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Volume 9 Issue 243



LEARN HOW TO RIDE SAFELY
SEE PAGE 4

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE GETTING OUT EARLY ISSUE



SEE THROUGH THE TREES

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Looking through the translucent trees of artist Meeson Pae Yang's 'Traverse,' the viewer is transported through the Signs of the Forest, a group exhibition at the Santa Monica Art Studios on Airport Avenue. Saturday, Aug. 21, marks the last day of the exhibition made up of 16 artists, all who have been working with nature and/or ideas about nature.

BBB employee convicted in EZ pass fraud case

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A former Big Blue Bus supervisor could spend a year behind bars after she was convicted this week of allegedly abusing City Hall's rideshare program that provides employees with free bus passes if they use public transit to get to work.

A Los Angeles County jury on Wednesday convicted Crystal Buckner of eight misdemeanor counts including forgery, theft and embezzlement following a six-day trial at the Airport Courthouse, said Terry White, chief deputy city attorney in charge of the criminal division.

Three BBB employees, including Buckner, were arrested after a 2009 audit of City Hall's transportation demand management program discovered irregularities in applications for free transit passes.

Charges against the other two employees, Michael Brown, a bus driver, and Kalin Green, a transit operations assistant, were dropped. Kalin was a witness for the prosecution in Buckner's trial.

Brown and Green are no longer employed by the BBB, city officials said.

SEE CONVICTED PAGE 9

Legislators call on FAA to examine airport health, safety impacts

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO Despite the California Legislature's urging this week, it appears unlikely the FAA will conduct a review of safety and health concerns at Santa Monica Airport.

The state Assembly on Monday passed Joint Resolution 41, ratifying a measure previously approved by the State Senate that calls on the FAA to review aircraft noise and pollution levels and the safety of flight operations at SMO.

In announcing the approval of the nonbinding resolution, Assemblyman Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), who introduced the measure, noted homes are located less than 300 feet from the airport's runway, creating unique safety and health risks for residents.

"There is an urgent need to establish and

SEE SMO PAGE 9

Calif. bill would prohibit cadmium in jewelry

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO California lawmakers took steps this week to ban jewelry that contains detectable levels of cadmium from being manufactured, shipped or sold in California.

The state Assembly Thursday approved SB929 on a 41-15 vote, the bare majority needed. The legislation was sent back to the Senate for expected final approval of Assembly amendments.

Under the bill, jewelry containing more than 300 parts per million of cadmium could not be made or sold in California beginning in 2012.

Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Santa Monica, the bill's author, credited an investigation in January by The Associated Press that found manufacturers in Asia were substituting the toxic metal because the U.S. had banned the use of lead in jewelry.

"Cadmium is a known cancer-causing agent, and there is no reason for our most vulnerable citizens our children to be

SEE BILL PAGE 13

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE



OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010

Get 'Lost'

Barker Hanger
Santa Monica Airport, 9 a.m.

"Lost" may have ended in May, but fans will have one more chance to go back to the island with a live auction of more than 1,000 props, costumes and set pieces to be held Aug. 21 and 22 in Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar. Bidding begins at 1 p.m.

Appreciating the ocean

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Have you thanked the ocean lately for all it gives us? All are invited to celebrate at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium's Ocean Appreciation Weekend. Special presentations touching on the myriad ways the ocean impacts our lives — and the effect people have on the ocean — will be the focus of the weekend, with a special emphasis on the issue of climate change. Participate in creating a sea monster made of plastic, aimed at educating visitors about the dangers of single-use and common household plastics and the threat they pose to the marine environment. This event also takes place on Sunday. For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

Art and a ride

Santa Monica Pier Carousel
Daily

An exhibit featuring photographs by Elena Perrotta are on display in the Carousel Building through Sept. 15, 2010. The exhibit is open during normal Carousel business hours and closed on Tuesdays. This event is free.

'Signs of the Forest'

Arena 1 Gallery
3026 Airport Ave., noon — 6 p.m.

"Signs of the Forest" is a group exhibition about the forest, metaphorically, physically and philosophically. Each of the 16 artists in the show has been working with nature and/or ideas about nature, and collectively their works, whether made of stones, leaves, branches, or materials which have replaced them in contemporary urban settings, ask the viewer to recall the feeling of "forest" — where the forest itself is but a signifier for nature itself. For more information, call (310) 397-7456. This event takes place Wednesday-Saturday.

Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010

So fresh

2640 Main St., 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

The weekly Main Street Farmers' Market offers some of the finest fresh produce available and a number of prepared food booths.

'Never WonderLand'

Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.

Theatre, dance, music and inspired storytelling leap into the Miles Memorial Playhouse as Boomkat Dance Theatre's "Never WonderLand" takes the stage. Getting lost somewhere between London and NeverWonderLand, Peter Pan and Wonderland's Alice, brother and sister, find a fresh start in this inventive prequel for all ages to J.M Barrie and Lewis Carroll's beloved children's tales. This show also takes place on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (310) 202-9229.

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

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

St. Monica gets defensive

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

ST. MONICA Sure, the Mariners can score the ball. That's obvious. The real question is, can they stop somebody on defense?

St. Monica Head Coach Larry Muno thinks so.

Last season saw the Mariners turn to then-junior quarterback Matthew Partyka to turn around a program that hadn't won a game in nearly three years. He didn't disappoint as he threw for 2,372 yards and 20 touchdowns. St. Monica finished the season 3-6, but it proved that Muno was on to something in his first season.

This time around, Muno is confident that his Mariners can score, now it's the defense that needs to improve if St. Monica is going to compete in the Santa Fe League.

"Our defense is vastly improved," Muno said.

While Muno wouldn't divulge which defensive formation he would use, he did say it would differ from last year's four-three alignment that includes four down-lineman and three linebackers. He said that he would like to generate more pressure on opposing quarterbacks, which should come from a front seven that returns a number of players that he said have put in the work to make this season different.

Last season, the Mariners give up 372 points on defense, 10 more than they scored. Muno points to returners Justin Kennedy, a junior defensive lineman, and junior linebacker Chris Corbally as two of the main players who will have to step up this season. Their playing experience from last year coupled with their work during the offseason should see them make that jump, Muno added.

A major factor making it difficult to field a quality team is the size of St. Monica's enrollment. There are just 500 students at the high school, making fielding a deep team that much more difficult.

"We have a typical St. Monica team," Muno said. "We have just 22 guys on varsity."

The school does field a junior varsity team, but Muno said that he would hold off on mining that squad for varsity players. For now, he's happy with what he has.

"I would put us against any team in SoCal," he said.

The Mariners open the season on the road against Animo Leadership on Sept. 4.

daniela@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GET AFTER IT: **St. Monica's varsity football squad at a recent practice at Airport Park. Coach Muno expects his squad to be better on defense this season.**

Losing a special pet causes grief and questions

BY SUE MANNING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Jane Shaw called Jake her angel dog. Jake saw her through vet school, through her father's death, through a divorce and into private practice. He even did therapy work.

"He had a good sense about him, he was very reasonable. He kind of went through life at a good pace, he wasn't lethargic or excitable," Shaw said.

But 11 years ago, Shaw lost Jake to a car accident. She didn't just lose a pet, she lost the hiking partner she built her life around and that shared her lifestyle.

Through the grief came a question familiar to those who have lost a special pet: Should she get another pet? And when?

"It is healthy to have a transition period. In grieving, we're taking time to honor the pet we lost. Grief is so miserable," said the veterinarian, who is now director of the Argus Institute in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

People used to think getting a new pet right away was as important as getting back on a bicycle after you fall off. But a little time will generally help, Shaw said.

There are no wrong answers about if and when to get a new pet — just a few wrong turns. Some people will mistakenly try to "replace" a lost pet, she said, trying to find an animal that looks, sounds and behaves the same. Some people will even give the new pet the same name.

A few have tried cloning, but "while you can get a genetic replication, you can't get the same personality or temperament," Shaw said.

It took Shaw 11 months to get a new dog.

"I wanted to make sure I didn't pull the trigger too fast. Whoever this new dog was had really big paws to fill. I wanted to make sure he had a chance," she said.

It's been 10 years now and Cliff — another mutt from a shelter — is everything she could want in a best friend.

Doreen Disbro of Indianapolis, Ind., lost her German shepherd named Tandy to hip disease in 2003, and she's still grieving.

"I didn't put her things, her toys, away for several weeks. I would lay next to her bed," she said.

For two months, she came home to an empty house every night and was miserable, said Disbro, an administrative assistant for a medical informatics firm and a pet blogger.

"There will never be another Tandy," she said. But she knew she could give another dog a good home and lots of love, so about eight weeks after Tandy died, she adopted Millie, who is 7 now. Soon after, Millie was joined by Riley Elizabeth, 6, a Lab mix; and Kiko, a year-old Boston rat terrier.

The shepherd's loss still hurts, especially when she sees a dog that looks like her, or an old photo or a stuffed animal like one Tandy used to play with.

"Lost love and memories can beautifully coexist with new love and happiness," Ingrid King wrote after her cat Amber died in May.

A month before Amber died, King adopted a kitten named Allegra.

"I will eventually add a second cat to our family, but I'm just not ready," said King, an author and former veterinary hospital man-

SEE **PET DEATH** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Broad not the way to go

Editor:

Now that Eli Broad has made an end-run around the Santa Monica offer of essentially a free building site for his art collection, I would like to suggest that Santa Monica seek other possible future museums with public support. How about a future David Hockney or Richard Diebenkorn museum? These are artist who have had a worldwide impact while living and working in our area. Hockney's art for example has had a much more important impact on the culture of Southern California than the majority of the art found in the Broad Collection, which is centered around New York artists from the 1980s and '90s. The Broad Collection from the perspective of the present seems very tired and dated and how much more so it will be 20 or 30 years from now is almost a forgone conclusion. Keeping a museum current is a very difficult task and one which the Broad has failed up until the present.

Might Mr. Broad have been better off if he had bought his own land on the beach in Santa Monica or close by and had it zoned for a museum? Certainly he would have ended up with something more enduring and architecturally important than a downtown Los Angeles location which, on the several recent times that I have been there, seem almost a void for its lack of people, and strangely cars as well.

Why Santa Monica let a possible Richard Diebenkorn museum slip pass its cultural radar following his passing escapes me, but surely his great Ocean Park paintings are very significant to the history of Santa Monica and to art history generally. Now is also the time to reach out to Mr. Hockney with proposals by the city.

The Andy Warhol Museum and foundation have had an important, positive impact on Pittsburgh. Might these artist-centered museums that I mention, and there may be others that I have over looked, be just as important to Santa Monica? The direction of the future culture of Santa Monica seems almost rudderless and narrow in its over focus on the overload of preservationist schemes for maintaining the mediocre and ordinary.

Ken C. Arnold
Santa Monica

Put elections back in voters' hands

Editor:

When members of Congress leave D.C. for the August recess, it's supposed to allow them time to meet with constituents. Lately, other "priorities" intervene. Instead of addressing the concerns of voters, our lawmakers are busy attending fundraisers in order to raise enough money for midterms.

Elected officials seem to prioritize their own electoral self-preservation over the needs of constituents. Voters are left to wonder whether their elected officials are standing up for them — or their major donors.

But the problem isn't just a few bad members of Congress, the entire system breeds this kind of behavior. American people are fed up and want to put elections back in the hands of voters. We can do that by passing the bipartisan Fair Elections Now Act (H.R. 1826).

I urge Rep. Waxman to help restore faith in our government and trust in our elected officials by backing the Fair Elections Now Act.

Anjuli Kronheim
Santa Monica

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On the Beat

NPO Artis Williams — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Bicyclists, drivers must abide by the same road rules

Q: I OFTEN RIDE MY BIKE TO AND FROM work in Santa Monica. I know it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk but I often ride in the street against the flow of traffic so I can see the cars driving toward me. Is this Illegal?

BICYCLISTS SHOULD ALSO BE MINDFUL THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO STOP AT RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS WHILE OUT RIDING AS WELL.

A: Yes. Section 21200(a) of the California Vehicle Code gives bicyclists all the rights to the roadway as a person driving a car; however a bicyclist is also subject to all the provisions of the roadway as drivers of cars. In this case, a bicyclist riding in the roadway shall ride with the flow of traffic and as far to the right as possible. There are some instances when a bicyclist may not ride to the far right, such as passing a parked or slower vehicle and preparing to make a left turn. There are some streets (like Wilshire Boulevard) that are very congested with both traffic and parking lanes and not every street has a dedicated (marked) bicycle lane. Both bicyclist and motorist should exercise care when traveling upon these roads.

City Hall has recently started painting some of the streets with a new marking known as a "sharrow," short for "shared lane arrow," as a way to remind cyclists and drivers alike that the road is a shared space for both travel modes. The street marking is a white graphic that combines the classic pictogram of a bicycle with two arrows.

Bicyclists should also be mindful that they are required to stop at red lights and stop signs while out riding as well.

Q: I like to listen to music while I am out riding my bike but I heard there is a law prohibiting me from covering my ears while riding on the roadway. Is there such a law?

A: Yes. Section 27400 of the California Vehicle Code prohibits bicyclists and drivers of motor vehicles from wearing a headset covering, or earplugs in, both ears. There are only a few exceptions to this law:

• A person operating authorized emergency vehicles.

• A person engaged in the operation of special construction equipment.

• A person wearing personal hearing protectors to reduce injurious noise levels that are designed so they do not inhibit the wearer's ability to hear a horn from a vehicle or siren of an approaching emergency vehicle.

• A person using hearing aids.

It's very important that you are able to hear what is happening around you. By wearing the headset or ear plug in one ear, you can still hear if another bicyclist or motorist is trying to warn you of a potential hazard or collision.

Here are some safety tips before you hop on the bike and ride.

• To identify your bicycle, engrave your driver's license number (or your parents') on the frame.

• Register your bicycle with City Hall and keep the serial/model number on file.

• Check your handlebars, bicycle seats and brakes.

• Check your tire pressure.

• Check your first aid pouch for fresh supplies.

• Check your reflectors and light.

• Inspect your helmet and be sure to wear it.

• Maintain the safety of your bicycle by giving it regular tune-ups

• If you are under 18, a helmet is required by law. Be sure it meets the guidelines of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation. Labels with this information will be inside helmets that have passed their testing standards.

Here are some tips for riding.

• Stay on the right side of the road, ride with traffic and use the bike lane where available.*

• Obey all traffic laws and signals.

• Use hand signals for turning and for all stops.

• Watch for road hazards and cars in driveways.

• Use extra caution in poor or wet weather.

• Wear safe, comfortable clothes.

• Do not allow children to ride a bicycle at night.

• Always lock your bicycle using a U-lock, securing both the wheels and the frame to a stationary object.

*Bicycles are not permitted on sidewalks as they can endanger pedestrians. Likewise, runners/joggers can be cited for using the bike lane.

This column was prepared by **NRO ARTIS WILLIAMS** (Beat 7, Sunset Park Neighborhood). He can be reached at (424) 200-0687 or artis.williams@smgov.net.



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Modern Times

Lloyd Garver
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's crazy what passes for an American hero these days

A YEAR FROM NOW, MOST PEOPLE WILL have no idea who Stephen Slater is. However, today he's a hero to thousands of people. He's the JetBlue flight attendant who lost his temper, quit his job while on duty, grabbed some beer, activated the emergency chute, and slid to fame. Why did a guy like this become a hero to so many people?

In these economic times, it might seem strange that someone would throw away a job. I'm sure there are unemployed people and others with backbreaking jobs who can't identify at all with what Slater did. On the other hand, many people today feel that management is taking advantage of workers. Employers know how hard it is to get a job today, so they hire people at lower wages with fewer benefits. As a result, there are considerable ill feelings towards employers today.

I'm not defending what Slater did. I'm just trying to understand it. However, there are many people who are defending him, even though he broke the law. They are thrilled by the way he quit, and see him as a hero. He did what many working people fantasize doing. He put into action the words of the old Johnny Paycheck song, "Take This Job And Shove It."

There is a tradition in America to turn those who break the law into heroes. Jesse James was a folk hero. Bonnie and Clyde were, too. Don't forget D.B. Cooper. He was the guy who hijacked a plane, got $200,000 in ransom, and parachuted out of the plane with the money.

Americans don't (hero) worship just anybody who breaks the law. Those who are admired are people whose actions are audacious and aimed primarily at "the man," government, big institutions, or corporations like banks, railroads, and now airlines. If someone steals the money from the cash register of a little store, nobody is going to make that thief a hero. But if a meek doorman at Goldman Sachs ingeniously figures out a way to get into the vault and steal millions of dollars on his lunch hour, he becomes an instant hero.

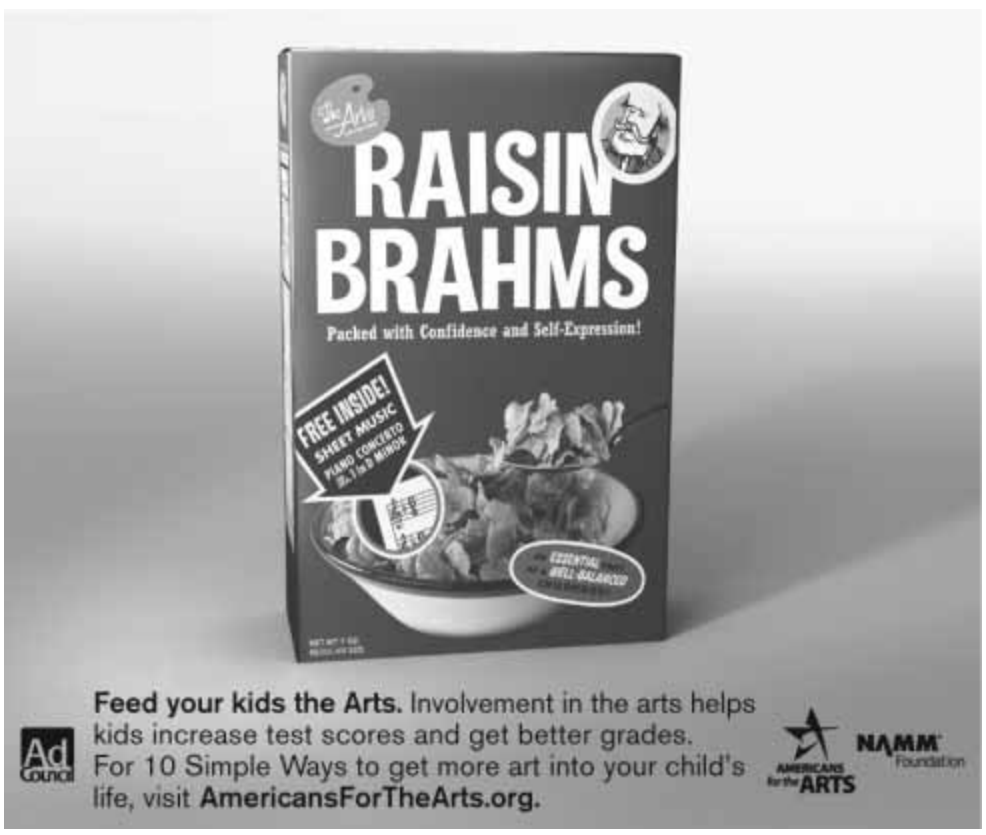
I don't think it's a particularly good thing that Americans make heroes out of these people, but that's the reality. And speaking of reality, it's no surprise that there are rumors that Slater will be in a TV reality show soon. He already has a Hollywood publicist named Howard Bragman. How perfect is Bragman for the name of a publicist? According to Bragman, they're getting all kinds of show business offers, and they'll deal with them once Slater takes care of his pesky criminal charges.

THERE IS A TRADITION IN AMERICA TO TURN THOSE WHO BREAK THE LAW INTO HEROES.

I'm sure he could do commercials for all kinds of products. He could definitely help sell the kind of beer he grabbed from the plane -- Blue Moon. But if I were the head of JetBlue, I'd hire Slater and make sure that his contract was exclusive. Then I'd put him in a JetBlue flight attendant's uniform, and he'd say on camera, "Everybody makes mistakes, even JetBlue. Sometimes we're late. Sometimes we overbook. Sometimes we accidentally seat you 20 rows from your 3 year old. But whenever JetBlue happens to make a mistake, I think you should forgive them — just as JetBlue has forgiven me." Then he'd grab a couple of beers, and slide down a chute.

It's definitely the smart way to go. You see, if a big corporation like JetBlue were to forgive someone who embarrassed them like this, and if they made fun of themselves in the process, well, there's a good chance JetBlue would become a folk hero.

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



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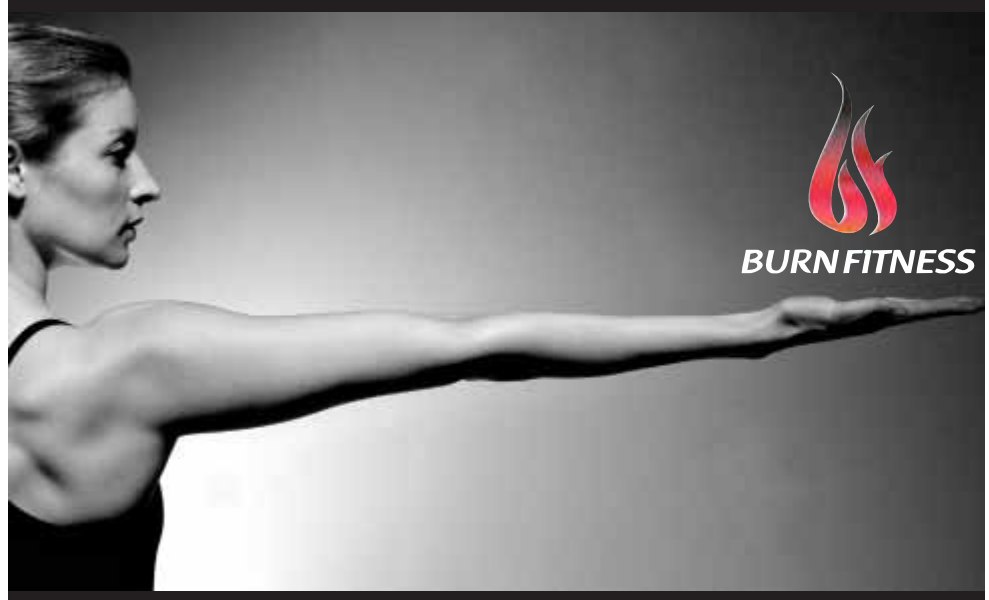
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Vineyard tours take visitors from grape to glass

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

HEALDSBURG, Calif. They say great wine is made in the vineyard. Now some vintners are inviting guests to check that out through walking tours aimed at giving the real dirt on winemaking.

"One of the challenges facing the industry is there is this elitist perception of wine," says Clay Mauritson, winemaker at Mauritson Winery, which offers vineyard tours. "I just see a huge benefit to getting people in the vineyard and showing them how the wine is made."

The Mauritson tour is one of four self-guided walks put together with the assistance of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission. (The other three are Paradise Ridge Winery, Balletto Vineyards and Matanzas Creek Winery.) The tours are free and visitors get information sheets pointing out various sights along the way; tasting room fees vary.

Trails are clearly marked with stopping points to look at various features, such as the Mauritson wind machines used to protect grapes from frost during the winter. (The fans draw in and circulate warmer air.) Different types of vines are pointed out, as well as the environments they like to live in — heavier, richer soils for sauvignon blanc, for instance, or gravelly dirt for cabernet sauvignon.

"It's a passive education," says Mauritson. "When they notice those things, what they're really doing is the essence of viticulture. You're not shoving it down their throat with hoity-toity wine talk, you're really letting them find out."

Amy Hoseth, a librarian from Fort Collins, Colo., who recently took the Mauritson tour with her husband, Chad, appreciates the low-key approach.

"I'd never seen grapes growing before, so it was cool to see how it all works," she said.

The couple visited a few wineries, including one where they took a tram ride through the fields, which they also enjoyed, but "it was just kind of fun to get out there and walk around." At the end of the tour, the couple got to stand near the crushpad and watch wine being bottled, a bonus peek into the world of winemaking.

Sonoma County isn't the only region inviting visitors to get up close and personal with the vines.

In next-door Napa Valley, Rubicon Estate — the historic Inglenook Winery painstakingly restored by director Francis Ford Coppola — has a variety of tours, including a 45-minute Vinifera walk.

"This journey begins where our wine begins, in the vineyard, and that really was the impetus for us to do this," says Catherine Durand, senior director of retail operations at Rubicon.

The Vinifera tour, which costs $45 and culminates with a tasting of five wines, is guided and may take longer than 45 minutes depending on what people in the group want.

"We ask guests, how much of this do you want to learn?" Durand says.

If you're looking for some serious leg-stretching, Kunde Family Estate, also in Sonoma County, has tours ranging from fairly short walks where dogs are welcome to moderately strenuous hikes that last up to four hours.

"We get people into our vineyards, show them our sustainable farming practices; they see beautiful vineyards. Our whole concept is to get people in the vineyards," Jeff Kunde says. "Everybody can see what estate wine is all about."

The winery has vehicles available to pick up anyone who finds the walk a bit much for them (a few old dogs have hitched rides, too) and they also have a completely motorized trip to a mountaintop tasting for those who want their views without vigor.

Kunde, which has been recognized for its sustainable growing practices, has 1,850 acres and a 1,500-foot elevation, so each hike is a little different.

There is a charge, which includes tastings and in some cases lunch. A portion of the fees goes to an appropriate charity — an environmental fund for the eco-tours; pro-animal groups for the dog hikes. Walks end with a wine tasting, and for the dogs, a water tasting.

Registration is online and tours fill up promptly.

Tiptoe through the tulips? That's so yesterday. Now you can prance past the pinot noir.

IF YOU GO

KUNDE FAMILY ESTATE:
9825 Sonoma Hwy., Kenwood, Calif.; www.kunde.com or (707) 833-5501. Online registration available, fees range from $25 for hikes with tastings to $45 for dog hikes with lunch, and $60 for a special harvest hike, including lunch, Sept. 11.

MAURITSON:
2859 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg, Calif.; www.mauritsonwines.com or (707) 431-0804. Walks are free. No reservation required, but call ahead to check on weather conditions. Tasting room fees vary.

SONOMA COUNTY SELF-GUIDED TOUR:
www.sonomavineyardadventures.com/

RUBICON ESTATE:
1991 St. Helena Hwy., Rutherford, Calif.; www.rubiconestate.com or (707) 968-1100. Vinifera tour $45, includes tasting. Reservations recommended.

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TIDE RIDE Service to End September 6

As a cost saving measure, the weekend Tide Ride service will be taking its last ride in early September, but that doesn't mean you can't get around Downtown Santa Monica or to the pier on a Big Blue Bus! Routes 1 and 2 service many Downtown Santa Monica hotels and retail areas, including Main Street, and have a variety of convenient travel times available to help you plan your day.

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No liquor, no problem at Le Saigon

SOME FRIENDS WON'T DINE WITH ME at Le Saigon because they don't serve beer or wine, but personally I find the fresh coconut juice a special treat.

It's a small, plain restaurant with a utilitarian look. There seems to be a lot of waiters around for a small place and I find the service fast and friendly. I love the food, but there are a lot of negative reviews on the Internet about both food and service. Personally, I have always found both wonderful.

The descriptions on the menu don't do justice to the food. How many Santa Monicans know what "pho" is? Let me just say it's a meal in itself, a bowl of delicious broth filled with items you select and at $8.95 it's a great bargain.

I'm not certain what she saw on the menu, but a young Asian woman at the table next to me the last time I was there had a big stack of very thin, delicate crepes on a pate, and three plates of meats and vegetables on her table. She was carefully selecting a few bites from each plate, putting it on a crepe. Rolling up the crepe, dipping in a sauce, and devouring it in two or three bites, all with chopsticks without touching it with her hands! What dexterity! I wonder how she is with a fork.

She probably ordered the Nem Nuong, described on the menu as "roll your own rolls." At $12.50 it's the most expensive dish on the menu.

On another table in view, a bunch of athletic looking guys had plates of imperial rolls, meatball rolls, and various skewers. Imperial rolls are the best known Vietnamese dish — fried rolls with pork and vegetable filling perfect for dipping. At $4.95 for four rolls it's a bargain.

For myself I ordered the plate of two spring rolls. These are the non-fried rolls with vegetables, pork and shrimp rolled in a vermicelli crepe. Two dipping sauces were served — the traditional dark sauce, and a spicy red chili sauce.

There are a lot of other dishes on the menu, but I can't tell what they are from just looking at the menu. But I'm going back to find out, one at a time.

The food at Le Saigon is exotic, but in a different way than, say, Indian food. The spices do not over-power the natural flavors. The ingredients are familiar, but served in a different way and in different combinations. The flavors are mildly different. It's a nice break from tacos and pizza, the standard American fare.

IF YOU GO

Le Saigon
11611 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif., 90025
(310) 312-2929

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

When sweet-and-sour chicken becomes a grinder

J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

The best weeknight recipes are those that are versatile enough to work not just with what you want, but also what you have.

As in this simple recipe for sweet-and-sour chicken. In a creative take on this classic Asian takeout, the lightly sweet and tangy chicken is intended to be nestled into a sub roll. But if you don't have any or simply aren't in the mood, it does just as well over noodles, wrapped in a flour tortilla or even — ready? — over rice.

Likewise, you could turn this into a sweet-and-sour beef or pork by using an equivalent amount of sirloin or pork tenderloin (adjust cooking times as needed). If vegetarian is more your style, cubes of extra-firm water-packed tofu would be delicious, as would the wheat protein known as seitan.

Even the sauce is agreeable to tinkering. For a spicy take, add a splash of hot sauce (sweet-and-heat-and-sour), a pinch of red pepper flakes or some finely diced jalapeno peppers.

Sweet-and-sour chicken grinders

Start to finish: 25 minutes
Servings: 4

2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon seasoned rice vinegar
1 teaspoon hot sauce
2 tablespoons apricot or peach jam
1 tablespoon cornstarch
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch chunks
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 large yellow onion, halved and thinly sliced
1 large red bell pepper, cored and thinly sliced
1 large green bell pepper, cored and thinly sliced
1 cup chunk pineapple, and 1/2 cup of the canning juice
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
Four 6-inch sub rolls

In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, vinegar, hot sauce, jam and cornstarch. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine the flour and chicken, tossing to coat. Set aside.

In a large sauté pan over medium-high, combine the butter and oil. Heat until the butter has melted. Add the chicken and brown on all sides, about 5 minutes.

Add the onion, both peppers and the pineapple juice. Saute until the chicken is cooked through and the onions are tender, about another 4 minutes. Add the pineapple, then cook until heated.

Stir in the soy sauce mixture and cook, stirring constantly, until thickened, about 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Spoon chicken, vegetables and sauce into each sub roll.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 521 calories; 89 calories from fat; 10 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 106 mg cholesterol; 62 g carbohydrate; 47 g protein; 7 g fiber; 807 mg sodium.

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The Q Line

ROLLING FEAST

The City Council last week approved a new permit that allows property owners to turn parking lots into mobile food truck courts.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Are you interested in dining at these impromptu dining spot?
Here are your responses:

"NO, I AM NOT IN THE LEAST INTERESTED. I much prefer the tried and true, closely monitored restaurants we already have. I personally think it's a tacky idea. The only food trucks that should be allowed are those that service working sites for the convenience of the workmen."

"I AM THE WRONG PERSON TO ASK THE Q-Line question of the week. I dine mostly at home due to the fact that I trust my own cooking more than I do that of others. Still, the food trucks that sit on the south side of San Vicente Boulevard east of 26th Street that are patronized by gardeners and construction workers do tremendous business and appear to be mobile gold mines. These food courts are excellent for those who do construction and mechanical work and get soiled on the job and do not feel comfortable sitting in a restaurant and the food is quite good. I say amen to food courts as long as they stay clean and conform to the health code stipulations that restaurants abide by."

"YES, I WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN patronizing some of these food trucks that come here to the city of San Malicious. I love the variety of food. My personal favorite, even though I'm an excellent cook is Spanish food, or Mexican. I love it."

"NO, AND THERE IS A REASON THEY CALL them roach coaches."

"NO."

"ONCE AGAIN OUR SMRR BURNT CITY has cooked our goose by selling out to developers and the tourist dollar. If they can make a buck from selling meals on wheels to yuppies, they won't care about the stench of burning grease and truck exhaust to neighbors. Or the trucks hogging parking."

"IN RESPONSE TO THIS WEEK'S QUESTION about the food trucks, I think it is an excellent idea. I think it is finally time that the City Council embraces another out-of-the-box way for people to survive this economy."

"WHY NOT? I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR something new to eat. Santa Monica has some great restaurants and I have sampled pretty much all of them. It's nice to have something new in our area to experience and I commend the City Council for working with business owners to come up with what I think is a fair solution for all. I think these trucks will draw people to Main Street and other areas of the city and help some of our retail establishments and other businesses that are struggling. This recession has taught me the value of being flexible and creative, whether that means finding ways to save money or finding ways to make money. Kudos to all."

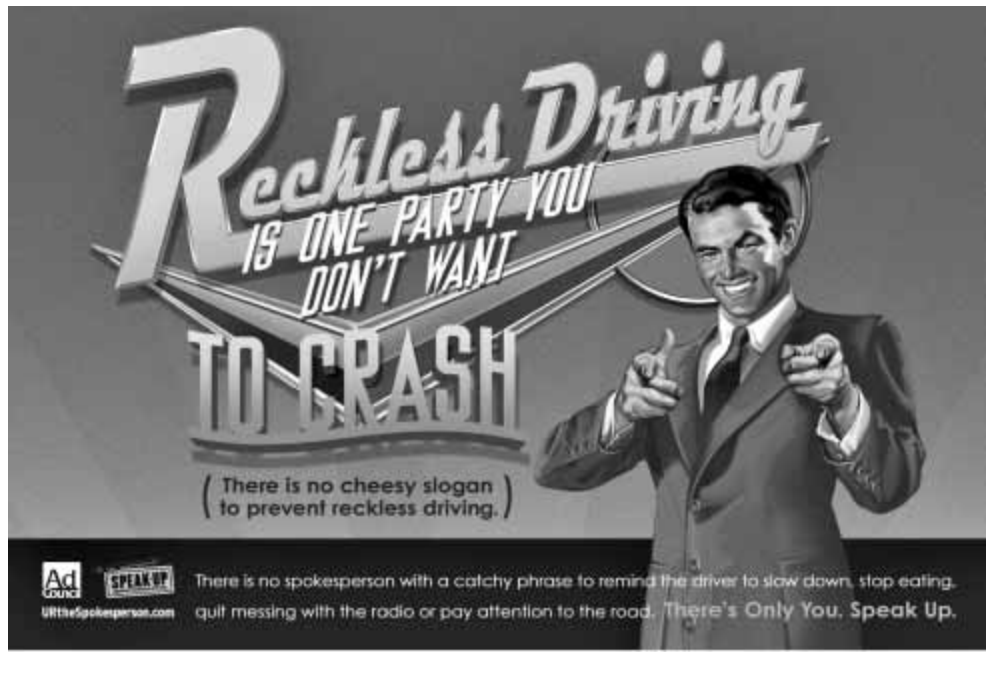
"I HOPE THOSE ON THE CITY COUNCIL EAT at one of these spots and get food poisoning so they can get a taste of what we residents will have to go through when these trucks start pouring in. Instead of a cool ocean breeze, I will have to put up with the stench of cooked flesh. I hope there is a plan in place to deal with all the trash that will be left over from those who swoop in, stuff their faces and then leave, with no care for the community."

"I'M ALL FOR IT. THE MORE THE MERRIER."

"BRING IT ON. I LOVE THE KOREAN TACOS. So yummy."

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CONVICTED
FROM PAGE 1

Buckner is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 25. White said she faces a possible fine of at least $1,000 and up to a year in jail.

During the trial, White said he and co-counsel Alicia Cortrite, a deputy city attorney, alleged Buckner had forged the names of other employees on applications for free transit passes under the EZ pass program. Several BBB employees whose names were allegedly forged testified for the prosecution, White said.

"I'm happy that the city of Santa Monica was policing the program and when we found someone who we thought was involved in wrong doing, we prosecuted them. It didn't matter that they were a city employee," White said.

> **"I'M HAPPY THAT THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA WAS POLICING THE PROGRAM AND WHEN WE FOUND SOMEONE WHO WE THOUGHT WAS INVOLVED IN WRONG DOING, WE PROSECUTED THEM."**
>
> Terry White,
> Chief Deputy City Attorney

nickt@smdp.com

SMO
FROM PAGE 1

implement a reasonable distance between aircraft operations and exposed populations," he said in a press release. "As it stands today, there are no regulations in effect that would protect populations around airports from conditions like we have at Santa Monica Airport. These residents have been suffering for a long time. It is time for the FAA to step up and take responsibility."

Responding to the resolution on Friday, Ian Gregor, an FAA spokesman, said the agency already ensures that aircraft at SMO comply with noise regulations and has already taken steps to improve safety and reduce pollution.

"We constantly monitor safety at airports and in the airspace all over the country, and we do not allow unsafe conditions to exist," he said in an e-mail.

He said the FAA has made "repeated offers to address Santa Monica's safety concerns," and has proposed paying for an "Engineered Material Arresting System" on the airport's runways — essentially a bed of porous concrete blocks that collapse under the weight of a plane's landing gear, slowing down an aircraft that overruns the landing strip.

"Our proposal would create the equivalent of a 1,000 foot-long runway safety area," Gregor said. "Unfortunately, the city rejected all of our offers."

The FAA has also worked to limit exhaust from jets by asking pilots not to run their engines during delays and by positioning jets so their engines face away from homes until just before takeoff, he said.

Despite the FAA's stance, airport activists who helped persuade the legislature to pass the resolution hailed it as a landmark accomplishment.

> **"LOS ANGELES BANS GAS LEAF-BLOWERS FROM USE WITHIN 500 FEET OF HOMES, AND YET JETS ARE BLASTING OFF AS CLOSE AS 250 FEET."**
>
> Martin Rubin,
> Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

The resolution "means that the state of California believes the federal government should address the critical concerns" that residents who live near SMO have raised, said Martin Rubin, director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, which sponsored the measure.

"Los Angeles bans gas leaf-blowers from use within 500 feet of homes, and yet jets are blasting off as close as 250 feet," he said.

Bob Trimborn, director of SMO, said by Friday he had not received a response to the resolution from the FAA.

"Hopefully it'll give the FAA a little bit of a wake-up call that the state is concerned about the safety of the operation of the airport," he said. "We'll track what's going on and see how the FAA responds to it."

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Gee Rabe, Paul Cartwright, and Brandon Turner play cafe jazz with touches of Astor Piazzolla, Tom Waits, and the Kronos Quartet.



September 7, 6:30-8:30 PM
Red Hen Press Reading
Poetry by Claudia Rankine, Douglas Kearny, and Caleb Barber.

Exhibits

Objects of Wonder and Fascination (through December)

Mountains to the Sea
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Artists from the Topanga Canyon Gallery exhibit in mixed media.


Linda Bolhuis, *Follow the Leader*

Artist Demonstration:
Monday September 27, 6:30pm
Linda Bolhuis demonstrates silk painting.

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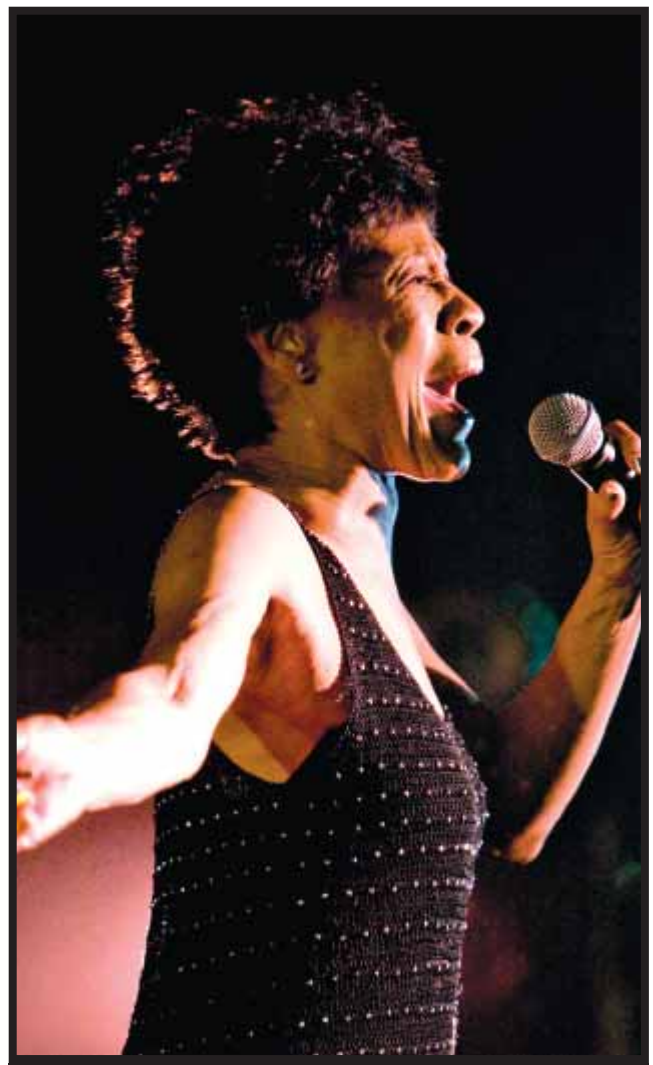
Stop by early for a self-guided Beach House tour with Santa Monica Conservancy docents.

Reservations are required. Events are free but seating is limited and late seating is not guaranteed. Please visit http://eventbrite.com/org/199463539 or call 310-458-2257 to save a spot.

The Beach House is located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway just north of the California Incline. Turn at the Beach House Way traffic light for parking: $8/day (weekends $10/day), disabled placards accepted.

For general information about the Beach House, visit http://annenbergbeachhouse.com or call 310-458-4904.

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation at the recommendation of Wallis Annenberg and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks.
City of Santa Monica



LET IT OUT

Brandon Wise
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R&B powerhouse Bettye LaVette rocked the Santa Monica Pier Thursday as part of the Twilight Dance Series.



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BILL
FROM PAGE 1

exposed to this highly toxic metal," Pavley said in a statement.

Cadmium is a naturally occurring metal that, if ingested, can weaken bones and kidneys. Children can be exposed if they bite and suck on products containing it.

The AP investigation found that some jewelry was as much as 91 percent cadmium by weight and that high levels of the metal could leach out.

Since then, necklaces, bracelets and earrings sold by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and the teen-oriented stores Justice and Limited Too have been recalled.

McDonald's restaurants also recalled about 12 million Shrek-themed drinking glasses. Other U.S. companies have responded by announcing reviews of their own testing standards.

Pavley's office said at least four other states Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota and Washington have banned cadmium at varying levels.

news@smdp.com

PET DEATH
FROM PAGE 3

ager from Herndon, Va.

Some people use time between pets to travel, start a family, move, take a new job. Some older people are reluctant to take in a new pet for fear the pet will outlive them. Every person, every pet, every relationship is different. Most people know when it is time to get a new companion, Shaw said. Or the pet will find them.

Brett Holmes was fresh out of college when he found George at a shelter near Dallas. For 14 years, Holmes and the yellow Lab mix were inseparable, living in Los Angeles, where George went to work with Holmes every day and they ran each morning or night — or both.

When Holmes was a single parent, George ran alongside him and his son, wearing out three strollers in four years.

"I've come to understand that George represented the best of life — during a special period of mine in which he inspired me to seize each day and do my best to make my life extraordinary," said Holmes, who now lives in Austin, Texas, where he works for a pet food company.

It's been 10 years since George died. Holmes hasn't gotten another pet because "I couldn't seem to get past my memories of George."

But he's met others who had similar relationships with their pets and "I've learned to be more honest about my feelings about George, and acknowledge to others and to myself my profound sense of loss and sorrow," he said.

So he has been visiting shelters and is openly looking for a new friend to share some different times with. It won't be the rollercoaster ride he and George took. Maybe this time they will walk more than they run.

Terri Lebo of Denver met Shaw when she took her dog Blue to Coloardo State for consultation when he was sick.

A month or two after Blue died of cancer in April 2009, Lebo started looking to adopt another dog. She found Whisper on a rescue website but was hesitant to adopt because the dog was about 4, undergoing heartworm treatment.

"I was hesitant about adopting her because I was afraid of losing another pet too soon after losing Blue, but the vet reassured me that she could live a normal life if the treatment was successful. Whisper came from a very bad place and was completely shut down — terrified of everything."

In the year since the adoption, Lebo said Whisper has blossomed, helping her deal with Blue's loss.

"It really was the worst time of my life when Blue got sick but for some reason I managed to live through it," Lebo said. "Maybe it was so I could help Whisper."



END OF THE ROAD

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

The Rizzoli Family, who hail from Bologna Italy, pose for a photo by the Route 66 sign at the Santa Monica Pier after completing their 15-day road trip of the Mother Road on Aug. 19.

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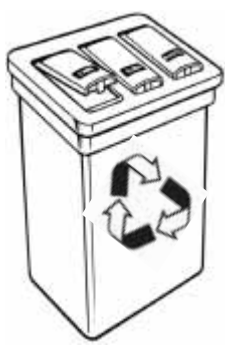
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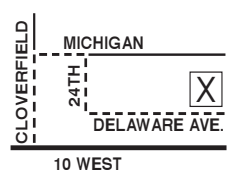


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Name changing for gay couples not a straight line

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO In October 2008, racing against California's gay marriage ban, Chloe and Frankie Frankeny wed legally in San Francisco with one chore already done: Chloe had taken her wife's name two years before.

"It was the only way we had to fit into a mainstream role that was understandable to anybody," said Chloe, managing editor of a fashion website. "When I told my father I was taking Frankie's name he was sort of blown away because I definitely consider myself a feminist."

With a battle over the state's ban on gay marriage possibly headed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it's likely more same-sex couples will do the same. For the Frankenys, the name switch couldn't magically grant all the marriage benefits denied same-sex couples when compared to one man, one wife, but it was one more way to express their union. It's a symbol rendered even stronger now that legal gay marriages are on hold in California, and for partners who've never had the option.

Logistically, a name-change for gay couples isn't always as simple as trotting out a marriage certificate, the proof most required in heterosexual marriage. Emotionally, the journey is about love, commitment — and a way to ease anxiety over being misunderstood as non-relatives in emergencies or considered less-than as parents.

Kirsten Palladino, who runs the online gay wedding 'zine Equally Wed, shed Ott for the surname of her partner, Maria, last year without benefit of a state-sanctioned union in Georgia. She's seeing more couples go to court for name changes, settling on hyphenation or one partner's surname over the other.

"We have grown stronger and are speaking out for ourselves in this way," said Palladino, 32. "There's nothing stopping us from taking each other's names, even if we can't get a marriage certificate."

After a five-year courtship, the Palladinos had a wedding at an antebellum mansion in Decatur, Ga. Kirsten became a Palladino after running a newspaper announcement of her intentions once a week for four weeks and appearing before a judge, just as people going through a formal name change for reasons other than marriage must do.

"I was nervous. I didn't know how the judge would feel, but he was great. Personally, I had to deal with some identity issues after, but becoming a family unit with my wife trumped anything else for me," she said.

College sweethearts Kathryn and Heather Kraft of Newton, Mass., just celebrated 12 years together and have a new baby. They had a church wedding five years ago in white gowns with 10 bridesmaids after obtaining a marriage license under their state's gay marriage law.

Whose name did they choose? Kathryn said her Kraft over Heather's Cole "because we're very close to my family and wanted to add to that family in a noticeable way." They had considered combining names into a new one that "represented both of our ancestry, but in the end we're very traditional people." Cole is now a middle name for the entire family, including baby Esther.

Making the switch with a legal marriage certificate was no trouble for Heather, until she tried to get a U.S. passport ahead of a trip to Europe. "We were shocked when Heather's application was denied," said her 32-year-old partner, a family therapist. "The passport office would not recognize our marriage certificate as proof and insisted that she had to go in front of a judge to have a court-ordered name change."

After six months, she was issued a "known as" passport identifying her by both names. "It's a small thing that isn't noticeable when you look at her passport, but the process was long and an unnecessary reminder that things aren't exactly equal," Kathryn said.

Jason and Anthony Cline committed to each other in 2001 during a hotel ceremony in their native Indiana, where gay marriage is outlawed. They thought about heading to a state where their union would be legal but decided not to bother knowing they'd return home to suburban Indianapolis without that recognition.

Jason, 33, legally changed his name, going through a newspaper notification process and enduring questions from a judge as Palladino did.

"The process seemed cold but it helped prove our relationship to our friends and family that maybe weren't as advanced in their thinking on the topic. It helped solidify our relationship to the people that we knew and to the world," he said. "It starts a conversation. It tells a story."

Chloe Frankeny sees other practical outcomes to changing her name, including proof of family status in case of a medical crisis.

"With the same last name we could say we were sisters," she said. "We've all heard stories of partners kept apart in emergency rooms. That was a precaution we wanted to take."

From nearly 80 percent to 95 percent of heterosexual couples marrying for the first time legally adjust their names as the age of the average bride has risen to about 27 over the last 20 years, according to research. Professional identity before marriage motivates others — in same-sex and hetero couples alike — to keep their original names informally or incorporate them as middle names.

Elisa Hebert, 32, wasn't attached to her surname before she traveled with partner Megan from their home outside Denver, Colo., to Rehoboth, Mass., a plus since most of their friends and family are from New England. Back home, Elisa appeared in court to complete her legal name change before a judge managing a roomful of ticked-off parents and their kids hauled in for truancy. "I felt like a 12-year-old who was in trouble," she said.

Marni Kahn, a doctoral candidate in sociology in Atlanta, took partner Casey Brown's last name after a marriage ceremony that blended their Jewish and Southern Baptist roots. "It really did tie things up nicely," said Casey, a marketing analyst.

Actor and writer Marcos Mateo Ochoa, 29, of Los Angeles chose to hyphenate instead. He goes by Cermak-Ochoa after marrying partner Frank Cermak on Oct. 4, 2008, a union legally recognized in California with 18,000 other same-sex marriages there before voters approved Proposition 8 and ended the practice. He plans to make the name switch legal once the court case is resolved.

"We want to identify ourselves as being united, but with California being so flip-floppy on this, it's just a matter of when we go about the process," Ochoa said. "Is this going to be another obstacle, another hurdle for us to go through?"

Can Orwell, Vonnegut, Austen lead you to love?

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Chin Ma is 25 and looking for love. He paddles regularly in the dating pools online, paying fees to navigate millions of profiles based on lengthy checklists and compatibility formulas.

So how'd he find his latest prospect? Through a book by Andy Warhol on Alikewise.com, a newcomer looking to connect people free of charge based on their favorite reads. It's a unique approach in a recession-hardy industry that has dozens of niche sites serving potheads to pet owners, millionaires to Mac lovers.

"Alikewise is more subject to your creativity than the larger sites," said Chin, a management consultant from Brooklyn. "There's more of that soft dynamic. You get to know people in a non-superficial way."

Hobbies and passions like reading are often included when online daters describe themselves or their dream mates. Site users can search and be searched by the books and book opinions they put up next to their profile pictures. There's also an option to respond to general open-ended conversation starters that include: "Two things I can't live without ..." and "The bravest thing I've done recently ..."

Other users can leave comments about your books, and the site sends notifications when somebody adds the same title or books in the same general interest area.

"There are plenty of niche dating sites, but they struck me as a bit too niche," said the co-founder, Matt Sherman. "They seem to orient themselves over one particular interest or type of person — athletics, religion. Our attitude is that books can be about anything. They're a means to an end to get the conversation going."

Sherman thought up the idea a couple of years ago after breaking up with his girlfriend, wondering if he'd ever find a woman who has read Nassim Nicholas Taleb's "The Black Swan" or F.A. Hayek's 66-year-old "The Road to Serfdom." The site went live in mid-July and has about 1,500 users, split about evenly between genders.

Among the most popular books posted? Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Among the most posted authors of the moment? Kurt Vonnegut and George Orwell. Stieg Larsson, Chuck Palahniuk and Jane Austen also pop up often.

The top subscription dating sites boast millions of users (Match counts 29 million), and the most popular free sites can have many thousands. Sherman and fellow founder Matt Masina aren't looking to compete by that measure. Who's to say what your love match likes to read anyway? What does it really mean if they're paperback people, Kindle lovers or hardcover fanatics?

Emmaleth, a 26-year-old woman from Fresno, Calif., put up "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss: "Hello?!?! This man wrote the most poetic yet simple explanation of life! I LOVE this book and honestly I CRY sometimes when I read it. Yeah, enjoy knowing that."

The Matts of Alikewise said the draw may be more about the crowd than the love science behind their approach. "We think there's a different caliber of person who reads," Masina said. "You won't go onto our site and find guys with their shirts off."

Other sites exist for bookish on the prowl. The Passions Network, a less-than-flashy free social media and dating hangout, has separate areas for writers and lovers of comic books, manga and reading. Company president Michael Carter wouldn't disclose how many users they have.

In the extreme niche department, there's a gathering place for admirers of Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead and "Atlas Shrugged" that includes a dating area. Michael Kelley, 50, of Aiken, S.C., thought he'd give it a try after two failed marriages and intensive study of Rand's work years later. He met a fellow devotee who moved to Florida. They're still in touch and plan to take a cross-country trip together.

"I thought I could find somebody there who thinks like I do," Kelley said. "I thought maybe this is why my relationships with my two wives didn't work out. They didn't have the same world view."

So far so good for the biography-loving Chin, who posted "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho and "His Way: An Unauthorized Biography of Frank Sinatra" by Kitty Kelley, among others. He invited the woman who posted "The Philosophy of Andy Warhol" to a Warhol exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum.

"We had a great time," he said. "Hopefully it will turn out well."









SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

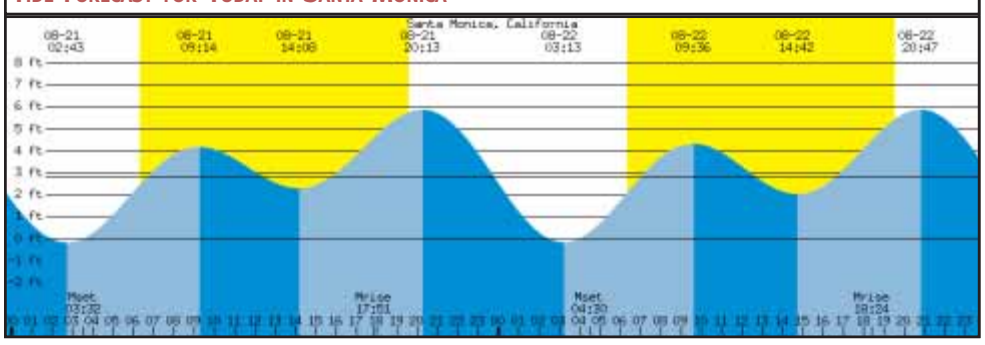
Swell Forecast

First southern hemi swell should peak with consistent chest to shoulder high sets around south facing breaks. Head high set waves are likely at standouts.

Long Range Synopsis

Standouts may see some overhead pluses at time, with the better set waves coming in 1-2' overhead.

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 18, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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Officials commit to tighter scrutiny of off-road racing

BY OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS Federal officials promised tighter scrutiny of off-road racing Friday, expanding a review of the sport run on public lands nationwide even as tricked-out trucks raced through the Nevada desert less than a week after a deadly accident in California.

More than 200 teams of off-road enthusiasts also riding motorcycles, dune buggies and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles sped across 530 miles of Nevada desert terrain Friday. A few injuries by mid-afternoon — broken bones for three bike and ATV riders — were nothing unexpected, said Allen Condit, a race coordinator.

The sport is inherently dangerous, but race officials don't expect anything similar to the accident that killed eight people and injured 10 Saturday at a race on federal land in California's Mojave Desert. There are fewer spectators, for one thing, and they'll be kept far away from the track.

The California crash, in which a truck sailed over a jump and hurtled into a crowd, initially spurred a review of racing permits in the California desert district of the Bureau of Land Management. BLM Director Bob Abbey announced Friday that the agency will now look at its permits throughout the country.

The agency said it has permitted more than 100 motor races this year, events attended by thousands of people.

Abbey said the agency also launched an internal review of the Mojave Desert race.

"When we permit any activity on the public lands, our first priority is public and employee safety and health," Abbey said. "We will look at these requests carefully and consider the safety record of the individual or organization requesting a permit."

Abbey said the agency also planned to have a bigger BLM presence at all events.

"We will not tolerate any deviation from permit requirements," he said.

Best in the Desert Racing Association Director Casey Folks said spectators can only watch the Nevada race — which has been held since 1996 — from its start, finish or one of 16 pit stops along the rocky, winding track.

He said spectators in the pits aren't allowed to have alcohol and will be kicked out if they're seen drinking.

And Folks said drivers would be required to come to a complete stop before entering the pit areas, and limited to 25 mph driving through them.

"Ours is a controlled atmosphere," Folks said.

Those rules are far different than what took place in California, where videos of the accident showed a chaotic scene with fans crowding both sides of the track, giving drivers nowhere to go if they lost control.

Lou Peralta, a race promoter with Alta Vista Events in California City, Calif., said he wasn't opposed to the BLM expanding its review but worried that its expanding presence at races could make operations more difficult on small promoters.

"With an increased presence, somebody has to pay for that and that's going to drive away the small promoters, the grassroots ones," he said. "This is where young drivers learn the sport, learn the basics of the sport."

But Peralta, who was at Friday's race, said he welcomed more help from BLM officials and thought most races would be allowed to move forward.

The point-to-point nature of the Nevada race — touted as the longest off-road race in the country — means people in one place will see vehicles drive by just once unless they make their way to a different pit area to see them go by again.

Leo Drumm, who oversees off-highway vehicle racing in Nevada, said less than 200 spectators who aren't affiliated with the 800 racers are expected.

"It's really not a spectator event," Drumm said. "It's a completely different type of race."

Folks said perhaps 2,500 to 3,000 people, including drivers, crews, volunteers and BLM officials, would watch the race.

Folks said each of about 230 vehicles was outfitted with a radio and tracking device to allow race officials to keep tabs on every vehicle as they make their way across the hot, windy landscape.

Temperatures were expected to be in the 90s with winds gusting to more than 20 mph.

BLM officials planned a sweep of the course before the race began. Drivers across 23 divisions started one-by-one, spread one minute apart at the starting line just south of Beatty, 130 miles northwest of downtown Las Vegas.

Along the way, drivers were expected to be tracked by more than 400 volunteers, including people stationed along the course, helicopters on standby if someone gets hurt and communications personnel along four mountaintops directing radio traffic.

Condit said that a few vehicles rolled over or broke down by mid-afternoon Friday, but there were no incidents with spectators.

The fastest trucks and open-wheel vehicles were expected to finish the race Friday afternoon but the last drivers wouldn't reach Dayton, just west of Carson City, until after midnight, Folks said.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Aug. 21
Evil Dead II (NR) 1hr 24min
Army of Darkness (R) 1hr 36min
7:30pm

Sunday, August 22
Women in Love (NR) 2hr 11min
The Music Lovers (NR) 2hr 3min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:10pm, 3:25pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

Despicable Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:00pm

Step Up 3D (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

Flipped (PG) 1hr 30min
7:00pm, 9:20pm

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (PG) 1hr 22min
11:50am, 2:20pm, 4:45pm

Kids Are All Right (R) 1hr 44min
4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

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

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:35pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

Piranha 3D (NR) 1hr 29min
10:50am, 1:10pm, 3:30pm, 5:50pm, 8:15pm, 10:40pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:30pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Switch (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1hr 40min
10:45am, 1:25pm, 4:10pm, 7:05pm, 9:55pm

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:35pm

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

Cairo Time (PG) 1hr 43min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

Get Low (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Lebanon (Levanone) (R) 1hr 49min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm

Concert (Le concert) (PG-13) 2hrs 2min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

To Swallow A Toad (NR) 10 min.
1:00pm, 1:20pm

Tussilago (NR) 15 min
1:10pm

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

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:05pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Expendables (R) 1hr 43min
11:00am, 11:50am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:40pm

Lottery Ticket (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:20am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Vampires Suck (PG-13) 1hr 28min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Do you, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Know that you will clear out responsibilities and be able to kick back for the remainder of the weekend. Get into a project, making sure it is done. Others count on your efficiency. Make important calls late in the day. Tonight: You have reason to celebrate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Adjust to your changing plans. A surprise encourages more opportunities. A friend also could be unpredictable. Boredom isn't a problem! Assume responsibility and bring others together. Tonight: Why not go for a spontaneous happening?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A partner or dear friend needs your attention. This person has become more in sync with his or her inner self. You could be surprised by his or her change of heart and its implications. Tonight: Go for a getaway. In another environment, you will feel great.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Others dominate. Unexpected news invigorates your energy. You actually might be looking at an opportunity that you didn't think would happen. Make sure you have the necessary funding. Tonight: Visit with a special person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Clear out errands, and take time to go to the gym or exercise. A partner, close friend or loved one could surprise you. Before you know it, you could be entertaining, which you do well. Go with spontaneity and relax. Tonight: Make a call or two. Be where the party is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Allow more imagination to filter into your days. You don't always need to do what you say, especially if you need some flex time. A child or loved one delights in this newfound flexibility. Tonight: Let go of restraints. Do what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Stay close to home. You might decide to invite others over later, or an event occurs that encourages homeward-bound behavior. If you are doing some work on your home, rest assured there could be a twist or two along the way. Tap into your sense of humor. Tonight: Light up the night. Add fireworks and sparkle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Feel free to adjust your plans to changing demands. A child or loved one is full of surprises. A discussion could be wild or crazy if you decide to be rigid. Add this person's element of playfulness to the moment. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Make sure your budget is intact. An unexpected cost could head your way. Maintain a sense of humor. Keep a conversation flowing. Think about what is said later rather than reading anything into the conversation. Tonight: Get together with friends. Play a favorite game.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be more adaptable than others realize. An element of surprise and unexpected happenings has laced through your life for a while. Make plans that suit you, or work with a change. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might want and need some time off from everything that is going on. Be careful with your funds; you have pulled the wild card. Money could tumble either way. Nap if you want to. Restore your energy. Tonight: Stretch, then decide. Clearly, others won't leave you alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ The daylight hours point to summer fun. You still might be confused by a partner's or friend's odd behavior. Postpone worry. The whole situation could change again. Go off and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Do what you need to do for you.

Happy birthday

This year, events could easily transform your life. Though at first you might not see the opportunity that evolves, the quality of your life changes. You pull the wild card financially and might not be sure which way your finances could go. Avoid taking any risks if you cannot afford a loss. If you are single, you will meet someone who could be very enticing and exciting. This person could be a foreigner or very different. If you are attached, you understand yourself better, bringing that knowledge into your relationship. You bond more tightly. Count on AQUARIUS.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



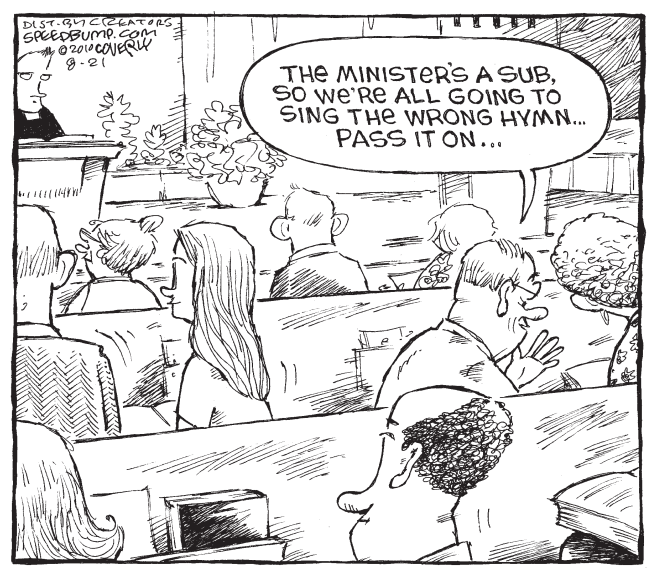
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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 Knee protectors
5 Brewing need
9 Slugger Rod
10 Exclusive group
12 Clear
13 Sun Valley setting
14 Starters, of a sort
16 Catchy music
17 Musical princess
18 Arm art
20 Admits
22 Without basis
23 Slant
25 Fix hose
28 Opera's Stratas
32 Stupefied
34 Wire unit
35 Fall mo.
36 Eden tempter
38 Uplift
40 Private boss
41 Zellweger of "Chicago"
42 Infuriate
43 Dispatched
44 Course needs

DOWN

1 Holiday event
2 Ark's resting place
3 Editor's place
4 Quite fond of
5 Bank job
6 Passé
7 Chinese food veggie
8 Fish flock
9 Cartoon sea serpent
11 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" girl
15 River of China
19 Layer
21 Dune makeup
24 Ogles
25 Casual eatery
26 Battery ends
27 Gulch
29 Come into view
30 Burns
31 Modify
33 Up to the present
37 Stamp sheet
39 Marsh

S	C	A	M	■	■	S	C	A	T	■
P	A	R	E	R	■	C	A	R	O	L
I	R	E	N	E	■	O	P	E	R	A
N	A	Y	■	C	A	T	E	Y	E	S
S	T	O	K	E	R	S	■	O	U	T
■	S	U	I	N	G	■	C	U	P	S
■	■	S	S	T	■	R	U	M	■	■
A	M	E	S	■	T	O	T	A	L	■
M	A	R	■	J	A	N	E	D	O	E
A	R	I	Z	O	N	A	■	A	I	R
S	T	O	O	L	■	L	O	T	T	O
S	H	U	N	T	■	D	O	M	E	D
■	A	S	K	S	■	■	P	E	R	E

Yesterday's answer

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

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

8-21

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 19 40 43 44
Meganumber: 33
Jackpot: $100M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 18 21 28 43 47
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 3 4 5 26 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 7 7
EVENING: 1 1 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.49.64

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Justin Johnson, 21, was arrested in Bloomfield, Ind., in July after failing to get a Bloomfield State Bank branch to cash his bogus check for $1 million, which he presented to a teller in the bank's drive-through window. Optimistic, he had handed over his driver's license for ID along with the check. (2) Scot Davis, 52, was charged with robbing the All in the Family bar in Des Moines, Iowa, in March. Davis, a contractor who is friends with bartender Gladys York, had spent the evening at the bar passing out business cards before leaving. Said York, when Davis re-appeared carrying a .22-caliber rifle and demanding money, "Scot, What the (expletive)?" Said an officer, "This is not the hardest case our detectives have ever had to investigate."

■ Ron Kravitz, 22, filed a lawsuit in June (1989) against Mickey Mantle Sports Productions Inc., for injuries he suffered the previous September while watching a company baseball video in his den to improve his base-stealing technique. While attempting to "beat" Tom Seaver's pickoff throw to "first base," he crashed into a table, resulting in torn ligaments and a severed tendon, which he thought somehow was the production company's fault.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 Execution of Henry John Burnett, the last man to be hanged in Scotland.

1963 President Fulbert Youlou is overthrown in the Republic of Congo, after a three-day uprising in the capital.

1965 The Beatles play to nearly 60,000 fans at Shea Stadium in New York City, in an event later seen as marking the birth of stadium rock.

1968 40,000 people protest in Mexico City against the repression in the country.

1969 The Woodstock Music and Art Festival opens.

1971 President Richard Nixon completes the break from the gold standard by ending convertibility of the United States dollar into gold by foreign investors.

1974 Yuk Young-soo, First Lady of South Korea, is killed during an apparent assassination attempt upon President of South Korea, Park Chung-hee.

WORD UP!

vellicate \ VEL-i-keyt \ , verb;
1. To touch (a body part) lightly so as to excite the surface nerves and cause uneasiness, laughter, or spasmodic movements.

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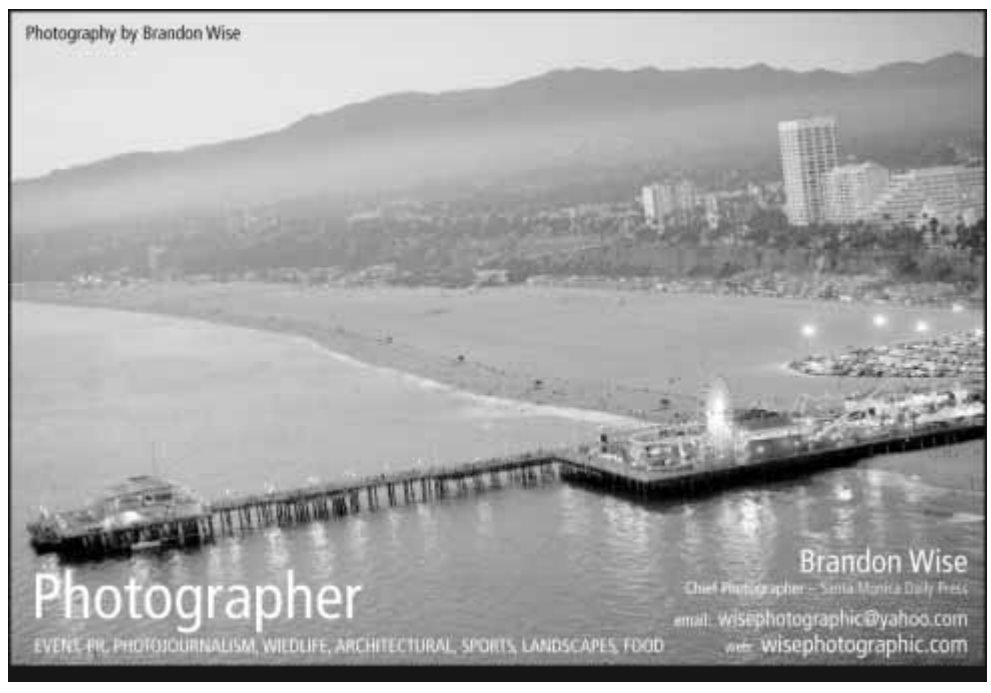
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Statistics Updated Every Monday

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