest China's human rights record in Tibet.

Two women dressed in black staged mock hangings from the roof of the building Wednesday morning, holding banners that said, "Stop the Killing in Tibet" while other protesters from Students for a Free Tibet and the Tibetan Youth Congress waved signs.

One of the demonstrators fell about 15 feet to a balcony below, from where she was rescued by firefighters.

Four fire trucks and several police cars blocked the streets surrounding the consulate as the demonstrator, Nyendak Wangden, 22, of San Francisco, was lowered in a gurney using an escape ladder.

"She didn't suffer any life-threatening injuries," said Mindy Talmidge, spokeswoman for the fire department, adding that Wangden was taken to the trauma center at San Francisco General Hospital.

Calls to the Chinese Consulate were not immediately returned. San Francisco police said they were investigating the incident, but had no immediate comments.

Protesters were shaken by the fall.

"We were here to do something nonviolent, and now this," said Tenzin Khando, 22, of Salt Lake City. She wiped away tears as she watched firefighters load Wangden into one

of their trucks.

China's human rights record and its policies in Tibet have been a flash point for protests in China and around the world, as activists used the Olympic torch's passage after it left Greece on March 24 to highlight their causes.

Demonstrations and discussions about the issue are continuing in the days leading up to the game's opening ceremony Aug. 8.

World leaders are weighing China's economic might against its human rights record as they decide whether to attend the celebration. Protesters remain intent on turning the event into a public relations disaster for the host country.

Also Wednesday, a half-dozen people chained themselves to the front gate of the Chinese embassy in Ottawa, Canada, to protest human rights abuses in Tibet.

And in the last week, 56 monks, nuns and other Tibetan exiles were detained by Indian police trying to cross into China to protest, and Italian government officials caused an uproar with their suggestion that athletes protest China's human rights policies with symbolic gestures.

In Germany, a water polo player donned orange robes characteristic of Tibetan monks, then posed with other German athletes for a photograph in which their faces were covered by those of pictures of jailed Chinese dissidents.

China, once slow to address criticism, has been condemning the demonstrations as unfair attacks aimed at tarnishing the Olympic games.

Grand jury indicts three in bombing

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO Three people have been indicted on federal charges of using a weapon of mass destruction to bomb a federal courthouse and a FedEx building, authorities said Wednesday.

A grand jury returned the indictment Tuesday, alleging Rachelle Carlock, Ella Louise Sanders and Eric Reginald Robinson planted bombs at the downtown courthouse and a FedEx distribution center in San Diego.

U.S. Attorney Karen P. Hewitt would not comment on a possible motive for the bombings, saying only that the investigation was continuing. It was unclear whether others were involved or how the three people knew each other.

The courthouse explosion on May 4 spread nails and shrapnel as far as two blocks, and authorities almost immediately began looking into whether it was related to the April 25 FedEx bombing. No one was injured in either bombing, which occurred during early morning hours.

Using surveillance video from outside the courthouse, federal investigators began piecing together evidence in the courthouse bombing and later tracked the explosive powder that was used in the bombs to a gun shop in El Cajon, said Keith Slotter, special agent in charge of the FBI's San Diego office.

"Thankfully, no one was injured; but, make no mistake, the indictment sends a clear message: anyone who attempts to harm or even threaten the citizens of this community will be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Slotter said.

Carlock, Sanders and Robinson, all of San Diego, also were indicted on charges of conspiracy to use of a weapon of mass destruction, a terrorism-related statute, conspiracy to commit malicious damage, possession of a destructive device and other charges.

If convicted of using or conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction, they face mandatory sentences of life in prison.

Robinson, 43, was arrested Tuesday at a residence in San Diego. He was scheduled to be arraigned later Wednesday in federal court in El Centro where the case has been moved because many of the judges in San Diego had offices in the building that was targeted, Hewitt said.

Carlock, 31, was initially arrested and charged in May on an eight-count complaint charging use of false identification to obtain explosive materials, being a felon in possession of explosive materials and fraud. Carlock has a previous 1999 armed robbery conviction.

Sanders, who is at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla on unrelated state charges, also faces charges of being a felon in possession of explosive materials. Sanders, 59, has a 2004 felony drug conviction. She was expected to be arraigned in El Centro at a later date.

It was not immediately known whether any of the accused had attorneys.

The indictment alleges that the three practiced making bombs and exploding them before ever planting them at the courthouse and FedEx buildings. It also alleges that a little more than a week after the courthouse bombing, Carlock attempted to buy more explosive material.

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A DAY AT THE FARMERS' MARKET



Photos by Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

GETTING FRESH: Tomatoes from Hugo Gomez' Mukin Ranch are offered up for market patrons to taste. He has been coming to the Santa Monica Farmers' Market for the past 20 years. (above) Alison McGraw specializes in mushrooms. Most of her stock comes from California, but she has a few shipped in from Japan. (left) Flavored honey sticks are among the sweeter items available at the market. (right) Organic produce is a major draw. Many of the vendors specialize in this growing segment of the produce industry.



Photo courtesy Rocky Dawuni

SOUL WITH A MESSAGE: Afro pop stars Oliver 'Tuku' Mtukudzi of Zimbabwe and Rocky Dawuni (above) of Ghana play the Twilight Dance Series tonight at the Santa Monica Pier.

Stars of Ghana, Zimbabwe collaborate on the pier

FROM CONCERT PAGE 1

the concert focuses on a current issue such as clean water and sanitation and Guinea worm infestations, and brings in audiences of around 30,000 people.

In June 2007, Dawuni joined Elle Macpherson in a trip to Ghana for Product (RED) to announce that the country would be the recipient of the third Global Fund (RED) grant, created to help diminish HIV/AIDS-related illness and death in countries most affected.

"Artists have an unusual position to be at the apex of gatherings. We have the ability to communicate issues better," he said.

Mtukudzi, too, has integrated his music with the social and political changes of his home country of Zimbabwe. He and his band, the Black Spirits, performed in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Swaziland and South Africa. He also acted in a film exploring Zimbabwean women's rights and wrote and directed the play "Was My Child," which tackled the issue of street children in Zimbabwe.

The band garnered controversy with the release of its 2000 album "Bvuma — Tolerance" when several of their tracks were adopted by Zimbabwean opposition parties as soundtracks to their causes. Mtukudzi, however, insisted that his band's music transcends whatever political climates surrounds it.

"I'm not a politician," he said. "I deliver messages of hope, write songs that work yesterday and tomorrow. They always serve the same purpose."

He is also serious about the fun that should reside in music, no matter what commentary is attached. Both Dawuni and Mtukudzi agreed that audiences expecting to witness a somber lecture about African social and political crises tonight on the pier will be sorely disappointed.

"It's dance music. It's music to enjoy," Mtukudzi said.

Dawuni brings his message of music to Santa Monicans every Thursday night with his Afro Funke night at Zanzibar nightclub on Fifth Street. The popular event, which has run for the past five years, is a melting pot of

African sounds and cultural influences.

"It was born out of living here and feeling that the ante could be upped a little," he said of the weekly event. "I also felt that there wasn't a lot of cultural integration. Hip-hop clubs were strictly hip-hop, Jamaican clubs were strictly Jamaican. Afro Funke is based on the experience of African music in every culture."

A few years ago, the crowd at Zanzibar was surprised by a special musical guest. Stevie Wonder, who performed with Dawuni at the International Conference Center in Accra, joined him on-stage at Afro Funke to the delight of the audience.

"Being between these two worlds (of Ghana and the U.S.), I serve as a bridge between the people of Africa and the people of the U.S.," Dawuni said.

Dawuni and Mtukudzi have never performed together before, but both musicians expressed excitement at the upcoming collaboration.

"We haven't crossed paths but I've been very aware of his music and right now Zimbabwe is in the news a lot — I feel it's a natural thing to come together," Dawuni said.

Mtukudzi, who is currently in the midst of a U.S. tour, agreed.

"It's always healthy for artists to collaborate because we all learn from each other."

Like many Twilight Dance Series performers, Dawuni and Mtukudzi face the challenge of performing in front of new audiences after years of playing worldwide for loyal fans. Both artists, however, said that the power of their music will reach even those who have never heard of them.

"Music is a feeling," Mtukudzi said. "People can identify without understanding a single word."

Although Dawuni is a seasoned veteran in terms of performing in the area, he still embraces the challenge of facing a new crowd tonight.

"The show provides an opportunity for people to experience what I'm about," he said. "It's about convincing them that we play music that transcends."

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Lease extension makes it easier for nonprofits to secure financing

FROM PROJECT PAGE 1

Concerns with the financing first arose earlier this year when a new legislation banning future commercial development on the VA, as well as enhanced-used leases, was enacted. The longer-term leases were typically used in the sale of property, but also by homeless service providers.

"When they proposed this at 40 years, it meant that the principal source of financing for this wasn't available," Councilmember Bobby Shriver, one of the project's main supporters, said. "It's finally financable."

Tim Cantwell, one of the principals of Cloudbreak Development, which focuses on special needs housing for homeless veterans, said the change to the lease agreement will open up additional financing mechanisms that would not have been available if it remained at 40 years.

Cloudbreak Development, which operates under parent company Cantwell-Anderson, could be interested in the building rehabilitation aspect of the project, having previously worked on the Westside Residence Hall, which provides 515 beds for homeless veterans, and the Villages at Cabrillo, a 26-acre program in



IT'S FINALLY FINANCABLE."

Bobby Shriver
Councilmember

Long Beach.

The U.S. Veterans Initiative, a nonprofit organization that works with homeless and at-risk vets, has expressed interest in the program, having attended a site visit on the campus for potential providers last month.

The organization is thinking of partnering with a developer for the project, which is the course most non-profits take for such a large-scale project.

While the estimate for rehabilitation has yet to be determined, Dwight Radcliffe, the CEO and president of U.S. Veterans Initiative, suspects it could exceed \$13 million, given the necessary earthquake retrofit and the extra sensitivity involved for the historic properties.

"There's significant abatement issues," Radcliffe said. "It's a huge project."

melodyh@smdp.com

Cyclist expects to complete statewide trip next month

FROM AWARENESS PAGE 3

The 65-year-old departed for his trek on July 24, traveling about 40 miles every day. He stopped in Santa Monica on Wednesday and is expected to depart this morning.

A cross-country bike trip was something Junge always aspired to fulfill, but the bubble burst when the COPD diagnosis came in 2002.

The disease is the fourth leading cause of death in the country, the condition often leading those afflicted to experience depression due to some of the symptoms, which can include muscle weakness, breathing difficulties and fatigue.

Junge experienced a bout of depression following his operation, finding the light after he started working out at the YMCA and got back into his regular workout habit.

"I began to think about what I always wanted to do, which was bike across the country," he said.

He secured San Diego-based SeQual Technology, which produces oxygen containers, as a sponsor and began a series of long-distance trips, starting a few years ago with a 3,500 mile expedition along the Lincoln Highway.

He followed up in 2006 with a 1,700 mile trip from New York City to New Finland in Canada, and last year completed a 1,250 mile ride from San Francisco to Vancouver, his oxygen tank providing the fuel, his wife — who drives alongside — providing the moral support.

"We were dealt a different hand," his wife, Ardath Junge, said of the disease. "When that



WE TURNED IT INTO SOMETHING THAT BECAME BIGGER THAN OURSELVES."

Ardath Junge
Wife of cyclist

happens, you just have to take what you got and do the best you can."

The ride down California is among the most diverse of his cycling trips, from the green scenery up north to the dry brush in the south.

"It's like going from one country to the next," Junge said. "In a span of 10 minutes, I came from a hot ranch country with grass that was cured brown and smelled of burnt grass, to 10 minutes later being near the sea-side in a fog."

The trip so far has been without complications, Junge only getting off his bike unexpectedly once to walk up a steep hill, one that he could not have endured even with a pair of healthy lungs.

Junge expects to finish the trip in a few days, a touch of the gate at the border concluding the journey.

"We turned it into something that became bigger than ourselves," Ardath Junge, said. "It's something that can set an example for other people on oxygen."

melodyh@smdp.com



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

TAKING HIS BEST SHOT: Brandon Valencia, 5, tries to hit a target and dunk Santa Monica Police Officer Francisco Franco during the 25th Annual National Night Out Block Party Tuesday. With a little assistance, Valencia was able to soak Franco.

National Night Out about fostering strong community relationships

FROM NIGHT OUT PAGE 1

10 years.

The event is aimed at promoting strong community-police relationships, an opportunity to recognize the law enforcement authorities who put their lives at risk and thank residents for their part in promoting public safety.

While the national event focuses on "taking back the streets," locally, where crime is the lowest it's been since the 1950s, the theme was a bit different.

"This is a way of showing the community what our assets are and what we have to protect the community," Chief Tim Jackman said, motioning to the variety of booths showcasing the different elements of the police and fire departments. "We want to show how the different groups are connected."

One of the newer programs highlighted was the Neighborhood Resource Officers, a community policing plan which was unveiled earlier this year.

"(NRO) is an outreach effort, just like National Night Out," Sgt. Jaime Hernandez, who manages the program, said. "We are reaching out to the community, we are all in this together."

The party this year took on a carnival theme, which included a dunk tank, rock climbing wall and moonwalk. The event also featured a martial arts demonstration by the Police Activities League, and a folklorico dance group.

In the end, the department estimates between 800 to 1,000 people showed up this year, consuming more than 1,000 hot dogs, 600 juice boxes and 50, 2-liter soda bottles.

The event was a first for many people.

Dolores Collier, whose grandson participates in PAL programs, came



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

TAKING A PUNCH: Boxing coach Rudy Lopez (left) with the Police Activities League works with student Edgar Perez at the 25th Annual National Night Out Block Party sponsored by the Santa Monica Police and Fire departments. Perez and his sister practice their skills at a boxing ring located at Virginia Avenue Park's Teen Center.

out to the event for the first time this year, bringing her neighbor, Isabel Gonzalez.

The two Santa Monicans, whose family members are officers in other police departments, spent the evening catching up with old friends, enjoying the festive ambiance on a cool summer night.

"Once a year for this is not enough," Collier said as she kept a watchful eye on her grandson as he climbed a fire truck.

They stopped to catch the giant purple octopus mascot from Pacific Park, Collier telling her toddler granddaughter to say hello to the towering sea creature.

"This is great for the community," Gonzalez. "It's great for the neighbors."

The event was also prime campaigning ground for some of the candidates running for local elected office in November. Among those collecting signatures was Councilmember Bobby Shriver, who is running for re-election.

The party served as a large-scale reunion, bringing old neighbors together, connecting new residents with the greater community.

Peter Epstein, a member of the PAL board of directors, has attended the event for the past several years. He spent the majority of the evening visiting with friends.

"To me, this is an event where I can see people whom I haven't seen in a long time," Epstein said.

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Voters To Get Transportation Sales Tax Measure
A ½-cent sales tax to finance an array of transportation projects throughout the county is heading for this November's ballot. If approved, the new tax would provide some \$40 billion over 30 years for dozens of street and highway improvements and new public transit projects in LA County.

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Public Hearing On Metro Service August 13
Proposed bus service changes will be presented at a Metro Westside/Central Governance Council public hearing on Wednesday, August 13 at 5pm at La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. For information, search "Metro Westside/Central" at metro.net.

M Metro

If you'd like to know more, please call us at 1.800.464.2111, or visit metro.net.

Retailers amp up promotions for back-to-school

BY MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Retailers preparing for a difficult back-to-school season are getting creative in their attempts to entice shoppers into the stores — aggressively introducing new products, slashing prices and amping up marketing in the battle for parents' bucks.

But analysts say their efforts will likely make little difference to consumers pressured by rising costs, who will likely stick to shopping at discounters — particularly as tax-rebate checks dry up and they aren't finding “must-have” fashion items in the stores.

“It will probably be one of the two or three most disappointing back-to-school seasons this decade,” said retail consultant Burt Flickinger III, managing director of Strategic Research Group. “It will be very promotional. Consumers are more cash- and credit-constrained than any other time in U.S. history.”

Just how skittish shoppers are feeling will be seen Thursday when many retailers report their July sales for stores open at least a year. A weak back-to-school season may signal trouble for the all-important holiday season, which begins not long afterward.

But while consumers may not see a new backpack or pair of jeans as essential this year, retailers are trying whatever they can — slashing prices of selected items, offering cash back or discounts on additional items, running some promotions at cer-

tain times of day.

“We assume it's going to be a very difficult customer environment so from a sales and promotions standpoint we'll be extremely competitive,” said Mike Boylson, chief marketing officer at J.C. Penney Co.

The department store chain is also introducing six new lines aimed at teens and young adults during the season, compared with last year, when it introduced only one.

Patricia Edwards, an investment manager at Wentworth Hauser and Violich in Seattle, said the atmosphere was the most promotional she has seen in five or six years.

“Frankly, it smacks a little bit of desperation to me,” she said. In terms of department stores such as J.C. Penney or Kohl's Corp., “the problem right now is traffic,” Edwards said. “Wal-Mart has a captive audience because of the food they sell. People are already there so it's a little easier for them.”

That's the case for Michelle Portillo, a public relations manager at National CineMedia in Centennial, Colo., and the mother of an 8-year-old and 4-year-old, who says she is “dreading” the back-to-school season.

“I just don't have the disposable income I had last year” because of rising costs, she said. For her daughter who is entering third grade, Portillo bought a dress for the first day of school but plans to hold off on buying any more clothes.

“I will purchase a new backpack from

Wal-Mart with all her school supplies, but nothing else will be new at the beginning of the school year,” she said.

Another problem experts cite is a lack of “must-have” fashion trends. Old favorites such as jeans and T-shirts are likely to be among the biggest sellers.

“There's an absence of anything new in fashion,” said Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst at NPD Group.

To get people past that thinking, retailers are going beyond any usual price cuts. Gap Inc. is expanding its “friends and family” discount program. American Eagle Outfitters Inc. is offering a free T-shirt to anyone who even tries on a pair of their jeans.

Some stores are also offering to cover the taxes on people's purchases. American Eagle is offering a discount to Florida shoppers, since their “tax-free” shopping week was canceled this year. Circuit City Stores Inc. plans to absorb the cost of state and local sales taxes for purchases at its California stores during two days in August.

Retailers are also changing their marketing to focus more squarely on prices. Last year, Staples Inc. emphasized its wide variety of products in its back-to-school marketing. Now it's offering free or nearly free items like pencil holders for a penny. In one ad, a woman attempts to use Staples' “Easy” button at a gas pump in an attempt to lower the \$92.50 price for filling her tank, but the button doesn't work. A voiceover informs her the “Easy” button only works to lower prices at Staples.

“We recognized pretty early on the economic environment had taken a bit of a shift,” said Teresa Herd, Staples' vice president and creative director. “We looked at what people are experiencing: pain at the pump, pain when we go to the grocery store.”

Office Depot Inc.'s promotions — free products and items like pencil sharpeners and rulers for a penny — are similar to previous years, but this year the difference is the scope and assortment. New items are offered each week until Sept. 1.

Despite the glut of promotions, analysts says shoppers are likely to flock to discounters known year-round for low prices such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp., warehouse clubs like Sam's Club and Costco Wholesale Corp.

Those stores have benefited as consumers trade down amid rising living costs and consolidate shopping trips to save money on gas. The retail sales reports due out tomorrow are expected to show even a bigger disparity between them and mall-based clothing stores.

But the discounters are joining the fray as well. Sam's Club is offering a \$15 gift certificate to college students who sign up. Walmart.com is chasing the same market, offering free shipping on many items and a special online gift card promotion.

In the end, Edwards said, while some retailers may be disappointed with back-to-school results, “one way or another, children will be clothed and have crayons and notebooks for back-to-school, because they have to.”

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica would like to thank those who helped make our inaugural Texas Hold Em' Poker Tournament fundraiser a success



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At Doggyspace, social networking goes to the dogs

BY MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. Cici confesses on her Web page that she likes to greet everyone by licking their feet. Dolce admits to being a mamma's boy. And Jake and Tycho posted a video that chronicles their adventures of rolling around on their backs.

It's not on Facebook or MySpace, but the canine equivalent — Doggyspace.com.

A crossbreed between MySpace and YouTube, Doggyspace allows dog owners from all over the world to come together, create profiles, and share photos and videos of their pups.

The Virginia-based site is part of a growing trend of niche, or content-focused, social networking sites that target interest groups looking to connect with like-minded people.

"It's not so much social networking, it's having a social experience around things that we care about, so pets are just such a great example of that," said Fred Stutzman, an Internet researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Stutzman said many people are using more general social networking sites but also signing up for sites like Doggyspace that offer a more focused experience that can provide help and support on specific issues and go beyond traditional message boards.

"Social networks like Facebook and MySpace are sort of about you and your friends and these very direct connections, but there's all sorts of other types of connections," Stutzman said.

Since launching in mid-July, Doggyspace has logged more than 700 registered, active user profiles — 73 percent of them created by females, said Levi Thornton, founder of the site and president of web development firm Mad Frog Productions in Fredericksburg, Va. He projects that Doggyspace will have more than two million accounts by the end of the year.

"There's a lot of people out there with their dogs and we're busy and we're all working in the office all day long and this is a way for us to bring our pets with us," said Thornton, who has a Yorkie named Nokie and a pit bull named Ein.

Standard accounts for the site are free, but later this year Doggyspace plans to offer

ON THE NET

■ Doggyspace:
<http://www.doggyspace.com>

premium accounts for a small fee that will give users extra features. A portion of that fee will go to an animal charity of the members' choice.

Thornton, 30, said the site is a place for pet owners to share stories or learn about a specific breed. It can also help people form friendships based on a love of dogs, or connect people interested in finding a play date for their dog.

Connie Mandrozios found the site while searching for information for her 12-year-old golden retriever, Boomer, who has cancer. She received an outpouring of support from other dog owners with similar experiences and some told her they "have their paws crossed" for Boomer.

Mandrozios, 36, ended up spending more time on the site, creating profiles for Boomer as well as his "sisters" — a pit bull mix named Darla and another mixed breed named Violet.

"It's been a goofy thing to do at the end of the day when you get home from work and you just want to talk to somebody in your dog's voice and say, 'hey, how was your day? Woof,'" said Mandrozios, who lives in Bridgeport, Conn. and sometimes uses her dogs in her job as a behaviorist.

Most of the Doggyspace profiles include messages from other doggy "friends."

One profile is for a chocolate Labrador retriever named Guinness, who said her mom "couldn't resist naming me after her favorite beverage" and said she is shy around other dogs and scared of small, furry creatures because she lives with a "VERY MEAN CAT."

Postings on Guinness' profile include a message from Chico, a Chihuahua mix who offered to help with the shyness problem.

Dominique Cecchetti, a 20-year-old student from Pittsburgh, created a profile to share photos of her 12-year-old Maltese named Darren, who has more than 125 friends on the site.

For Cecchetti and other users, the site is very much a dog and owner effort: "My dog sits near the computer while I do the work for him," Cecchetti said in an e-mail.

Average ER waiting time nears an hour, CDC says

BY MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA The average time that hospital emergency rooms patients wait to see a doctor has grown from about 38 minutes to almost an hour over the past decade, according to new federal statistics released Wednesday.

The increase is due to supply and demand, said Dr. Stephen Pitts, the lead author of the report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There are more people arriving at the ERs. And there are fewer ERs," said Pitts, an associate professor of emergency medicine at Atlanta's Emory University.

Overall, about 119 million visits were made to U.S. emergency rooms in 2006, up from 90 million in 1996 — a 32 percent increase. Meanwhile, the number of hospital emergency departments dropped to fewer than 4,600, from nearly 4,900, according to American Hospital Association statistics.

Another reason for crowding is patients who are admitted to the hospital end up waiting in the ER because of the limited number of hospital beds, Pitts added.

A shortage of surgical specialists also contributes. So, too, does the difficulty many patients have in getting appointment to doctor's offices — which causes some to turn to emergency departments, experts said.


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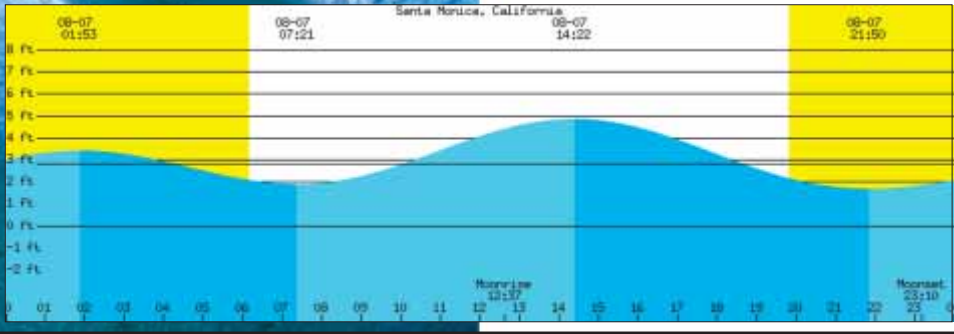
Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

The south swell is expected to begin its descent as lagging, 13-second periods arrive. Waist to chest seems like a reasonable call for south facing breaks. Wind swell is looking minimal, so not much is expected at the west facing breaks, perhaps knee high or so. Tide is moderate throughout the AM. Winds should be light in the AM, then reach 15 mph by noon or early afternoon.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

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BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

July 29, 2008

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 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 -- 41 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by

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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 Closures and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Alises creeks	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Franciscan 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	D	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Selkirk Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Pueco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Ponce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18048 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tumbas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset 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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Southern California once again favorite in Pac-10

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The Pac-10 has long been a conference known for its talented quarterbacks and high-powered offenses.

That's what makes the uncertainty at quarterback so many teams are facing at the start of fall practice so unsettling to many teams. Only Arizona State, Arizona and Washington opened fall practice with returning starters at quarterback entrenched in their jobs.

Everyone else is either breaking in a new starter such as Mark Sanchez at Southern California, challenging a former one like the competition between Nate Longshore and Kevin Riley at California, or hoping a young one will take the job like Nate Costa at Oregon.

"I would say that the team with the experience at quarterback probably has the lead going in because the experience at that position is so important," Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "When you're breaking in a new quarterback, there's always a growing process."

USC figures to be an exception to that rule.

The Trojans have done well with first-year starters at quarterback in the past under Pete Carroll, winning a share of the national title with Matt Leinart in 2003 and finishing fourth overall in the country with John David Booty in 2006.

Sanchez has made only three career starts, winning two of them while Booty was hurt last season, and has thrown just seven touchdown passes to six interceptions.

But he has the most talented roster in the

league surrounding him, including linebacker Rey Mauluga, running back Joe McKnight, and receiver Patrick Turner, and the confidence of his teammates.

"He's a playmaker from the quarterback position," USC linebacker Brian Cushing said. "Mark will be a lot better this year. He knows it's his time. The year of maturity where he's had a little experience means a lot."

The team best positioned to challenge the Trojans this season could be Arizona State because of the experience of Rudy Carpenter at quarterback.

Carpenter has made 31 straight starts for the Sun Devils, throwing 25 touchdown passes last season to help Arizona State tie the Trojans for the regular season title.

"You can have a guy that's very talented, and there are a lot of them in our league, and a lot of new ones in our league that are going to be playing, but there's nothing like having that experience on the football field," Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson said. "With Rudy coming back, I feel very good about that aspect of it. Not only has he played a lot. He's been very successful."

Washington coach Tyrone Willingham and Arizona coach Mike Stoops have similar feelings about their own returning starters in Huskies sophomore Jake Locker and Wildcats senior Willie Tuitama.

The rest of the teams know it will be a growing process at quarterback.

"You've got to have support people because the quarterback can't do it on their own," Oregon coach Mike Bellotti said. "It's a dogfight and you have to protect your players and be healthy."

SUMMER OLYMPICS

U.S. basketball team gets big welcome

BY AARON BEARD

AP Sports Writer

BEIJING Mike Krzyzewski could feel anticipation build as the plane carrying the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team neared Beijing.

"I was sitting next to Jerry (Colangelo) and said, 'You know, we've waited three years to get off this plane and do this,'" the coach said Wednesday, shortly after the team arrived for the Summer Games. "I think we're prepared, and while we're here we need to prepare more."

With their Olympics opener scheduled for Sunday against the host Chinese, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and the rest of the team arrived amid near pandemonium after fans waited hours for a glimpse of their basketball heroes. Later, the players held a team meeting before deciding to head to the Olympic village to take in the sights.

"It's a little overwhelming that it's really here — the reality that we're here," said Colangelo, the managing director of USA Basketball.

Krzyzewski, Duke's Hall of Fame coach who was appointed to lead the men's senior national team in 2005, is making his first visit to Beijing.

The U.S. team trained in Macao before playing Turkey and Lithuania, then headed to Shanghai to play Russia before closing the exhibition schedule against Australia there Tuesday night.

"We're honored we're playing in China," Krzyzewski said after attending the ceremonial opening of the 24 Hour Fitness-sponsored strength and conditioning facility at the U.S. training center at Beijing Normal University. "We've been treated with the greatest amount of respect and friendliness. We could not have been treated better. I know we'll get the same treatment in Beijing. The Chinese people love basketball and we're excited we're playing the first game against China."

That excitement was on display when the U.S. team arrived at Beijing's airport earlier Wednesday. Dozens of fans, most wielding cell phones or digital cameras, mounted a spiked iron fence to get a closer look, many shouting "Kou-bi-er" — the local rendering of Bryant's name — in hopes of getting his attention.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard waved and smiled, looking pleased and vaguely amused by the display. Players left Beijing's airport by a side door and boarded a bus in a secure VIP area before driving into the city.

"I try to see American players every time they come to China, but this time is the most special because of the Olympics," said Manny Chen, a spikey-haired college student dressed in a USA jersey with Bryant's name it.

Krzyzewski said the team is planning a trip to see the Great Wall, and several players have said they want to go to other Olympic events to support U.S. athletes.

MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50	Brideshead Revisited (PG-13) 1hr 40min 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00
The Princess of Nebraska (NR) 1hr 17min & Chinese Box 7:30	Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55	Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min 12:20, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13) 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:25	Swing Vote (PG-13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15	Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:50, 3:00, 5:05, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min 1:15, 2:25, 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:45, 10:20	The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min 10:50, 11:50, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:40, 12:30am
The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min 4:20, 7:20, 10:30
Wanted (R) 1hr 48min 4:40, 10:10	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Get Smart (PG-13) 1hr 50min 11:00am, 1:40
Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:50, 7:20	American Teen (PG-13) 1hr 41min 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00	Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:10am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55	

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ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Allow others to step forward and let you know what they want and think. Though some might feel as if this attitude is too passive, you will learn a lot more than if charging as only a Ram can! Tonight: Be a duo.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ How you deal with others could change dramatically. Listen to news, even if it means you might need to rethink your position or learn to think differently. You might want to understand what makes another person tick. Tonight: Zoom in and get what you want.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Others run with the ball, and being the Bull, you might be too slow to catch up! You will think and decide before running. Let others have their way. You might be stunned by what comes down the path. Say "yes" to an offer or invitation. Tonight: So many options.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You smile, and someone thinks and acts differently. Investigate what is going on, and be willing to act on your feelings. A money matter could change when you understand what is happening. Tonight: All grins.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Wherever you turn, you find more to be done. That constant popping of new demands could be tiring and needs to be moderated. Do you say "yes" too much? You answer that question after you leave work. Tonight: Put up your feet.	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes. Ask needed questions, and get to the bottom of a problem. Realize that you could be overreacting. Watch your perspective transform. Tonight: Vanish while you still can.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ With your creativity budding, you might want to slow down and evaluate recent choices, when perhaps you felt more limited. You might not have not looked at all the possibilities. Tonight: Act as if you do not have a care in the world.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Zoom in on what you want. A gentle or kind act could go far. Be willing to break your pattern and do something very different. Listen carefully to what is going on with a friend. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Family and personal concerns could have your mind drifting. You can do nearly anything, and make it happen. Loosen up with your dealings, with the understanding that being open and receptive will work better. Tonight: Happy to be home.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your ability to understand others could come forward in a most unexpected manner. You are lively, happy and full of get-up-and-go. Others easily will defer when you make this type of strong presentation. Tonight: A must appearance.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Communicate in the freshest style possible. You could be overwhelmed by what you are hearing. Investigate what is happening behind the scenes with a family member; he or she might not feel like talking. Tonight: Swap war stories with a friend.	PISCES (Feb 19- April 20) ★★★ Seek out for new information. Always be willing to incorporate new and different types of thinking. You might need to rethink a personal decision or go in a new direction; now is the moment to be resourceful. Tonight: Break past previous restrictions.

Happy birthday

This year, you will make a difference. Your emphasis might be more on the personal level. You will want and will work toward increased security and well-being. You could wonder why you need to do things a certain way. Think in terms of getting along with others more than manifesting a very strong ego. Others appreciate that you reveal more vulnerability. If you are single, check out someone you meet very carefully. This person might not be everything he or she says. If you are attached, the two of you might add onto your home or remodel. Your focus will be your interpersonal relationship. SCORPIO is intense and can be an anchor.

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

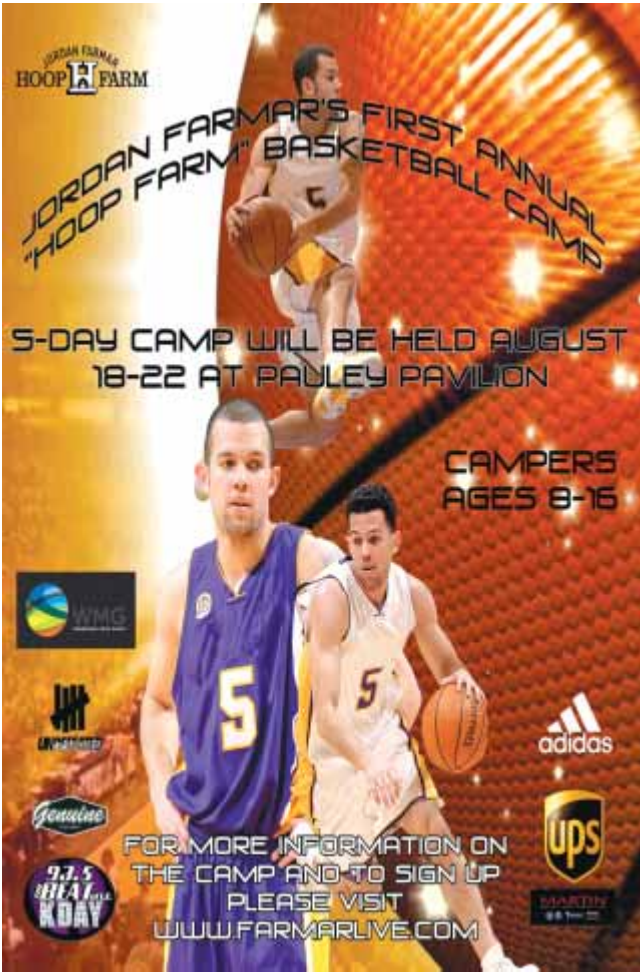
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Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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

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

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

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8/7

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MAY WE GET YOU SOME MARGARITAS?

SALTED OR UNSALTED?

FEINSTEIN & BORUS

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

8/7

WHO IS BOYD TALKING TO?

SOME GUY HE JUST MET.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HITTING IT OFF.

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

BOYD ISN'T SIGNALING ME TO COME UP AND KISS HIM ON THE LIPS.

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By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

8-07

BWAHAHAH! I FINALLY GOT MY HANDS ON THE 100-GIGABYTE G-PHONE!

"I CAMPED OUT IN FRONT OF THE STORE TO BE FIRST TO GET IT."

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ELECTRONICS

I SEE THEY'VE ANNOUNCED A 150-GIGABYTE VERSION OF THE G-PHONE...

MEGA ELECTRONICS

STORE HOURS

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By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS, LIZ!

YOU'RE WELCOME, JON

JPM DAVIS 8-7

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THEY WERE GREAT

"WERE"? WERE

BURP

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

THOSE CATS ARE GOING TO EAT ME ALIVE!

8/7

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE THEM BACK THEIR CATNIP?

I ATE IT ALL.

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HOW MUCH SURGERY WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A PUG?

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Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Run to
- 5 "— Rouge"
- 11 Eyeball
- 12 Regal fur
- 13 Steel ingredient
- 14 Tack on
- 15 Asian capital
- 17 Boxer, e.g.
- 18 Bad lighting?
- 22 By the way
- 24 First Indian prime minister
- 25 Sunday seat
- 26 Bit for a bay
- 27 Scorch
- 30 Sailing boats
- 32 Moved slowly
- 33 Plus
- 34 Clock sound
- 38 Cinco de Mayo event
- 41 Actor McGregor
- 42 In cahoots
- 43 "Do — others ..."
- 44 Alternative to curtains

45 "You there!"

DOWN

- 1 Quarter, e.g.
- 2 Story monster
- 3 Economic declines
- 4 Sinew
- 5 Repast
- 6 Annie, for one
- 7 Strike caller
- 8 Fiction
- 9 Travel stop
- 10 Homer's neighbor
- 16 Mayo ingredient

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

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Confrontations
- 20 Test type
- 21 Squirrel's cache
- 22 Church part
- 23 Luke's sister
- 28 Arrives
- 29 Ready for print
- 30 Shaggy beast
- 31 Pay to play
- 35 Heels
- 36 "Memory" musical
- 37 Macramé bit
- 38 Like the Beatles
- 39 Under the weather
- 40 Quarter-back Manning

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

DAILY LOTTERY



9 21 36 38 55
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$45M



1 3 6 12 47
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$7M



1 2 12 22 30



MIDDAY: 0 1 5
EVENING: 5 9 0



1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:49.44

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In Augusta, Maine, in June, Marshall Crandall IV, 39, was sentenced to serve nine months in jail for violating a domestic protection order by reuniting with his girlfriend, even though the woman pleaded with the judge, arguing that the altercations were mutual and that it could just have well been she who was charged with assault that night. Said she, "I picked him up three or four times and slammed him on the ground."

■ Scott Sullivan, 35, was arrested in Van Buren, Ark., in June and charged with kidnapping and assaulting his mother. He told police that he got upset when he learned that her dog had killed his pet skunk.

■ Not Ready for Prime Time: According to police in Canton, Mich., Joseph Webster, 54, walked into a Comerica bank in June, gave the teller a robbery note and claimed he had a bomb strapped to his body. A nearby customer overheard, pulled out his licensed 9 mm handgun and told Webster: "You are not robbing this bank." Webster insisted: "But I have a bomb." The customer: "I don't care." Webster then quietly sat down in a chair, where he remained until police arrived.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1782 George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

1789 the U.S. War Department was established by Congress.

1882 the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence as one member of the Hatfield clan was mortally wounded by three McCoy brothers, who ended up being slain in turn.

1947 the balsa wood raft Kon-Tiki, which had carried a six-man crew 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean, crashed into a reef in a Polynesian archipelago; all six crew members reached land safely.

1959 the United States launched Explorer 6, which sent back a picture of the Earth.

WORD UP!
spoony \SP00-nee/, *adjective*: 1. Foolish; silly; excessively sentimental.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

BELOW IS A WRAP-UP OF THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE RED CROSS AND FEMA.

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF AN EARTHQUAKE:

- * Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- * Bolt down and secure your water heater, refrigerator, furnace and gas appliances to the wall studs.
- * Have an automatic gas shut-off valve installed.
- * Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- * Fasten shelves, mirrors and large picture frames to walls.
- * Brace high and top-heavy objects.
- * Store bottled foods, glass, china & other breakables on low shelves or in cabinets that fasten shut.
- * Be sure the residence is firmly anchored to its foundation.
- * Install flexible pipe fittings to avoid gas or water leaks.
- * Locate safe spots in each room under a sturdy table or against an inside wall.
- * Hold earthquake drills with your family members: Drop, cover and hold on!
- * Have supplies on hand such as a flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, food, water, essential medicines, cash, credit cards and sturdy shoes.



DURING AN EARTHQUAKE:

Minimize your movements during an earthquake to a few steps to a nearby safe place. Stay indoors until the shaking has stopped.

IF YOU ARE INDOORS, STAY THERE:

- * Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or bench or against an inside wall and hold on.
- * If no table/desk, cover your face & head with your arms & crouch in an inside corner.
- * Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors & walls and anything that could fall.
- * If you are in bed when the earthquake strikes, stay there and protect your head with a pillow.
- * If your bed is under a heavy light fixture that could fall, move to the nearest safe place.
- * Use a doorway for shelter only if it is close to you & if you know it is a strongly supported doorway.
- * Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside.
- * Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.
- * DO NOT use the elevators.



IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS, STAY THERE:

- * Move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.
- * If you are in a moving vehicle, stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle.
- * Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses and utility wires.
- * Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped, watching for road and bridge damage.

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE:

- * Be prepared for aftershocks.
- * Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- * Stay away from damaged areas of town.
- * Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. Stay away from the beach.

I hope you find this helpful.

As always, be sure to let me know if I can be of assistance for any real estate need.