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THURSDAY
01.10.19
Volume 18 Issue 50

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Application process opens for council vacancy

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Council has opened applications for filling the now vacant seat left by the resignation of former Councilman Tony Vazquez and while the process is more public than in the past, local watchdogs say more should be done to provide clarity on the qualifications for appointees. Residents can apply to fill the

City Council seat left vacant by Vazquez until Thursday, Jan. 17 through an online application.

The application asks Council hopefuls about their experience and qualifications as well as their vision for Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Transparency Project says the process will be more transparent than it has in the past, but Council has not been clear enough about the criteria they will use to appoint

a new councilmember.

Transparency Project chair Mary Marlow said the online application process is an improvement from the last time Council appointed a new member. When Terry O'Day was selected in 2010, potential appointees submitted their applications directly to Council and the public was unable to read them.

This time, applicants' responses

to the questionnaires will be posted online. Council will nominate and vote on appointees without secret ballots at an open meeting, said Councilmember Kevin McKeown.

Marlow said she thinks those transparency measures stop short of informing the public about what Council is actually looking for in a new member.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7

City expands benefits for evicted tenants

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Renters facing no-fault evictions will receive up to 50 percent more money from their landlords to relocate.

At its Jan. 8 meeting, City Council increased the amount landlords must pay their tenants if they evict them under the Ellis Act or if the landlord or a family member moves into the unit. The increase is the first since 2011. It also raised the per diem evicted tenants get to temporarily stay in hotels while they find new housing from \$165 to \$292 per day.

The amount evicted tenants are entitled to depends on how many bedrooms their unit had and whether they are older than 62 or disabled. A typical studio tenant previously received \$9,950 and will now receive \$15,020, while a one bedroom tenant got \$15,300 and will now get \$20,705. Landlords had to pay tenants who rented units with two or more bedrooms

SEE **BENEFITS** PAGE 7

Criminal complaint filed over Shekhter-owned housing project

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City Attorney has filed a criminal complaint against the son of Santa Monica's most notorious landlord.

The City announced Wednesday that it charged Adam Shekhter,

Saul Reuben Robin, Edward Jose Valentin and several affiliated companies with tenant harassment, maintaining a public nuisance and violating local zoning laws.

Neil Shekhter bought two rent-controlled properties on Tenth Street (1238 and 1242) more than two years ago and subdivided them

into micro-units. The properties have been managed by My Suite, LLC, a new company formed by Neil's son, Adam.

More than a dozen tenants took buyout offers to leave the 20-unit property since it was purchased, according to city records. However, those that have stayed have said

building is now being operated as corporate housing rather than as stable, housing.

The Code Enforcement Division of the City's Planning & Community Development Department started investigating the case against Adam Shekhter in June 2018 and filed criminal charges against

the defendants on Dec. 18, 2018. Adam's company had taken over management of the Tenth Street building and others earlier that year.

The investigation alleges the defendants disobeyed repeated instructions from Code

SEE **COMPLAINT** PAGE 8



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Calendar

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 10

The Next Stage: Considerations for College- Bound Artists @ Main

Learn about opportunities and requirements for focusing on the visual or performing arts in your education after high school. Presented by college counselor, writer and actor, Nick Soper, founder of Creative College Prep and TeenLAUNCH. Grades 9-12. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 - 8 p.m.

Middle School Council

Learn how you can help with programs, get volunteer hours, and more. For Middle School Students. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 4 - 5 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

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

NOMA meeting

Plans for an environmental learning center to be built at 4th and Montana, a talk by City Librarian Patty Wong, introduction of Beat 4's new resource officer, and Board elections are the chief items of business of the North of Montana Neighborhood Association's monthly meeting, Thursday, January 10, at 7 p.m. at the Montana Branch Library. Refreshments precede at 6:30, and all are invited.

Friday, Jan. 11

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for \$15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House 9:00am-10:00 am.

Coffee, Conversation and Change

Santa Monica Homeless Steering Committee: "How Can This Poor Woman Still Be on the Streets?" Friday January 11, 9 - 10:30 a.m. 2509 Pico Blvd. Topic: Mental Illness, Behavioral Health and Homelessness Guest speakers include: Coley King D.O., street medicine doctor,

Venice Family Clinic Zach Coil LCSW, Program Director, street teams, The People Concern. Residents are invited to join organizers for coffee and conversation to discuss mental illness, behavioral health, and homelessness. Come to hear what service organizations in your community are doing to address this epidemic To RSVP please email: Homelessness@smsgov.net

Guest House Open

Visit anytime between 11am-2pm for a self-guided or docent tour. No reservations needed Annenberg Community Beach House 11:00am-2:00 pm.

Craft, Swap, or Create @ Your Library

Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us at the library to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures, and while you are at it, make some time to create, invent and learn a new craft or skill. Sewing machine, crochet tools, and other items available for your use. Pico Branch Library 2:30pm-4:30 pm.

Mat Pilates

Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat. Montana Avenue Branch Library 3:00pm-4:00 pm.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market

The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market, also known as the Organic Market, opened in May 1991. As Santa Monica's second CFM, it had a different mission to fulfill. With the passage of the California Organic Foods Act of 1990, consumers were eager for more organic produce and another market for weekend shopping. The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue 8:00am-1:00 pm.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide
L.A. Metro Offers Extra Rail Service for Rams vs. Cowboys NFL
Playoff Game at L.A. Coliseum this Saturday, January 12

With more than 70,000 football fans expected to attend the NFL playoff game between the L.A. Rams and Dallas Cowboys at the L.A. Coliseum on Saturday, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is enhancing rail service and encouraging fans to “Go Metro” to beat traffic congestion and parking hassles in the Exposition Park area.

The game kicks off at 5:15 p.m. and is expected to end around 8:15 p.m. Metro’s Expo Line makes it easy to attend the game, with two stations – the Expo Park/USC Station or Expo/Vermont Station – closest to the Coliseum. Expo Line trains will operate every six minutes before and after the game. Metro will operate three-car trains on both the Expo Line and Blue Line. On the Red and Purple Lines, Metro will operate six-car trains with trains running every six minutes in downtown Los Angeles.

Metro’s Silver Line is also available to provide express bus service between San Pedro, Downtown L.A. and El Monte. Those coming to the game on the Silver Line should exit at the 37th Street/USC Station for the short walk to the Coliseum.

Fans are reminded to load their TAP cards with \$3.50 round-trip fare in advance to avoid waiting in line. A one-way trip is \$1.75 and includes transfers to other Metro lines for up to two hours. A Silver Line one-way trip is \$2.50. Metro Day Passes are \$7. Fares are sold on TAP cards. Fans can purchase TAP cards at TAP vending machines at all Metro Rail stations or from a Metro representative at the station. Riders can only use one TAP card per person.

Metrolink commuter rail is offering \$10 roundtrip tickets for football fans with special late-night service post-game on the Antelope Valley, Orange County and San Bernardino County Lines. Metrolink paper tickets or mobile tickets are valid for free transfers to Metro Rail lines. For a schedule of Metrolink late night services for Saturday, please visit <https://www.metrolinktrains.com/destinations/football-trains/>.

For more information on Metro transit services to the game, please visit <https://thesource.metro.net/2019/01/07/go-metro-and-metrolink-to-watch-rams-hogtie-cowboys-on-saturday/> or call 323.GO.METRO.

SUBMITTED BY DAVE SOTERO/JONI GOHEEN, METRO MEDIA RELATIONS

Malibu
Deadline Extended to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

The deadline for California wildfire survivors to register for federal assistance has been extended to Thursday, Jan. 31.

Disaster grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are available to eligible homeowners and renters impacted by the mid-November wildfires in Butte, Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Nearly 26,000 applications from survivors of the Camp, Hill and Woolsey Fires have been received by FEMA to date.

Disaster assistance for individuals may include grants to help homeowners and renters with temporary housing, essential home repairs, personal property replacement, and serious disaster-related needs. Disaster assistance grants are not taxable and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare or other federal and state programs. Grants do not have to be repaid.

The deadline for filing applications for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has also been extended to Jan. 31.

The SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters. SBA disaster loans fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.

For more information, applicants may visit their nearest Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), apply online at SBA.gov/disaster, or contact SBA’s Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955.

Survivors who have not yet applied for FEMA disaster assistance, should register right away. There are three ways to register:

- Online at DisasterAssistance.gov;
- Call 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585), 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. PST daily. Multilingual operators are available, or

Visit a FEMA/Cal OES Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). DRCs are accessible facilities where applicants can learn more about FEMA and other disaster assistance programs. To find locations, visit the DRC locator at egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MALIBU MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

Trump, California spar over
money for wildfire relief funds

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to withhold money to help California cope with wildfires, a day after new Gov. Gavin Newsom asked him to double the federal investment in forest management.

Trump again suggested poor forest management is to blame for California’s deadly wildfires and said he’s ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to stop giving the state money “unless they get their act together.”

Fire scientists say climate change, not poor forest management, is the driving contributor to California’s increasingly destructive wildfires, many of which have not been primarily in forests.

FEMA could not immediately comment because of the government shutdown. Trump has previously threatened to withhold wildfire payments but never followed through.

Hours after Trump’s tweet, the state’s emergency operations agency said FEMA is extending its deadline for victims of deadly November wildfires to seek assistance.

Newsom, a Democrat who took office Monday, said Californians affected by wildfires “should not be victims to partisan bickering.”

Several Republican lawmakers who represent the town of Paradise, which was leveled by a fire in November that killed 86 people, said Trump’s tweet was not helpful.

“These are American citizens who need our help,” U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa said.

But Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of California, defended Trump’s comments on forest management and did not criticize his threat to withhold funding. McCarthy said he’ll propose more money for forest management as part of Democratic spending bills this week to reopen the government. But Republicans ultimately don’t plan to back the spending bills.

Newsom and Govs. Jay Inslee and Kate Brown of Washington and Oregon, respectively, on Tuesday sent a letter to the president asking him to double federal funding for forest management. California has pledged \$1 billion over the next five years to ramp up its efforts, which include clearing dead trees that can serve as fuel.

Lawmakers approved that money last year, and Newsom said Tuesday he’ll add an extra \$105 million in his upcoming budget for wildfire-related spending.

More than half of California’s 33 million acres of forest are managed by the federal government, and the letter noted the U.S. Forest Service’s budget has steadily decreased since 2016. State and local governments own just 3 percent of forests and the rest is owned by private owners and Native American tribes, according to the University of California.

“Our significant state-level efforts will not be as effective without a similar commitment to increased wildland management by you, our federal partners,” the letter read.

Newsom’s office didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment about how much money the state has received from FEMA following recent wildfires.

Most FEMA money goes directly to victims through disaster assistance. The agency approved more than \$48 million in individual and household assistance related to deadly wildfires in November, according to its website.

In a Tuesday event on wildfire safety, Newsom had praised Trump for always providing California with necessary disaster relief funds.

Newsom and Trump toured the fire devastation in Paradise together in November. At the time, Trump made a head-scratching comment about Finland minimizing its wildfire threat by “raking and cleaning” forests.

Finland’s president said he had talked to Trump about wildfires in November but didn’t recall discussing raking.

“I’ll defend him on that a little bit,” Newsom said Tuesday. “I think what he was talking about is defensible spaces, landscaping, which has a role to play.”

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This Is Why I'm Here

THIS WEEK? GOLD, BABY!

And that's why I moved to LA nearly 40 years ago. You might get an off time like last week but it won't be long before the sunny skies rain marvelous music all over this town and your big problem is sorting out the nights that have more than one must-see show. I love it.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! & Fri, Sun: LA PHILHARMONIC - PHILIP GLASS (Renaissance man John Adams conducts the world premier of Renaissance man Philip Glass's Symphony No. 12, Lodger, from the music of Renaissance man David Bowie, and Brian Eno, Glass's third symphony based on Bowie's Berlin Trilogy, preceded by Adams's "over the top" Grand Pianola Music, more proof LA is the best live music town in the world and has been for decades, no not NY or Austin, London or Berlin, don't argue), Thurs, Fri 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, downtown LA, \$25-\$174.

BECK (yes, Beck, at lil ol' McCabe's, but they are famous since the days of legendary booker Nancy Covey in the early '80s for luring arena rockers to their small room to play acoustic and connect with an immediate audience like they probably haven't in years, an audience that listens and is willing to let them go where they might, I remember being new in town and going to catch hot shots Los Lobos for the first time there, around '81, and they played all Central and South American folk songs, all acoustic, all en español, and it sure wasn't what I went for or expected but I was transported and still think back fondly to that show, who knows where chameleon Beck will go but it is sold out, yes at \$200 a seat, part of the continuing very successful fundraising series for the 50th anniversary of their concert series, 60th anniversary of McCabe's Guitar Shop on Pico, you should show up anyway and see if a spare ticket has shown up, bring several Franklins, it's a good cause), Fri 9 p.m., McCabe's, Santa Monica, \$200.

JERRON "BLIND BOY" PAXTON (but if you're shut out of Beck don't despair, sit on the sidewalk overnight and you will thank me in 50 years when South Central's Paxton is a living blues legend and you can say I saw him in his 20s way back when, of course I'll be in my 120s but if I can still hear I will appreciate the thanks and ask you to take me again to see him because he is the real deal, riveting blues guitar and vocals, also plays great piano, banjo, fiddle, Cajun accordion, bones and harmonica -- look ma, no hands! -- and gives me hope that not all the very best of the bluesmen are soon or already in their graves), Sat 8 p.m., McCabe's, Santa Monica, \$20.

RECOMMENDED:

I SEE HAWKS IN L.A., Romance Fantasy, Heathen Apostles (always, always catch the Hawks, as at home in a Sunset Strip rock club as on a folk or bluegrass stage), Sat 8 p.m., the Viper Room, West Hollywood, \$10.

LIBRARY GIRL (Santa Monica's, and LA's literary light, shines again, starting their 10th year and as usual this one is sold out but go to the web site to get put on a waiting list, themed "Ever Fallen In Love (With Someone You Shouldn't've)?" and co-curated by founder Susan Hayden and

Punk Hostage Press' Iris Berry, featuring writers Berry, Annette Cruz, Dennis Cruz, Jack Grisham, Joel Landmine, Michael Marcus, Richard Modiano, Pleasant Gehman, Razor, Rich Ferguson, Yvonne de la Vega and S.A. Griffin, music by Mason Summit), Sun 6 p.m. party, 7 p.m. show, Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, \$10 includes taco cart, dessert, commemorative souvenirs, such a deal!

THE BROTHER BROTHERS, CONNOR AND ARIANNE VANCE (OK I caught a couple videos, the brothers are good, that blood harmony slightly reminiscent of the Everlys but the real reason I recommend this show is the opening act, Santa Monica's own how can one married couple be so nice smart good looking AND so ridiculously talented Vances, she of a pure, emotional, joyous voice and he the multi-instrumental essential of the Dustbowl Revival -- they're opening, don't be late!), 8 p.m., McCabe's, \$20.

BECK, ST. VINCENT, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS (which is the real Beck, the one at McCabe's Friday or on the big loud Hollyweird rock stage here, I like St. Vincent, and will the RHCP reinvent themselves back into our hearts and feet?), Sun 6 p.m., Hollywood Palladium, \$200-\$248.

THE FLESH EATERS (ah halcyon LA punk days, revisited with their best line-up,

3 Blasters, 2 from X and Chris D, new album release), Tues 6 p.m., Amoeba Music, Hollywood, free.

FOO FIGHTERS, METALLICA, RYAN ADAMS plus members of Soundgarden, Audioslave, Temple of the Dog ("I Am the Highway: A Tribute to Chris Cornell" will no doubt rock like a mothertrumper), Wed 8 p.m., the Forum, Inglewood, \$480-\$1,440.

DAVIDS BROMBERG and HIDALGO, LARRY CAMPBELL (two extremely talented Davids together, spanning decades, from the Village to East LA, along with Campbell all collaborated with Dylan), Thurs 8 p.m., Regent Theater, downtown LA, \$45.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Crazy talented funny LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III, McCabe's, Fri, Sat Jan. 18, 19; Icelandic jazz bird ANNA MJÖLL, Vibrato, Fri Jan. 18; LA PHIL, MESSIAEN: Turangalila Symphony, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Fri, Sat Jan. 18, 19; bass master STANLEY CLARKE, the Broad, Sat Jan. 19; THE FLESH EATERS (their best line-up: 3xBlasters, 2xX, Chris D), new album release plus Seattle grunge legends MUDHONEY, Echoplex, Sat Jan. 19; SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium, Sat Jan. 19; Southern California SLACK KEY FESTIVAL, Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, Sun Jan. 20; the inconceivable DEREK SMALLS (Spinal Tap), Palace Theater, Wed Jan. 23; the BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET, the Soraya, Thurs Jan. 24; I love love love this event, WHISKY X LA, last year was great this year will be even better because the band is ST. PAUL AND THE BROKEN BONES, food and 60 whiskies to taste and again at Barker Hangar, Fri Jan. 25; Miles Davis cohort, trumpeter WALLACE RONEY, Vibrato, Tues, Wed Jan. 29, 30; ELTON JOHN, the Forum, Feb. 1, 2; hot hot TRAVIS SCOTT (how often do I

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Creationist and an Evolutionist Disagree About “Beginnings”

At some point in his life the thinking man will usually ask himself three important questions: Who—or what—am I? Where am I? and How did I get here?

At this point in time a select group of thinking men have come up with two distinct hypotheses. Unfortunately, the two are mutually exclusive. And trying to integrate them usually leads to a misunderstanding.

Which leads to Matt Chait’s new play “A Misunderstanding” which attempts to explain it all.

“The Explainer” is Matt Chait himself, playing a world-renowned biologist named Bertram Cates who is trying to regain his position at a California university three years after he was dismissed for teaching his students the theory of Creationism.

He is opposed by the Chairman of the Biology Department, Joshua Brownstein (played by Bruce Katzman), a staunch Evolutionist. And although the two men are long-time friends, they each hold their convictions with unyielding passion.

Cates’ position is that life is a moment to moment process, encompassing the ability to experience and also to desire. He contrasts “the self” with the “sense of self”, a condition which he describes as a much deeper consciousness of one’s own being. And to demonstrate how to get to that deeper consciousness, that “nonphysical consciousness of the self,” he invites Brownstein to sit quietly and contemplate his breathing. (This exercise is the first in an attempt to achieve Mindfulness, a calming state that is not mentioned in the play, but is quietly acknowledged by the declarations that Cates puts forth.)

Brownstein, on the other hand, is a confirmed Evolutionist, a disciple of Charles Darwin who believes that life has evolved through a series of advantageous mutations. To which Cates counters with his belief that life begins with consciousness and that all living things consist of “consciousness

attached to an organism”. It is that awareness of their own life, he believes, that leads to the desire to live and to survive. “All living things compete for survival,” he says, adding, “I am a survival machine!”

Meanwhile, Brownstein’s daughter Melinda (Amy-Helene Carlson) is having her own quarrel with her fiancé, Howard (Dennis Renard). Not because Howard is a Creationist and long-time student of Professor Cates, but because he has not shared this information with her. Also because she harbors a terrible resentment of Cates’ teaching, which resulted in one of his students having committed suicide. To Joshua Brownstein, that act is made more terrible by Cates’ initial refusal to accept responsibility for it.

In the end, the theatergoers are left to draw their own conclusions about Evolution or Intentional Creationism. And all four characters in the play, under the tight direction of Elina de Santos, make a mind-boggling case for their own point of view. There is little action and lots and lots of talk — absolutely fascinating talk that keeps the audience engaged throughout. And perhaps agreeing, finally, with Cates’ summing up of his own beliefs versus Brownstein’s, as well as Melinda’s versus Howard’s, by concluding: “All there is is love and misunderstanding.”

“A Misunderstanding”, now having its World Premiere at the Ruby Theatre @ The Complex, 6476 Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood, will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm through February 3rd. For tickets, call (323) 960-4418 or online at www.plays411.com/misunderstanding.

Cynthia Citron has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

recommend an arena rap show? I’ll tell you more as it gets closer), the Forum, Feb. 8.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK:

Tragic Radicals, Smut, Blazing Eye, Gouge Away, Melted Bodies, Zombie Eating Horse, Dee Skusting & the Rodents,

Winnetka Bowling League, Lantz Lazwell & the Vibe Tribe, The Hi Fi Honeydrops, Judas Priestess, Cowgirls From Hell, Confusing Mix of Nations, Reagan Youth.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealrmusic@gmail.com

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Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Music, circus, theatre, glass

Do you sing in the shower? Need an outlet for your (alto, soprano, tenor, baritone) pipes? Ever thought about joining a chorus? This weekend you'll have your chance! On Saturday, January 12, The Verdi Chorus is holding auditions for their Spring 2019 concert at First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, in Santa Monica.

Founded back in the days when the Verdi Restaurant in Santa Monica featured opera singing servers, the restaurant closed but the Verdi Chorus went on to become its own stand-alone non-profit organization, now entering its 36th year under the direction of founding artistic director Anne Marie Ketchum.

It brings together 50 singers from all walks of life, with ages ranging from 18 to 80, and focuses on operatic music. With the addition of opera stars starting their careers and college students learning to perfect their opera skills, each rehearsal is said to be like a vocal master class.

The chorus presents four concerts each year, as well as other collaborative events. Performance times for The Verdi Chorus Spring 2019 Concert are Saturday, April 6th at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, April 7th at 2 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica, located at 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Tickets will go on sale March 1, 2019.

Positions are open for all voice types. To request an audition on Saturday, January 12 please visit www.verdichorus.org/audition-for-chorus/ or call (661) 418-7882.

ISABELLA AND HER DOG

In case you didn't know this, in addition to her career as a model and an actress, Isabella Rossellini is a long-time animal lover. In fact, she is completing a Master's Degree in Animal Behavior and Conservation and runs an organic farm on Long Island; her new book, "My Chickens and I" comes out in March this year.

She says that modeling and acting took her away from her early passion for animals. "It's funny, when I was a little girl and had my little dog and it seemed that we understood each other so well, I was asking questions about how much animals think and feel emotion. I'm still asking."

Now Rossellini brings her passion and her knowledge together to present her Link Circus at The Broad Stage. The show is described as quirky and scientifically informed, playfully arguing Darwin's theory of evolution which links humans to animals. It's illustrated with Rossellini's short comic films, home movies and animation. She transforms herself into philosophers of the past like Aristotle, René Descartes and a medieval theologian while her dog, Pan, plays various animals, assisted by puppeteer and animal handler Schuyler Beeman.

The New York Times wrote that Rossellini "delivers a 'theatrical conference' about the nonhumans with whom we share this

planet, using puppets, projected drawings and animated videos to illustrate her points. Ms. Rossellini talks about how she has loved animals from a young age, and mentions her involvement with the Guide Dog Foundation in a segment that is typically funny, touching and informative ... it is hard to deny how pleasurable Ms. Rossellini's company is. And have I mentioned there is a dog?"

The Link Circus comes to town for just three performances, January 25-27, at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. Tickets are on sale at www.thebroadstage.org or by calling 310-434-3200.

THE WALLIS: AN INSPECTOR CALLS

One of the most exciting theatrical events from the London stage is coming to Beverly Hills. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (The Wallis) presents J.B. Priestley's thriller, "An Inspector Calls," directed by Stephen Daldry ("The Crown"), January 22 - February 10.

This modern reimagining of the 1945 script, set in 1912, was called the landmark theatrical event of its generation when it was staged in 1992 by the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Inspector Goole's unexpected arrival at the prosperous Birling family home shatters their peaceful dinner party with his investigations into the death of a young woman. His startling revelations shake the very foundations of their lives and challenge audiences to question their own consciences.

I'll be there opening night and will report back to you. Meantime, get tickets while you still can: <http://thewallis.org/Inspector> or call 310 746-4000. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

BOWIE, GLASS AND LA PHIL

Commissioned for the LA Philharmonic's Centennial, the World Premiere of Minimalist composer Philip Glass's Symphony No. 12, Lodger, will be performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall this Thursday, Friday and Sunday, Jan. 10, 11 and 13, with John Adams conducting.

Glass has composed three symphonies based on David Bowie's Berlin Trilogy, a series of three albums he made with collaborator Brian Eno. This new work will be preceded Adams's own "over-the-top" composition, Grand Pianola Music.

This should prove to be a really adventurous concert, enhanced by getting to hear it performed in the also-adventurous Frank Gehry-designed Disney Hall. You can still get seats: <https://www.laphil.com/events/performances/180/2019-01-10/adams-glass/>

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.



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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

"There's no accountability as to what they're looking for," she said. "The application doesn't list what skills they need. Are they just going to pick whomever they like best?"

Even though candidates will detail their background on the application, Marlow said she thinks Council should establish exactly which skills and qualifications it's looking for, such as budget experience, community involvement and experience working in a group.

"What weight are (Council) putting on different parts of the questionnaire?" she said. "We want Council to give us some idea of what they're prioritizing, because a lot of smart, qualified people are going to apply."

McKeown said there will be no mystery to the appointment process.

"The councilmembers' decision making will be almost painfully public and transparent," he said. "While this is understandably difficult for the various nominees who see their fortunes rise and fall over what will probably be multiple votes before the Council eventually chooses a new colleague, the public will be able to track the shifting move toward an eventual majority every step of the way."

Councilmember Sue Himmelrich said she doesn't think setting up a rubric of a specific set of criteria to judge applicants against is feasible because Council can't predetermine what qualities it's looking for.

"What are we going to say, that you have to have a bachelor's degree or have served on a city board or commission?" she said. "I don't think that would be necessary. If I thought hard, I could think of a couple of (qualities) I'd like to see in an ideal world, but I think other councilmembers voting might have different views."

Councilmember Ted Winterer said even if Council were to establish criteria for appointment, it would be unable to do so before its next meeting because it would have to hear from the public.

"I suppose we could discuss criteria at the meeting on (Jan. 22), but it would be unfair to those who choose to seek the appointment to impose standards after the application window closes," he said.

Councilmember Tony Vazquez formally resigned Jan. 7 to take a seat on the State Board of Equalization, which oversees taxes. Vazquez began his most recent term in 2012 after serving on Council in the early 1990s.

madeleine@smdp.com

BENEFITS

FROM PAGE 1

\$20,750 and will now pay \$28,810.

Elderly and disabled tenants will receive about \$1,000 to \$2,000 more at each step.

Across the board, the permanent relocation benefits now incorporate the two months rent landlords often ask for from a new tenant, a security deposit, the costs of disconnecting and reconnecting utilities, packing and moving, storage for three months and packing supplies.

Rent Control Board chair Anastasia Foster said the benefits tenants have received since 2011 increased each year with inflation but did not adequately cover all the costs associated with moving.

"The new amounts reflect actual costs and what we've been hearing from tenants for years that (the benefits) have been insufficient to cover the costs of a sudden, expected move," she said. "This will hopefully go a long way to alleviating some of that pain."

Foster said the new amounts don't take a few important costs into account, however.

"Packing up an apartment you've lived in for ten years with two kids and a dog can't be done in a weekend, and you can't get everything set up in a new place in a

weekend either," she said. "People inevitably have to take time off from work and that lack of compensation is unaccounted for."

Tenants with children also usually have to pay for childcare during the moving process, Foster added.

While the benefits hike will provide tenants with a stronger safety net, landlords say providing relocation assistance to tenants can be prohibitively expensive.

Property owners successfully sued San Francisco in 2017 after the city ordered landlords evicting tenants under the Ellis Act to pay up to \$50,000. A judge ruled such a high amount "placed a prohibitive price on a landlord's right to exit the rental market" in violation of the Ellis Act.

The upper limit on Santa Monica's permanent relocation benefits is now \$30,682 for two bedroom households with an elderly or disabled member.

"If all the landlords in Santa Monica announced they were raising rents" at the same rate that City Council raised relocation benefits, an Apartments Association of Greater Los Angeles representative said at Council's Jan. 8 meeting, "there would be riots in the streets."

madeleine@smdp.com

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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS**

CITY COUNCIL

City Council:

One seat available for a partial term ending November 3, 2020.

Applicants must be residents and registered voters of the City of Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, Thursday, January 17, 2019 to be considered for an appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/councilappoint

If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

COMPLAINT

FROM PAGE 1

Enforcement, failed to fully pay for tenants to live elsewhere while the building was being renovated and used unlawful tactics – such as illegal buyout and eviction notices – in an attempt to evict tenants.

The investigation also said the defendants had operated group housing without first obtaining required permits from the City. The Tenth Street apartment complex originally had 14 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom apartments, but the website move.com advertised 34 available apartments in the building.

“The allegations are unfounded, and we

are prepared to vigorously defend against the meritless legal action. Let me emphasize that we are confident that if this case is in fact litigated, and all the facts are established, all parties will be fully vindicated,” said defendants’ spokesman Eric Rose.

“City prosecutors and enforcement staff will take action when individuals knowingly violate local law for personal financial gain at others’ expense,” Chief Deputy City Attorney Yibin Shen said in a press release.

The City Attorney’s Office encourages any person experiencing similar or related violations to immediately contact the Code Enforcement Division at (310) 458-4984 or visit their website to file a complaint.

madeleine@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Ave. Park

Is This Amerikkka? Black Youth Speak Out

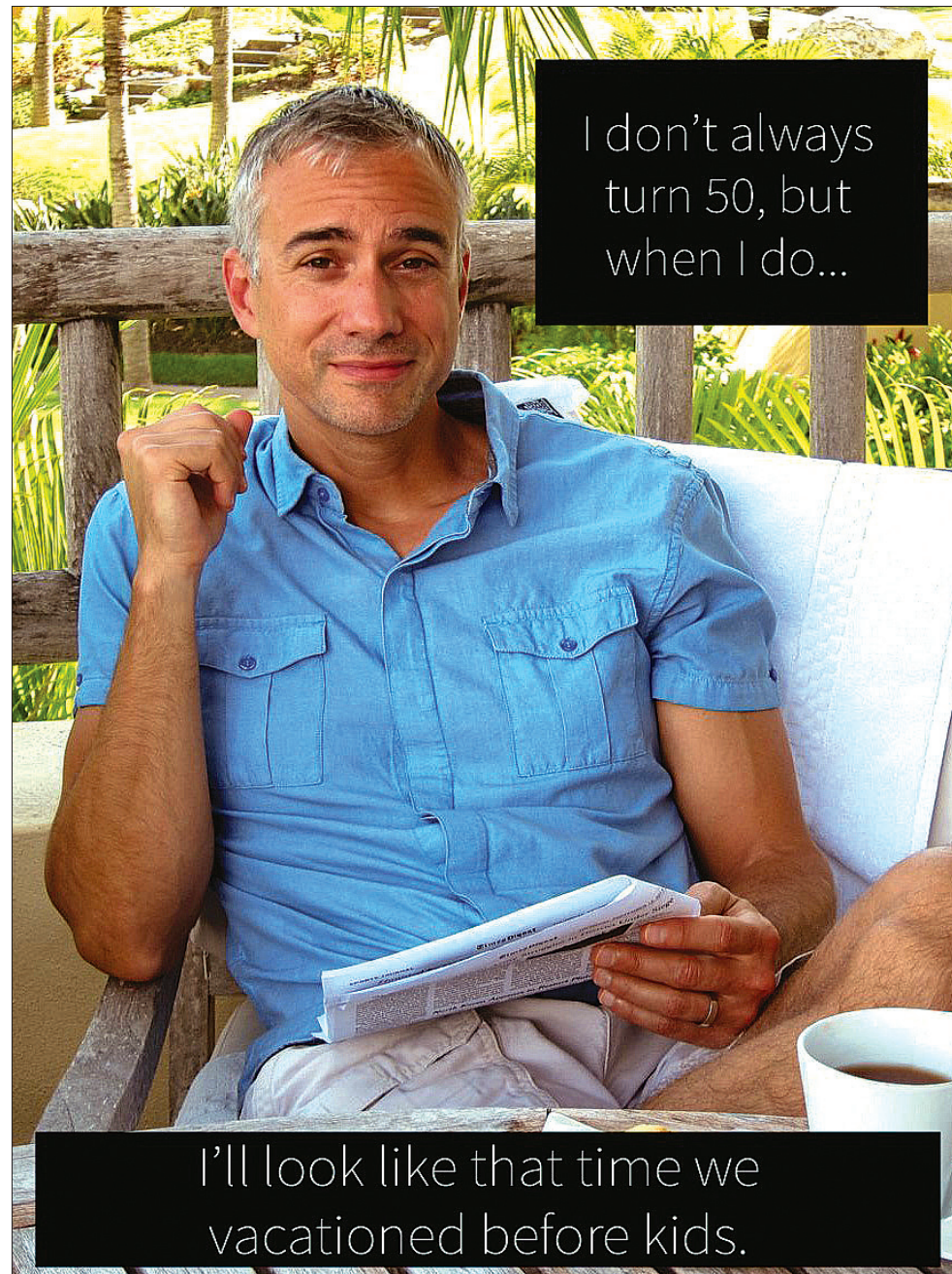
The Committee for Racial Justice’s January 13 workshop will feature discussions that examine youth engagement in social justice activism using visual and written expression. The topic of the meeting was generated by the appearance of a banner that was mysteriously displayed at Santa Monica High School. The banner appeared to be an interpretation of rapper Childish Gambino’s video concept of America (“THIS IS AMERKKKA”) as a racist and problematic country. The students and scholars will also address the emotional effect of the mural in Lemiart Park that was defaced with swastikas.

Joining in the discussion will be youth from Santa Monica BSU; Dr. Karen Gunn, Psychologist - Educator, Organizational & Management Consultant, Trainer & Facilitator, Leadership & Life Coach; Fluke Fluker, Teacher/Coach/Athletic Director, Department Chair & Coordinator for AVID-LAUSD; Chin Nkwocha, Daughter of the Village Nation, Current senior at El Camino Charter HS, Spoken Word Artist, and Co-President of the BSU; and Enkone, the artist who created the Black Panther mural on Crenshaw Blvd that was recently defaced.

Come and join in the conversation.

This workshop is sponsored by the Committee for Racial Justice. Co-sponsored by Church in Ocean Park, Virginia Ave Park, and the African American Parent, Student, Staff Support Group. For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431. Sunday, January 13, potluck supper at 6 p.m. and program starts at 6:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg. 2200 Virginia Ave.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN



DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Silent robbery alarm 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:47 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 3:35 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1100blk 2nd St 5:14 a.m.
Burglary 1000blk 5th St 6:03 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2500blk Michigan Ave 6:37 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 400blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:46 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 200blk Washington Ave 6:51 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:05 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2200blk Virginia Ave 7:28 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2700blk Donald Douglas Loop N 7:53 a.m.
Battery 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:29 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100blk 11th St 8:34 a.m.
Burglary 800blk 4th St 8:46 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 900blk Centinela Ave 9:01 a.m.
Vandalism 600blk Pacific St 9:05 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk the beach 9:11 a.m.
Speeding Cloverfield Blvd / Colorado Ave 9:25 a.m.
Auto burglary 500blk 15th St 9:27 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 100blk Hollister Ave 9:43 a.m.
General parking problem 1200blk Stanford St 9:45 a.m.
Fraud 1500blk 10th St 9:52 a.m.
Vandalism 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 9:59 a.m.
Fraud 3400blk Pico Blvd 10:06 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 33rd St / Pico Blvd 10:30 a.m.
Burglary 300blk Colorado Ave 10:30 a.m.
Battery 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:38 a.m.
Overdose 1400blk 7th St 10:45 a.m.
Burglary 1000blk 14th St 10:57 a.m.
Burglary 400blk Idaho Ave 11:01 a.m.
Battery 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:05 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:08 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1500blk Berkeley St 11:17 a.m.
Person with a gun 1500blk 2nd St 11:31 a.m.
Burglary 300blk 12th St 11:38 a.m.
Battery 1300blk 15th St 11:44 a.m.

Person down 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 12:20 p.m.
Auto burglary 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Auto burglary 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Petty theft 400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:00 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1600blk 11th St 1:05 p.m.
Death investigation 500blk Ocean Ave 1:17 p.m.
Fraud 1800blk Ocean Ave 1:21 p.m.
Exhibition of speed Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 1:58 p.m.
Panhandling 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 2:00 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1400blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:11 p.m.
Person down 1500blk 10th St 2:11 p.m.
Drunk driving investigation 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 2:34 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1300blk Ocean Ave 2:37 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1000blk Chelsea Ave 2:41 p.m.
Battery 1600blk the beach 3:00 p.m.
Vandalism 500blk Wilshire Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Domestic violence 300blk Olympic Dr 3:40 p.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 3:42 p.m.
Grand theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:56 p.m.
Violation of restraining order Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 3:57 p.m.
Fraud 2000blk 5th St 4:22 p.m.
Fraud 2400blk 30th St 4:26 p.m.
Lewd activity 6th St / Broadway 5:04 p.m.
Burglary 600blk Hill St 6:03 p.m.
Petty theft 2900blk 3rd St 6:16 p.m.
Fraud 1300blk 9th St 6:47 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 4th St / Broadway 7:02 p.m.
Burglary 1500blk California Ave 7:31 p.m.
Threats /investigations 300blk Olympic Dr 7:36 p.m.
Burglary 400blk Idaho Ave 7:40 p.m.
Burglary 600blk San Vicente Blvd 8:07 p.m.
Person with a gun 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:27 p.m.
Shots fired 29th St / Pico Blvd 8:29 p.m.
Vandalism 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:31 p.m.
Armed robbery 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:50 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 800blk 3rd St 9:18 p.m.
Encampment 7th St / California Ave 9:41 p.m.
Petty theft 2900blk 3rd St 10:47 p.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 800blk 18th St 11:57 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:12 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 1:10 a.m.
EMS 600blk Grant St 2:01 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 3:35 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 2nd St 4:32 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 7:31 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Centinela Ave 7:50 a.m.
EMS 500blk Hill St 7:55 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Ocean Front Walk 8:53 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 8:56 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 9:14 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2400blk 28th St 9:52 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 10 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:39 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 10:45 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 7th St 11:13 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 12:16 p.m.

EMS 1500blk 10th St 2:11 p.m.
Automatic alarm 3100blk Neilson Way 2:37 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:19 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Main St 4:09 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Arizona Ave 4:15 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 5:19 p.m.
EMS 500blk 21st St 5:36 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:04 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200blk Ocean Ave 6:23 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 11th St 6:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 11th St 6:56 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 7:05 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:53 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 4th St 8:20 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 8:29 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 9:29 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Princeton St 10:29 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 11:33 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?

Santa Monica Daily Press

office (310) 458-7737

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 1/5
3 7 15 27 69
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 82M



Draw Date: 1/8
13 26 29 38 64
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 50M



Draw Date: 1/5
3 8 17 23 46
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 8M



Draw Date: 1/8
12 17 28 31 35



Draw Date: 1/8
MIDDAY: 6 4 8
Draw Date: 1/8
EVENING: 5 9 0



Draw Date: 1/8
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:44.50

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

WORD UP!

pawky
1. Chiefly British. cunning; sly.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Number Cruncher

■ A tall Starbucks hot chocolate made with whole milk and with whipped cream (340 grams) contains 330 calories, 162 from fat. It has 18 grams of total fat, or 28 percent of the recommended total fat intake for a 2,000-calorie daily diet, according to the Calorie Count database.

■ It also contains 68 milligrams of cholesterol (23 percent); 150 milligrams of sodium (6 percent); 33 grams of total carbohydrates (11 percent); 1.5 grams of dietary fiber; 27.8 grams of sugar; and 11.3 grams of protein.

■ Adding season's greetings is calorie-free.

MYSTERY REVEALED

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Justin Landrum correctly identified the photo as an illustrated utility box at the corner of Lincoln and Pico. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	H	E	S		D	O	G	S		T	E	N	D	S
H	O	L	Y		O	P	A	L		E	L	I	O	T
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O	G	L	E	S		N	O	G	O		D	A	R	E

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.

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

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

Newsday Crossword

DIGITAL ACCLAIM by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Coding flaw
4 Starling cousins
9 Vacation selections
13 Naval facility
14 Software package
15 Vacation selection
16 With 40 and 64 Across, congratulatory choices
18 Frosty coating
19 Skylit courts
20 Sample to analyze
22 NFL great Aikman
25 Was hardly alert
26 Withdraw, with "out"
29 More inclusive
32 Area near Trafalgar Square
34 Entertainer Falana
35 Unit of info
40 See 16 Across
43 Quiltmaking group
44 Black-and-white predator
45 Trojan's deific ally
46 Boardinghouse patrons
49 Obstinate equine
50 Priest's subordinate
54 Cross-country equipment
56 Fitness regimen
59 Social events
63 Received, as dividends
64 See 16 Across
67 Feast (upon)
68 Nary a soul
69 Throw out
70 Number on a class ring

71 Embarrassing outburst
72 Cabbage color

DOWN

1 Caster's supply
2 WWII ally
3 Comic's unfortunate query
4 E. Lansing school
5 "Very tasty!"
6 Squeaks by in competition
7 Sitting on
8 Unworried
9 Steakhouse choice
10 Get prettied up
11 Rock singer Mann
12 While away
13 Degree for a filmmaker
17 Catty comment
21 Bridge requirement
23 Airport near Paris
24 "Hey there!"
26 Hazard pictogram regulator
27 "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," at first
28 Tangy Asian cuisine
30 Startle significantly
31 Social events
33 Doctor show sets
36 Expression of surprise
37 Where GWTW begins
38 Certain beach party instruments
39 Disarrange
41 Heart movement
42 Not in operation, in theater lingo
47 Edible pearls
48 Wistful sound
50 Family nickname
51 Odd and frightening
52 Part of many NBA venue names
53 Pull back from fear
55 Better protected
57 Reptilian sunbather
58 Something to tie
60 Common salsa ingredient
61 Enthusiastic
62 All arranged
65 Small hotel
66 Expression of surprise

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 10)

You're usually too busy serving others to worry about what might bring you delight. Their smiles are often enough. But new experiences, relationships and interests that arise in the months to come will teach you what you need in order to thrive as the most fantastic version of yourself. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 39, 15 and 22.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

People like to pretend that they make decisions out of logic, judiciousness and authority, when it is more often the case that they make decisions out of emotion and the justify those decisions by standards of reason.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

While you believe that people are inherently equal, we all have different strengths. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Every man I meet is in some way my superior." You'll humble yourself and pick up a new skill.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Negotiation is featured. The other person is not really your opponent. Where your terms align, accept it quickly, without wondering if you should go for more ground. This is a case of picking your battles.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Calm, rational people are very stabilizing to the emotional environment, but you need a few unpredictable personalities spouting mad notions and acting as a general wild cards, too. Otherwise, things get too boring.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

When you get tired you can either give in to drowsiness and go to sleep, or you can perk up by moving around, changing environments and invigorating yourself. The principle applies to any stagnant situation. You have choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The clearer you are in your purpose, the easier life gets. You know who you are, how to behave, what to do. People feel like they know straight away and as if by osmosis they get how they're supposed to treat you.

Pisces Moon

As much as we'd like to think the world will be a better place once oppressive hierarchies are toppled, until we face own part in the malady of the world, the condition will continue. To heal the world, heal the self. To change the world, change the self. To love the world, love the self. This cosmic message comes courtesy of the Pisces moon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

External validation can be like an addictive drug. Our brains love the rush and will train us to seek more acceptance from the same sources. Love and validate yourself, so circumstantial validation won't be the only form you get.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

There is no such thing as easy money. There are opportunities available though, and they all take an investment of work, money or something else. Consider your options carefully. If it sounds like a scam, it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today you'll find that more people are self-involved than not. So when you meet someone who is paying attention to others, observing out of sheer curiosity and genuine interest, befriend that person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You've a beautiful sense of poise going for you and you're able to execute your day with the sort of approach that makes others admire and deeply respect you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

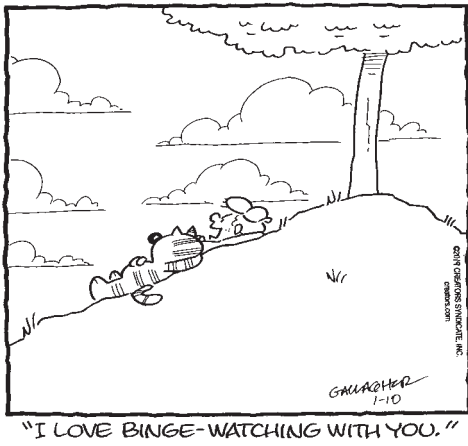
It's a red flag when a person is attempting to eliminate the competition through negative press. This is a tactic for the insecure. Stick with positive people who strive to uplift others around them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

If you're totally in the know, it might be something to keep for yourself until you get the lay of the land. As the Greek tragedian Aeschylus said, "It is a profitable thing, if one is wise, to seem foolish."

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



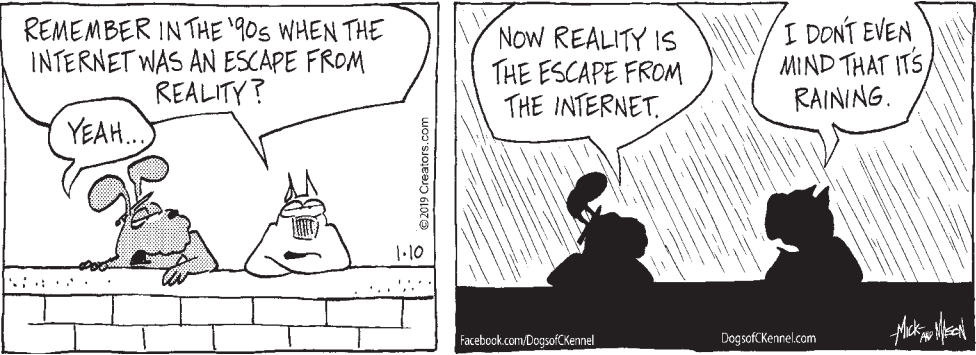
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By TONY COCHRAN



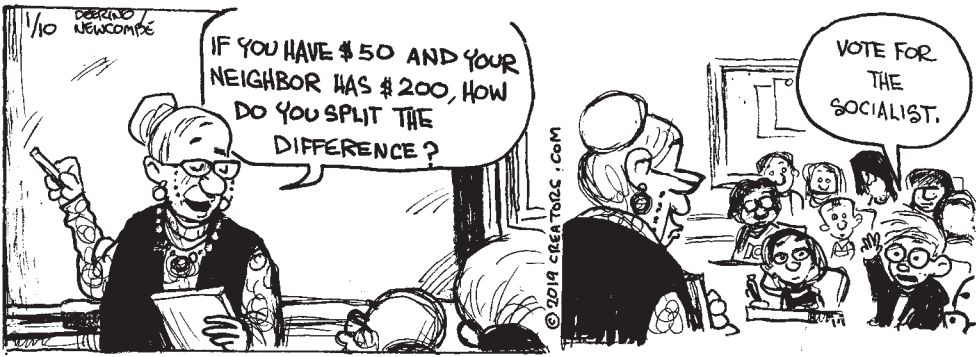
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Teacher strike delayed in second-largest US school district

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

The union representing teachers in Los Angeles, whose 640,000 students make it the nation's second-largest school district, postponed the start of a strike until Monday because of the possibility of a court-ordered delay.

United Teachers Los Angeles previously said its 35,000 members would walk off the job Thursday for the first time in 30 years if a deal wasn't reached on higher pay and smaller class sizes. But a judge was considering Wednesday whether the union gave legally proper notice of a strike and could have ordered teachers to wait.

Union officials said they believe they would have prevailed in court but decided to postpone to avoid confusion and give teachers, parents and others time to prepare.

The Los Angeles Unified School District didn't immediately comment. It has said the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

Negotiations are continuing, but little progress is evident in the contract dispute that follows teacher walkouts in other states that emboldened organized labor after a critical defeat at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Superintendent Austin Beutner traveled Wednesday to Sacramento to meet with

state lawmakers and advocate for additional resources for Los Angeles schools in hopes of averting a walkout.

Teachers are hoping to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia, where a strike resulted in a raise. It moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state, spreading from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

"What you're seeing with unions is real enthusiasm and a belief that you can actually be successful," said Robert Bruno, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois. "The educational sector is rife with deep grievance and frustration, but there's now a sense that you can actually win."

Actions elsewhere emboldened Los Angeles teachers, union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said.

"Each state is different, but the commonality across all states is teachers, and parents are sick of schools not being invested in," he said.

But unlike other states, schools will stay open if a strike happens. The district has hired hundreds of substitutes to replace teachers and others who leave for picket lines. The union said it's "irresponsible" to hire substitutes and called on parents to consider keeping students home or join marchers if a strike goes forward.

It comes as unions are stinging from a

Supreme Court ruling last year that said government workers can't be required to join unions and pay dues.

Larry Sand, a retired Los Angeles and New York City teacher who heads the California Teachers Empowerment Network, said he believes the Los Angeles union sees its showdown with the district as a public "sales pitch" for organized labor now that teachers have a choice about joining.

Sand, whose organization describes itself as a nonpartisan information source for teachers and the public, said overly generous benefits for teachers in the past have overburdened the district.

Teachers earn between \$44,000 and \$86,000 a year depending on their education and experience, according to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The district says the average teacher salary is \$75,000, which reflects the older, more experienced workforce.

The district has offered a 6 percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract. Health care fully paid by the district and a pension plan would be unchanged under both proposals.

The union also wants significantly smaller class sizes, which routinely top 30 students, and more nurses, librarians and counselors to "fully staff" the district's campuses in Los Angeles and all or parts of 31 smaller cities, plus several unincorporated areas.

The union argues that the district is

hoarding reserves of \$1.8 billion that could be used to fund the pay and staffing hikes. The district said that money is needed to cover retiree benefits and other expenses.

The superintendent, an investment banker and former Los Angeles deputy mayor without experience in education, has become a lightning rod in negotiations.

The union says Beutner and school board members who voted him in are trying to privatize the district, encouraging school closures and flipping public schools into charters — privately operated public schools that compete for students and the funds they bring in.

Beutner, who attended public school, has said his plan to reorganize the district would improve services to students and families. He and his supporters on the board envision an education system with a "portfolio approach" — public and charter schools under the same leadership.

Sand of the California Teachers Empowerment Network said Beutner is "the right man for the job" because his business background gives him an understanding that "there's a bottom line that has to be acknowledged."

Both sides say they don't want a strike, but John Rogers, a professor of education at the University of California, Los Angeles, said one seems inevitable.

"I would be surprised if a strike doesn't come about, because I think each side has a real interest in demonstrating the dominance of their positions," Rogers said.

Newsom's first California budget aims to balance promises

JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

Gov. Gavin Newsom has made two big promises that are seemingly at odds: Advancing bold and expensive new initiatives while maintaining the robust savings that California will desperately need in the next recession.

When he releases his first comprehensive budget proposal, which is due by Thursday under state law, he gets his chance to show how he'll resolve that tension. He's already previewed more than \$2.5 billion in new spending proposals.

His initial emphasis has been on early childhood education and health care. Taking a page from former Gov. Jerry Brown's budget playbook, which targets as much new spending as possible on one-time expenditures that don't carry a long-term cost, Newsom has focused much of his new early childhood spending on construction projects to build new facilities and improve existing ones. That will limit the long-term cost of his initiative and help Newsom maintain his pledge to preserve rainy day savings.

Newsom used his inaugural address Monday to praise Brown for building a "foundation of rock" for California and promised to continue growing reserves.

"We will prepare for uncertain times ahead. We will be prudent stewards of taxpayer dollars, pay down debt, and meet our future obligations," he said. "And we will build and safeguard the largest fiscal reserve of any state in American history."

He followed by signaling a new direction.

"But let me be clear," he said. "We will be bold. We will aim high and we will work like hell to get there."

For the budget year that begins July 1, California's nonpartisan legislative analyst, Mac Taylor, projected in November that lawmakers would have \$15 billion to divvy

up between new spending initiatives, extra debt payments or savings account deposits. That's based on the cost of continuing existing services and Taylor's estimates for state revenue.

Newsom will release his own revenue estimates along with his budget. If he assumes an even rosier economy than Taylor, the surplus could be even higher.

Newsom cryptically told reporters Tuesday he'd be announcing "an interesting surplus, one that's a little different than the one you've been writing about."

The new governor may be able to balance his twin promises of spending growth and robust savings if he keeps new spending under the budget's long-term growth, said Mike Genest, who was finance chief for Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during the Great Recession, when revenue plummeted.

But the budget already has fast-growing costs in the coming years, including pensions and health care, he said.

"I'm not convinced," Genest said.

With a focus on initiatives to help young children, Newsom's early proposals signal a shift from the path preferred by Brown.

"I think it's fair to say, Gov. Brown, this was not his priority," Ted Lempert, president of the advocacy group Children Now, said of Newsom's early childhood proposals, which he said are far more comprehensive than most states have tackled.

Newsom and his aides have said his budget will seek to lower health care costs, expand paid leave for new parents and vastly expand the programs for children in the crucial early years of development. He's framed his budget as a "California for All" agenda that looks to close the gaps between rich and poor.

Hours after taking the oath of office, Newsom proposed expanding state-funded health care to low-income people living

in the country illegally until their 26th birthday, up from a current cutoff at age 19. He also asked to boost subsidies for people who buy their own insurance, rather than getting it from an employer or government program. His health proposals would cost \$760 million a year.

He proposed an additional \$105 million in spending to prevent wildfires on top of \$200 million that lawmakers have already approved. And he said he plans to push for a fee on customers to turn the state's 911 infrastructure system digital in coming years.

After a campaign in which he focused his message on helping children living in poverty, Newsom proposed nearly \$2 billion in new initiatives for children up to age 5. He'd provide a significant boost for an existing home-visit program that supports new mothers and expand trauma screening for youngsters to identify and help children who've grown up around violence, extreme poverty or other factors that can be harmful to their development.

His early childhood plans also include a big boost in funding to provide full-day preschool and kindergarten to all children, which Newsom says would ensure that low-income children don't fall behind their wealthier classmates.

Newsom's advisers say half-day kindergarten poses a child-care challenge to many low-income families, and more than 1,600 schools don't offer the full-day program.

Newsom has also proposed a \$40 million boost in community college funding that he says could be used to give students a second free year of tuition. The state already offers the first year free for first-time community college students.

He also plans to propose a significant expansion of California's paid leave program, which allows new parents to receive a

portion of their paycheck while away from work following the birth or adoption of a child. Newsom wants to eventually offer six months of leave to be split between the parents, though his initial budget will include a smaller step in that direction.

On Wednesday, he created a task force to "modernize" the state's embattled Department of Motor Vehicles but did not offer a price tag on what reforms might cost.

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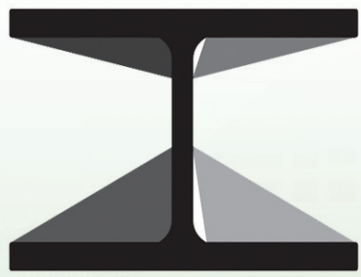
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