

Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

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Inside This Issue

Calendar.....2

Classifieds2

Finance.....2

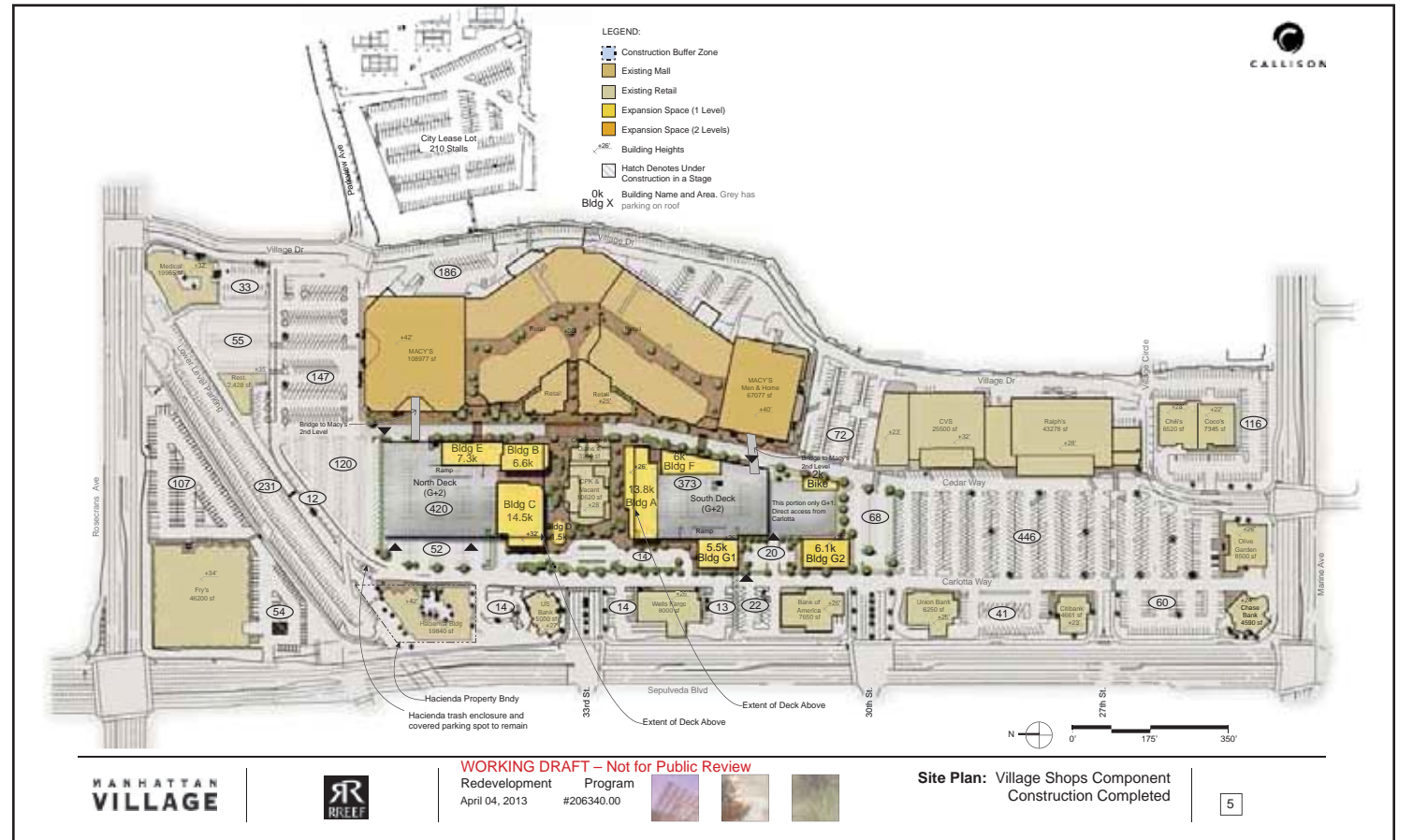
Food.....5

Pets.....7

Politically Speaking.....3

Sports.....6

Plans for Revitalized Manhattan Village Shopping Center



Layout of proposed mall floor plan.

Plans are underway to revitalize Manhattan Village Shopping Center. The proposed plan includes the addition of new shops, parking and an outdoor shopping village adjacent to the existing enclosed Mall that, upon completion, represent a 21.6% increase in square footage. It also includes selected building demolition.

The redevelopment is critical to retaining and attracting top quality retailers, like Apple, to Manhattan Village. When complete, the redevelopment will add a total of approximately 120,000 square feet of additional open-air retail space in Manhattan Village – all designed to offer a more powerful selection of unique-to-the-market, premier shops and restaurants.

Amenities to complement the Beach Cities residents, fashion conscious consumer and environmentally friendly community will include a central plaza, pedestrian and bike friendly paths, valet, consolidated parking fields, covered parking, family friendly areas, a pet-friendly environment, a wider selection of shops and restaurants, quaint and cozy ambiance, lush gardens, landscaping, and sparkling fountains.

The plans and the accompanying environmental analysis, which must be approved by the Manhattan Beach City Council before construction can proceed, call for Manhattan Village to be revitalized in three areas:

The Village Shops

Construction of approximately 60,000 square feet of net new retail/restaurant space in a pedestrian-friendly “village” surrounding the existing California Pizza Kitchen building, which will be fully remodeled.

Construction of two separate, grade-plus-two-level parking decks adjacent to the new village shops. NOTE: A flag line has been placed on the site since April 12 to show the approximate height of the parking structures along Cedar Way. Flags will remain up until April 30.

Northeast Corner

Construction of an approximately 50,000-square-foot addition to the north side of the existing Macy’s store.

Demolition of the existing 20,000 square feet of restaurant/theater buildings.

Construction of a grade-plus-three-level parking deck on the north side of the Macy’s store.

Northwest Corner

Still in the conceptual stage, this phase would include construction of approximately 81,000 square feet of new restaurant/retail space in a development that would serve as a gateway to Manhattan Beach and would also connect the existing Fry’s parking lot to the rest of the center’s parking.

The project would generate an estimated \$34 million to \$48 million in new revenues for the City of Manhattan Beach over the next 25 years, including sales, property and business taxes above and beyond what could be expected without the project, according to a study done conducted by Allan D. Kotin & Associates last year. It would also keep traffic

Village Shopping Center (composed of the existing enclosed mall and the net new construction planned as part of the proposed project) is projected to encompass just 574,000 square feet, relatively small compared to nearby malls.

“We will be working with anchor tenant changes as they occur and expect to add approximately 120,000 square feet – something we truly need to retain key tenants and to keep the center competitive by attracting new retailers,” she said.

Since the project was first contemplated, Manhattan Village has worked closely with neighbors, tenants and other stakeholders to revise the project to best accommodate these key constituents.



Project Concept Plan Rendering.

counts the same as today upon completion of the project and would keep Manhattan Village competitive with surrounding centers in the local market.

“We believe this plan allows the center to continue attracting and retaining the high-quality retailers Manhattan Beach deserves without losing our center’s charm,” said General Manager Liz Griggs. “We have carved out a unique niche among shopping centers. This retail resort concept will be large enough to satisfy the needs of the local community so that shoppers do not have to travel outside the city to get what they want; and is small enough to compliment our hometown atmosphere.”

Once completed, the revitalized Manhattan

“We have spent several years collecting valuable input from the city and the community and have made a number of significant modifications to our proposed project. I think what we have today is a plan that considers everyone’s needs and protects the critical tax revenue stream to the city,” Griggs said. “The center plans to step out into the open-air with a newly expanded offering of contemporary retailers and restaurants with a retail resort approach that Manhattan Beach can be proud of, including more places to shop, meet with friends and showcase the Manhattan Beach lifestyle.”

For more information about the project, please visit www.shopmanhattanvillage.com

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
85°/63°



Saturday
Sunny
70°/59°



Sunday
Drizzle
65°/59°



Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 3

• Bach's Lunch Recital-Pantoum Trio, 12:15-12:45 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1340 Eleventh St.

• May Friendship Day "Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality," 10:30 a.m., Riviera United Methodist Church, 375 Palos Verdes Blvd.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

• 33rd District Congressional High School Art Competition Exhibit (through May 16), 1-5 p.m., Creative Arts Center, 1560 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

• City Council Meeting, 6-11 p.m., City Council Chambers, 1400 Highland Avenue.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

• South Bay Republican Women Federated Monthly Meeting, 11:00 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 2133 Hawthorne Blvd. Reservations: Vera: (310) 320-1431 or Gloria (310) 326-9340.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

• Christopher Goodpasture on piano, 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1340 Eleventh St.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

• 35th Annual Older Adults Health Fair, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. For more information call (310) 802-5448.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

• 18th Annual Family Campout, 1:30 p.m.- Noon on May 19, Begg Field, 1402 North Peck Ave. For more information call (310) 802-5448.

• 2nd Annual Community Movie in the Park, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Polliwog Park Amphitheater, 1601 Manhattan Beach Blvd. For more information call (310) 802-5448.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

• Free 30th Annual Fishing Derby, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Polliwog Park Pond, 1601 Manhattan Beach Blvd. For more information call David Ibarra at (310) 802-5419.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

• ARTS Manhattan-"Light Knots" opening reception, 6-8 p.m., Manhattan Beach Art Center, 1560 Manhattan Beach Blvd. For more information call (310) 798-4904.

Classifieds

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GARAGE SALE

4927 West Carson Street, Torrance. Sat., 5/04, 8 am. to 4 pm. Yard Sale FUNdraiser. Furniture, Baby/Kid's

Stuff, Clothes, Electronics, Household Items, Tools and Raffle. All Money goes to Charity. Donations Welcome.

700 Block West Palm Ave. ES. Sat., 5/4, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Spring cleaning yard sale. Seven Families.

206 W. Oak Ave. ES. Sat., 5/04, 8 - 12:00. No Early Birds! Furniture, clothes, baby items.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3BD/2BA. Fireplace, new paint, skylights, split level, 2 car garage, W/D hookups. Avail 6/01, \$2800/mo. 629 Arena (310) 977-3667.

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Finance

Insurance You Can Probably Do Without

By Jason Alderman



I'm a big believer in having the appropriate amount of insurance, especially when it comes to your health and personal liability. But if money is tight and you want to get the most bang for your buck, there are a few types of insurance you can probably do without – or that may duplicate coverage you already have elsewhere:

Extended warranties. When you buy a car, appliance or electronic device, the salesclerk usually will try to sell you an extended warranty. These policies often duplicate coverage already provided in the manufacturer's warranty. Plus, many credit cards provide an additional warranty on items purchased with the card.

Smartphone insurance. After shelling out big bucks for a smartphone, you might be tempted

example, monthly premiums increase with your pet's age, deductibles and copayments are typically higher than for human coverage and there are usually predetermined per-year and per-condition caps. Plus, preexisting and hereditary conditions usually are not covered.

Rental car insurance. In most cases, the optional insurance offered by car rental agencies duplicates existing coverage you already have. However, before automatically rejecting agency coverage, ask your insurance company and credit card issuer whether you are fully covered for rental cars. A few considerations:

Coverage through your auto policy often expires after 30 days or less of renting the car. Sports cars, luxury models, SUVs and trucks

"Monthly premiums increase with your pet's age, deductibles and copayments are typically higher than for human coverage and there are usually predetermined per-year and per-condition caps."

to buy replacement insurance. Just be aware that you'll probably pay a hefty deductible and likely receive a refurbished phone, possibly not even the same model. My advice: Keep your old phone to reactivate in case you drop or lose the new one.

Flight accident insurance. The risk of dying in a plane crash is miniscule and already covered by regular life insurance. Also check your credit card cardholder agreement, since many cover such accidents for tickets purchased with their card.

Child life insurance. Life insurance is intended to provide economic protection for a person's dependents, so unless your children are movie stars supporting you, this coverage is probably unnecessary. You can better protect their future by stowing those monthly premiums in an emergency savings account or buying additional term life insurance for yourself.

Pet insurance. With veterinary treatments now rivaling human medicine (organ transplants, chemotherapy, etc.), you could easily spend a small fortune keeping Fido alive. Before buying pet insurance, however, compare plan features carefully and weigh the expense you'd pay out over your pet's lifetime. For

are often excluded.

Travel outside service areas typically is forbidden – especially across foreign borders or in rough terrain.

If you don't carry comprehensive and collision coverage on your own car, your insurance may not cover a rental. Also, ask whether such coverage is limited to your own car's value, since most rentals are new.

Ask what happens if you violate rental agreement terms (e.g., driving recklessly or allowing unauthorized drivers).

Specified disease insurance. Some people take out supplemental health and life insurance against specific conditions such as cancer, heart disease or stroke. Before buying, make sure you have adequate major medical insurance, which already covers such conditions. And carefully review the policy for restrictions. For example, many cancer insurance policies won't pay for outpatient care or cover skin cancer, and impose fixed-dollar limits on specific procedures.

When it comes to your budget – and your family's security – it pays to know which insurance is essential and which you can probably skip. •



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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

On April 1, President Obama declared April to be "National Financial Capability Month" during which time his Administration will teach young people "how to budget responsibly." Among the other topics taught will be "Managing Debt

"Unfortunately, the government has chosen to address only 16 of the 162 wasteful programs."

and Credit;" "Getting the Most From Your Credit Card;" and "Stay Below Your Credit Limit." I believe he said these things with a straight face.

With his program in mind, let's play "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader." Here are the facts the fifth graders will be asked to understand:

According to the CBO, the Treasury Department will collect \$2.7 trillion in tax revenue in 2013, setting a record for the most money the government has ever taken in. However, the President has proposed spending \$3.8 trillion in 2014 and \$4.0 trillion in 2015, increasing spending in every year of his administration.

In 2012, the nation's economy grew by 1.8 percent, but to justify his spending, the President has projected our GDP growth rate to double to 3.6 percent and tax revenue to grow by 50 percent.

The President projects tax increases over 10 years to total \$1 trillion, transferring capital from the private sector to government.

While the top earners would pay two-thirds of the tax increases, everyone would pay more taxes, including the middle class on whom the President said he would never impose new taxes.

The President's plan caps everyone's IRAs, 401Ks and pensions at \$3 million. Obama

believes no one needs any more than that and the government has the right to establish everyone's limit of wealth.

On April 21, the International Monetary Fund representing 20 nations begged the United States, "For the sake of the rest of the world,

address your long-term budget deficit." Finance ministers and central bankers from around the world "called on Washington to develop a credible plan to deal with its spending and debts over the next several years."

In 2011, the GAO specified 162 wasteful government programs which, if corrected, would result in annual savings of \$250 billion, or \$2.5 trillion over 10 years. Unfortunately, the government has chosen to address only 16 of the 162 wasteful programs. U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, head of the GAO said, "My term goes to 2025. I hope I won't be reporting all these same issues in that year." Spending reductions of any nature are not within this administration's vocabulary.

Financial advisors almost uniformly agree that there is no hard and fast line beyond which a nation's debt cannot grow. Rather, on a case-by-case basis, when investors hit a tipping point and lose faith on a nation's ability to pay its debts, they will withdraw in an instantaneous BANG moment. No one will have any warning, so nations follow a course of debt growth at their own peril.

The questions for our fifth graders are these: First, is the Obama Administration qualified to teach this course? And second, how would you project our financial future? •

Another Man's Opinion

Adequate Information Only Helps Make Better Choices

By Cristian Vasquez

In recent years, many Americans have become more concerned with the source of the goods they consume. Farmers' markets, organic food and in some cases home gardens have become people's preferred options for food sources. The arguments regarding the benefits of organic food and the risks of genetically modified foods will vary depending on who you ask. What is hard to dispute is that with proper labels identifying foods as being organic or genetically modified, consumers can decide for themselves which type of product they would like to purchase. Recently, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Peter DeFazio introduced a bill that would allow consumers to make such a decision by simply looking at a product's label.

The Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act would require the Food and Drug Administration to clearly label genetically engineered (GE) foods in an attempt to help consumers make informed choices about the goods they consume. This bipartisan bill is being supported by nine other Senators and by 22 members from the House. Groups opposed to forcing labels on GEs fail to realize or simply admit the risks associated with flooding the market with such foods without providing proper labels for consumers. Allergies to food products such as peanuts are very common among Americans and if a product has been genetically modified, consumers deserve to know for safety reasons.

There is a likelihood that many consumers will not look at these labels. Furthermore, there is a strong possibility that only a minority of consumers check for GE foods or research the products they purchase. However, if this small group of consumers is taking the time to know and understand the roots of their products, they deserve to have full disclosure on the items. When we go out to a new restaurant, it is common to ask what ingredients are in a dish that might look appealing. As a former food service industry employee, special requests with regards to food preparation were a daily occurrence--and to be honest, it wasn't a problem. It did not take away so much time from my other responsibilities that the company I worked for suffered a financial burden. So if the waiters and deli clerks of the world can tell their customers what is in a salad or sandwich, why can't the Monsantos of the world tell consumers what is in the tomato they want to sell us?

Senator Boxer's bill will not result in the general population becoming 100 percent informed on the roots of the products they consume. Furthermore, it will probably not inspire many more people to know. Yet for those of us who care to know and for consumers with allergies who need to know, this is a necessary bill. Those of us with a vested interest will always take the time to research what we purchase, where it comes from and how it is made. As a consumer, that is my responsibility. Still, as the producer of

See Another Man's, page 4

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Patriotism Moves South Bay Residents to Install Flags at Home

By Cristian Vasquez

When Gregg Scott heard that his son Harrison Scott had an idea to share his patriotism with their neighbors, Gregg immediately began to figure out the logistics to his son's plan--installing American flags throughout the community. Flags Across Manhattan Beach, which has now reached El Segundo, began because Harrison Scott felt inspired by his eighth grade social studies teacher at Manhattan Beach Middle School and has since been gaining support.

"I just thought it was a symbol, the best symbol, of patriotism that I could think of. It was easy and fun," Harrison Scott said. "It has its ups and downs. Sometimes it interferes with things, but most of the time I want to do work and get things done."

The flag installation requires a 20-foot telescoping aluminum flag pole that is secured by a two-foot hole and cement and a removable sleeve. Installation also includes automatic, low-voltage LED lights, a transformer, complete electrical installation and a 3x5 American flag. Harrison, his father Gregg and Jordan Lane from El Segundo have taken Flags Across Manhattan Beach and began spreading it to any residents in any city in the South Bay willing to install an American flag on their lawns. So far, there have been 10 flags installed in Manhattan Beach and the trio is excited about that number becoming much higher.

"Gregg and Harrison installed a sturdy flagpole, flag and lights that light up at night on my property. The process took less than 1.5 hours and the work quality and process were amazing," Lane said. "It feels good to be the first house to have an American flag in El Segundo from this project. Looking around my neighborhood, there are lots of other houses that have perfect places for a flag. There are also a surprising small number of houses that have flags. Driving around town, I noticed only one house with a flagpole and a few with flags attached to the house. Hopefully, we will start to see more and more American flags."

Lane and Gregg are both members of the Knights of Columbus Council 4567, which serves El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach, and they hope that this can turn into an effort that can include more community organization such as the Knights, the Boy Scouts and local church groups. "Who knows how big it will grow, but whoever installs the 10th flag or 100th flag or 1,000th flag will be very cool," Greg Scott

said. "We are looking to expand it into any area that is interested. We thought the Boy Scouts might be able to use it as a fundraising tool and it can also serve as a hard work tool, which is always good. We are not looking to take every order and do everything ourselves. We want to teach other groups or other organizations and anyone who wants to do something different that this is a possibility."

There is an installation fee that covers the materials needed to put up the pole and flag. Also, none of the money is kept for profit. The first flag installed was for one of Gregg's and Harrison's neighbors, Betty, whom they have lived across the street from for almost 12 years. They knew who she was, but never really engaged until the day Harrison went over and left a flyer about the flags.

"The next day, she emailed me and immediately loved the idea and said she always wanted one but never had it," Harrison said. "After I installed the flag for her, she loved the idea so much and my enthusiasm that she offered me follow-up work bringing in the trash cans for her each week. I think we are making great connections with our neighbors."

The effort is very new and with the installation of Lane's flag, Gregg, Harrison and Lane hope to raise more awareness in El Segundo and the rest of the South Bay if possible. "One of my neighbors who was walking her dog also talked to us as we were putting up the flag pole. She has two children that are in the service--one in the Marines and one in the Navy," Lane said. "Placing a flag in my yard has already created a couple of positive connections. That was in the first 20 minutes of it being there. I hope the flag in my yard encourages others to also install a flag and show their pride and appreciation for living in the country and community that we do."

Lane added, "The flag also provides an opportunity to educate the young and old about the flag and what this symbol should mean to our nation. Unfortunately, many of us know someone who has given his or her life for this country. Placing an American flag in your yard is a small and easy way to be able to give something back to those that gave everything for our freedom and to those who dedicated their lives, or a part of their lives, defending our freedom. Placing a flag in your yard is easy to do and speaks volumes to those who appreciate freedom and America." •

City Council Finalizes Chevron Payment Agreement

By Brian Simon

Four months after first announcing a deal with Chevron, the El Segundo City Council officially approved a slightly revised tax resolution agreement (TRA) with the refinery during a special meeting Tuesday night. The finalized document also now amends the terms of Chevron's annual gas tax payments. In all, the agreement will net an estimated \$128 million in new revenue over the next 15 years (an average of \$8.5 million annually), providing, according to a staff report summary, "significant, long-term stability to the City's General and Water Funds." The TRA runs retroactively from January 2013 through January 2027, with opt-out clauses for Chevron in the event of unusual circumstances such as the refinery ceasing operations or if the Council places a measure on the ballot to materially increase taxes.

The net new revenue amount comes out to be slightly lower than the \$134 million estimate from December 2012. "We actually saw a larger total tax payment from Chevron last year than we had previously anticipated--which was the good news to the City from a revenue perspective," explained City Manager Greg Carpenter prior to Tuesday's meeting. "All of our previous projections for the 15-year value of the deal were based on the lower base starting point. Once we reset the starting point higher, we reset the projections for the 15-year period resulting in a lower 'net new' total."

For the first year, Chevron will pay the City \$11.1 million in combined 2012 taxes plus "additional funds"—as yet undetermined but estimated to be more than \$5 million—to reflect higher than anticipated 2011/12 revenues. To reconcile the annual amount due, the City will provide Chevron with total tax receipts received the prior fiscal year to match those numbers against the refinery's payment records. By the end of March each year, Chevron will remit the balance of any additional funds due. That payment will also be subject to Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

Chevron will continue to pay its gas utility user tax payments according to the terms of a 1994 agreement with the City with an amendment that will now reflect definitions of taxable gas (versus exempt gas) incorporated in the municipal code. Additionally, the gas tax will be calculated on actual consumption rather than the current base amount that gets adjusted annually by the CPI.

The deal also extends the recycled water surcharge imposed on Chevron that would have otherwise expired in two years. The payment, which came out to about \$1.8 million in 2012, benefits the City's Water Fund while ensuring that local water customers (residential and commercial) won't have to absorb future fee

increases to offset the potential loss of those revenues. Of the \$128 million in net new revenue, \$24 million will go to the Water Fund. Taking all taxes, additional funds and the extended water surcharge into account, Chevron will pay an estimated \$224.5 million over the 15-year period, pending fluctuations in the CPI.

Questions about Chevron's tax liability surfaced at the end of 2011 when a City staff report concluded that the company pays far less in acreage (business license) tax than other refineries elsewhere. The Council considered placing a business license tax measure for refineries on the April ballot, but backed off after strong public outcry against the move and a Chevron request to put off the action and negotiate instead. A subcommittee consisting of Mayor Pro Team Suzanne Fuentes and Councilmember Bill Fisher along with Carpenter, Finance Director Deborah Cullen and City Attorney Mark Hensley began confidential talks with Chevron officials last April with hopes to resolve the matter by June. But the complicated nature of the discussions pushed the process to the end of 2012. The parties finally came to an agreement on December 18, but it took four more months to hash out the remaining details, make some tweaks and finalize the document.

The City plans to utilize the additional funds to balance its budget in the short term and ideally to subsidize capital projects and/or expanded services over the long haul. "This will address what would have been a forecasted deficit over the next two years," said Carpenter.

During public communications, Chevron El Segundo Refinery General Manager Frank Semancik called the agreement "reasonable and balanced" and expressed his support for it. "This commitment is based on mutual recognition that working together to find a productive solution is in the best interest of everyone involved and reflects a 100-plus-year history of trust and collaboration that contributes to the unique character and quality of life here in El Segundo," he said.

Describing the lengthy talks as "contentious," Fisher said the goal was to make sure the City was protected. "What we came up with, although some would say it's not enough, I think it was a fair negotiation," said Fisher. Both he and Fuentes also thanked staff and all the parties involved in the process. "I do believe it's going to make El Segundo a stronger city," said Fuentes.

Mayor Carl Jacobson noted that the two sides came to the table with good intentions. "This should serve the City for at least another decade and a half and there is language in there to extend with both approvals," he said. "I think we have a very good way to go forward..." •

Another Man's

from page 3

those goods, companies should label their goods as being GE or not being GE.

Consumers are already provided with labels indicating ingredients such as MSG, trans fats

and high fructose corn syrup, among others. So why refuse to add GE labels to food? Why hide it? It is difficult to trust a person or entity that refuses to be transparent. •



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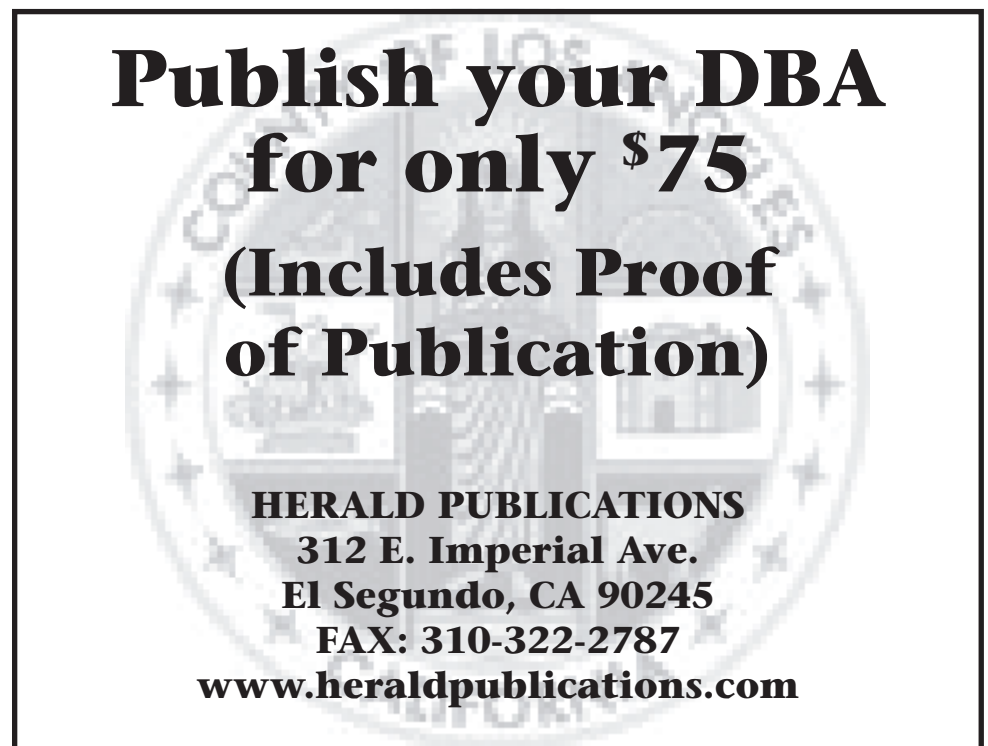
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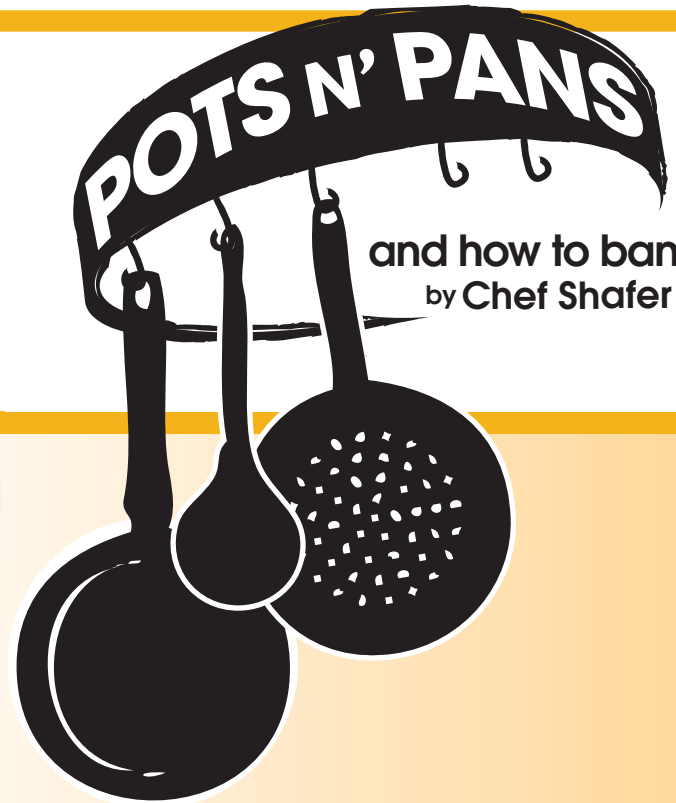
Cinco de Mayo is coming, and besides the tequila, there is a wonderful world of cuisine that can be explored in our own backyard.

I'm not talking about Taco Bell either. I'm referring to the Mexican markets in our city that have great fresh products that are easy to use and excellent for entertaining.

My favorite market is on Main Street in Carson near 223rd Street. It's called "La Venadita", at 22035 Main Street. They have all kinds of ready to grill marinated meats and poultry for your next party. Then you can add your own touch with some fresh salsas and warm tortillas.

My favorite is...

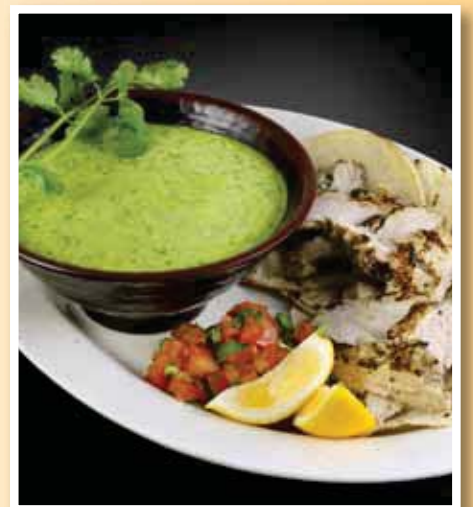
The Chef



Chile Avocado Salsa

- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 2 to 3 jalapeños, cut off stem and cut into quarters
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 4 avocados, peeled and seeded
- ½ bunch cilantro
- Salt and pepper to taste

Bring chicken broth, garlic, and jalapeños to a boil.
 Simmer for 5 minutes.
 Remove from heat and chill.
 Add avocado, meat, and cilantro.
 Puree with a blender.
 Season with salt and pepper.
 Serve chilled. •



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Sports

Injuries Plague L.A.

By Adam Serrao

As if an injury to Kobe Bryant wasn't devastating enough for the city of Los Angeles, local sports fans have had to hold their breath all year long in hopes that yet another big name player doesn't bite the dust. Whether it happens to the Lakers and in the sport of basketball, or on the Dodgers or Angels in baseball, big name players across the county of Los Angeles and even beyond continue to drop like flies. Maybe it's best that L.A. doesn't have a football team just yet. With this injury plague going around, all of the teams' players would most likely be hampered and forced to sit on the sideline anyways. From L.A. to Anaheim and even beyond the state of California, injuries have been forcefully plaguing professional sports lately with some of the biggest names, with the biggest contracts, noticeably absent from the respective game that has made them millionaires. The players earning the hefty salaries aren't the losers, though. Neither are the organizations paying them the money. The fans, on the other hand, are the ones who have to suffer through a season that might have otherwise seemed so promising, yet has deflated due to some of their biggest icons being ripped away from competition.

Kobe Bryant is the prime example of a sports injury that has devastated Los Angeles. Beyond being the biggest talent in all of L.A., Bryant's name resonates worldwide--as he is known as a player who not only transcends the game, but also pushes himself to play through any and every little nagging injury that he may incur. As Kobe's light got dimmer, so too did the Lakers' as he slipped away off of the court and into the hospital--a place where the entire Laker roster has frequented of late and a place where they may need to check themselves into again following their first round playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs. A ruptured Achilles tendon meant ruptured title hopes for the Lakers and now their \$31 million man who clearly could not play through this injury has been forced to consider an earlier retirement date than what was first expected. Kobe wasn't the only one who was hurt by his injury, though. Laker fans everywhere must now deal with the stark reality that their team is not nearly as good as it was with him on the court, all "ball-hogging" aside. It was just the first in the line of this year's biggest injuries that has ruined the hopes of fans that have stuck by their team's side all year long.

Bryant isn't the only one on the Lakers' squad that has been plagued by injury, however. To start the , Dwight Howard was injured and it is unclear as to whether or not he is fully back to 100 percent yet. Steve Nash has battled injuries all season long, while Pau Gasol has also been sidelined with his share of ailments. Then there's Metta World Peace, Jodie Meeks, Steve Blake, Antawn Jamison and Jordan Hill making it a total of 10 of the 12 players on the roster who have missed games this season due to injury for the Lakers. "It's difficult because we have lineups out there that we're not accustomed to and it's hard to get on the same page," said Gasol, who is one of the last remaining Laker All-Stars on the court. To put their injuries in perspective, the Lakers have used 20 different starting lineups this year and have had the entire roster healthy for just one game this season (the opener).

The Lakers aren't the only ones affected, though. To understand the injury bug even better, all we need to do is look across the city at the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the offseason, Zack Greinke was signed to a \$147 million contract to be the team's second best starting pitcher. Now, he is in the process of being sidelined for two months because of a broken collarbone. Hanley Ramirez hurt his finger in the World Baseball Classic and is also in the process of missing two months of his own. Chad Billingsley was lost for the year to Tommy John surgery while Chris Capuano has recently found himself on the DL, leaving a star-studded Dodgers' pitching staff in shambles and the team near the bottom of the NL West. Down the road a bit, even the Angels find themselves struggling as Jered Weaver, the team's best pitcher, broke his elbow and is out four to

six weeks. Don't even look at other big name organizations like the Yankees. Jeter, A-Rod, Granderson, Teixeira and now Youklis are all injured. At least they have Mariano Rivera back in the bullpen and healthy for the last season of his career. Other NBA teams find themselves down in the dumps too. David Lee, a consistent double-double man for the Golden State Warriors, has been lost for the playoffs, making his team's chances of winning a title that much smaller--and Russell Westbrook, maybe the Oklahoma City Thunder's only chance at beating the Miami Heat in this year's championship series, is now done for the year with a torn meniscus.

So who's to blame for all of these injuries and what can be done? Certainly, you can't blame the players. They're not trying to get themselves injured to sit on the sidelines and take advantage of their lucrative salaries. At least one would hope not. Perhaps their workout habits aren't up to par, but then you would have to look at pointing the finger at the coaching and training staffs. Maybe it's the fault of the commissioners. Certainly 162 games in baseball and 82 in basketball seem a little excessive, especially if you're expecting your star players to go out there and give it all that they have every single night and on into the playoffs. Maybe 21- and 22 year-olds can do it, but it seems to only have been a matter of time before a 34-year-old, injury-riddled Kobe Bryant hurt himself more than he probably should have. No matter what the cause or who is to blame, it is clear that the fans are the ones suffering. When you are unable to see your favorite players or witness your favorite team at its peak potential, the passion in the game is instantly diminished and a sport just simply ceases to be a sport.

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Riley

Bandit is a love of a dog. He is sweet, gentle, kind-spirited and knows how to rock those airplane ears. He loves to hug you as he snuggles in around your neck and will hang onto you with his paws. Bandit is happiest snuggling up to you or on your lap. Sadly, his owner died unexpectedly at only 45 years old and Bandit is now homeless. His life has been turned upside down, as he has been sitting in a boarding kennel for over a month until we took him in. This darling guy would make

a great addition to any family situation. He loves everyone he meets and is great with children and all other dogs. Bandit is not shy about giving out kisses and has a spectacular little personality. He is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped and housebroken.

Riley is a great little guy who was owner-surrendered because he was being bullied in his home by the other dog he lived with before. He is seven to eight years old and very small at five pounds. Riley has personality plus and is fine with all other dogs. He loves his little doggie beds and sleeps underneath a t-shirt. Riley loves to burrow under towels, blankets or whatever is laying around for him to curl up in for warmth. He is as sweet as pie and a love of a little guy. He currently has three teeth and no problems eating whatsoever. He would like nothing more than to be your constant companion, purse or lap dog. Riley is very animated during play and just darling, to say the least. He is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, housebroken, and good with other dogs and with children.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at www.animalsrule.org. If a dog is on our website, it's available. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

Saving one animal won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that animal. •



Bandit

Purrrfect Companions

Add a little love with a new best friend when you adopt your purr-fect partner.

Fan is a beautiful girl with a stunning coat of pale orange and dark gray lines mixed upon a soft gray background. Her fur is very soft and she adores being petted. Gentle green eyes that border on golden offset her unique coloring perfectly. Fan loves to sleep on the bed with you when she isn't hanging out at your side or snuggling on your lap. This sweet little girl also gives nose rubs to show her affection, all the while purring away like a motor. She's a big cuddle bug and is super outgoing. Fan loves other kitties and is okay with small, calm, cat-friendly dogs. Because she is so bonded to her brother Rahmi, a handsome Russian Blue mix, she would like to be adopted into a forever home with him.



Fan

and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check

payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location.

Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue. •

Although **Linus** looks like an adult, he is still very much a kitten and curious about everything into which he can stick his nose. Linus is energetic and needs to go to a home with other cats. He loves to wrestle with other cats, hunt other cats and play with laser lights, balls and anything on the floor. He also plays with humans and is very gentle. Linus, “Mr. Personality,” is super sweet and loving. He loves to climb up on you when you are sitting and have you hold him. Linus would be great with children and also might be okay with dogs.

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website at www.kittenrescue.org, or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue



Linus

Happy Tails

“Spots” Has His Forever Home

Spots was left behind in a job relocation, but he kept his chin up and looked ahead to a brighter future. He found that bright “spot” in his new life when he was adopted at the OC Pet Expo. His new “fur-ever” family sent us this update...

“Spots has fit into our family well. So far, he still has the same name and likely will keep it as of right now. He is a sweet little boy who loves us both. He met our other dogs the first day and they all love each other! I didn't have any doubts since our

dogs are dog-friendly, as is Spots. He has been a good boy. He is a house doggie and goes to the door and whines a little to be let out. We also let him out about 10 minutes after he eats and he goes potty every time. He loves people and has only barked at a guy delivering advertisements at the front door. He stopped when the guy left. He is the cutest little guy! Spots is very silly, but so calm in the house. He runs when I throw a toy for him. He picks it up, squeaks it and runs back and forth a few times. He already

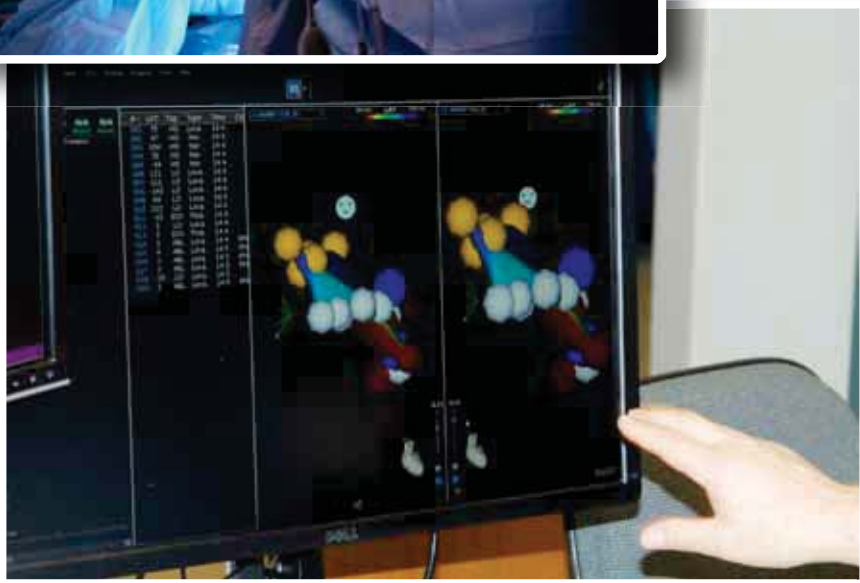
sits and stays fairly well. Spots seems to be very smart. Thank you so much for letting us adopt him. He will have a lifetime home that will always love him and take good care of him. We love our little guy. He had his first bath at our house today just to start getting him used to it. He did well in the kitchen sink. Thank you again!”-- Janie and David.

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