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Volume 16 Issue 51

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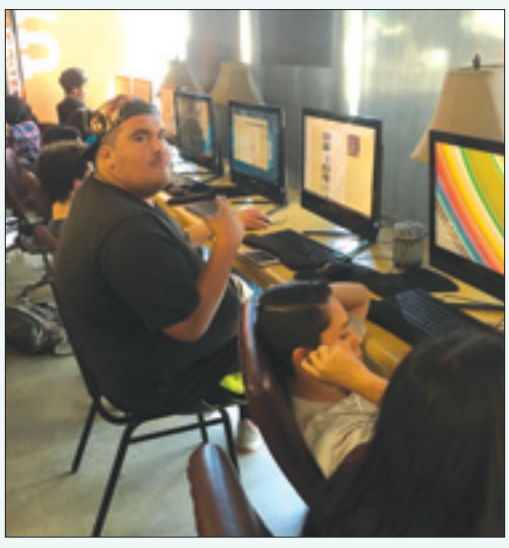
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Year-end fundraising benefits PYFC



Courtesy Photo

PROGRAMS: The Pico Youth and Family Center is moving forward with new media programs.



MARINA ANDALON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Pico Youth and Family Center (PYFC) is celebrating the New Year with a continuation of its longstanding mission to serve youth who are underserved by other kinds of programs.

"As of January 2017 we have 206 registered youth," said PYFC CEO, Oscar de la Torre.

The center is currently encouraging its youth and volunteers to participate in a new wave of visual media projects, productions and software programming.

"PYFC launched the Digital Dreams Pathway Campaign in July 2016 to expand opportunities for the underserved in the high tech sector, such as Silicon Beach," said de la Torre.

SEE **CAMPAIGN** PAGE 7

NMS accuses hedge fund of conspiracy to steal hundreds of local apartments

BY KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's largest apartment owner fired another shot in the battle over ownership of nine luxury properties in Santa Monica and Los Angeles, accusing Boston-based hedge fund AEW Capital Management of a "sophisticated conspiracy" to steal the properties.

In new documents filed with the Los Angeles Superior Court, NMS Properties' CEO Neil Shekhter accuses AEW of conspiring with real estate investors to eventually "flip" the buildings to make more than $100 million in profit. The buildings were developed as part of a joint venture between Shekhter and AEW in 2010 and remain at the center of a complicated web of lawsuits, contracts and judgements.

"This is not Wall Street, it's Santa Monica," Shekhter's attorney Skip Miller of Miller Barondness said over the phone. "They're not going to get away with this."

In December, Superior Court Judge Suzanne Bruguera transferred ownership of the properties to AEW, finding that Shekhter fabricated and forged documents submitted to the court. Judge Bruguera retired shorty after the ruling. By the time Shekhter's attorney could file an appeal and

SEE **NMS** PAGE 7

Dangerous blizzard, flooding as new storm hits California

BY JANIE HAR & JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

The latest in an onslaught of winter storms comes with blizzard warnings for the Sierra Nevada and a new round of flooding for Northern California river towns where thousands of people remained under evacuation advisory Tuesday.

Forecasters warned of up to 10 feet of snow in the highest mountains, with up to 7 feet of snow around the resorts of Lake Tahoe, high risk of avalanches, and wind gusts to 60 mph. The Sierra ridge had gusts of more than 100 mph.

A blizzard warning is in effect for parts of the Sierra, a rarity and the first issued in the past nine years, said Scott McGuire, a forecaster for the National Weather Service based in Reno, Nevada.

"This is definitely a dangerous, life-threatening situation going on up there," he said Tuesday. "People should not attempt to travel at all."

Many ski resorts shut down Tuesday because of the dangerous storm. A number of main roads in the Sierra were closed, including Interstate 80, or required chains.

Nearly 3 feet of new snow already was reported Tuesday morning at the top of the Mount Rose ski resort between Reno and Lake Tahoe. A series of storms already has added 33 billion gallons of water to Lake Tahoe since Jan. 1.

SEE **STORM** PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, January 11

Montana Mystery Book Group: Chain of Evidence

Hal Challis' sister summons him back to the small town where he grew up; his father is dying. While Challis' past comes back to haunt him, Ellen Destry is left to find a serial pedophile before he strikes again. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the concepts of mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 7 – 8 p.m.

Big Kids' Table: Origami Edition

Looking to have fun, socialize and de-stress? Take a seat at The Big Kids' Table, the Main Library's monthly series of activities that invites adults to get in touch with their inner "big kid." This month, learn the basics of origami. Make the first of your 1001 cranes. Upcycle a greeting card into a gift box. Fold a dollar bill into a heart. Or relax by coloring or playing a game of Scrabble. Materials will be provided. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown)

The Wednesday Farmers Market is widely recognized as one of the largest and most diverse grower-only CFM's in the nation. Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 3rd and Arizona.

Thursday, January 12

Rent Control Board Meeting

Regular Rent Control Board Meeting. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7 p.m. www.smgov.net/Current_Board_Meetings.aspx: Rent Control Board Agendas

College Affordability: Financial Aid and FAFSA

Diana Hanson of Magellan Counseling will review the different kinds of financial aid and answer questions about how to make college affordable. She'll also go over the main sections of the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS profile. Grades 10-12. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Recent French Cinema: Breathe (2014)

A taut, nuanced story about the depths of female friendships and the dark side of teenage infatuations, Breathe, the sophomore directorial effort from Mélanie Laurent (Inglourious Basterds, Beginners), is an assured adaptation of the sensational French young adult novel of the same name. (91 min). Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

GED Prep Class

Get prepared to take the Reasoning Through Language Arts subject test of the GED. Class will be held in the Annex, next to Pico Branch Library. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 – 8 p.m.

Internet Security

Learn how to protect yourself and your computer from threats such as viruses, spyware, and scams. Advanced level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call (310) 434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 – 3 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tongva Park

Death investigation in Tongva Park

At approximately 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, a Public Service Officer was conducting a periodic check in Tongva Park and came upon a male subject appearing to be in his late 20's or early 30's deceased on a park bench. The Santa Monica Police Department said that at press time time, it did not appear that the subject was the victim of a crime. The deceased did not appear to be homeless and the cause of death was unknown. The deceased was turned over to the custody of the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office. The Coroner will be conducting an investigation to assist in determining the cause of death.

– DAILY PRESS STAFF

Grant Elementary School

Girl Scouts create a little free library for local school

In the spring of 2016, John Adams Middle School students Caroline Jusko and Eleanor Moss challenged themselves to make their community a better place. Over the past few years, these 8th graders had volunteered, participated and contributed their support to organizations throughout Santa Monica. From collecting food and creating care packages for homeless individuals, to cleaning up trash on the beach and promoting a recycling program for elementary schools – these young women wanted to do more. Attempting to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award gave them an extra spark.

At one of their Scout meetings, the girls learned about Malala Yousafzai and were inspired by the Pakistani activist's pursuit of education. Wanting to contribute to the education of kids in their community, Jusko and Moss decided to build a Little Free Library so that kids could have access to books all the time. These former students of Grant Elementary chose this project because they felt that kids could gain important benefits by having more books of their very own.

"I love reading books, and I also love reading them over and over again. And it's important to me that everyone has that opportunity," said Moss. "I always see these Little Free Libraries on people's lawns, but they only have books for adults, not for kids," said Jusko.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award for Cadette scouts. Earning this award requires a minimum of 50 hours of time to create a community based, sustainable project. In addition to building the Little Free Library, Moss and Jusko further developed leadership, communication and organizational skills by coordinating and implementing their project with school administrators. The enthusiastic response of students and parents made clear that the scouts achieved their goal and supported the mission of Little Free Library to promote "literacy and the love of reading by building a free book exchange and building a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations."

Moss and Jusko sourced the materials for the free standing library from a local yard sale, received donations of paint from Manuel Monterrubio at Santa Monica City's Resource Recovery & Recycling office, and they will officially register the library with money they earned from selling Girl Scout cookies.

Principal Jezelle Fullwood, Ed.D welcomed the project as a valuable addition to Grant Elementary School. Grant teacher Tracy Kooy and librarian Petra Wolfe assisted Moss and Jusko in facilitating their plan.

"I am so proud of these young ladies for their poise and perseverance in creating this project. What a positive impact for the Grant community," said Kooy.

"We hope this Little Free Library will encourage students to read more, and allow families in the community to share personal libraries of their own," said Moss and Jusko.

– SUBMITTED BY SUBMITTED BY SUSAN ABRAMS



Courtesy Photo

LITTLE LIBRARY: The little library at Grant Elementary was created as a Girl Scout project.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #99 EVENT PRODUCTION TONGVA PARK

- **Submission Deadline is January 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bid-search4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

PIER SUBSTATION EXTERIOR STORAGE
SP2355

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Architectural Service Division, 1437 Fourth Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30** p.m. on **February 2, 2017**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00** p.m. on said date, in Large Conference Room. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Thursday January 12, 2017, 1:00 PM,
Santa Monica Police Substation - South side of Building
380 Santa Monica Pier,
Santa Monica, CA
Parking: Beach Lot North of the Pier

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $70,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 60 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $350.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Santa Monica Airport Rubber Removal, Crack Sealing, and Restriping
SP2462

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30** p.m. on **February 2nd, 2017**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00** p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING & JOB-WALK:
January 19, 2016 at 1:00 PM
Airport Administration Building located at 3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, Santa Monica, CA 90405

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $660,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 35 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: See Section 100-1.11 of the Technical Specifications
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $1,160 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
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Political numbers in Santa Monica

WOW! BOOKS ARE BACK!

Look at all those people lined up at the Main Library last Sunday waiting to check out books. How exciting!

Well, it was pretty exciting but it wasn't about books. It was a left wing panic attack. O Lordy, the Mango Mussolini was actually elected. He's days from the Oval Office and he's emptying the asylum to stock his cabinet. We've got to do something!

"We" being Democrats, the all of a sudden no-longer roll-over-play-dead opposition. The library was hosting the election of representatives from the 50th Assembly District to their next state convention, and the troops were fired up, ready to go and out in force. I asked City Council member Kevin McKeown, long active in the party, how many people showed up for the last one of these.

"187, as I recall" he recalled. "Today, I think we have more than a thousand." Others agreed with those figures. "Of course," he added, "if we had shown up like this before the election, we might not have to do this today."

Beyond the numbers, it was politics as usual. Much was decided before this election day. Alliances were formed and slates presented. Obviously, few in that line that stretched across the library courtyard to 6th Street and then up to Arizona (for three hours!) listened to all the one-minute speeches in the small auditorium. I listened to most of them and decided to vote my impressions (plus a couple of names I had already decided on), and while the success rate for that is about the same as betting on a racehorse because you like its color, it felt pretty… well, democratic.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Folks who are at each other's throats over local politics were all smiling and chatting and communing in their other identity, united in their resolve to stop the evil GOP and make America safe again for non-old white men. Quite a few candidates were comfortably gay. I'm guessing that wouldn't be a plus at the Republican counterpart, and that it would have neither the numbers nor the demographics of this assemblage.

I was disappointed very few of the candidates mentioned Bernie Sanders, except to urge us to put aside the primary results and all work together. Feh. I voted for Hillary to stop Trump but not nominating Bernie was a hyuuge fail, missing a perhaps unique opportunity to elect a genuine progressive who was honestly, courageously addressing the overriding issues (primarily wealth inequality and all the other messes it drags along with it), and to bring millions of new voters into the political process. More fundamentally, I'm still angry not that my guy "lost" but that my party is controlled by elitists willing to thwart the will of their own people. Makes them not much better than the voter-suppression GOP.

OPA!

The next night there was a political gathering of a much more intimate sort: the monthly meeting of my neighborhood association for Ocean Park. The good news: the chaos from last month's aborted election for president disappeared and the meeting and election ran smooth as a baby's bottom. Treasurer Patricia Godon-Tann kept things and people in order by waving copies of the bylaws (11 pages) that seemed so mysterious and misremembered last meeting.

But it was a bit too intimate: I was the only body in the chairs for some of the meeting, facing 12 august board members arrayed behind a line of tables.

"I've been a member for four years," a late arrival whispered to me, "but I don't come very often because it's just so intimidating, with all them up there."

She's right, but the OPA board doesn't get it, or is just unwilling to kill off some of its seats. They eliminated two but still have 15, and some indicated last meeting that they kind of like it that way. (It is a good way of being pretty sure you'll have around 15 people at every meeting.)

After attending two meetings in a row now (matching my entire previous total, not counting mixers) I can say that these are dedicated citizens of historic Ocean Park, willing to serve their community. The area's been sprouting art and green under their guardianship, the shotgun house finally landed by the Carnegie library, and everyone agrees they put on a helluva good 4th of July parade.

But OPA remains the quiet neighborhood association, not known for taking on big issues. (They were the only association, of seven, to not endorse the slow-growth measure LV.) How about taking a stand on our new ultra-expensive city services building? Why are we spending $80,000,000 on a trophy construction (could we maybe do it for 50?) when we delay, discuss, study and argue still over a desperately-needed playing field that was promised 12 years before, and should cost under a million? They heard a brief presentation that night from David Garden, who said he is taking legal action to prevent its being built as approved, but they did not even discuss it afterward.

Neighborhood associations have the opportunity to influence city hall, and therefore our lives in those neighborhoods, by representing the views of their communities. OPA could do more.

RUSKIN!

Group. And their theater. At the airport. Every time I go to something there -- and

I've never come away anything but completely, if not profoundly, entertained -- I overhear someone say, I never knew this place was here! The next two weekends they have encore performances of Paul Linke's moving one-man show, "It's Time."

You'll marvel, you'll laugh, but bring tissues.

Spoken word salon Library Girl is there once a month, and they're two for two in my book. David Kukoff's anthology "Weird Scenes Inside the Gold Mine" takes us back to 1970s LA, and eight of the authors read from their pieces. I loved Deanne Stillman's impressions of the freeways as a newbie from Ohio. (I never thought about the flower planters at the gas stations.) Your $10 ticket includes snacks and dessert, and that night the gorditos, hand patted from batter in front of you onto the grill, were insanely good.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Would we be better off with district voting for City Council and a real mayor here? (It seems inevitable.)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We have the best government that money can buy." — Mark Twain

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 31 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Consumer Corner

by Gary Rhoades, Deputy City Attorney Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hate-related harassment on the rise

IN THE PAST YEAR, AND ESPECIALLY since early November, hate-related attacks, vandalism, and threats have surged in the United States. The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that 1,094 hate-related incidents of harassment or intimidation occurred in the month following Election Day – 125 of them in California. (These are only the reported numbers; by all accounts, hate crimes are far under-reported.)

The reports range from Latino schoolchildren threatened with fake deportation notices, to Muslim-owned restaurants being vandalized, to assaults on Muslims, Latinos, African-Americans, and women. Each incident included a message of hate based on race, national origin, religion, or gender. Some were based on the unfounded idea that people from certain countries or religions must have ties to terrorism.

With regard to Santa Monica tenants, the City Attorney's Office enforces the fair housing and anti-harassment laws that protect us from such conduct.

The fair housing laws prohibit owners from treating tenants (or applicants) differently because of their race, national origin, religion or gender. Almost fifty years after the first fair housing laws were passed in 1968, it's rare for a landlord to express aloud their discriminatory motives.

However, owners have used indirect ways to discriminate. Some have claimed that security concerns let them treat tenants from other countries differently. In 2003, local real estate magnate Donald Sterling demanded that his tenants fill out new applications for garage keys, on which they had to reveal their country of origin. Sterling claimed it was a national security matter. But a federal court ruled that tenants' fair housing rights trump the owner's unproven fears. The court barred Sterling's application.

California has also passed anti-hate crimes laws. The Bane Civil Rights Act protects people from violence or the threats based on race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. The Ralph Act addresses the problem of hate-based violence by providing remedies for those who are victims of violence or property damage.

One example of an implied threat involved a Los Angeles family of Bulgarian political asylum-seekers who won a lawsuit against their landlord after the manager put Nazi symbols on their bills, their money, and on large signs posted around their property.

The manager — a member of a "white power" group — admitted in his deposition that he wrote "foreign persons" on a 20-dollar bill he gave to the family as change from a utility bill. He also admitted to putting a sign outside their window stating, "F— Off, Rat," and signing it "American SS." The sign appeared after the manager learned the family reported other "SS" markings to the landlord and the family reasonably interpreted the sign as a threat. The "SS" symbols are commonly used by white supremacists to threaten and terrorize people they consider inferior and unwanted.

The tenants reported the conduct, filed a lawsuit, and got a federal court order for $100,000 in damages. The manager was fired.

To report any discrimination or hate-related harassment, contact the City Attorney's Office at (310) 458-8336.

The City Attorney's Consumer Protection Division enforces the law and educates the public about tenants' rights, fair housing, consumer protection, and other issues. They can be reached at 310-458-8336 or smconsumer.org.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Joseph Lawrence Selected as Interim City Attorney

The City Council has chosen Assistant City Attorney Joseph Lawrence to serve as Interim City Attorney after the retirement of Marsha Jones Moutrie last month. Joe has been with the City Attorney's Office since 1986. During his tenure, he has been involved in all of the City's most demanding legal issues. He led the legal effort that recovered nearly $400 million for water contamination. During his tenure the City Attorney's Office was recognized as the top state and local law office by the American Bar Association and its attorneys were given a California Lawyer of the Year award for their efforts in employment law.

"No one knows the legal landscape of Santa Monica better than Joe and his tenure shows how committed he is to this community," said Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis. "He'll be an excellent interim City Attorney while we conduct a national search."

As Acting City Attorney, Joe will oversee a staff of 45 and an operating budget of $11 million. He served in this position once before between 1992 and 1994.

"For decades Santa Monica has been at the forefront of many complex legal issues. The next few months will bring many challenges, but the staff of the City Attorney's Office is uniquely talented. I am confident that they can succeed no matter the topic. I am honored to work with them and for the entire City. "

Prior to coming to Santa Monica, Joe spent a decade protecting the legal rights of underrepresented groups. He worked as a staff attorney for the ACLU of Southern California and for the New Haven Legal Assistance Association before coming to California. Joe served as a visiting professor and director for the Western Law Center for Disability Rights at Loyola Law School (1984 – 1986). He has served as an adjunct assistant professor at Loyola and Marist College in New York State.

Joe graduated from the NYU School of Law and earned his B.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Joe's first day in this position was January 1, 2017 at a monthly salary of $26,024.

A national search is currently underway to find the next City Attorney.

– SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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CONTEST DURATION

Monday January 2, 2017 - Monday, February 13, 2017.
The Film Independent Spirit Awards takes place on February 25, 2017.

VISIT SANTAMONICA.COM/CONTEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

AP BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

Federal judge who pushed rights of prisoners, gays retiring

A federal judge who was a vanguard on gay rights and pushed police reforms and health care for prisoners is retiring.

U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson in 1962 became the first African-American attorney in the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division — a position that brought him close to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. He resigned the position amid controversy for loaning his car to King.

Henderson said Tuesday he knows there will be more civil rights battles under the Trump administration, but it's time for him to move on. The 83-year-old Henderson is suffering from an autoimmune disease that has weakened his muscles and said he's found it more difficult over the years to get to and from court.

Henderson said he will leave the bench in August.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO

Weakened by drought, trees are falling in rainy California

Drenching winter rains combined with the punishing effects of six years of drought are causing trees to topple across California, in some cases with deadly results. At least two people have been killed in the past month.

Seemingly sturdy oaks, palm trees in Southern California and giant sequoias farther north have been collapsing. Experts say that in some cases, the dry spell weakened or killed the roots or trunks, and the soggy soil and wind caused the trees to fall over.

One woman who struck and killed by a tree while walking on a Northern California golf course Saturday. A woman posing for photographs as part of a wedding party was killed and five others were injured from a falling eucalyptus tree in Southern California last month.

Arborist Lisa Smith says that even healthy trees can give way if the ground is soft and their full foliage catches the wind.

– SCOTT SMITH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

US agency issues safety warning for 1 type of small airplane

The National Transportation Safety Board is urging faster action to correct unsafe wiring found in a type of small airplane that crashed in Northern California, killing all four on board the medical transport flight.

The Piper PA-31T was carrying a flight nurse, transport medic and patient from Crescent City, near the Oregon border, to Oakland on July 29 when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit and declared an emergency.

The transportation board issued an urgent safety recommendation Monday, asking the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an emergency directive that would require mandatory action and a shorter timeline for addressing the problem.

The transportation board's recommendation is based on preliminary findings in an ongoing investigation of what caused the transport plane to break apart. Rescue teams found the wreckage in Humboldt County about 280 miles north of San Francisco.

Evidence indicates that an in-flight fire occurred in an area where electrical wires and adjacent hydraulic lines may have been in contact, a press release states. Investigation of six other planes showed electrical lines in direct contact with hydraulic lines, which could chafe and then arc, causing a fire.

"We think it's a dangerous situation having electrical lines next to hydraulic lines," said NTSB spokesman Eric Weiss, adding that the investigation is ongoing and no cause has been determined.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said in an email Tuesday that the agency is "actively working with Piper on possible additional safety actions" and that it had issued a "special airworthiness information bulletin" in December, noting the problem.

The special bulletin recommends inspections at the aircraft's next scheduled maintenance visit.

The July crash came as the Federal Aviation Administration continues its efforts to improve the safety of the aircraft known as air ambulances. It began that effort after a series of deadly crashes. In 2008, there were five accidents that killed 21 people.

Piper Aircraft spokeswoman Jacqueline Carlon said in an email that the company has issued a "mandatory service bulletin" for operators. It is working with both agencies, she said.

There are more than 300 31T-series planes registered with the FAA.

– JANIE HAR, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Prosecutors to retry ex-LA County sheriff in corruption case

U.S. prosecutors will retry former Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca on obstruction-of-justice and other charges stemming from a federal investigation of jail abuses.

The decision announced in court Tuesday follows a mistrial declared last month when a jury deadlocked 11-1 in favor of acquittal on the obstruction count and a charge of conspiracy.

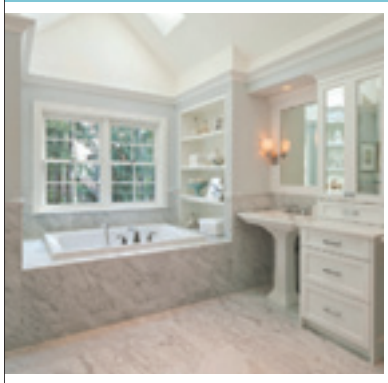
Baca was to have been separately tried on a charge of lying to investigators, but he will now face all three counts in one trial.

Baca is in the early stages of Alzheimer's, and evidence of the disease may come up at trial.

Baca headed the nation's largest sheriff's department for more than 15 years before he resigned in 2014 amid allegations that jail guards took bribes, beat inmates and falsified reports to cover up misconduct.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NMS

FROM PAGE 1

request a stay on the ruling, AEW had already sold the properties to a team of real estate investors in San Francisco and Sacramento.

Shekhter estimates the properties are worth about $550 million, but alleges they were sold for $406.8 million, far below market value, to slash any amount of money NMS may receive from the sale. The sellers provided more than half of the financing for the deal, $237 million. If the properties are eventually resold at market value, AEW and the new owners could stand to make hundreds of millions in profit, according to the complaint. NMS continues to manage the properties.

In a written response to the Daily Press, James Fogelman, an attorney for AEW calls allegations "frivolous, just as they are in every other case that NMS has filed to date."

Fogelman, at attorney for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Los Angeles, went on to blame NMS for the very problems they list in the complaint, saying Shekhter's "tortious conduct caused the very loss of title insurance, requirement of seller financing and lower sales price it now purports to complain about. The properties were sold pursuant a competitive bidding process by a reputable broker and the highest bidder purchased the properties."

AEW has no further ownership interest in the properties and would not benefit from any subsequent sale, according to Fogelman.

But where AEW attorneys see a fair-and-square sell off, Shekhter sees a conspiracy. In order to pull it off, Shekhter believes AEW entered into a secret agreement with real estate investors Dennis Wong, Mark Friedman and David Waks to not only take the buildings, but to expel NMS as property managers through a "hostile takeover" in November, where a team of locksmiths and computer technicians stormed the nine apartment management offices and attempted to kick out NMS staff.

The exact terms of the joint venture agreement between NMS and AEW are the point of contention in several lawsuits. In December, Judge Bruguera found a version of the agreement provided by Shekhter was a "fabrication and a forgery." The judge also found Shekhter mishandled and misappropriated funds from the agreement.

Shekhter admitted to deleting files from his personal computer and replacing the hard drive, after the court ordered him to freeze all electronic documents. During the lawsuit, the director of the Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences at the National Institute of Justice, examined ink samples and anti-counterfeiting codes created by some office printers to conclude Shekhter's copy of the agreement was a forgery he and his son created.

After the judge's order, the Santa Monica City Council vowed stricter scrutiny of contracts concerning NMS in the City.

The properties include seven buildings in Santa Monica: the Lido at 1440 5th Street, Quonset at 829 Broadway, Lincoln Walk at 1447 Lincoln Blvd, San Marco at 1420 5th Street, Rapallo at 1430 5th Street, Luxe Broadway at 1502 Broadway and 1511 15th Street. One other property is in Los Angeles: 9901 Washington Blvd, and another is in West Hollywood: Luxe La Cienega at 375 N. La Cienega Boulevard.

kate@smdp.com

CAMPAIGN

FROM PAGE 1

The campaign will help fund three existing PYFC programs, Film and Visual Media, Music Production and Computer Coding. It will benefit all youth between the ages of 13 – 24, from the Pico neighborhood as well as the Westside area who have limited access to professional grade software and high-level training.

It was launched with the help of Lucas Donat, an executive at TrueCar who was able to help provide equipment for the youth at PYFC.

PYFC believes the music program is an anchor to the Digital Dream Pathways.

"I started as a youth participant and now I work at PYFC as the music coordinator," said Julian Ayala, PYFC Music Coordinator. "We have produced five CD compilations at PYFC and I can say that the recording studio helps build community and in a way it's like therapy for the youth who participate."

The music program consists of daily classes and hands on training that cover the basics of recording arts, music production and engineering.

"PYFC was the first one to open a public recording studio in Santa Monica, and now we create an annual compilation album. The album is created by youth from the beats to the lyrics," said de la Torre.

Officials said the campaign is a work preparation tool to help local kids break into the every expanding digital workforce. PYFC has been fundraising in support of the program for months.

"We have raised over $103,000 since July 2016. The City of Santa Monica provided $50,000 as a cash match in October," said de la Torre. "We have raised $7,304 through out the year end fundraising campaign."

PYFC is currently seeking internships and mentorships that foster skill sets in the video & media production, music production and publishing, web design, government affairs and more.

"People who have training in technology and similar areas can really have a positive impact on the youth," said de la Torre.

In hopes that PYFC Digital Dream Pathway Campaign continues to grow, they will be hosting their 8th Annual Art for Hearts Fundraiser at Bergamot Station on Feb. 18 from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

More information visit, http://picoyouth.org.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **58.5°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
New mid to short W swell mix. Fresh S swell moves in. Deep AM high tide. Onshore winds.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Deep AM high tide. Fun W-WNW swell continues, while small S swell lingers. Watching winds.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DECEMBER 27, 2016 AT ABOUT 9:20 P.M.

Officers were patrolling in the area of 7th Street and Wilshire Blvd noticed a subject riding a bicycle in violation of a municipal code – no front headlight during darkness. Officers attempted to stop the subject. The subject fled from the officers. Officers were able to detain the suspect at 6th Street and Arizona. The suspect provided a false name to officers. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to SMPD Jail.
Stefan Forbes, 39, from Los Angeles was arrested for resisting an officer and providing false identification.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 311 calls for service on Jan. 9.

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

Person down 1400 block of Palisades Park 1:57 a.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 2000 block of Ocean 3:42 a.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 3:54 a.m.
Battery 1700 block of Lincoln 5:30 a.m.
Encampment 1900 block of Pico 6:20 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block of Ocean 7:17 a.m.
Elder abuse 1700 block of 17th 8:00 a.m.
Encampment 1400 block of Ocean 9:01 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 500 block of 4th 9:05 a.m.
Encampment 2200 block of Santa Monica 9:33 a.m.
Identity theft 600 block of 11th 10:28 a.m.
Encampment 300 block of Olympic 11:06 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block of 20th 11:11 a.m.
Missing person 1900 block of 17th 11:13 a.m.
Traffic collision 20th/Wilshire 12:55 p.m.
Identity theft 2300 block of 28th 1:09 p.m.
Burglary 2400 block of 16th 1:16 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1500 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 2:14 p.m.
Grand theft 1200 block of Maple 2:39 p.m.
Encampment 1700 block of 9th 2:54 p.m.
Traffic hazard 20th/Olympic 3:06 p.m.
Grand theft 1200 block of Maple 3:07 p.m.
Traffic collision Stewart/Olympic 3:55 p.m.
Vandalism 1400 block of Princeton 3:59 p.m.
Fraud suspect there 800 block of 7th 4:28 p.m.
Panhandling 1300 block of Wilshire 4:35 p.m.
Vandalism 1000 block of 12th 4:38 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 100 block of Ocean Park 4:41 p.m.
Bike theft 1400 block of 4th 5:12 p.m.
Traffic collision Olympic/Centinela 5:41 p.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Colorado 6:02 p.m.
Traffic collision 20th/Wilshire 6:38 p.m.
Vandalism 300 block of Arizona 7:33 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 1400 block of 4th 10:04 p.m.
Vandalism 2200 block of Colorado 10:22 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 37 calls for service on Jan. 9.

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

EMS 2700 block of 2nd 1:04 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Broadway 1:58 a.m.
EMS 1000 block of 11th 2:10 a.m.
EMS 600 block of Strand 3:09 a.m.
EMS 2600 block of 28th 4:54 a.m.
EMS 900 block of 3rd 6:10 a.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block of Lincoln 7:48 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 8:44 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of Ocean 8:54 a.m.
EMS 400 block of Expo Line 10:15 a.m.
EMS 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk 11:12 a.m.
EMS 2100 block of Ocean 12:01 p.m.
EMS 1000 block of 16th 1:26 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Stanford 1:40 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 15th 1:53 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 18th 2:11 p.m.
EMS 700 block of Broadway 2:12 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 2:15 p.m.
Structure fire 900 block of Wilshire 2:42 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 16th 2:55 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 3:04 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Santa Monica 3:53 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 4th 3:53 p.m.
EMS 2900 block of Olympic 3:59 p.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block of Colorado 4:09 p.m.
EMS Olympic/Centinela 5:37 p.m.
EMS 4th/Pico 6:10 p.m.
EMS 3000 block of Main 7:04 p.m.
EMS 2300 block of Ocean Park 7:08 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 7:59 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 5th 8:20 p.m.
EMS 400 block of Expo Line 8:49 p.m.
EMS 100 block of Winnett 9:07 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 7th 10:10 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of Harvard 10:52 p.m.
Miscellaneous outside fire 1400 block of 2nd 11:21 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/7
3 12 24 37 63
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 106M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/6
6 10 44 47 54
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 126M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 1/7
6 32 33 34 44
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 68M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/9
1 9 13 18 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/9
MIDDAY: 1 1 7
Draw Date: 1/9
EVENING: 9 2 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/9
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:47.39

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!

flackery

1. publicity and promotion; press-agentry.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Counts

■ 120,000: Americans waiting for organ transplants
■ 14,000: Number of organ donors each year

SOURCE: U.S. HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Doc Talk

■ Obdormition: the numb feeling you get when you wake up to discover you've slept on your arm wrong. The semi-painful tingling sensation is called paresthesia.

Phobia of the Week

■ Pogonophobia: fear of beards

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

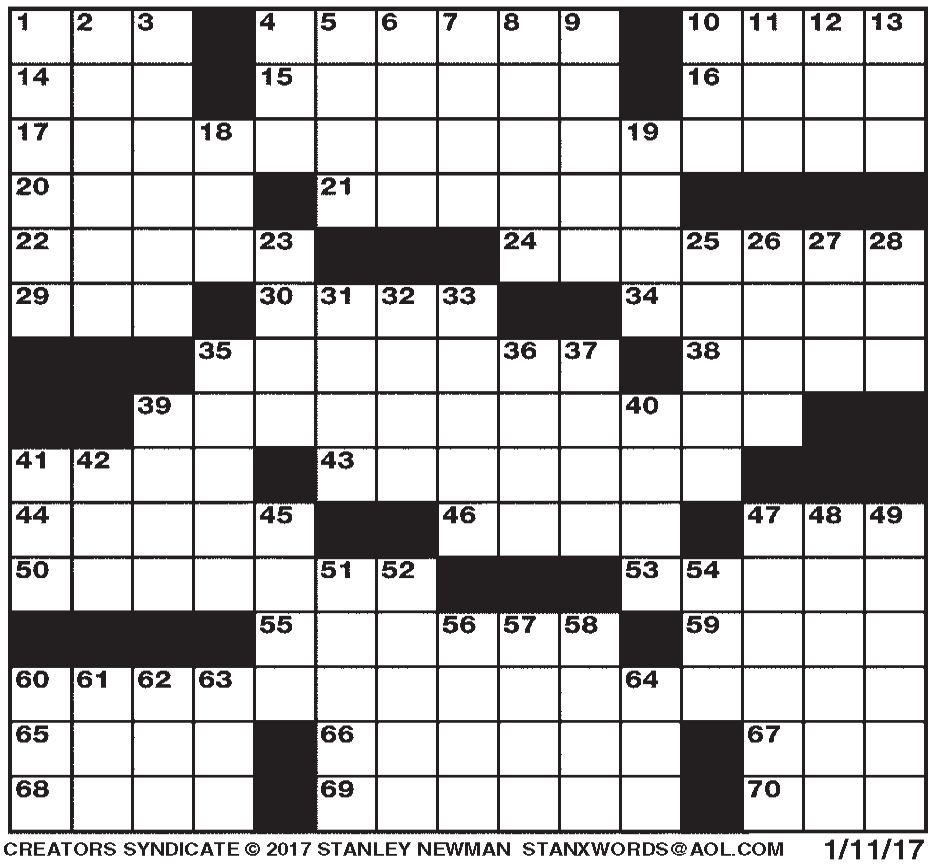
4		6			3			5
	2			8				9
		5			1		3	
						9		6
	8		1		9		5	
9		7						
	1		9			6		
7				3			9	
3			4			7		2

Newsday Crossword

AT THE U.N. by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 L.A. clock setting
4 New Cub Scout
10 Tiny bit of water
14 Wolfed down
15 Reluctant
16 Nebraska neighbor
17 U.N.'s all-member body
20 Holds the deed to
21 Mailing stickers
22 Remove frost from
24 Spilled the beans
29 Web pop-ups
30 Thoroughfare
34 Greet the day
35 Universe creation theory
38 NBA broadcaster
39 U.N.'s executive body
41 Competent
43 Sodium or sulfur
44 Lathered up
46 Stitched
47 Get-up-and-go
50 Stressful spot
53 Part of an act
55 In the thick of
59 Poker payment
60 U.N.'s peacekeeping body
65 Some nest eggs, for short
66 Large scissors
67 Ill temper
68 Reduce, as expenses
69 Pulpit presentation
70 Was ahead

DOWN
1 Chinese temple
2 Simmered slowly
3 Court sport
4 Tavern
5 Elliptical shape
6 Dracula portrayer Lugosi
7 Lobster cousin
8 Selling point
9 Electric auto company
10 Poorly lit
11 Burglarize
12 Big-eyed bird
13 Pick up the check
18 PC bailout key
19 Are, in Argentina
23 Guitarist Clapton
25 Pick up the check
26 Roster
27 Sixth sense, for short
28 Cozy room
31 Folklore monster
32 Brother of Cain
33 Goes out with
35 Microwave oven sounds
36 Designate
37 Got taller
39 Wooden strip
40 Rural hotels
41 Volcanic output
42 Derisive shout
45 Wine vintage
47 Sharpener insert
48 All-inclusive
49 Removed rind from
51 Not quite right
52 Church donation
54 Tuna container
56 Textile worker
57 Shell game
58 Matador adversary
60 Drink daintily
61 Historic time
62 Airport rental
63 Put to work
64 Admirals' org.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/11/17

STORM

FROM PAGE 1

At Mammoth Mountain, one of the state's southernmost big ski resorts, gales forced operators to close all but one ski lift. "We'll open more if we can," spokeswoman Joani Lynch said. "We have high winds and pretty heavy snowfall right now."

Tuesday's storm was the latest in days of back-to-back systems that have brought the heaviest rain in a decade to parts of Northern California and Nevada. The storms are part of an "atmospheric river" weather phenomenon that draws precipitation from the Pacific Ocean as far west as Hawaii. Its impact can be catastrophic for areas hit by the heaviest rain.

In Sacramento, workers with California's Department of Water Resources opened a half-dozen century-old spill gates on the state's biggest river, the Sacramento, before dawn Tuesday to ease pressure on the swollen river and on levees.

California is in a six-year drought, and the last time state workers had needed to open the gates and spill water into side channels was December 2005.

"They were a little bit rusty," department spokesman Ted Thomas said, "but they were able to open them fine."

Heavy rain fell for hours Tuesday in Northern California areas already soaked by more than a foot of rain over a 72-hour period that ended early Monday, forcing hundreds to evacuate and leaving thousands without power.

In Northern California's wine region, authorities expected the Russian River to rise 6 feet above flood stage by Wednesday after it spilled out of its banks over the weekend, flooding vineyards and riverside resorts and mobile-home parks.

Parts of wine country in Sonoma County were among the hardest hit, receiving up to 13 inches of rain from the weekend storms. Rolling hills and vineyards along the scenic route known as River Road were submerged with just the tips of the vines rising above flood water.

Melba Martinelli, who lives in the Russian River town of Guerneville, waded through her yard Monday in knee-high rain boots, surrounded by flooded streets.

"I'm watching the water come up higher and higher, and my boots are almost going underwater now," Martinelli said. "The river is coming up the street now. It's pretty scary."

After a storm-swollen river forced closing over the weekend, Yosemite National Park reopened the valley floor to visitors Tuesday morning, park spokesman Scott Gediman said.

In Colorado, snow and strong winds worked together to set off an avalanche up to 15 feet deep that closed Interstate 70 at Vail Pass in Colorado early Tuesday. The avalanche risk for most of Colorado's mountains is expected to remain high through at least Wednesday.

Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer in San Francisco, Scott Sonner in Reno, and Colleen Slevin in Denver also contributed to this report.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 11)

You go into this year with an experimental agenda that helps you get to know yourself better. The next two months bring new joys, appetites and fascinations. A big move in April allows for more satisfying work. Family celebrates together in June. August brings an education that helps your social life. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 22, 45 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It gives unexpected satisfaction to learn why things are the way they are, especially as you get to know the limitations someone was dealing with that led to the creation or completion of a feat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

It may be a bit of a stretch to suggest that those born under the sign that rules money should delight in austerity, and yet even the financially minded bull gets the occasional pull toward the simple elegance of minimalism.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You enjoy being the first to try products, methods and trends of all kinds. The word "new" will capture your attention and spark your curiosity, and you'll likely be the first one in line. Later they'll all want your account.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

When you're bored of something, don't bail right away. Stick with it another step or two. There's a real gem of a prize for pushing through, and you don't have to stick with it forever, just longer than most would.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're not thinking about how much people do or don't appreciate you. This is the last of your worries. Your actions are motivated out of spiritual generosity and a belief that people are in great need of your help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

When people find out about your special talent after knowing you a while, they'll be surprised. If, later on down the line, they find out about another unrelated talent of yours, you'll officially be alluring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

So many of our behaviors are habits. Laughing is no exception. You seem to be doing more and more of that lately, and the people around you love how funny you make them feel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Many people who achieve high status want to be treated the same as everyone else. You've a good handle on dishing due respect and still maintaining a shared reality in which everyone can relate as equals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today you'll be among friends and people who wish they were your friends. You may dare to share a vulnerable, embarrassing, weird human story and in doing so push your likeability factor up a few points.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Others are uplifted by your presence. Maybe it's something you don't think too much about, because it's an easy thing for you to create, and yet this is no small achievement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Because you're so comfortable with who you are and because you don't think of yourself as very different from the others, you're capable of doing things in group environments that others wouldn't think to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Those who don't pay compliments comfortably will give it up for you today. This will mean more to you than the niceties you regularly hear, considering the rarity of such an acknowledgement from this particular source.

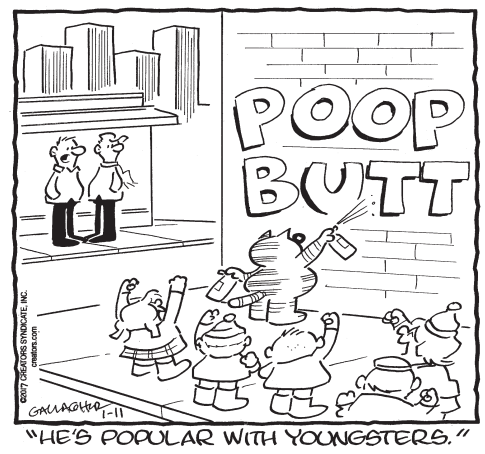
The Sun and Jupiter's Pop Quiz

Schoolchildren study a good deal on subjects that may never again come up in life outside of a gameshow or crossword puzzle. That doesn't make the knowledge superfluous. Learning to learn is a valuable skill for anyone living an ever-evolving life. The sun and Jupiter square off in the manner of a pop quiz on what we've learned so far.

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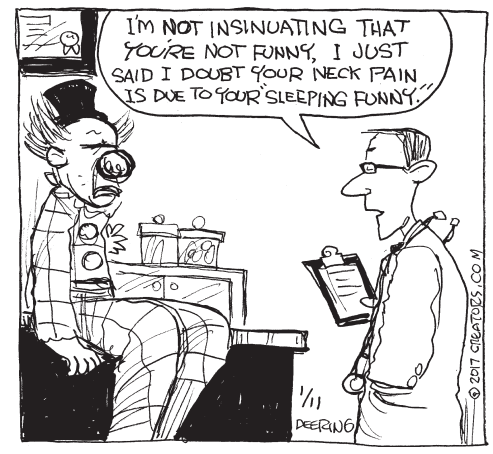
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



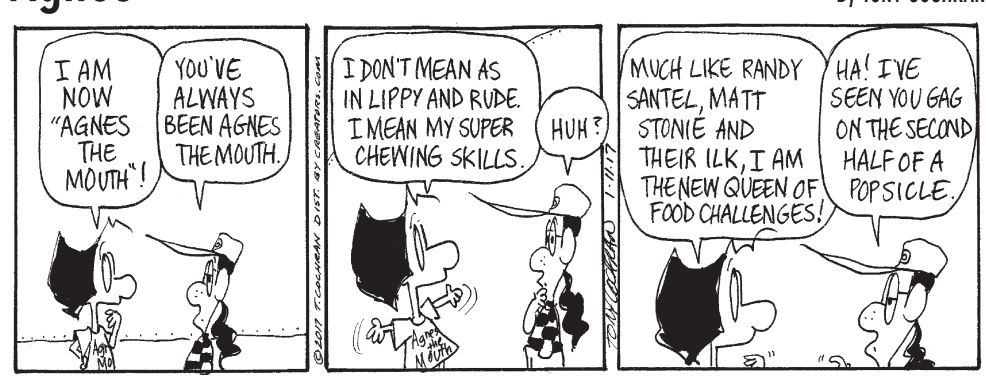
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



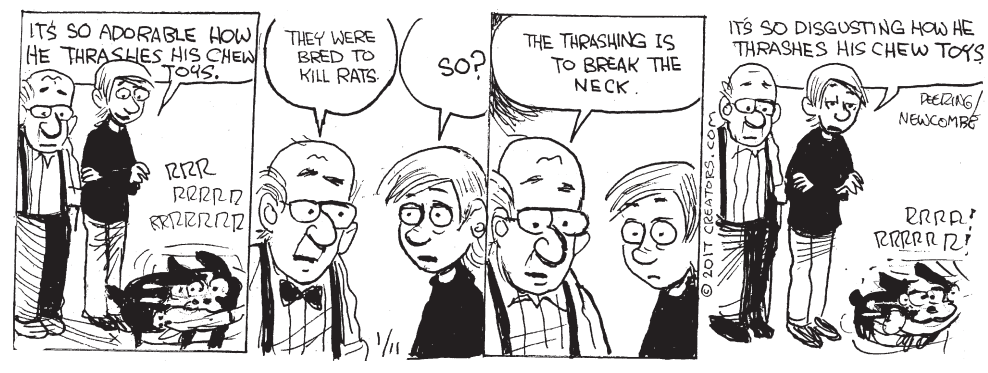
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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