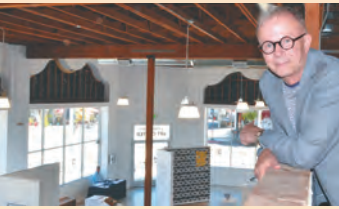


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## National, Regional Economic Outlook Positive For Remainder Of Year, Despite Trade Skirmishes

By **SAMANTHA MEHLINGER**, EDITOR

**U**nemployment is low, tax cuts are putting more money in consumers' pockets and allowing for business investments, and wages are increasing – all factors that lead economists to believe that the remainder of 2018 should be positive, with an expected gross domestic product increase of around 3%.

"The tax cuts are beginning to kick in," Mark Vitner, managing partner and senior economist with

(Please Continue To Page 4)



Catherine Morris of William Morris Commercial is responsible for leasing retail space at The Streets in Downtown Long Beach, which is seeing a stream of tenants moving into redesigned storefronts at The Promenade and on Pine Avenue. Recent new businesses include Burgerim, Poki Cat and The Thickshake Factory, with Loose Leaf Boba Company and the restaurant Table 301 slated to open soon. The Streets is bounded by 6th Street on the north, Long Beach Boulevard on the east, 3rd Street to the south and Pine Avenue on the west. (Photograph by the Business Journal's Pat Flynn)

## Putting The Past Behind Her, Pearce Looks To New Horizons

By **ANNE ARTLEY**, STAFF WRITER

**W**ith the failed recall effort behind her, 2nd District Councilmember Jeannine Pearce looks toward the future and implementing her priorities for the city. Some of these include improving the climate for small businesses, providing more resources for mental health and bettering the overall living conditions for her constituents.

On June 20, the Long Beach City Clerk's

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## Community Hospital – What's Next?

State Health Officials Weigh In On Seismic Issues; A Candid Conversation With John Molina

By **SAMANTHA MEHLINGER** EDITOR

**A**s the Long Beach City Council on June 19 directed city staff to negotiate lease terms with a new operator selected for Community Hospital, they also urged MemorialCare Health System to keep the hospital open as the transition process occurred. But the hospital's emergency room closed the subsequent week, and the hospital is expected to officially shut down today, July 3, due to insufficient staffing to keep it open, according to MemorialCare. Now, the designated new operator, the City of

"I think we have an opportunity to create a new model for health care."

**John Molina, Partner, Molina, Wu, Network, LLC**

Long Beach, and the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) are in ongoing talks about the facility's future as an acute care hospital.

John Bishop, CEO of MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center and Miller Children's &

(Please Continue To Page 34)

## Weed Indeed

City Council Allows For Sale Of Recreational Marijuana – Soon

By **BRANDON RICHARDSON** SENIOR WRITER

**T**he Long Beach City Council voted 7-1 on June 19 to adopt an ordinance allowing the sale of recreational marijuana in the city. Local dispensary owners say the decision could at least double their business.

"We have many people coming in every day

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By Assistant Editor Samantha Mehlinger

## Are We Healing The Political Divide, Or Fanning The Flames?

I remember in 2006 when Democrat Barack Obama was running for president, promising to work "across the aisle" to get things done and help repair the divisive political atmosphere in our country.

At the same time, Republican John McCain was running, too, and he was quite publicly entertaining the idea of having a Democratic running mate,

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