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Santa Monica Daily Press
AUGUST 18-19, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 237

Santa Monica Daily Press

READERS SOUND OFF ON POT LAB
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY IAN, PAUL AND CAROL LEIGH ISSUE



File photo

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED: **Say goodbye to the Fifth Street post office. It's the latest one to be slated for closure by the U.S. Postal Service, which is looking to save cash in the face of crippling deficits. Many residents and elected officials are not pleased.**

Downtown post office to close

City Hall plans appeal with backing from Rep. Waxman, residents

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

FIFTH STREET City and federal officials have announced their intention to fight plans by the United States Postal Service to close the New Deal-era post office on Fifth Street and relocate operations to a carrier annex three-quarters of a mile away on Seventh Street.

The relocation of postal services and sale of the building, which was announced Friday, is part of a nationwide response by the Postal Service to reduce costs, streamline operations and increase efficiency in the face of dramatic reductions in mail volume and revenue, said Richard Maher, a spokesman for the Postal Service, which said earlier this month that it ended its third fiscal quarter with a net loss of $5.2 billion.

That isn't good enough for local officials who feel that the decision was too sudden and will replace a heavily-used facility beloved by the public with one that is more difficult to get to and does not serve local residents.

For their part, residents registered their distaste for the idea with over 100 first-class letters in the two-week, public comment period that ended Aug. 3.

Mayor Richard Bloom has already asked staff to begin the appeals process, and Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica) released a statement in support of the appeal.

"It is as much a part of the community as Palisades Park, Santa Monica Pier and City Hall," Waxman wrote. "While I understand USPS is under enormous pressure to cut costs, closing this iconic building which has served the residents of Santa Monica since 1938, will do little to improve the Postal Service's long-term financial position."

That could be a difficult pill for the Postal Service to swallow, particularly coming from a congressman.

Approximately $3.1 billion of the Postal Service's third-quarter losses and $20 billion over the last five years can be chalked up to a requirement to pre-fund postal retiree health benefits put in place by

SEE MAIL PAGE 7

Commission moves to legalize, regulate food truck lots

Residents cheer trucks on, businesses cry foul

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Like your gourmet nosh with a side of napkins rather than a tablecloth?

The Planning Commission signaled its intent Wednesday to take up off-street food truck lots at its Aug. 22 meeting, this time with the aim to bring the sometimes-controversial lunch and dinner wagons fully into the city's regulatory fold.

SEE TRUCKS PAGE 3

Accused murderer's arraignment postponed

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE The arraignment for a man accused of sexual assaulting and strangling two women in Santa Monica has been postponed for over a month, said officials from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Edric Dashell Gross, 46, is expected to go to court on Sept. 25 for his arraignment on two counts of murder in connection with the deaths of Jacqueline Lee Ovsak, 42, and Dana Caper, 41.

Ovsak was discovered by construction workers in an abandoned building in 2001. Caper's body was found on the bluffs near Palisades Park in 2002.

Gross was arrested Wednesday by investigators from the Santa Monica Police Department Cold Case Homicide Unit in Pan Pacific Park in Los Angeles.

In September 2007, investigators reopened both investigations. Through DNA processing and new leads, Gross was identified and linked to the murders, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012

Textiles, anyone?
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave., 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
The Resource Recovery & Recycling Division is hosting a textiles collection event at the City Yards, helping you to find a new home for all your unusable clothing, towels, bedding and so much more. Residents are encouraged to take reusable goods to any of the many charities benefiting the Santa Monica area. For more information, visit www.smgov.net.

'Escape' from hunger in America
Santa Monica Ford
1230 Santa Monica Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Ford Motor Company and Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, have joined forces this summer for the 2013 Ford Escape Hunger Drive. For each guest attending, Ford will provide 40 meals to Feeding America in hopes of providing more than 1.2 million meals to the needy all across America. For more information, call Naseem Sells at (916) 448-4234.

Confessions of a field biologist
Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Field marine biologist and author Maddalena Bearzi presents a multimedia program with highlights from her book "Dolphin Confidential," recollections of Bearzi's experiences at sea, outlining her growth as a woman and a scientist, from her earliest efforts to her transformation into an advocate for conservation and dolphin protection. A book sale and signing will follow the author's presentation. For more information, call (310) 458-8606.

No place like home
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 3 p.m.
Free performances of "Dorothy's Adventures in Oz" will be presented Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Dorothy discovers some valuable lessons about the importance of truth, honor and self-esteem, as the audience follows the escapades of Dorothy and her companions. For more information, call (310) 394-9779.

Play in the park
Reed Park, tennis court No. 1
Corner of Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 8 p.m.
Shakespeare Santa Monica has worked with City Hall to produce six performances of Shakespeare's "All's Well that Ends Well" over the summer. Follow Helena, the orphan daughter of a famous physician, and her attempts at capturing the love of French nobleman Bertram. Recurs Sunday and Saturday, Aug. 25. For more information, call John Farmanesh-Bocca at (310) 270-3454 or visit www.jfbnyla.com/shakespearesantamonica/

Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012

Making strides against breast cancer
Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd.,
9 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Be a part of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides event to raise funds and awareness to help save lives and create a world with less breast cancer. This signature walk is not a race, but rather a celebration of survivorship. People of all ages are welcome. There is no registration fee. For more information, call (562) 437-0791 ext. 225.

Cycle the town
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., Building G-1,
12 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Enjoy Santa Monica's sights and sounds with Cause for Creativity: Tour da Arts. The Santa Monica Museum of Art's fourth annual event reveals the creative side of bike culture and hosts a ride filled with dance, music and art. Admission is free for members and $5 for non-members. For more information, call Asuka Hisa at (310) 586-6488.

Jazz it up
Stewart Street Park
1836 Stewart St., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Bring a picnic, blanket and your family to enjoy a sampling of music each Sunday in August during the annual Jazz on the Lawn series. Enjoy complimentary frozen treats from Beachy Cream and Alili's Fresh Fruit Stand. Admission is free, as is parking and bike valet. For more information, visit www.smgov.net/portals/culture/events/jazz_on_the_lawn.aspx or call (310) 458-8350.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



2012 conventions embrace social media openness

BY JEFFREY COLLINS & TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Democrats and Republicans are using social media to turn their national conventions away from the smoke-filled rooms of yore and into meetings where anyone who wants to get involved is just a click away, no matter where they are.

Both parties' ambitious plans reflect the maturation of social media sites that played a much smaller role in the conventions four years ago. The Republicans call theirs a "convention without walls," while the Democrats say their gathering will be "the most open and accessible in history."

Democrats will not just show prime-time speeches live on the Internet, but will also stream caucus meetings and the council discussions of the party's platform and ideals over the Web. Republicans have hired a full-time blogger and a full-time digital communications manager to do nothing but engage people online.

The conventions' Facebook and Twitter sites are already stoking interest in the events, with photos of the Republican stage under construction in Tampa or profiles of Democratic volunteers and delegates. Users can interact with a mouse click, such as one who urged friends to help the GOP convention Twitter feed muster more followers than its counterpart. Both had more than 10,000 followers Friday.

Social media was still in its infancy four years ago. The number of items posted on Twitter on Election Day 2008 is equal to about six minutes worth of tweets today, the social media company recently wrote on its blog.

The dramatic changes in social media have required both parties to almost start from scratch in developing strategies for incorporating Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Flickr into their conventions.

In 2008, Republicans hired a web vendor to handle all things Internet for their convention. Now, there's a dedicated social media team with its own "Social Media War Room" in the Tampa Convention Center. The party's biggest push through the Internet will come through videos on YouTube, Republican National Convention spokesman James Davis said.

"Our goal is to leverage these technologies, to reach every American, whether they are in Toledo, Ohio, the convention floor in Tampa or a forward operating base in Afghanistan," he said.

Democrats will have a similar setup at their convention Sept. 4-6 in Charlotte. (Republicans meet a week earlier in Tampa.)

"We're able to expand it even further and invite the whole country to participate in a more interactive way then you might traditionally experience by tuning into a television," said Nikki Sutton, director of digital media for the 2012 Democratic Convention.

And those planning protests are using the Internet to get organized, too. The March on Wall Street South, which plans to bring thousands to Charlotte to rally against big business and economic inequality, has a website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

Organizers hope to use the Web to direct people to sites in more than a dozen states where they can take buses to Charlotte to join in the various protests during the week.

Social media is allowing modern-day campaigns and political parties to get their messages out unfiltered. That's especially useful as broadcasters and newspapers have drastically reduced the amount of air time and space they devote to conventions.

Convention organizers will use social media to emphasize themes that might get lost in the traditional media's limited coverage, said Daniel Kreiss, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill journalism school who authored a book about the use of new media from former presidential candidate Howard Dean to President Barack Obama.

"There's just not a lot of convention coverage that is going to be offered by the major networks, and this becomes a way that individual figures' speeches get publicity," Kreiss said.

Social media is increasingly allowing parties to control their message — and spreading those key messages through an online network of "friends" may allow them to create a sense of credibility, Kreiss said. It will be "viewed as more

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 11

FOOD TRUCKS
FROM PAGE 1

As proposed by city officials, the ordinance would allow food trucks on private property on two of Santa Monica's commercial corridors, along Main Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, and some adjacent parking lots between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. no more than three days a week.

The lots would have to provide at least two car parking spaces and 10 bicycle parking spaces per participating truck, and make sure that restrooms, trash and seating are available for hungry patrons.

That would preserve the popular food truck lot hosted many Tuesdays by the California Heritage Museum on Main Street as a fundraiser, and a new "Hump Day" lot at 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard that celebrated its second week of operation on the eve of the commission's vote.

Matt Geller, president of the Southern California Mobile Food Vendor's Association, applauded the effort, calling Santa Monica a "model city" for its treatment of food trucks.

"(Principal Planner) Paul Foley was very thoughtful with how he went about this," Geller said. Foley has been one of the city officials most actively involved in developing the new regulations which, if approved, would take food truck lots out of the gray area in which they've existed since 2010.

Food trucks burst onto the scene in Santa Monica two years ago at the very site that the Hump Day lot now occupies.

Steve Taub, who owns the physical property, managed to

SEE **LOT** PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

MUNCHIES: **Patricia Acosta receives her order of sliders from the Manja truck's owner Debbie Coglietti Perez at the 'Hump Day' lot at the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. City officials have a plan to better regulate food trucks.**


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fix the Postal Service

Editor:

Surprise, surprise, we just got word the United States Postal Service is going to close the convenient Downtown post office and put the building up for sale ("Downtown post office to close," Aug. 17).

At the hearing a few weeks ago everybody in the room seemed to know it was already a done deal, but the dog-and-pony-show happened anyway because that's how you play the game.

But the game is really much bigger than just our local post office, it's the whole postal system imposed by Congress. It doesn't work and it doesn't serve America.

I think all we can do now is write [Congressman Henry] Waxman, [U.S. Sens. Barbara] Boxer and [Dianne] Feinstein and tell them we will never vote for them again if they don't fix the postal system. Where are our priorities?

I would much rather see a post office in Downtown Santa Monica than a recreational vehicle on the planet Mars.

Richard Orton
Santa Monica

Enforcement

Editor:

I had a very frightening experience when I was coming to a four-way stop along with two other cars at the intersection of Washington Avenue and 11th Street.

I couldn't believe that I saw a woman on a bike whizzing through the four-way stop looking straight ahead. The frightening thing was she had a small child in a seat behind her.

City Hall is currently in a bicycle mania but does little to enforce the bicycle laws. How long will it be before we see a death or deaths of such a brainless, irresponsible cyclist and perhaps of an innocent child?

Don Wagner
Santa Monica



Your column here

Sheila Kuehl — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Paranoia, she adores ya

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY defines "coincidence" as: 1. The act or condition of coinciding. 2. The occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection.

Notice that the primary definition does not include the word "accident."

Einstein attributed such apparent synchronicity to a higher power, saying, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." In "Othello," Shakespeare thought these connections were a simple construction of the mind, saying, "Trifles light as air are to the jealous confirmations strong as proofs of holy writ."

Science fiction writers, who often create whole new worlds in order to honestly assess the deficiencies and dangers of the "real" one, devote a lot of ink to speculating on events that coincide and whether such connections may have been intended. In fantasist Emma Bull's opinion, "Coincidence is the word we use when we can't see the levers and pulleys."

So far as the California budget is concerned, I'm leaning toward Bull (no pun intended).

Ray Bradbury, whose death this year brought renewed attention to his body of work, wrote as if all coincidence was just a bunch of facts whose relationships we had yet to discover. In his popular novel, "Fahrenheit 451," books have been banned and the only job of public firemen is to burn as many as possible (Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which paper burns). He must have been amused, therefore, at the coincidental (?) choices made by Amazon in naming their electronic readers (which threaten to do away with paper books, retaining the content, but making them ever more ephemeral). What did Amazon call their hardware? Kindle. And Fire.

The governor's proposed May Revision presents budgetary side by sides that invite speculation about coincidence, at least in the larger picture. For instance, as in January, the new Child Maintenance Program, that is, the CalWORKS child-only payments to families where no adult satisfies stringent federal work requirements, is proposed to pay about $375 a month to sustain a family of three. Coincidentally, the May Revise also tells us that if we bring home the 9,500 California inmates now serving their terms outside California (in privately-run prisons), we can save $318 million, which tells us that we are spending eight times more to house one out-of-state prisoner than to feed a family of three.

Everyone will assure you there is no connection. But, as Speaker Willy Brown told me in my first Assembly year, "The budget is the bill that reveals the state's real policies and priorities."

The governor relented on tightening work requirements for Cal-WORKS recipients, allowing participation requirements to be met through a combination of state-specific activities (such as education and training). He also agreed to apply his new two-year lifetime limit (it was five years) only prospectively. CalWORKS still takes a big hit, however, with an almost $880 million drop generated by other changes in eligibility.

In addition, In-Home Supportive Services, which provide assistance to seniors and those with disabilities, gets an additional 7 percent across the board haircut, continuing and deepening an existing 3.6 percent reduction that ended on July 1 of this year.

The biggest change in the May Revise prison budget was the increased expenditure of $295 million from the General Fund in 2011-12, and $128 million in 2012-13, to fund court-ordered inmate medical costs. The Supreme Court found the overcrowding and medical conditions in California's prisons to be "cruel and unusual punishment," so the prisons are under the supervision of a receiver, who required the increased expenditures.

The May Revise also rescinds a January proposal to further realign juvenile offenders to the counties and instead retains the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for the housing and treatment of the most serious and violent juvenile offenders. However, the staff within DJJ headquarters and facilities is reduced, the jurisdiction of the DJJ is reduced from inmates up to 25 years old to inmates up to 23 years old, and the state will now charge counties more per juvenile to house them in state facilities. Total savings: $25 million.

Incidentally, if you wonder what we spend per prisoner in California, it's about $49,000 per inmate, per year, with about half of that attributable to fixed costs (security personnel, parole operations, facility operations, and administration), and half to what are usually termed "marginal costs," that is the cost of adding one more prisoner to the population, with fixed costs already in place. Bringing out-of-state prisoners home is projected to save money because, while we have been spending about $33,000 per inmate out of state, beds are emptying at home because of realignment. Therefore, the thinking goes, we save the entire cost of out-state incarceration to fill beds we're already paying for at home.

In 1788, in "Federalist No. 78," Alexander Hamilton wrote, "Whoever attentively considers the different departments of power must perceive, that, in a government in which they are separated from each other, the judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution; because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them."

Indeed, although they have the ultimate power to declare a legislative or executive act to be unconstitutional, the courts are unable to declare war, enact a law or have any say over the totality of their own budget. Since 2007, California courts have been cut by over $653 million, $606 million of that in cuts to entry-level courts, the trial courts. As you no doubt remember from the fourth grade, the three levels of courts in California are: 1) the trial courts, who hear everything in the first instance, except for CEQA claims related to one football stadium in Los Angeles; 2) the appellate courts and 3) the California Supreme Court.

The May Revise proposes $544 million in further General Fund reductions to the courts in 2012-13. Of that, $419 million is in one-time cuts and $125 million in ongoing cuts. This is accomplished, in part, by offsetting much of the diminution with accumulated reserves. (And then there were none). Court construction is also delayed, with $240 million of construction funds redirected to support trial court operations. Civil courtrooms, and a few criminal courtrooms, continue to be shuttered throughout the state. In Los Angeles County, for instance, 56 courtrooms are now dark due to previous cuts.

As to whether there is any relationship among these decisions, or, indeed, the education budget decisions referred to in my last essay … the levers and pulleys remain invisible.

SHEILA KUEHL served in the California Legislature for 14 years, both in the Assembly and State Senate. She is the founding director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College. For more of her essays, visit http://www.sheilakuehl.org/

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

Weed wacker

City officials have so far refused to grant a business license to the owner of a laboratory that tests medical marijuana samples for potency and the presence of pesticides and mold.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Is banning a marijuana laboratory where no pot is sold a solid plan, or should City Hall ease up and allow the business?

Here are your responses:

"DEFINITELY BAN THIS SO-CALLED laboratory. It's just a foot in the door to the next step — marijuana-for-sale shops. Who do they think they are kidding? There is a big illegal drug culture in Santa Monica already, which no one seems to be able to control. Why should we put the stamp of approval on a so-called testing laboratory, which everyone with half a brain knows that they are all fronts for the flourishing drug trade and to cement this horror even further in our society. Wakey, wakey citizens."

"THE LAST TIME I CHECKED THE Constitution it says that we are free and I think it's awful City Hall is trying to poke their noses where their noses ain't supposed to be. Let the medical marijuana business set up in San Malicious."

"I DO THINK THE MARIJUANA LABORATORY should be allowed to be in Santa Monica. Make certain to have it in a location that is definitely controlled and heavily monitored so they are aware of who goes in and out and it isn't open 24 hours a day."

"I THINK THEY SHOULD NOT BAN THE marijuana laboratory testing place. They're not selling pot, they're just providing a service to ensure quality control. City Hall should just lighten up and allow this business. What's the big deal? Isn't there more important business elsewhere?"

"SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS have their priorities all messed up. Why are they focusing on this testing laboratory? They should spend time improving the traffic flow in Santa Monica, and I don't mean putting in more medians."

"LEGALIZE IT, DON'T CRITICIZE IT. IN 1937, DuPont and the Melons were pushing their new artificial clothing. Cotton and hemp cloth were the main competition. The price of hemp had dropped and out of fear of cheap hemp they conspired to outlaw hemp by calling it by its Mexican nickname — marijuana or Mary Jane. Through deceit and lies it was made illegal. The three crops that built America were cotton, tobacco and hemp. Hemp was grown and probably consumed by both Washington and Jefferson. It was used for food, clothing, shoes, paper, fuel, canvas, bags, rope, sails and was used in many medical concoctions for both man and animals. We need to legalize it once again in the next election. It can help with our budget woes by adding taxes. It helps heal and help pain. These unconstitutional laws about what we can eat and consume have caused great harm to tens of thousands of people who just want to take a simple plant that God has given us. Billions of dollars have been wasted by arresting and jailing people for something that should never have been made illegal. Our state pot laws have been confusing and ridiculous as we see in our own crazy town. Let the poor guy test pot. Whatever happened to freedom in America? Vote to make pot legal."

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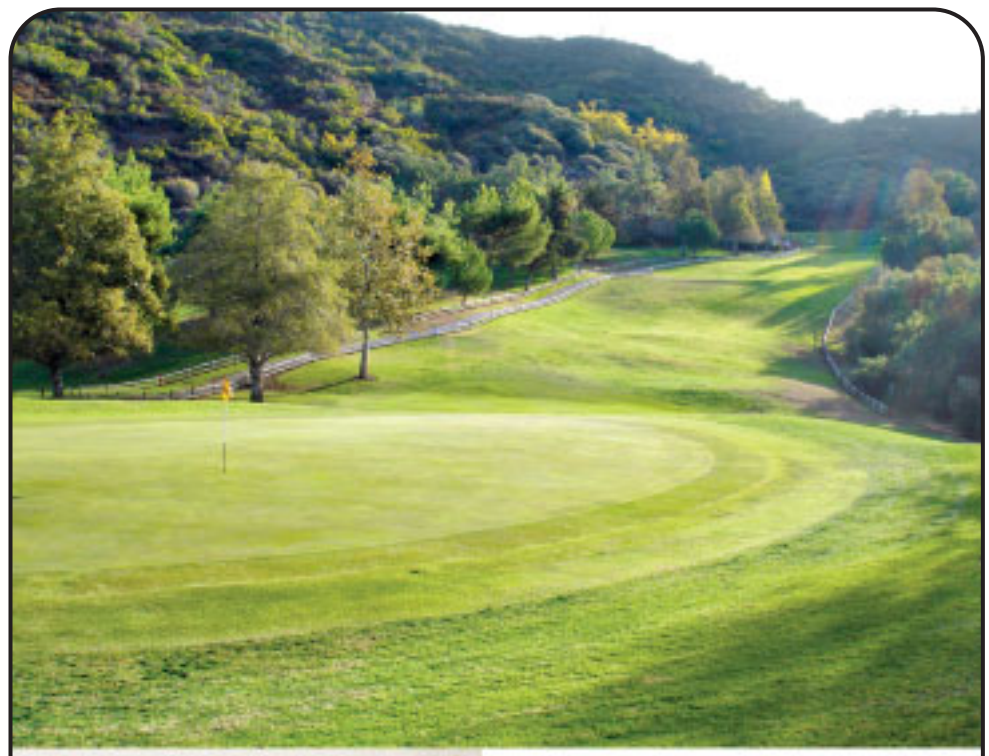
"I READ YOUR ARTICLE, "OWNER OF POT lab goes on offensive," dated Aug. 8. Santa Monica's refusal to grant a business license for a medical marijuana testing laboratory does not make sense. The city acknowledges that some of their residents are medical marijuana users by shelving an ordinance that would have banned smoking in apartment complexes. So why not protect the health and safety of Santa Monicans by testing their medication? City Hall should ease up and allow a medical marijuana testing laboratory to set up shop in Santa Monica. To quote the article, '… is a laboratory that takes samples of marijuana from dispensaries and individuals to test for desired traits to treat patients' symptoms as well as unwanted extras like mold, pesticides and other chemicals… . By the end of the testing process, the marijuana sample used for the analysis is completely destroyed, and the patient or dispensary has detailed information about what is in their medicine.' This sounds like a win-win situation for Santa Monicans who require the use of medical marijuana. City Hall allows for the sale of narcotic prescription painkillers. But City Hall is aware of the deadly side effects that these medications will cause their residents. How many Santa Monicans are in rehab or dead due to medical marijuana overdose? None. So why not be proactive? Help protect and support Santa Monicans by allowing some measure of quality control vis-à-vis a marijuana testing lab. It does not make sense."

"WE OPPOSE MAKING THE ILLEGAL marijuana so available to our children. Our teens will be drunk, stoned and be driving killing themselves and other people. If parents don't care, City Hall has to intervene and stop this corruption. No sale. No thank you."

"ON OCT. 16, 2011, THE CALIFORNIA Medical Association (CMA) promulgated its official position on medical marijuana. The CMA's position is that marijuana should be rescheduled (off Schedule I) and regulated to foster scientific research and better medical application. Golden State Collective brings the greatest level of science and technology to the study and testing of medical marijuana. This is an ideal opportunity for Santa Monica to demonstrate leadership. The business should be permitted."

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Cities dispute redevelopment money sought by governor

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown's finance department said 27 local governments have failed to pay or have underpaid the state after the governor tried to sweep up billions of dollars from community redevelopment agencies that were eliminated this year.

Yet cities such as San Jose, Stockton and Brea are disputing the bill from the administration, saying it is using unreasonable accounting methods. Officials there said forcing payments to the state could trigger bond defaults.

"All we're asking is simple: Let us pay our bond debt," said Eric Nicoll, community development director for the Orange County city of Brea, which has paid $831,000 of the state's $15.5 million tab.

Brown planned on receiving $3.1 billion from the elimination of about 400 community redevelopment agencies to help bridge California's budget deficit. Under the change, more property tax revenue that once went to economic development efforts would be going to local school districts — a move that helps offset state funding for schools.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday voted to put the brakes on $149 million worth of construction projects that would have been funded with redevelopment money, including a $55 million overhaul of facilities at Santa Monica High School and renovations to the landmarked Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

At the same time, the City Council chose to press on with $115 million worth of projects, despite the fact that they might not be safe from the state's clutching hands.

"Redevelopment is clearly one of the largest financial risks in this year's state budget plan," said Jason Sisney of the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. "If redevelopment dollars do not reduce general fund spending — as assumed in the budget plan — the task of balancing the state budget in 2013 could be that much harder."

For the first half of 2012, the state has set a goal of receiving $685 million in property tax revenue that is not needed to pay the debt of redevelopment agencies, which were created initially as a municipal financing tool to promote development in blighted areas.

While most cities and counties have made their redevelopment payments to the state, the Department of Finance reported that 27 have not paid or underpaid the state.

According to figures provided by the Department of Finance, the state is seeking a total of $129 million from those agencies. So far, only some have paid part of the bill, returning just $6.7 million.

Richard Keit, spokesman for San Jose, said early reports to the state suggested the city's redevelopment agency had $39 million extra. But in fact, he said, the money was obligated to pay off bond debt.

"It's already gone," Keit said. "The state Department of Finance knows we don't have the $39 million — that we weren't hiding it. It was all committed and now expended."

Stockton spokeswoman Connie Cochran said the city has not paid its $2.5 million bill, "because we disagree with the calculation." Stockton filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year.

Lawmakers gave state finance officials the power to take some tax money from cities, but officials say they are trying to work out the differences first. State Finance Director Ana Matosantos sent a letter last month to the 27 local governments, saying the state would not withhold sales tax revenue or seek a penalty until September.

"We hope that we'll be able to resolve any differences between these successor agencies in an amicable manner," finance department spokesman H.D. Palmer said. "That said, those tools were put into place to ensure that schools and cities and counties get the property tax that they are owed for that period."

Nicoll said Brea cannot give what it never had. The city is now suing the state to force an accounting fix.

The city claims the state should allow cash flow to be calculated on an annual basis, not just in a six-month period, as the state wants, so local governments can accurately show existing obligations.

"The glitch is that we receive the majority of our tax increment the first six months; our major bond payments are due in the second six months," Nicoll said.

Daily Press Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** contributed to this report.

Trade group sues LA to halt ban on weed dispensaries

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A medical marijuana trade group is suing Los Angeles to stop the city from implementing a ban on prescription pot dispensaries.

The Los Angeles Times reports the suit filed by Patient Care Alliance alleges the ban violates the constitutional right of freedom of assembly.

The ordinance passed last month by the City Council says medical marijuana may only be grown and shared by groups of three people or less, and outlaws the sale of the drug in stores.

The city is notifying dispensary owners that they must shut down by Sept. 6, when the ban goes into effect. Those who don't comply could face fines or jail time.

Special Assistant City Attorney Jane Usher told the newspaper the city had not yet seen the lawsuit and had no comment.

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MAIL
FROM PAGE 1

Congress.

It's the only company in the country required to do so.

Those expenses, along with the continued decline of first class mail, more than offset the 9 percent growth in revenue from shipping services and package delivery in the most recent quarter, Maher said.

Although the Postal Service has come out with a business plan to help close the vast deficit on its books, which includes transitioning to a five-day mail delivery schedule and a refund of $11 billion of pension plan overfunding, Congress must approve any plan. Until then, one of the few ways the business can raise capital is by selling real estate, which is why it is in such a hurry to offload the property in Downtown Santa Monica.

The public's reliance on the Fifth Street facility isn't enough to sway the postal decision-makers from the dollar signs.

Although the Downtown location is both popular and profitable, the move will shave over $336,179 per year off the cost of operations in Santa Monica for a total topping $3 million over the course of a decade after an initial $400,000 cost to make the Seventh Street annex customer-ready, said Diana Alvarado, a spokeswoman for the Postal Service.

In a community meeting held July 19, residents told postal officials that they would feel unsafe walking to the new location, which is sandwiched in a little-traveled area between Interstate 10 and the OPCC Access Center.

They threatened that many would stop going to the facility altogether and find other means by which to send their mail and packages.

It's unlikely that would make much of a dent in the Postal Service's already weak financial armor.

Over 40 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from online purchases or stamps and other products sold in local grocery stores, meaning that many of the over-the-counter sales which take place at a post office can and do occur at other places, Maher said.

Those that threaten to take their parcel-shipping business to FedEx? Just try.

Unlike the semi-private Postal Service, FedEx does not go to every address in the United States. The Postal Service carries roughly 30 percent of FedEx packages to their final destination, Maher said.

In fact, the big-ticket customers like bulk mailers will find the Seventh Street annex easier to use because it comes equipped with a larger loading dock.

The Postal Service has not yet decided when it will shut down operations at the facility on 1248 Fifth St., and it will wait to put the property on the market until a 15-day window for appeal closes. After that, real estate company CBRE will take charge of the sale.

Any buyer will have to respect covenants to protect the historic nature of the building, Maher said.

"They will not be able to remodel exterior or tear it down and build something else. Those covenants will be attached to the property and will be conveyed to any buyer," Maher said.

The Landmarks Commission has already made a move to put the post office on an upcoming agenda. The local commission cannot landmark the building until it leaves the Postal Service's control.

The post office was built as part of the New Deal, a series of economic programs enacted during the 1930s in response to the Great Depression.

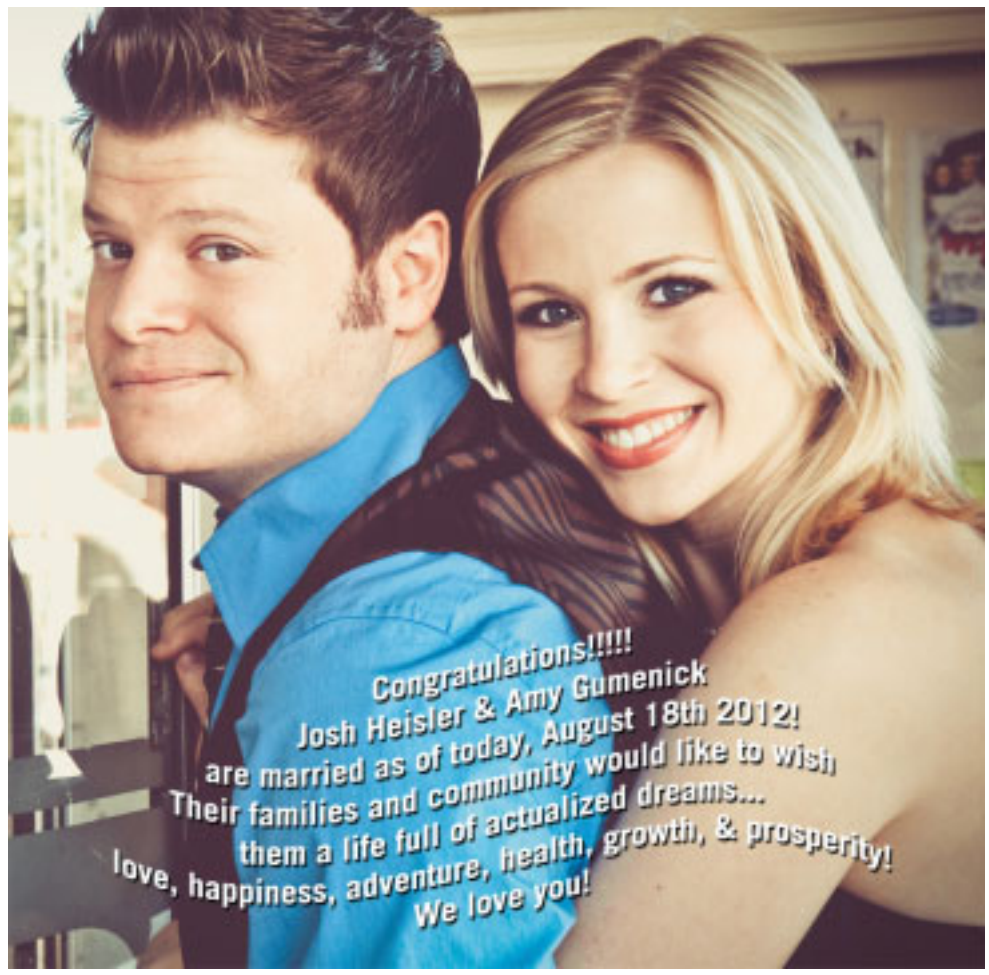
Those who are opposed to the closure should send comments to:

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Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** contributed to this report.

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Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Black-eyed peas unleashed

TO GET HYPED UP FOR RUNNING OR working out at the gym, I require two things: an adequately fueled body and some heart pounding music. So when I created a recipe that actually fulfilled both of these needs, sort of, I got so excited!

I hadn't even heard of the Black Eyed Peas until 2004, when a friend of mine, upon hearing about my move to California, said, "You should look up my friend Fergie when you get there. She's in this group called The Black Eyed Peas."

Sometime later I stumbled upon their music and fell in love with the song, "Let's Get It Started." It's an awesome running song, especially when you want to quicken your pace. I run almost daily on the Santa Monica beach path and I've heard that Fergie does too. Maybe one day I will get to meet her and tell her about our mutual friend from back east.

Another of my favorite all-time workout songs is "Freak On A Leash" by Korn. I love to run or jump rope really fast to that song. The thought of it makes me want to get outside and just take off running!

While talking to someone about a black-eyed pea salad I said, "I haven't made black-eyed peas since I was in culinary school." This person was saying that some people add corn to the salad and I chimed in, "Well, that's a great idea because corn is a

SEE **PEAS** PAGE 9



Photo by Elizabeth Brown

JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH: **A meal that would make Fergie proud; a black-eyed peas with corn, seasoned chicken and fresh herbs to help refuel and repair after a workout.**

Black-eyed peas & corn salad

Served with broiled chicken and brown rice on a bed of fresh herbs.

1 medium red pepper, finely chopped
1 small green pepper, finely chopped
1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion, about 1-inch long
1 jalapeno, minced (seeds and ribs removed)
1 can Eden organics black-eyed peas
1 1/2 cups frozen yellow corn, cooked & cooled
1/2 cup chopped parsley
1/4 cup brown rice vinegar
1 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp. honey
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1/8 tsp. sea salt

Heat corn on the stove in a small sauce pot, about 5 minutes until thawed. Place cooked corn in the refrigerator while you prepare the rest of the ingredients. In a large mixing bowl, combine the brown rice vinegar, olive oil, honey, black pepper and sea salt. Whisk ingredients together with a fork. Chop the peppers and onions and add to the mixing bowl. Drain the can of black-eyed peas and add to the bowl. Add the corn and the parsley and toss to combine all ingredients.

To make quick broiled-chicken:

4-ounce boneless, skinless, chicken breast
1 tbs. lemon juice
Dash sea salt and pepper

Preheat oven on broil or high heat, at least 450 degrees. Place a cast iron or stainless steel skillet about 6 inches from the top oven coil and allow it to heat for about 10 minutes. If the handle is not oven safe, wrap it thoroughly in aluminum foil before placing in the oven.

While the pan is heating, rinse the chicken, pat it dry and either pound the chicken to about a half-inch thickness, or cut the breast down the middle. Season with lemon juice, salt and pepper.

Place the chicken breast on the skillet and cook about 10 minutes, or until the juices run clear when pierced at the thickest part. The internal temperature should be 165 degrees. If you use chicken with the skin on, place the breast on the skillet skin side up. When the chicken is done, cut into thin strips to add to your salad.

To a salad bowl, add 1 cup chopped herbs or finely-chopped salad greens. Top with one cup of the black-eyed peas and corn salad plus 1/2 cup leftover brown rice, quinoa, or other cooked grain. (This should be a staple in your fridge. But if you omit, you can add an extra half cup of the black-eyed pea salad instead). Top with the chopped chicken, toss everything to combine flavors and enjoy.

Cost per serving: $2.88

Nutrients per serving (1 cup black-eyed pea and corn salad, 1/2 cup brown rice and 4 oz broiled chicken, plus 1 cup fresh herbs/ 451g): Calories: 456, Fat: 8g, Carbs: 53g, Protein: 43g, Fiber: 10g, Sugar: 6g, Sodium 178mg

% Daily Value (DV):
Vitamin A: 50%, Thiamin-B1: 25%, Riboflavin-B2: 19%, Niacin-B3: 109%, Vitamin B6: 43%, Vitamin B12: 4%, Vitamin C: 219%, Vitamin D: 3%, Vitamin E: 15%, Folate: 56%, Pantothenic Acid: 18%, Calcium: 11%, Copper: 23%, Iron: 33%, Magnesium: 35%, Manganese: 73%, Phosphorus: 44%, Potassium: 27%, Selenium: 53%, Zinc: 21%



Don't do raw seafood? You can still enjoy ceviche

BY ELIZABETH KARMEL
For The Associated Press

Light, chilled and refreshing with a toothsome texture, ceviche is summer in a bowl. Add tortilla chips and it becomes a cross between a meal and a snack.

Most people I know eat ceviche at restaurants or on tropical vacations. But it is one of those dishes that, like sushi, folks shy away from making at home. I think that is because it generally is made with raw seafood, which necessitates having really, really fresh fish.

Fear the raw no more! With my cooked version of ceviche — using shellfish you buy already cooked — you can make ceviche anywhere, anytime. Feeling more adventurous? You also could add or substitute baby squid, scallops, rock shrimp, or even lobster.

While the shellfish marinates, I mince fresh habanero and serrano chilies to add the traditional "bite" to the dish. I also chop ripe red grape tomatoes and creamy avocado. I also like adding chunks of mango or even fresh passion fruit to add a sweet-tart fruitiness to the tangy tomatillo-lime mixture. These ingredients are best tossed into the seafood just before serving.

If you are planning to save some leftovers for the next day, reserve the seafood and add the flavoring ingredients just before serving the second time. The tomatoes, avocados and any fruit will get mushy otherwise.

When you serve this dish, make the presentation count! I like to serve it in stem-less martini glasses or a footed glass bowl. If you use a bowl, make sure that it is short or you risk having your ceviche tip over. Add a few tortilla chips around the foot of the bowl and place a wedge of lime on the rim, like a cocktail. Sprinkle the ceviche with a pinch of fleur de sel and dig in. You'll feel like you are on vacation!

While you can use frozen cooked shrimp for this recipe, freshly steamed are best. The easy way to do this is to buy the shrimp raw, then ask the staff at the grocer's seafood counter to steam them for you. Most grocers offer this service for free.

Summer ceviche with shrimp and crab
start to finish: 45 minutes
Servings: 6

1/2 cup lime juice
3 to 4 large fresh tomatillos, husks removed, washed

1 loosely packed cup fresh cilantro leaves
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
1 1/2 pounds cooked large shrimp, shells and tails removed
1/2 pound of lump crabmeat, picked over for any shells
1 to 2 teaspoons minced serrano pepper
1 to 2 teaspoons minced habanero pepper
1 cup grape tomatoes, quartered
1 large avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
Fleur de sel
Lime wedges, to serve
Tortilla chips, to serve

In a blender, combine the lime juice, tomatillos, cilantro and kosher salt. Puree until smooth, then set aside.

Cut each shrimp into three large chunks. Place the shrimp in a large bowl, then pour the lime juice mixture over them. Mix well, then stir in the crab. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes, mixing every 10 minutes to ensure the flavors are well distributed.

Just before serving, mix in both chili peppers, the tomatoes and avocado. Serve in individual bowls garnished with lime wedges. Sprinkle the top with a pinch of fleur de sel and serve with tortilla chips on the side.

Nutrition information per serving (not including tortilla chips) (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 230 calories; 70 calories from fat (30 percent of total calories); 8 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 210 mg cholesterol; 8 g carbohydrate; 32 g protein; 3 g fiber; 440 mg sodium.

PEAS
FROM PAGE 8

grain and it complements the protein in the black-eyed peas." Each is deficient in an essential amino acid, making them incomplete proteins, but when you combine them they make a complete protein. However, even adding corn doesn't necessarily give you enough protein to help you adequately rebuild muscle after exercise.

I was just reading a study about the benefits of adequate animal protein in relation to what the researchers termed "appendicular skeletal muscle mass," which refers to the muscle mass on our arms and legs. As we get older, these muscles easily diminish unless we perform strengthening exercises and eat adequate animal protein. It's actually quite difficult to get ample, whole-food protein sources on a vegetarian diet.

The study looked at diet and exercise data collected from 2,425 individuals who were 50 years old or older. They found that adequate, high-quality protein made a difference in muscle preservation in exercising and non-exercising individuals, but of course, those who exercised had the highest percentage of muscle mass on their extremities compared to those who were sedentary. However, obese subjects who exercised and ate less than 70g of protein per day, had less muscle mass than their sedentary counterparts who also ate less than 70g of protein per day. This means that exercising and not replenishing protein stores will cause your body to essentially feed off itself.

Your body uses protein for more than just building muscles. In fact, building muscle mass is not a priority. Your body's priority is maintaining your immune system and making enzymes and hormones. So if you breakdown body protein during exercise and use it for fuel, your body isn't worried about replenishing those muscle protein stores. Your body wants to survive, and having a bunch of bulky muscles is not survival. However, if you don't make an effort to eat adequate protein, then you will see the effects as you age and your body begins to fall apart. So do yourself a favor and enjoy each meal with a bunch of vegetables, a little whole grain or starchy vegetables, and a 3-to 4-ounce portion of protein-rich foods about the size of the palm of your hand.

Here is a wonderful recipe to get you started on the right path to optimal recovery and longevity.

ELIZABETH BROWN, M.S., R.D., aka The Kitchen Vixen, is out to save the world, one recipe at a time. Please visit her web site for more life-saving recipes: www.TheKitchenVixen.com









CITY OF SANTA MONICA
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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA

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One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2014.
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Disabilities Commission
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2015.
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Applications due by noon, Tuesday, September 25, 2012.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, October 2, 2012.

No City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission listed above.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards/. All current applications on file will be considered.

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LOT
FROM PAGE 3

operate a bevy of food trucks there for a single day before city officials moved in to shut it down, citing a lack of permits.

A quirk of state law means that food trucks that stay on the street don't need special permits to operate, just a license to run a business in Santa Monica and a decent understanding of local parking rules.

That's because the trucks are considered vehicles, and City Hall can't tell them where they can and cannot park unless they constitute a threat to public safety.

Take them onto private property, however, and local codes reign once again. City officials had to step in to create a framework that would deal with the lots appropriately.

The Tuesday and Wednesday events have operated under temporary use permits, a regulatory run-around allowed by City Hall while officials crafted the more permanent policy, which will debut at the Planning Commission next week.

The California Heritage Museum mobilized residents to reach out to the Planning Commission in support of the food truck night, which Geller estimates has raised nearly $102,000 for the museum since it began the fundraising event nearly two years ago.

Though most of the outreach to the commission was in support of the regulation, several brick-and-mortar establishments on Main Street called on commissioners to take another look.

Some businesses on Main Street believe their Tuesday night traffic has taken a hit since the food truck lot took up residence at the museum. That particularly irks them because, unlike brick-and-mortar businesses, food trucks don't have to pay some fees and property taxes that cut into a restaurant's bottom line.

Manhar Patel, who has operated Dhaba Cuisine of India since 1972, urged commissioners to consider the dark side of food trucks, like their propensity to absorb parking, burn fossil fuels and avoid merchant fees and taxes.

"Please take all of this into consideration before you promote another fad of fast food that is mostly unhealthy food only now considered cheap and cool," Patel wrote.

Those kinds of protests are about "thumb in the eye" impacts rather than any substantive hurt that the trucks are doing to regular businesses, Geller said.

"There are always going to be naysayers. They just don't want it or just don't like it. But I think Santa Monica is good about listening to their constituents," he said.

Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer, at least, isn't sold one way or another.

"It's a tricky issue," Winterer said. Food trucks are fun, and they enliven Main Street, but beyond the concerns of some merchants, there are other policy issues to consider.

The new proposal would make authorizing a food truck lot an administrative act through a performance standards permit. The designation travels with the property, however, which concerns Winterer.

"We have to really think about all of the possibilities," he said.

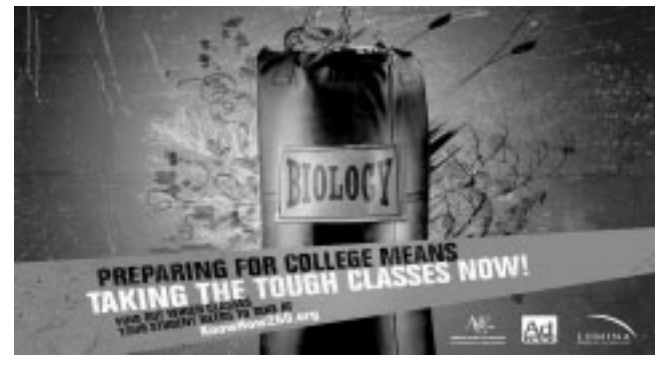
This isn't City Hall's first attempt to regulate food trucks, just the first time it's tackled the off-street gatherings.

In November 2011, the City Council voted to restrict food trucks parked outside popular bars on a section of Main Street after police played a video that showed crowds of people lining up to eat at the mobile establishments after last call.

Patrons blocked sideways and jaywalked across the street in an attempt to satisfy their early morning munchies. As a result, food trucks were banned between the hours of 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. on Main Street between Ocean Park Boulevard and Marine Street.

According to an information item released Thursday, city officials want to extend that restriction a bit further to the southern city limit.

ashley@smdp.com



ELECTION
FROM PAGE 3

credible and more authentic" than less-personal media coverage.

The candidates' overall campaigns are also ratcheting up efforts to reach voters online. A report released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center found that President Barack Obama's campaign was more active than Republican Mitt Romney's on the digital front.

The group's Project for Excellent in Journalism analyzed both campaigns' efforts between June 4-17 and found Obama's team posted almost four times as much content during the period and maintained an active presence on almost twice as many platforms. But Romney's campaign said his Facebook page has more people who share or comment on his posts.

Of course, the only metric that matters will be votes in November, and both campaigns and their parties think social media will be critical to get their voters excited enough to go to the polls.

Democrats have already released a smartphone app that provides one place for videos, blog posts and photos. The app also includes an interactive map to help visitors to Charlotte find convention locations or restaurants.

Their convention Facebook site has been running posts spotlighting different delegates and volunteers from across the country for months. Its Flickr page included more than 150 photos from people who printed out a special "I'm There" logo and had their pictures made with it, promising to either be in Charlotte or to follow the convention online. One person holding up his sign on the site is Vice President Joe Biden.

On the GOP convention's Facebook page, a posting showed a picture of lighting rigs inside the Tampa Bay Times Forum and said: "The lights are on and we only have 17 more days to go! Are you ready to nominate the next President of the United States?? The entry had more than 360 "likes" and 400 comments on Wednesday afternoon.

The Democrats used Twitter to invite more than a dozen followers on a tour in July. They got to see Time-Warner Arena, where most of the convention is taking place the first week in September, and the city's football stadium, where Obama will give his acceptance speech.

For Rashon Carraway, the tour was a dream come true. He sells men's clothes online, but the political science major in college hasn't forgotten his first love.

"This was a great opportunity for me to get an up close and personal look at something I am passionate about, and I have always wanted to do," said Carraway.

He plans to attend as many convention events as he can — using his cellphone to make online posts.

And it's just not the parties and protesters who have an interactive strategy.

Donna Chen, the director of marketing and communications for the Tampa Downtown Partnership said more than 15 tourism and convention groups are setting up their own "Social Media Command Center" for the convention.

Tampa Bay and Co., the area's tourism and marketing agency, is coordinating the effort. They'll use the hashtag "TampaBay" to curate the posts.

Chen said about 50 local experts will monitor and interact with people online. They will staff the center and answer questions about the area from people in town for the convention — for instance, "where's a good Italian restaurant?" or "What's the closest beach to downtown Tampa?"

ALI'S WICKED
Benefit Event
THE BRITISH COMMUNITY of SANTA MONICA

IS HOSTING A BENEFIT FOR **ALISON aka ALI from London**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th, 2012 from 5 pm - until 1 am
at **THE COCK'N BULL** 2947 LINCOLN BLVD., SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 | **(310) 399-9696**

ALI WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 4 COLON CANCER AND AT THIS TIME IS UNDERGOING EXTREME CHEMO THERAPY.

We hope everyone can come and show their support for Ali, as we all know the British & American communities always come together when one of our own is in need and during desperate times.

If you are unable to attend, and would like to donate or purchase raffle tickets, please email:

wickedali7@gmail.com



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Clean out your closet and join us for this ONE-DAY special recycling event. Bring clean and dry clothing, paired shoes, bedding, linens, hats, belts, rags and other fabric. Items will be sorted for re-use or recycling.

Saturday, August 18, 2012
{9am to 2pm}
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave,
Santa Monica, CA

Same Day No Sew T-Shirt Bag Workshop

Resource Recovery & Recycling Division
310.458.2223 www.smgov.net/r3

LUNCH SPECIALS





Chicken Teriyaki & Vegetable Tempura
Served with miso soup, rice and small salad. $6.75

Vegetable Yaki-Udon
(Stir fried Udon Noodle with vegetable)
Serve with Miso Soup $6.75

Sushi & Salmon Oyako Don
(Sushi: Tuna, White Fish, Shrimp and Egg, California Roll 3pcs.)
Served with miso soup, rice and small salad. $8.95

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
11:30a to 12:30p – Free Soft Drink

Free Regular Sushi Roll or Hand Roll
With Any Purchase
Original Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase
Expiration 8/31/12

oops! SUSHI & SAKE BAR
310.478.8991
11670 W Gateway Blvd. | Los Angeles CA 90064
www.oopssushi.com

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #4030 PROVIDE CAMERAS AS REQUIRED BY CITY TV.
BID #4031 FURNISH SHOP TRUCK AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline Is August 29, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4022 PROVIDE BUS TIRES AND RELATED SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS
Submission Deadline Is September 10, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

SURF REPORT



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

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70.3°

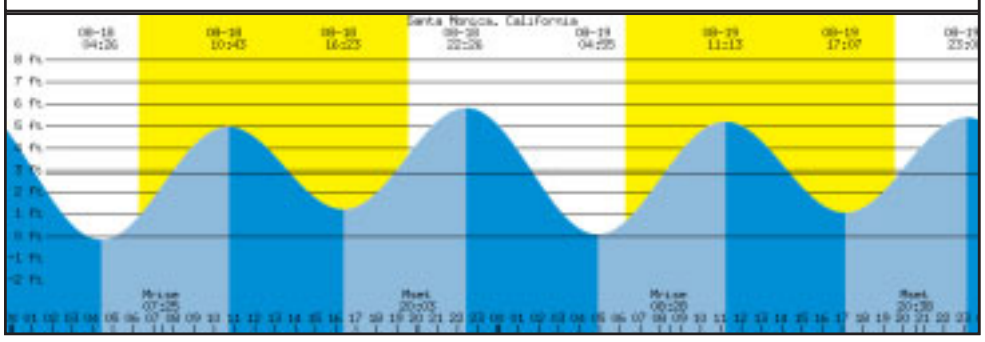
Swell Forecast

Chest+ surf at south facing breaks, waist max at direct west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Around chest max at south facing breaks and knee to waist at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **August 15, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 26 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Crocodile Family Foundation; simplehuman; LazerGUY; SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Dread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fences.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	B	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- appoxite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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Fighting for Your Unemployment Benefits

In these tough economic times many people are finding themselves out of work, sometimes for the first time in their lives. More than three million Americans are fired each year. After the initial shock of being fired has worn off, the practicalities of having to navigate the unemployment insurance system come into sharp focus.

Generally, you are entitled to unemployment benefits if you are unemployed through no fault of your own, for example, if you were laid off, fired for a reason other than misconduct, or quit your job for good reason. Once the Employment Development Department (EDD) has received your application for benefits, it usually conducts a telephone interview with you, and also with your employer, to find out why you were fired.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous employers challenge their former employee's application for benefits even when that employee was fired through no fault of his or her own. In this case, the employer usually claims that the employee was fired for misconduct.

If your application for benefits is denied, you have 20 days to file an appeal. If you believe that your benefits were unfairly denied, it is very important that you file a timely appeal. You will receive a hearing date about 4-6 weeks later. Sometimes, the employer does not even bother to show up to the appeal hearing; they were counting on the fact that you wouldn't fight the denial of your benefits.

The hearing is your chance to explain your side of the story to an Administrative Law Judge. It is natural to feel nervous before the hearing, but you will feel better if you are properly prepared to present your case. You should ask to review the EDD's file on your case, which will include the interview notes with your employer. This means you will get a chance to see what your employer said about why you were fired. You can also send a written request to your employer asking to inspect your personnel file pursuant to Labor Code Section 1198.5. You can ask witnesses who can corroborate your version of events to come with you to the hearing. If they can't come, you can ask them to give you a written statement to take along with you. You can also ask the EDD to subpoena witnesses for you. Finally, you should familiarize yourself with the law that applies to your case. A good starting place is the "Benefit Determination Guide" on the EDD website: http://www.edd.ca.gov/UIBDG/default.htm.

You don't have to bring an attorney with you to the hearing, although you may feel more confident with the support of an attorney experienced in this area. The Legal Grind can put you in touch with an attorney who can help you through the process, from advice on preparation to representation at your appeal hearing.

Depending on the circumstances of your termination, you may also wish to seek legal advice to determine whether you have any legal claims arising out of your discharge. Although most workers in California are "at will" employees, which means they can be fired for any reason or for no reason at all, even "at will" employees cannot be fired in certain circumstances. For example, an employer cannot fire its employee for a discriminatory reason; or because s/he made a health and safety complaint; or because she took time off to perform jury duty. This is a complex area of the law, and an attorney can advise you on whether you may have grounds for a wrongful discharge suit.

Upon investigation of the circumstances of your termination, an attorney may also identify violations which took place during your employment. For example, you may have an overtime claim if your employer did not pay overtime pay (time and a half) for all hours over eight in a day, and forty in a week, or a claim for meal period premium pay if you were unable to take an uninterrupted 30 minute meal break per five hours worked. Exploring potential claims with an attorney may help to give you some peace of mind in this difficult time.

Nina Baumler is an attorney who practices exclusively in employment law. Ms. Baumler can be reached through the Legal Grind at 310-452-8160 or by visiting www.legalgrind.com.

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

www.LegalGrind.com
$45 Coffee & Counsel® Schedule

@ THE NOVEL CAFÉ, located at 2127 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica
Although our doors are closed during construction, we're still open!
CALL 310.452.8160 TO CONFIRM TIMES
Info@legalgrind.com

MONDAY
4:00-5:00 pm (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Aug. 18
Hit And Run (R) 1hr 35min
7:30pm
Discussion following with actor-director Dax Shepard and actress Kristen Bell.

Sunday, Aug. 19
Just Imagine (NR) 1hr 49min
5:30pm

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

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
11:50am, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm

Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 1hr 34min
11:55am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
10:30am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:15pm

Expendables 2 (R) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 5:45pm, 7:45pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 11:15pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
10:45am, 2:30pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) 1hr 34min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Ruby Sparks (R) 1hr 56min
4:10pm, 9:30pm

Queen Of Versailles (R) 1hr 52min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Beasts Of The Southern Wild (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

The Intouchables (R) 2hrs 2min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

The Awakening (R) 1hr 59min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry (R) 1hr 30min
11:10am

River of Life (NR) 1hr 19min

Kumare (NR) 1hr 24min
11:00am

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

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Total Recall (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 7:55pm, 10:25pm

ParaNorman (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

Hope Springs (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Sparkle (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

ParaNorman 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
2:25pm, 7:45pm

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

At home tonight, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Everyone has limits, including you. The tendency to test them can be rewarding, yet frustrating at the same time. Return calls before formalizing any plans. Tonight: Honor your energy level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You seem to be naturally inventive and creative. Realize what is going on with a friend or family member. He or she might be intimidated by the experience. You could assume a risk that you normally don't have to, and perhaps you won't even care. Tonight: Paint the town red.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Plans you made during the week might not be suitable any longer. You simply need a change of pace. Many of you simply may want to stay at home or be close to home. Whether you're deep into a project or need extra rest, it makes little difference. Tonight: A friend surprises you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Visit with a friend you rarely have time for. It is as if you were never apart once you meet up with each other. Screen calls if you want to stay free. A boss, relative or older friend could be reaching out for you. Tonight: Hang wherever and with whomever you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be sensitive to your needs and to how far you can extend yourself and still feel comfortable. You might be planning a trip, but be aware of the cost -- it might be a little too much to absorb. Tonight: A little moderation goes a long way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your actions are in tune with those around you. An older relative or friend expresses his or her delight at spending some time with you in the near future. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might not be in the mood to socialize and be the normally charming Libra. Rather than impose your company on someone, change plans accordingly. There is nothing wrong with needing some personal time. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Join friends at a baseball game or the beach. Fun naturally happens when you are out with this particular group of friends. A dear friend or loved one does the unexpected. Smile and go with the flow. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Accept your role in a get-together or with a project. You might want more free time; however, this might not be possible if you are fulfilling your commitments. A friend or loved one gives you a supportive boost. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach out to someone you might not see for long periods of time but who means a lot to you. Your calls back and forth keep this bond strong. Tonight: Let your mind wander at a movie or some music event.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Deal with a friend or family member directly. Your attention means more than you might think, and it is helpful in resolving a misunderstanding. Tonight: Add some spice to a loved one's life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Don't worry if you don't have plans. You will, as others seek you out. Follow through only on those invitations with people you enjoy and/or share a preferred pastime with. A friend or loved one shares special news with you. Tonight: At home.

Happy birthday

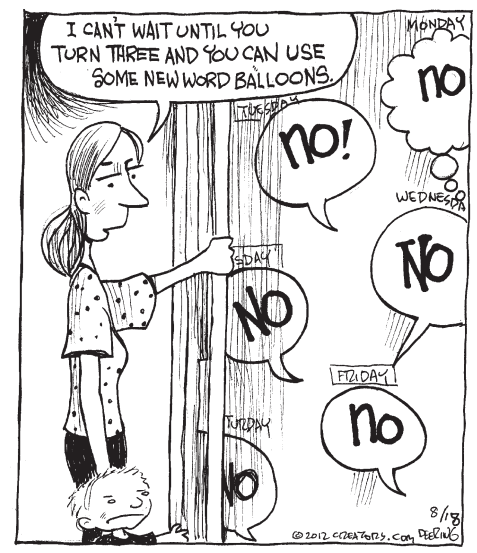
This year you might be unusually focused on your financial well-being. Perhaps you see a new path open up and decide to walk down it. A friend or loved one also might offer a different approach. If you are single, a friendship is significant to a key relationship. You could meet someone through a friend, or the very nature of a friendship could change. If you are attached, the two of you become an even stronger entity. You will enjoy socializing together, as well as being alone with each other. VIRGO can be so fussy!

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

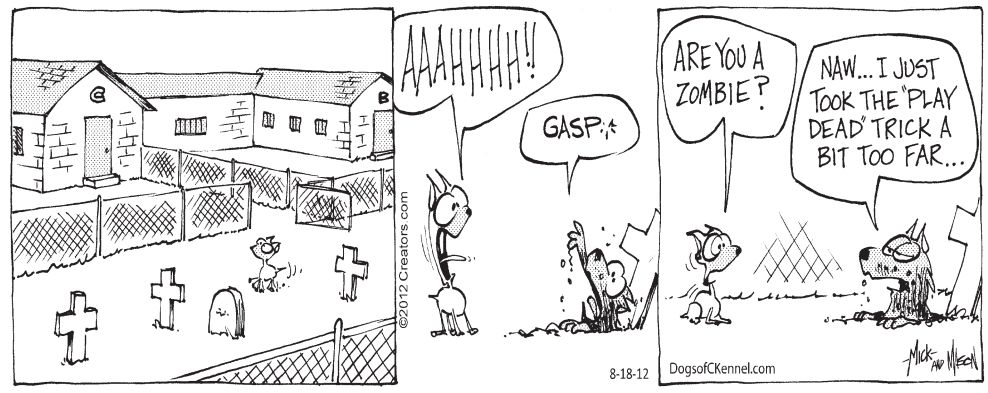
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



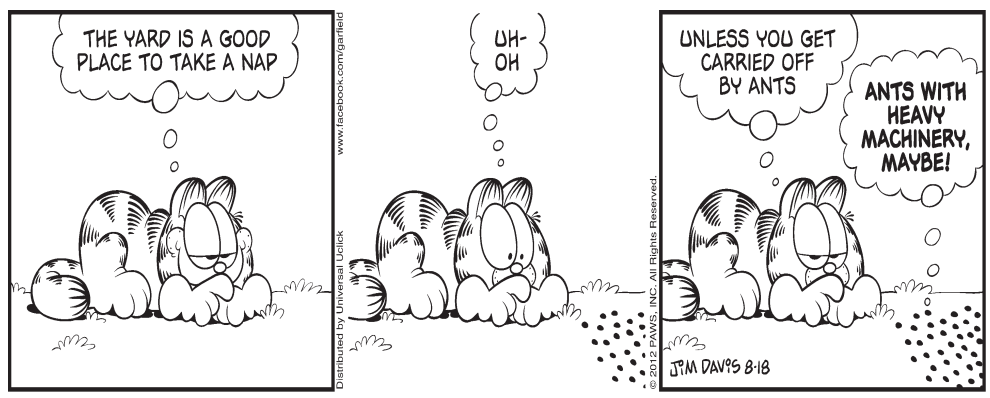
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



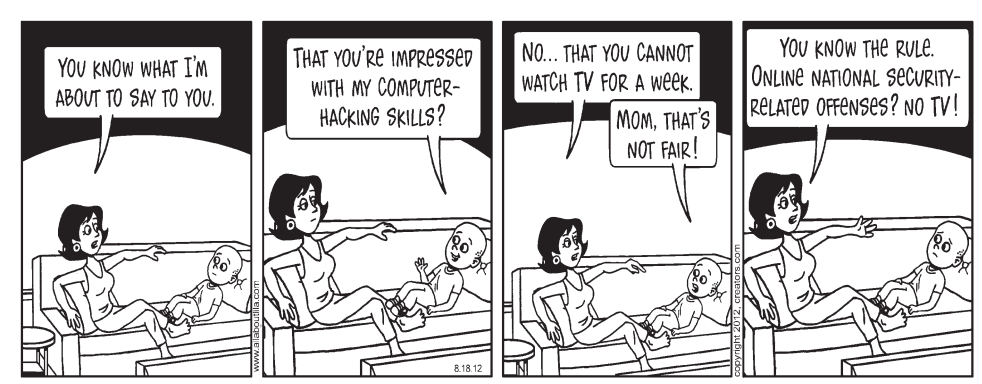
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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It makes a difference!



MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

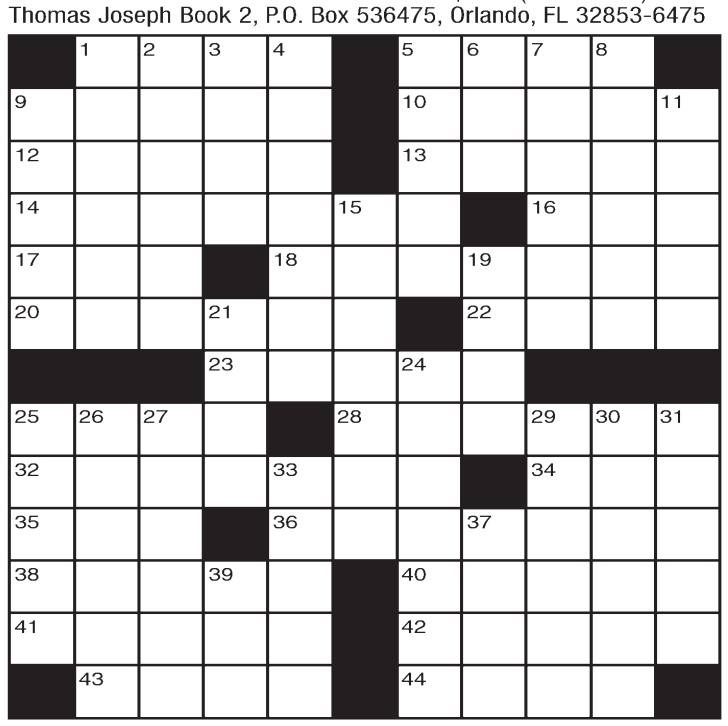
ACROSS
1 Velcro feature
5 Falls back
9 Make a cameo
10 Rework
12 The Yo-kum boy
13 Sweeney's weapon
14 Family doter
16 H look-alike
17 Put away
18 Birth announcement
20 Martin and Lawrence
22 A lot
23 Chum
25 Feel the absence of
28 One catching some z's
32 First
34 Reduce drastically
35 Gal of song
36 Library request
38 Court event
40 Glorify
41 Bolivian city
42 Starts the bidding
43 Diplomacy
44 Go-aheads

DOWN
1 Research subject
2 Florid
3 Roasting spot
4 Daily allowance
5 "— Theme" ("Dr. Zhivago" music)
6 Nabokov book
7 Small pavilion
8 Exact, to Brits
9 Pet-store buys
11 Serving aids
15 Place for Moses
19 Looking down from
21 Sweeping
24 Armada ship
25 Fogs
26 Desperate for change
27 Sand base
29 Gasped for breath
30 They have records
31 Staggers
33 Spot in the ocean
37 Trade fair
39 Rainbow shape

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

Yesterday's answer

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



8-18



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Should Be an Olympic Sport: Romanian gang members have apparently been apprehended after a series of robberies during March, April and May that resembled a scene from a recent "Fast and Furious" movie. The gang's vehicle approaches the rear of tractor-trailers traveling at highway speed, and gangsters climb onto the hood, grab the 18-wheeler's rear door, open it using specialized tools, and steal inventory, apparently without knowledge of the driver. In one video released by police in Bucharest, the gang members, after peering inside the trailer, decided to take nothing and climbed back out.

■ British Scared-y Cats: U.K. bureaucrats are constantly drawing criticism for their alleged over-concern with safety. In June, Royal Mail notified businesses on a street in Doncaster that it would no longer deliver to them on rainy days because the street was too slippery. (One clumsy postman had just suffered a broken shoulder when he slipped and fell.) And in May, the Somerset County Council ordered the removal of a yard sign advertising an upcoming public fundraiser on the ground that someone might bump into it at night. An event organizer pointed out that the particular yard sign was stuck in the grass directly in front of a tree, which was likely equally hard to see in darkness.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1903 - German engineer Karl Jatho allegedly flies his self-made, motored gliding airplane four months before the first flight of the Wright Brothers.

1917 - A Great Fire in Thessaloniki, Greece destroys 32% of the city leaving 70,000 individuals homeless.

1920 - The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified, guaranteeing women's suffrage.

WORD UP!

phthisis
**\ THAHY-sis ** , noun;
1. A wasting away.
2. Pulmonary tuberculosis; consumption.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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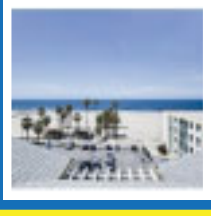




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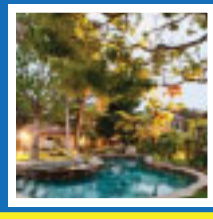
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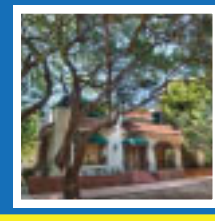
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