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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY
01.02.18
Volume 17 Issue 44

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Al Gore to attend documentary screening in Santa Monica

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Free tickets to this weekend's City-sponsored screening of An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power disappeared in a matter of minutes last week, as Santa Monica's sustainability-minded citizens jumped at the chance to attend a Question and Answer session with former Vice President Al Gore himself.

The screening is part of a public education campaign from the Office of Sustainability and the

SEE **MOVIE** PAGE 7

2017 in review: 'Disruption, despair and dumpster fires'

MATT SEDENSKY
AP National Writer

The news alerts gushed in: An attack on a concert, a church, an ice cream parlor ; an assailant wielding a gun or hammer or acid . There's an earthquake in Mexico, a monsoon in India, a volcanic eruption in Bali, hurricane after hurricane after hurricane. Keep up as your phone vibrates with word of your favorite actor accused of misconduct. Make that anchorman. Or politician. Or radio star.

The volatile year 2017 shook us so much and so often it felt like whiplash or worse, and that's without even considering Donald Trump, at the center of so much of

SEE **2017** PAGE 6

City weighs options for new Pier bridge



Matthew Hall

REPLACEMENT: Options for a new bridge include two new bridges, one for pedestrians and the second for vehicles.

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Locals and tourists heading to Santa Monica's most iconic landmark will soon have a new path to tread, as the City weighs three options to replace The Pier's 1939 seismically unsafe bridge from Ocean Avenue. A recent report found the bridge would likely incur significant damage during a major earthquake.

Beyond poor disaster odds, the current bridge cannot safely manage the sheer amount of car and foot traffic it sees on a busy day. On a hot summer Saturday or Sunday, daily traffic totals can reach 3,667 cars. Even with k-rail separating the sidewalk from cars, a shoulder-to-shoulder mob of pedestrians often spills out into the vehicle right of way.

"During times of high use, the bridge is not wide enough to accommodate the volume of pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles that use the facility," said to the draft environmental impact report for the project. The current bridge is too steep to be ADA compliant. All three options on the table require demolishing the current bridge and replacing it with a wider span.

City staff members are leaning toward the only option that replaces the 34-foot wide bridge with two separate bridges: one for cars and one for everyone else. If that option is chosen, a new 40-foot bridge would connect walkers and cyclists to the Pier from Colorado Avenue. Emergency vehicles and delivery trucks may use the span during off-peak hours. All options under consideration will either construct an elevator for handicap visitors or a separate ADA walkway cantilevered from the side of the bridge.

A second bridge would be constructed at Moss Avenues for cars heading to pier deck parking. The bridge would be span 150 feet over Ocean Front Walk with two vehicle lanes with barriers. The construction would be staged to provide continuous access to The Pier, eliminating the need for a temporary bridge while the new ones are built.

Two other alternative options replace the current bridge with a

SEE **BRIDGE** PAGE 11







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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, January 2

Website Building I: Basic HTML

This hands-on workshop teaches you how to create a basic website using HTML5. No prior coding experience required. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 – 8 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Series: Some Like it Hot (1959)

Film historian Elaina Archer screens and discusses this film, starring Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon, who play two male musicians who witness a mob hit then flee the state in an all-female band disguised as women. (Film runtime: 121 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Drum and Dance with Rhythm Child!

Enjoy quality family time at the library during winter break and welcome 2018 with a bang! Ages 3 to 11. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd, 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3

Music Business 101 Workshop at Main

Entertainment attorney Kellan Patterson and performer Barry "Clean" Victor Jr. discuss legal and financial issues facing musicians, including intellectual property, digital distribution, and much more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Innovation Lab with Hacker Fund

Want to build a technology project that helps your community? Mentors from the Hacker Fund incubator help you turn your idea into action by providing advice on how to get started as well as technology development, fundraising, and marketing. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd, 6 – 8 p.m.

A Lego Building Afternoon

Kids can join organizers for fun with Lego building. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Family Game Night

Turn off those electronic devices and spend some quality time with your family. Board games for young and older kids provided — or bring your own! For Families. Refreshments provided. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 4

LEGOS and Games

Get creative with LEGOs, try our fun tabletop games, or some coloring! Ages 4-10. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 – 4 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Baby Time

Storytime, songs and rhymes for babies ages 0-18 months. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 10 – 10:20 a.m.

Friday, January 5

Guest House open

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Marion Davies Guest House, 415 PCH.

Saturday, January 6

Ocean Park Branch Book Group: Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf

A Monthly Meeting of the Ocean Park Book Group. Meets the 1st Saturday of the Month. Open to All. No Registration Required. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC number one in transfers to UC for 27th year

Santa Monica College (SMC) maintains its position as California's No. 1 community college in transferring students to the prestigious University of California (UC) system, for the 27th consecutive year. The finding came from recent 2016-2017 transfer data released by the University of California Information Center.

SMC also topped in transfers for the number of African-American and Chicano/Latino students who headed to UC campuses: 58 African-American students, and 183 who identified as Chicano/Latino.

In 2016-2017, SMC transferred a total of 1,194 students to the UC—an all-time record high—outranking the No. 2 and No. 3 UC feeder schools which transferred 940 and 890 students, respectively.

Other statistics for 2016-2017 reaffirmed Santa Monica College's standing as California's foremost transfer college:

· SMC continued to hold the top spot for transfers to the University of Southern California (USC). 148 SMC students transferred to USC in fall 2017 (USC reports transfers only for the fall). The next highest feeder to USC sent 55 students.

· The college—once again—transferred more students to Loyola Marymount University (LMU) than any other institution. SMC also continued to be the top feeder west of the Mississippi to the Ivy League Columbia University, and is the second-ranking feeder nationwide.

· SMC ranked a close second in total combined transfers to the California State University (CSU) and UC campuses with 2,275 transfers to both of California's public four-year institutions (The top-ranking college had 2,388 transfers).

"Santa Monica College is tremendously proud to retain our longtime reputation as California's leader in transfers to the UC, as well as to the University of Southern California and Loyola Marymount University," said Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, SMC Superintendent/President. "The success of our students is SMC's top priority: this most recent data is proof of how this institution invests heavily towards that end, through world-class professors, dedicated counselors, and a wide array of student support services."

Janet Robinson, who heads SMC's Transfer Center—a one-stop shop and support center for students looking to transfer—said that she is "excited for what awaits the students who are transferring on to these awesome institutions."

"SMC's continued transfer success is a testament to our hardworking students, first of all, and also our highly skilled faculty and staff," said Robinson. "Plus, it highlights the beauty of the partnership between SMC and California's two public institutions and premier private universities."

SMC's Transfer Center organizes the largest college fair in the state, conducts workshops, holds weekly visits from four-year institutions, and also has a close working relationship with the UC and CSU systems to make sure SMC students get credit for their classes.

Santa Monica College also offers Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs)—which guarantees admission to students who meet specific requirements—to several institutions such as Loyola Marymount University, Arizona State University, Santa Clara University, and several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), to name just a few.

UC data showed that UCLA continues to be by far the most popular destination for SMC students, with 40 percent of the UC transfers – 482 – going to the Westwood campus. UC Berkeley came in second with 136 transfers, followed by UC San Diego (175 students) and UC Irvine (161 students).

Santa Monica College is a two-year community college accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). For more information about SMC's Transfer Center and its services, please visit www.smc.edu/transfer or email Robinson_Janet@smc.edu.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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Gardening and Community

By Talia Tinari

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Santa Monica Gardens, Who We Are

Gardeners in the Santa Monica Community Gardens have been contributing articles to the Santa Monica Daily Press on a bi-monthly basis since March of 2016. We've written articles on gardening how-to's, like how to recycle common household items into garden tools, to gardening methods, such as biodynamics and companion planting. We've written about sustainability in our community such as how to reduce the decline of Monarch Butterflies (while establishing a Monarch Waystation at the Main Street Garden), and what it means to grow strictly by organic methods. We've profiled popular vegetables and herbs and shared how to grow and cook them. We've also written about members of the community, like gardener Randy Ziglar, who has been part of the garden community since its inception in 1976 and Garden Specialist, Teague Weybright, who joined the city staff in September 2016 as the first dedicated garden specialist.

The community gardeners are keen to share their knowledge with you through the SMDP, and want to make sure everyone knows more about each of the community garden habitats. There are currently four Community Gardens in Santa Monica. Main Street Garden located on Main between Hollister and Strand, Park Drive North and South situated on Park Drive between Santa Monica and Broadway, and Euclid Garden on Euclid between Broadway and Colorado.

Main Street was the first garden, established in 1976. With 73 plots, the Main Street Garden is the largest and most visible, encompassing an entire city block. This year Main Street has initiated a community plot where gardeners and visitors can gather. On the second Saturday of each month, from 9 am to 11 am, and with coffee and bagels aplenty, the gardeners gather for breakfast, often sharing stories and trading gardening tips. All of the garden gates are open and visitors stroll the paths, many joining the gardeners in lively conversation and leaving with the treasure of a seedling, fruit or flower.

Park Drive was the city's second garden space. The North and South Gardens are comprised of 38 garden plots, each area divided by a grassy space crowned with a stand of California Sycamores. The garden provides a respite from the entertainment industry conglomerates on Colorado and the 10 freeway traffic that buzzes nearby. It was designed with community in mind, with a designated area for gathering. The garden has hosted families along the Kidical Mass Bike route, in celebration of Earth Day, offering activities such as seed burst making for kids and workshops on vermiculture and composting.

The Euclid Garden followed Park Drive and is tucked away behind the swing-sets and jungle gyms of Euclid Park. It has 10 plots with 3 additional used as workshop plots for the L.A. Spanish School next door.



Ishihara Learning Garden opened in late February of 2017 and in less than a year has grown more than 1,000 pounds of food. The garden model of Ishihara differs from the others in that it is a communal garden. It offers 9 raised beds from which produce has been grown, shared and donated through the efforts of a regular group of volunteers. The garden hosts the People Concern, as well as school groups. Notably, Ishihara has had zero green waste, as all plant material is composted on-site. There is also a colonnade of citrus trees—the city's first urban fruit tree orchard.

Behind the scenes, the Garden Program is supported by The Community Garden Advisory Committee (CGAC), comprised of site representatives from each garden. The site reps are gardeners who support both the community of gardeners and city staff by promoting active gardening and community outreach and education. They also facilitate administrative changes to support the growing garden program.

Although there is currently a limited number of individual garden plots, Ishihara Garden is open to all Santa Monica residents. This year the CGAC established a standing subcommittee to work on ways to increase gardening opportunities. The CGAC has met with the planners in an effort to maximize the amount of space designated for the Gardens at the future Airport Park. The committee is also looking into the feasibility of the Urban Agriculture Incentive Program, a program that offers a tax break to property owners who utilize vacant lots for growing food.

To learn more about your Community Gardens look for our articles in the SMDP. We welcome visitors to the gardens. They are accessible to gardeners from sunrise to sunset and visitors may tour whenever gardeners are working and the gates are open. Ishihara workdays are currently on Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 11 am. The Community Garden Advisory Committee Meets on the FIRST Tuesday of every other month. You can connect with us at santamonicaroots@gmail.com and also keep up to date at The Community Garden's City website page: Community Gardens

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Week of January 1, 2018

STREET LIGHTING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
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MARINE PARK IRRIGATION RETROFIT PROJECT
For the week of January 1, the contractor will be flushing and testing the new water main pipe on Rose Avenue at Penmar Ave. and continue working on the installation of electrical conduits at Marine Park. Please plan accordingly and avoid this area if possible. Should you have any questions, please contact Carlos Rosales, Project Manager (310) 458-8721 ext. 2620 or Daniel Lee, Construction Manager, (714) 730-9052.

PARKING STRUCTURE #5 TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
For the week of January 1, construction will take place in Parking Structure #5 at 1440 4th street and anticipates affecting the sidewalk in front of the building with the sidewalk pedestrian tunnel, lasting until 1/31/18 During this time, there will be intermittent closure of a single lane of south-bound traffic between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday thru Friday; Should you have any questions, please contact Tim Purcell, Project Manager (310) 458-2205 ext. 5027.

STORM DRAIN CATCH BASIN PIPE SCREENS PROJECT
For the week of January 1, no work is planned. Please contact Public Works Inspector Randall Martinez, Civil Engineering Division, (310) 628-9362 with any questions or concerns regarding this project.

PARKING STRUCTURE REPAIR PROJECT
For the week of January 1, Parking Structure 9 will be undergoing maintenance and repair work. Construction may temporarily impact parking. Entrances and exits to the garage will be left open for smooth traffic flow. Please contact Robert Zak, Civil Engineering Division, at (310) 458-2283 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

MONTANA AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT
For the week of January 1, no work is planned. Work along Montana will resume January 8, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact the City's Project Manager, Andrew Maximous, at (310) 458-8291.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

DMV Reminds Motorists of New 2018 Laws

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wants to inform the public of several new laws or changes to existing law that, unless otherwise noted, took effect January 1, 2018.

Cannabis Use in Vehicles (SB 65, Hill): This law prohibits smoking or ingesting marijuana or marijuana products while driving or riding as a passenger in a vehicle. The DMV will assign negligent operator point counts for this violation. In addition to the California Driver Handbook, the DMV also will revise the Motorcycle Handbook and the DMV's website to include information relating to marijuana violations.

Buses and Seatbelts (SB 20, Hill): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law requires a passenger on a bus equipped with seat belts to be properly restrained by a safety belt. This law also prohibits a parent, legal guardian, or chartering party to transport on a bus, or permit to be transported on a bus, a child who is at least 8 years of age but under 16 years of age, unless they are properly restrained by a safety belt or an appropriate child passenger restraint system that meets federal safety standards. A violation of these provisions is an infraction punishable by a fine.

DUI – Passenger for Hire (AB 2687, Achadjian): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law makes it unlawful for a person to operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 percent or more when a passenger for hire is in the vehicle at the time of the offense. This will mean that drivers of passenger for hire, in their personal vehicles, will be held to a higher standard of safety while transporting people. The DMV will suspend a person's driver license if a conviction is added to their record. Commercial driver license holders will receive a disqualification.

Parking Violations for Registration or Driver License Renewal (AB 503, Lackey): This law makes changes to a requirement under which vehicle registration renewal and driver license issuance or renewal is not granted for having unpaid parking penalties and fees. The law creates a process for low-income Californians with outstanding parking violations to repay their fines and penalties prior to the parking violation being reported to the DMV. The law also allows the registered owner of a vehicle to file for Planned Non-Operation status when unpaid parking penalties are on the vehicle's record. It also allows for someone with outstanding parking penalties and fees, to obtain or renew a driver license.

HOV Decal Program (AB 544 Bloom): Beginning January 1, 2019, this law creates a new decal program to allow certain low emission vehicles to access high-occupancy vehicle lanes, regardless of vehicle occupancy level, for a four-year term. Access to high-occupancy vehicle lanes for vehicles with green and white decals will expire January 1, 2019. Vehicles issued a green or white decal in 2017 or 2018 will be eligible to reapply for a decal in 2019 granting them access to high-occupancy toll lanes until January 1, 2022.

Disabled Person Parking Placards and Plates (SB 611, Hill): This law makes changes to the administration of the Disabled Person Parking Placard and Disabled Person License Plate Program, including requiring applicants to provide proof of true full name and birthdate. The law also will limit the number of replacement disabled person parking placards an applicant can request without obtaining a medical certification to four in two years. It also requires the DMV to establish a renewal process that requires applicants to return a renewal notice by mail every six years. Currently, all permanent disabled placards expire in June 2019 and they are automatically renewed every two years. The placards expiring in June 2023 will be the first batch of placards subject to renewal. Applicants will not be required to obtain a medical certification as part of the renewal process. For more information about the new law effecting Disabled Person Placard and Plates, visit the DMV website.

Motorcycle Training Courses (AB 1027, Acosta): This law authorizes the DMV to accept a certificate of satisfactory completion of any motorcyclist-training program approved by the California Highway Patrol in lieu of the required motorcycle skills test. Applicants for an original motorcycle license or motorcycle endorsement under 21 years of age continue to be required to complete a novice motorcyclist-training program.

Firefighter License Plate Program for Surviving Family Member (AB 1338, Low): This law allows a surviving spouse, domestic partner, or child of a deceased firefighter or deceased retired firefighter to independently apply for and receive a California Firefighter Special License Plate for their vehicle.

Private Carriers of Passengers (SB 19, Hill): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law transfers regulatory authority over private carriers of passengers (such as church and youth buses) from the California Public Utilities Commission to the DMV.

Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (SB 1, Beall): Beginning January 1, 2018, the DMV is required to begin collecting at the time of registration or renewal the Transportation Improvement Fee (TIF) ranging from $25 - $175, based on the vehicle's current value. The law also requires the department, beginning July 1, 2020, to collect a Road Improvement Fee for zero-emission vehicles with a model year of 2020 or later.

The TIF is based on the vehicle's current market value. Customers with a vehicle renewal notice due on January 1, 2018 and later will include the TIF.

Vehicles with Market Value Range	Transportation Improvement Fee
Between $0 and $4,999	$25
Between $5,000 and $24,999	$50
Between $25,000 and $34,999	$100
Between $35,000 and $59,999	$150
$60,000 and higher	$175

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2017

FROM PAGE 1

the turmoil.

"It's almost like one of those horror rides at the amusement park where every time it heads into the next segment it gets worse," said noted trendspotter Marian Salzman. "Every time I turn off a device, I feel like I have anxiety because I'm not tracking the news."

The year, she said, boiled down to "disruption, despair and dumpster fires."

In retrospect, 2017's destiny seemed sealed in its opening moments.

Just after the new year dawned in Istanbul, a gunman killed 39 people at a nightclub and wounded scores more. The joy of the holiday dissolved into a scene of heartbreak outside the city morgue, where some cried and fell to the ground as they learned of a loved one's fate.

Around the world this year, vehicles were made into weapons, with trucks, cars and vans plowing down people on the Westminster and London bridges in Britain; in Times Square and on a Manhattan bike path; on a major shopping street in the Swedish capital of Stockholm; on the historic La Rambla in Barcelona.

Terrorism and other violence struck so regularly that many accepted it as a fact of life.

"It can happen anywhere as long as there is one man willing to die," said Luis Antonio Bone, 66, of Barcelona, who is retired from a cement factory job. Bone is at once realistic and defiant, saying crowded places may make him think about his safety but won't deter him from outings.

"We have to live with it," he said, "but keep living as we always have."

That kind of resilience was mustered again and again, even by some of those marked by some of the year's biggest tragedies.

In Texas, Pastor Frank Pomeroy vowed that good would persevere over evil. Pomeroy leads the rural church where a gunman killed 25 parishioners, his own 14-year-old daughter among them. "Rather than choose darkness as that young man did that day, we choose life," he said in an emotional service only a week after the rampage.

In Las Vegas, too, where 58 people were fatally shot at a music festival, some searched for optimism in the face of savagery. Jay Pleggenkuhle, a 52-year-old landscaper, helped create a memorial garden with a tree for each of the victims. Some 1,000 people volunteered to help with his project, putting aside personal or political differences to work hand in hand.

"People have really been bound together following this tragedy," he said.

A deadly chemical attack in Syria stirred people around the globe. Missile launches by North Korea brought angst that nuclear war was nearing. Rallies by white supremacists, wearing white hoods and clasping torches, roused uncomfortable memories of the United States' past. All of it broke with such ferocity, it seemed impossible to focus on any one incident too long.

"Even something like a mass shooting that killed 50 people, the story moves on in just a couple weeks," said Lauren Wright, a lecturer on politics and public affairs at Princeton University.

In Egypt, twin Palm Sunday attacks ambushed Coptic Christians and a November assault on a crowded mosque killed more than 300. In Britain, 22 people died when a suicide bomber detonated a backpack full of explosives after an Ariana Grande show.

Three major storms — Harvey, Irma and Maria — battered Puerto Rico and much of the Caribbean, as well as Texas and Florida, as 2017 went down as one of the most active hurricane seasons in recorded history. Fires tore through California and Portugal; earthquakes rocked Mexico, Iran and Iraq; flooding and an avalanche covered parts of Italy; mudslides leveled homes in Sierra Leone; and a deadly monsoon pummeled India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

In hotspots around the world, people sought escape. Amnesty International estimated 73,000 refugees took to the Mediterranean in the first half of the year alone, with about 2,000 dying along the way. In Myanmar, the military has been conducting a brutal ethnic cleansing of Rohingya people, killing untold numbers and forcing more than 626,000 to flee into neighboring Bangladesh.

Amid the barrage, other big stories struggled for a spotlight. A grinding civil war in Yemen pushed millions in the impoverished country to famine. A political crisis in Venezuela brought intensifying clashes. In Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe was ousted from control after a 37-year reign. In Spain, a push for Catalonian independence degenerated at times into ugly scenes of mayhem.

In the U.S., Trump opened his presidency with a dark inaugural address beseeching an end to "American carnage" but saw much of his agenda rejected, with members of his own party providing key votes against him. Divides deepened, with agreement elusive even on core national values. Americans were sadder, a "happiness" report found. Sales of the dystopic novel "1984" surged and a chilling stage adaptation came to Broadway.

Mass protests formed around the country, including droves of women who proudly deemed themselves "nasty," a label placed on Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race. When U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren was silenced through arcane legislative rules, the words of her colleague, Mitch McConnell, became an unlikely rallying cry of feminists: "Nevertheless, she persisted."

That phrase echoed as a dizzying number of sexual harassment or assault allegations emerged against high-profile men and as thousands of victims of lesser-known men chimed in with two words that made clear the scope of the problem: "Me too."

There were, in this arguably awful year, moments to hail, too, stories of heroism and bravery that restore faith and give the heart a little hope. More than 80 schoolgirls, abducted by Boko Haram extremists more than three years ago in Nigeria, were released. In South Sudan, a boy abducted and forced into the army — mourned in a funeral two years ago after word of his gunshot death reached his mother — was alive after all, and returned home.

The Islamic State lost power as it was driven from Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria. In the U.S., a total solar eclipse gave a break from the unending cacophony, with droves of sky-gazers standing shoulder to shoulder across a swath of the country.

A new calendar page brings with it the chance to start fresh. Jordi Casares, a 71-year-old retired bank employee in Barcelona, lamented the terrorism and radicalism that marred 2017 but said he, for one, is optimistic for a better 2018.

"It can't be any worse than this year," he said.

Associated Press writers Anita Snow in Phoenix, Joseph Wilson in Barcelona and Esther Htusan in Bangkok contributed to this report.

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MOVIE

FROM PAGE 1

Environment in anticipation of "Climate Fest" in May this year. The City partners with non-profit Sustainable Works to screen four movies a year; getting one of the world's biggest leaders in fighting climate change was a major boon to the program.

"Oh my god it's amazing," said the non-profit's director of community programs, Gina Garcia. Garcia reached out to Gore's people to see if they could work out a date he would be able to attend the screening. She was ecstatic to see a all-capital "YES" in her inbox last month confirming it would actually happen.

National news on Climate Change over the holiday season has not been so positive. A week before Christmas, President Donald Trump removed climate change from the list of worldwide threats menacing the United States. The president's National Security Strategy makes no mention of the dangers scientists describe amid a warming climate, including more extreme weather events that could spark humanitarian crises, mass migrations and conflict.

Then, last week, Trump said the East Coast "could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming" as bitterly cold temperatures froze large swaths of the country. Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism about climate change science, calling global warming a "hoax" created by the Chinese to damage American industry. The president's agenda is a reversal from past Democratic and Republican administrations.

But while Trump pledged to leave the United Nations Climate Accord aimed at curbing greenhouse gas production, cities like Santa Monica vowed to stay in. Last month, Mayor Ted Winterer was one of 45 mayors to voice his support for the accord at a gathering in Chicago. This spring the City will roll out a Climate Action and Adaptation plan, the blueprint for becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

"Municipalities and states, overall, have absolutely been leading the charge since we backed out of the Paris Agreement, said James Velez-Conway with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, who helped arrange Saturday's screening. "This is a sign of solidarity."

Those who didn't land one of the 125 seats inside the Aero Theater to see the screening can livestream the Q&A with Gore on the city of Santa Monica's Facebook page. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. with the National Resources Defense Council's Daniel Hinerfeld moderating the discussion after the 98 minute film. The City still has a handful of tickets to giveaway through its social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

"The more we know about global realities, the better we can adapt locally," public information officer Constance Farrell said.

The City is still planning one more screening: Wasted! The Story of Food Waste, a documentary from Anthony Bourdain. Organizers have not confirmed the special guest for the Q&A portion at this time.

"This was pretty lucky with this movie with Al Gore," Velez-Conway said. "The opportunity came up because Al Gore happens to be in town this time of the year, so we said we would absolutely love to have him. We are honored and flattered."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

YMCA Awards



The awards flowed like juice drinks with pizza, the traditional fare at Sunday's seasonal awards banquets held to officially finish off the Fall 2017 youth basketball season at the Santa Monica YMCA.

The four league champions, the Rookie Sharks (Annika Cook), Bantam Lakers (Eric Papazian), Minor Thunder (Jaden Fishman) and Major Vipers (Zion Qurtman) and their Most Valuable Players were all honored in front of capacity throngs all day long in the second floor community room.

Top first year players in their divisions included Benny Arroyo, London Coleman, Miles Aguilar and Sam Rubin, with top newcomers (that is to say first season ever playing at the Samo Y at all in our league) Joseph Zak, Zayd Al-Shawe, Roderick Johnson and Tommy Sorady taking home some hardware.

The best in making the jump from one division to the next this season were Max Baracy, Chris Rhee and Milyon Mitchell.

Free throwing excellence awards, named for sharpshooting ex-NBA player (and co-inventor of TV sports instant replay) Hal Uplinger were given out to Niftalem Tewodros, who set an all time single season percentage record going 17-21 for an 81% clip, Chase Jenkins, Marko Zelenovic and Lorenzo Stabilini.

Jenkins joins older brother Brandon as the only brother combination to have won the prestigious honor.

There was a wonderful and heartfelt closing moment when four long time standouts were sent on their way to travel leagues in Qurtman, Dash Decker, Nasir Luna and Keegan Fleigner.

Fleigner has been with the league consistently since its reforming in the Fall of 2011.

SUBMITTED BY PETER ARBOGAST, YMCA YOUTH BASKETBALL COORDINATOR

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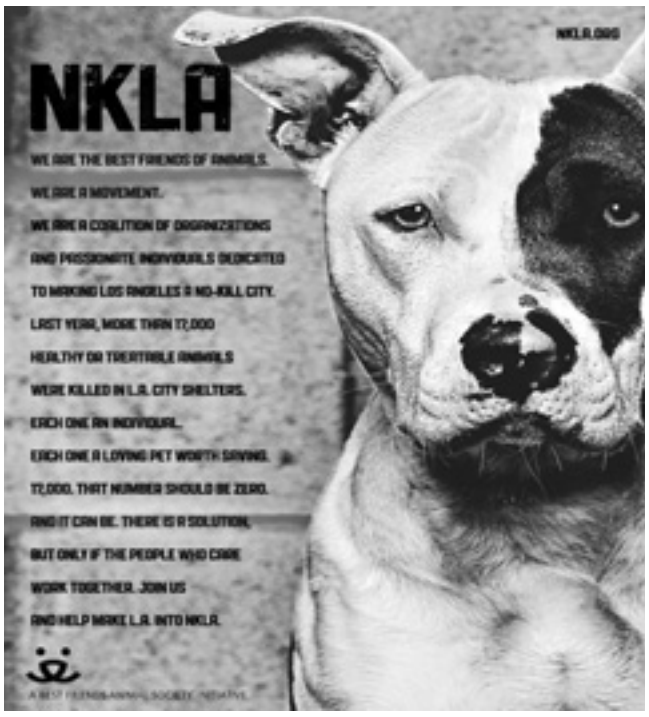
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WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Olden, Not Golden

■ Old age is not for sissies, the joke goes, though findings in a new Kaiser Family Foundation report on health in later life are nothing to laugh about.

■ The report polled 2,040 adults, including 998 interviews with people who had experienced recent serious illness in older age, either personally or with a family member. It found that 56 percent of seniors with serious illness felt sad or depressed often, with almost as many saying they felt lonely or a burden on others.

■ Nearly half of respondents said they had struggled to understand their medication instructions or medical care in the past year. The rate was higher among those with dementia.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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V	A	S	E	■	S	P	A	C	E	■	Z	I	N	G
P	S	S	T	■	I	S	L	E	T	■	E	T	S	Y

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

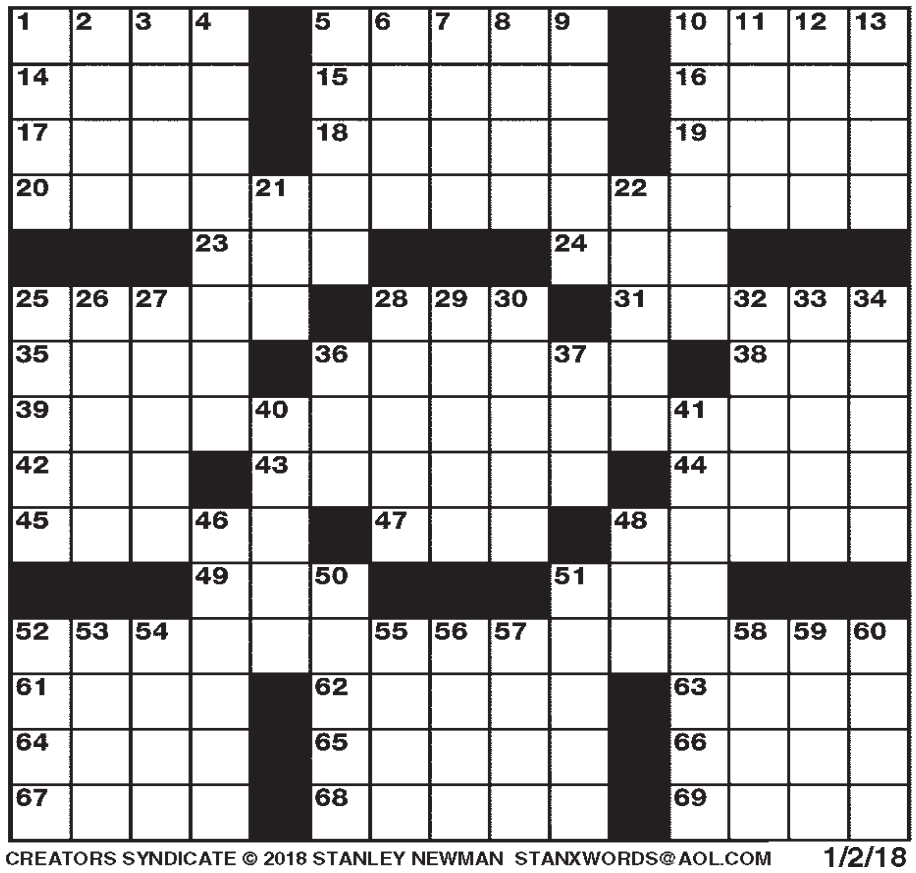
1	5	2	6	9	4	3	7	8
7	9	3	1	2	8	4	6	5
4	6	8	5	7	3	9	1	2
2	1	5	8	4	6	7	9	3
3	7	4	2	1	9	8	5	6
9	8	6	3	5	7	2	4	1
8	4	1	9	3	5	6	2	7
5	3	7	4	6	2	1	8	9
6	2	9	7	8	1	5	3	4

Newsday Crossword

TAKE IT TO HEART by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Gator's cousin
5 Bookkeeper's subtraction
10 Motion of the ocean
14 Boxcar rider
15 "Have __ myself clear?"
16 Much-admired celebrity
17 "Once __ a time . . ."
18 Airplane walkway
19 Snakelike fishes
20 Come to a compromise
23 Co. that once owned NBC
24 Pigpen
25 Insured patient's outlay
28 Pie __ mode
31 Sofas and chairs
35 From the U.S.
36 Zigzag skiing event
38 "Quiet!"
39 Place to take bottles and cans
42 Expert putters' org.
43 Greet with a car horn
44 A Great Lake
45 Red-suited reindeer driver
47 Contact-lens locale
48 Dueling weapon
49 Sci-fi sky sighting
51 Second notes of scales
52 Totally evil
61 Triple-decker cookie
62 At the present time
63 "Um, excuse me . . ."
64 Computer owner
65 An hr. after noon
66 Refine, as flour
67 Lots and lots
68 Sheriff's deputized group
69 Throw softly

DOWN
1 Close friend
2 Lasso
3 Woodwind instrument
4 In opposition (to)
5 Prince William's mom
6 Give off
7 Lavish party
8 Not doing anything
9 Abounds (with)
10 One way to color a T-shirt
11 Chose from a lineup
12 Barbie or Ken
13 Otherwise
21 Covered with frost
22 "Who's there?" response
25 Complains unreasonably
26 Last Greek letter
27 Pie nut
28 Draw __ in the sand
29 Tall and thin
30 Seaweed
32 Houston baseballer
33 That group's
34 Rip to tatters
36 __-mo replay
37 Halloween mo.
40 Irritate by rubbing
41 Current events update program
46 Private instructors
48 Have a look at
50 At the pinnacle
51 Limerick, for example
52 Lopsided victory
53 Estimator's phrase
54 Adolescent
55 __ avail (useless)
56 Poems of praise
57 Touches on the shoulder
58 Cleveland's state
59 Football officials, for short
60 CPR experts



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Dr. Lucy Jones to Kick-Off Malibu's Earthquake Resiliency Initiative

Dr. Lucy Jones, one of the world's foremost experts on earthquakes, will give a presentation on earthquake risk and preparedness specific to Malibu and help kick off the City's year-long Earthquake Resiliency Initiative during the Malibu City Council meeting on January 10.

The goal of the Earthquake Resiliency Initiative is to increase the community's resiliency, or ability to respond and recover, to a large earthquake, which will lead to reduced casualties and damage, and a shorter recovery period.

"Malibu is squarely in the middle of earthquake country, and we know that it is not a matter of if, but when, the Big One will strike," said Mayor Skylar Peak. "So we have to be prepared. We are extremely fortunate to be able to participate in this important, cutting edge initiative with the leadership of Dr. Lucy Jones, who is one of the preeminent voices on earthquake preparedness and response."

Dr. Jones served 33 years with the US Geological Survey, most recently as the Science Advisor for Risk Reduction. She is now the founder of the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society, whose mission is to foster the understanding and application of scientific information in the creation of more resilient communities. She is also a Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech, a post she has held since 1984.

In 2017 the City of Malibu was invited to participate with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Dr. Jones' Center for Science and Society in the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Initiative. Participating cities receive technical assistance to prepare for earthquakes and provide strategic solutions for improved resiliency that are suited to each community.

The City of Malibu's Earthquake Resiliency Initiative will include creating an inventory of soft-story buildings and identifying incentives for property owners to improve the seismic safety of these as well as other vulnerable structures. Soft-story buildings have first stories that are less rigid than the stories above and are particularly vulnerable to earthquake damage because of large, unreinforced openings on their ground floors. These openings often accommodate parking spaces, large windows and expansive lobbies in residential and retail buildings. In the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the bottom floor of the Northridge Meadows apartment complex – which was a soft-story building – collapsed, killing 16 residents on the first floor.

Throughout the year, the City will also conduct public education, work to reduce nonstructural earthquake hazards, update emergency plans, conduct Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and identify vulnerabilities in critical City functions and develop continuity of government strategies.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MALIBU MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

Malibu

CERT Training Course in January

With one of the largest wildfires in California history still raging and powerful Santa Ana winds generating extremely dangerous fire conditions for Malibu, there could not be

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 11

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 2)

Because your needs are met so beautifully and abundantly you'll be moved to help others. This only grows the bounty coming your way this year. A study helps you pick up more work. Your fan base includes someone who wants to give you special care: You don't need it, but it's wonderful anyway. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 38, 32 14 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
People may not immediately wrap their heads around what you're doing if it's something they've never seen before. Be willing to show them again. Space it out. Do this gently and over time. This is the price of being a trailblazer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
It's not an acting job: You really are just as enthusiastic over the success of others as you are of your own. Maybe it's because we're all in this together. One person's win is the sign of a rising tide that will carry all ships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
While others seem perfectly satisfied with what's happening, you sense that there is something wrong with the system. You're correct. Something's amiss. Get to the bottom of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Small things do matter, but they don't make a definitive point. Details can mislead. A single event will only tell part of the story. More of the story will be revealed in a pattern of events. All of the story is impossible to know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
The worthiest goals are basically anti-goals today. For instance, a goal not to do things that are going to embarrass you later, or not to spend time on things that won't matter in the long run, will be a worthy goal indeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Because you calculate risk differently for yourself than you do for others, and because you're protective by nature, you'll take certain shortcuts alone that you wouldn't lead others along.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You don't always have to feel passionate to be effective. Though you may not feel like working, going out or spending time with a certain person, you'll show up anyway, and good results will come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Your willingness to submit yourself to a certain amount of social awkwardness in order to make a connection is admirable. And awkwardness will ensue! So will the connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Because you see things how they are and you do things the way they ought to be done, you'll be admired and promoted. Hard to say why these abilities are so rarely demonstrated these days, but this works in your favor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The problem is wrapped around an opportunity, and all you have to do is tear away at it a bit and you'll get to the good stuff. In fact, this little nuisance could be the start of a huge enterprise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You'll have double the energy of yesterday, and it will show in all you do. If you walked a mile, you'll now walk two. If you made a friend, you'll make two more today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
There are two sides to the story, and you'll benefit from hearing them both. Actually, there are many more than two sides, but if you listen to too many sides you'll begin to get tired of this story.

The Rebel Yell of Uranus

According to the classic Billy Idol tune, the rebel yell cries, "More, more, more!" Uranus, the sign of such yelling (and the accompanying insatiable appetite), brings a screeching halt to his retrograde and decides to fly in the other direction. This gives a good jostle to the groggy Aries energies that were somewhat introverted in past months.

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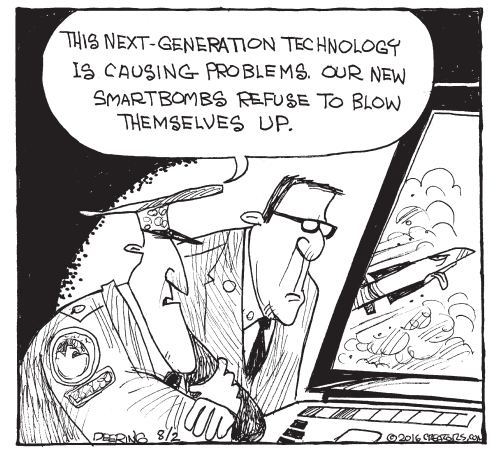
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



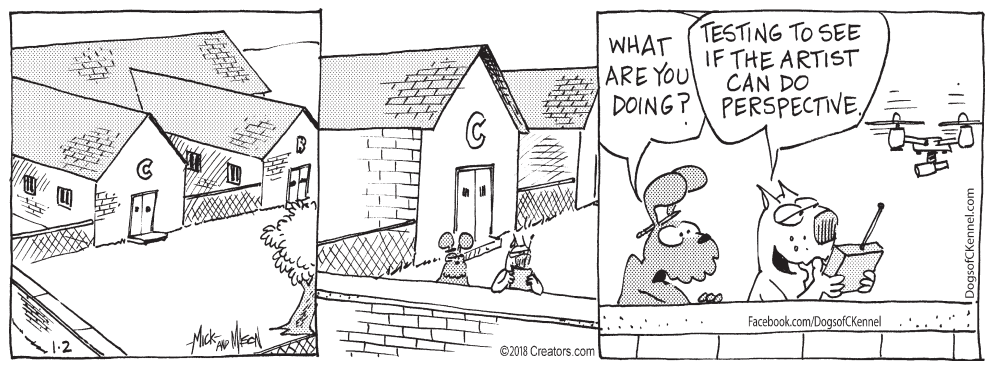
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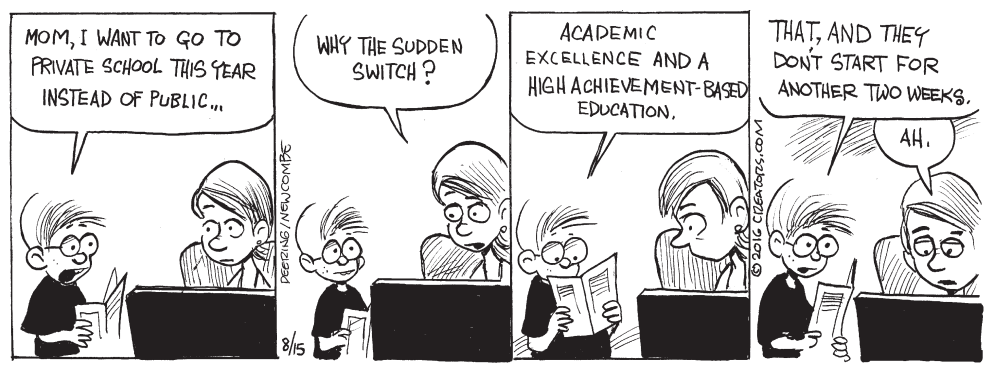
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



MALIBU

FROM PAGE 10

a better time to sign up for the next round of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes, starting January 11, 2018. The six class sessions take place at Malibu City Hall.

"Everyone in Malibu is on edge during these dangerous fire conditions," said Mayor Skylar Peak. "But our best defense is preparedness, and going through CERT training is one of the best possible ways to be prepared to help yourself, your family, and your neighborhood during a disaster."

CERT is a highly-acclaimed program of free courses administered by the City of Malibu and by public safety agencies across the country that empowers citizens to help during disasters. Volunteers are trained in basic first aid, fire suppression, and search and rescue so that they can provide emergency assistance to their neighbors.

CERT volunteers are a crucial part of the City's ability to prepare and respond to disasters. During a large-scale emergency like an earthquake or wildfire, well-trained citizens who are already in neighborhoods can help save lives during the first critical moments. They can also contribute to the emergency response by helping to search for missing or injured people, distributing food and medical supplies, and organizing volunteers.

In August 2017, the City Council adopted the official CERT Program Guidelines, an important step in formally incorporating the program and the trained, dedicated CERT volunteers into the City's emergency management system. The guidelines outline the requirements to become a member of the Malibu CERT Team, organizational structure, team responsibilities, ongoing participation requirements, and activation procedures.

In addition to their first aid, search and rescue, and other training, CERT members will complete FEMA (Federal Emergency Manager Agency) trainings, serve at least 30 hours per year, attend regular meetings and drills, and will be registered as Disaster Service Workers.

CERT Class Schedule:
Thursday, January 11, 6:00 PM
Thursday, January 18, 6:00 PM
Thursday, January 25, 6:00 PM
Thursday, February 1, 6:00 PM
Tuesday, February 6, 6:00 PM
Thursday, February 15, 6:00 PM
Saturday, February 24, 9:00 AM

For more information or to sign up, visit www.MalibuCity.org/CERT, call Public Safety Manager Susan Dueñas at 310-456-2489 ext. 313, or email SDuenas@malibucity.org.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MALIBU MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

BRIDGE

FROM PAGE 1

new one more than twice as wide at 64-feet across. All that extra space will allow an ADA- compliant route, two designated bike lanes and a wider sidewalk to meet the volume of pedestrian traffic descending from the Colorado Esplanade.

One plan calls for a temporary car bridge on Moss Avenue connecting Appian Way to the pier deck parking during construction. The second alternative calls for a temporary car ramp from Parking Lot 1 North.

Construction of the new bridge(s) will create "significant and unavoidable" traffic increases in the area because of detours and construction crews and equipment. However, a separate vehicle bridge would eliminate the existing conflict between traffic and pedestrians on The Pier, where cars must turn in front congregating pedestrians in order to access parking.

All three plans impact 1,4000 square feet of exhibit and office spaced used by Heal the Bay's aquarium during construction. Plans may include an elevator, stairs and escalator structures into the aquarium that would take over about 850 square feet of space.

The public will have a chance to give input at a meeting next Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. The public can learn more at www.smgov.net/pierbridge and can also submit comments on the 2,500-page Environmental Impact Report for the next month by emailing pierbridge@smgov.net.

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