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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE .....PAGE 2
CURIOUS CITY .....PAGE 5
CRIME WATCH .....PAGE 8
MYSTERY PHOTO .....PAGE 9
COMICS .....PAGE 10

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School Board begins the year with conflict of interest hearing

BY ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will have its first board meeting of the year this Thursday, Jan. 18. Highlights on the agenda's docket include Early Learning Pathway, the ongoing Vazquez conflict of interest investigation, as well as financial audits:

EARLY LEARNING PATHWAY

The Board will receive one of two annual updates on its Early Learning Pathway program that prepares students for academic success at a very early age.

According to the presentation, the district has had an interest in early learning for years but 2012 study suggested "the initial data revealed surprising findings, such as the number of children who were not on track for kindergarten," said the report.

"As a result, multiple steps were taken, including the launch of an early learning pathways concept in SMMUSD; the Cradle to Career Initiative made kindergarten readiness a key goal area; and, in collaboration with the Santa Monica Early Childhood Task Force, a Building Blocks for Kindergarten Workgroup was formed to turn data into action."

Over the last few years, the SMMUSD was granted a two year grant from the Reissa Foundation which was used to assist in early learning programs via a five goal program. Currently, the goals are being met, and the SMMUSD will be proposing further focus on their current programs as well as "plans for continued vertical alignment and program expansion.

SEE **BOARD** PAGE 4

Wave of lawsuits filed to block net-neutrality repeal

BY TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writer

The expected wave of litigation against the Federal Communications Commission's repeal of net-neutrality rules has begun.

A group of attorneys general for 21 states and the District of Columbia sued Tuesday to block the rules. So did Mozilla, the maker of the Firefox browser, public-interest group Free Press and New America's Open Technology Institute. Others may file suit as well, and a major tech-industry lobbying group has said it will support litigation.

The rules barred companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon from interfering with internet traffic and favoring their own sites and apps. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's push to undo them inspired both street and online protests in defense of the Obama-era rules.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who is leading the suit, said Tuesday that the end of the net neutrality rules would hurt consumers and businesses.

FCC spokesman Brian Hart declined to comment on the litigation.

The lawsuits are part of a multi-pronged approach against the net-neutrality repeal. There are efforts by Democrats to undo the repeal in Congress. State lawmakers have also introduced bills to protect net neutrality in their own states. However, the FCC's order bars state laws from contradicting the federal government's approach. The FCC's new rules are not expected to go

SEE **LAWSUITS** PAGE 7

Council approves rate increase

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Business owners and residents will see costs go up on their March water bill after the City Council approved a 5 percent rate increase for 2018 at their Jan. 9 meeting. The money will help pay for a Sustainable Water Master Plan update and other facility upgrades and studies needed for the city to reach its goal of water self-sufficiency by 2020. With the increase, the average bi-monthly residential bill rises from $91.64 to $96.27, according to staff estimates.

Before voting for the rate increase, Councilmember Terry O'Day said he was "disappointed" and "embarrassed" about the city's progress toward its ambitious goals.

"What we don't have is a real handle on the cost of what it will take to get us to this goal of self sufficiency and what it's going to take to clean our groundwater basin and close the pollution case that we have with the regional board," O'Day said.

To date, the City has been awarded $330 million in settlement funds over the pollution of Santa Monica's groundwater by major oil companies. The Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment told the Council that about $120 million of the funds are unrestricted.

"It can be used by council however it wants," Kubani said.

In last year's budget, the Council allocated $50 million of the funds for the City Yard project and $7 for the new City Services Building.

"I don't remember ever being told that it was water remediation funds that was being used," Councilmember Sue Himmelrich said, explaining she wasn't aware she was voting to allocate settlement money when she voted for the 2017 budget.

The head of the city's Task Force on the Environment and former president of Heal the Bay chastised the Council for spending the settlement money on projects unrelated to water. Mark Gold said he was "mortified" to hear Himmelrich wasn't aware of the allocation.

SEE **INCREASE** PAGE 4



MOPPING UP WINTER

Matthew Hall

The downtown ice rink is closed for the season, marking the official end of the holiday season in Santa Monica. The facility will be dismantled in the coming days and returned to use as a parking lot.




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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, January 17

The Commission for the Senior Community Regular Meeting

Santa Monica's Commission for the Senior Community focuses on preserving and improving the quality of life for Santa Monicans 60 and older. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 18

The Past, Present, and Future of Fair Housing

The Consumer Protection Division of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office will present an event celebrating the past, present and future of fair housing that will feature a blockbuster panel of three speakers: U.S. Senator (ret.) Fred Harris, the last living member of the 1967-68 Kerner Commission who voted for the Fair Housing Act of 1968; Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center; and Director Kevin Kish, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard., 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Registration ends 1/17/2018 at 5 p.m.

Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, 1st Floor, 4:30 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

Malibu Senior Center's January Luncheon

Join the Malibu Senior Center for the January Luncheon on Thursday, January 18, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of good food and great entertainment with your friends at the Senior Center. Tickets are $2 with advance RSVP and $3 at the door. Please RSVP to the Malibu Senior Center at (310) 456-2489 ext. 357. Email malibuseniorcenter@malibucity.org for more information.

Friday, January 19

Crafty Kids - DIY Snow Dough

Make your own snow dough to play with and form your own creations. Montana Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Main Library Docent Tours

Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard., 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Finance Fridays at the Malibu Senior Center Presents "Mainstreet Mortgage"

The Malibu Senior Center's Finance Friday continues with "Mainstreet Mortgage" on Friday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Malibu City Hall in the Zuma Room. The President Broker, Jon Mallett from Mainstreet Mortgage will be the presenter. The presentation will focus on acquiring new ways to optimize your assets and keep money in your pocket longer. The Malibu Senior Center hosts guest speakers each month to provide financial information on a variety of topics. Increase your financial literacy in a casual and educational setting. All are welcome to attend. Participants must RSVP to (310) 456-2489 ext. 357.

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Deputy Sheriff, three cohorts arrested in drug trafficking scheme after agreeing to provide security for narcotics shipments

A Los Angeles County deputy sheriff who allegedly agreed on two occasions to oversee the delivery of narcotics and other contraband in exchange for cash payments was arrested Tuesday morning, along with three other men, on federal narcotics charges.

Special agents with the Federal Bureau Investigation this morning arrested Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Collins and the other three after they arrived in Pasadena, allegedly to provide "security" for the transport of nearly 45 pounds of cocaine and more than 13 pounds of methamphetamine. During the FBI's undercover investigation, Collins allegedly agreed that he and his team would accompany the narcotics and take calculated steps to prevent legitimate law enforcement from intercepting the drugs – in exchange for cash payments as high as $250,000.

Collins and two other men were charged in a federal criminal complaint filed last week. Collins and these two co-defendants allegedly provided security in November for the transport of what they thought was six kilograms of methamphetamine, as well as marijuana and counterfeit cigarettes.

In justifying the high fees for his services, Collins allegedly told an undercover FBI agent "we're cops" and "all of our transports make it through."

THOSE NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT ARE:

- Deputy Sheriff Collins, 50, of Chino;
- David Easter, 51, of the Hyde Park District of Los Angeles; and
- Grant Valencia, 34, of Pomona.

The fourth man arrested this morning – Maurice Desi Font, 56, of South Los Angeles – is expected to be charged by federal prosecutors in a second criminal complaint later today.

The four defendants – who are charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances – are expected to make their first court appearances this afternoon in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

"Deputy Collins sold his badge to assist an individual he thought was a drug trafficker," said United States Attorney Nicola T. Hanna. "The deputy allegedly used his status as a law enforcement officer as a guarantee when he promised safe travels for large quantities of illegal narcotics. This case is part of our long-standing and ongoing commitment to root out corruption, particularly when it involves sworn law enforcement officers."

"Deputy Collins used his position of trust and appropriated his authority to conduct lucrative criminal activity with others at the expense of Los Angeles County residents," said Paul Delacourt, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "The FBI and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department address many crime areas jointly and share the goal of identifying and addressing internal problems when they arise. Sheriff McDonnell, who continues to reform the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, cooperated fully with the investigation. While our investigation continues to determine whether others may have been involved, this should not be viewed as an indictment of the many dedicated servants at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, some of whom brought this unlawful activity to our attention. Today's arrest exemplifies the FBI's commitment to weeding out corruption by public officials and restoring trust in our law enforcement professionals."

The affidavit in support of the complaint filed last week outlines a scheme in which Collins agreed to accept tens of thousands of dollars in cash in exchange for his "team" providing security during the transportation of large quantities of drugs from the Los Angeles area to Las Vegas, Nevada.

On November 14, after Collins negotiated a $25,000 payment in exchange for providing security during the transport of contraband, Collins, Easter and Valencia participated in a caravan that traveled to Las Vegas.

The trio was arrested this morning after allegedly agreeing to provide security for the transport of 20 kilograms of cocaine, six kilograms of methamphetamine and cash from Pasadena to Las Vegas, in exchange for $250,000. During negotiations, Collins said he would bring a larger team than used during the November transport, and those additional members would include other law enforcement officers. When the team arrived this morning at the pre-determined location, Font was the fourth member of the team.

According to the affidavit, the FBI had been investigating Collins in relation to a scheme to accept cash payments in exchange for providing security for illegal marijuana grow facilities, as well as assisting in the distribution of controlled substances.

An undercover FBI agent – who was posing as a family member of a wealthy investor looking to finance an illegal marijuana grow house – first met with Collins in August 2017. Collins offered to provide security for an illegal marijuana grow house and claimed to have three "teams" that already provided security for drug operations across San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

During one of the August meetings, Collins displayed his Sheriff's Department badge and lifted his shirt to reveal a firearm hidden in his waistband, which investigators believe was to emphasize that he was a law enforcement officer and his services therefore were more valuable to a drug organization. According to the affidavit, this meeting concluded with the undercover agent paying Collins $5,000 in "good faith" money for future services.

Over the course of several meetings, Collins also offered to "fix problems" for the undercover agent, including by physically assaulting people, in exchange for cash. According to the affidavit, Collins claimed to have a very "professional" "team" comprised of "cops" who "travel...with guns." He described how he and two others recently "handled" a situation for a "client" in Boston by setting a luxury truck on fire.

During a meeting in September, the undercover agent told Collins that he was having an "issue" with a person in Northern California, and, in exchange for $2,000, Collins performed and delivered a "work-up" on that person, which included obtaining that person's home address and driver's license number, according to the affidavit. When Collins delivered the "work-up" in early October, the deputy sheriff allegedly said that he could provide additional services in relation to the Northern California person: "We can definitely, you know, kind of impact him a little bit."

As part of negotiations with the undercover agent, Collins also facilitated the sale of two pounds of marijuana to the agent, which Easter delivered. If this smaller "test run" sale of marijuana went well, Collins offered to facilitate the sale of up to $4 million worth of marijuana every month to the agent, according to the affidavit.

In relation to the November transport of what Collins and his co-conspirators understood to be methamphetamine and marijuana, Collins provided a team of three – one of whom drove ahead of the transport vehicle to scout for law enforcement, one of whom accompanied an undercover agent driving the drug transport vehicle, and Collins in a follow car. According to the affidavit, Collins and his team received a total of $25,000 for this transport.

Following the success of the November transport, Collins discussed with the primary undercover agent another, larger shipment. During a meeting on January 5, Collins agreed to bring Easter and Valencia – as well as other team members – to oversee the transport of 20 kilograms of cocaine, six kilograms of methamphetamine and cash. Although the undercover agent initially offered $75,000 as payment to Collins and his team, according to the affidavit, Collins pushed for more, saying that his "guys" are used to providing security for "bigger loads." Collins ultimately agreed to provide his team's services in exchange for $250,000.

When they arrived at the agreed-upon location this morning where the drug transport was to begin, FBI agents arrested Collins and the other three men without incident.

A criminal complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

If they were to be convicted of the drug trafficking conspiracy alleged in the criminal complaints, each defendant would face a sentence of up to life in prison.

The case against Collins and his co-defendants is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lindsey Greer Dotson of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK, DISTRICT ATTORNEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #18.10.ES-DSA#03-118507 Webster Elementary School – Parking Lot Project at Webster Elementary School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$1,700,000 - $2,200,000** and includes construction of improved drop off/pick up and parking configurations along Winter Canyon Road, a new parking lot along Civic Center Way, replacement asphalt within playcourts, site ramp improvements and other associated improvements. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 3/1/18 at 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 1/22/18 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:
All applications are due no later than 2/14/18 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx.

Mandatory Job Walk:
Monday, 1/22/18 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location:
Webster Elementary School – 3602 Winter Canyon Road, Malibu, CA 90265 – All Attending Contractors MUST meet representatives outside the front entrance of the school.

Bid Opening:
Thursday, 3/1/18 at 2:00PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

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BOARD
FROM PAGE 1

REVIEW OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST INVESTIGATION

Staff will provide an update on an ongoing investigation into conflict of interest accusations.

SMMUSD board member Maria Leon-Vazquez is under fire for casting votes that could have financially benefited her husband — Santa Monica councilman Tony Vazquez.

These votes could violate state conflict of interest laws.

In a story last year, Vazquez told the Daily Press that his wife "didn't even know she was voting on these things," remarking that the consent calendars given at city council are "pretty thick," insinuating she hadn't knowingly voted to aid his business.

"Concerns about conflict issues were recently raised that the school board and district administration take very seriously," said the agenda.

"The district launched an internal investigation into these concerns with the support of legal counsel, Fagen, Friedman and Fulfrost, and will report the results to the Board of Education at this meeting. This summary reflects the findings of the investigation and recommendations. Next steps will also be discussed. In order to avoid actual or perceived conflicts in the future and to continue to ensure the public's trust is earned and maintained, additional direction to conduct further review of board policies and regulations and training for board members and senior staff will be discussed."

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

The Board of Education has completed its annual audit. There were no audit findings, however, the audit firm feels there's room "for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency".

The following recommendations represent conditions noted by the audit.

1. Evaluate projects on a comprehensive basis prior to issuing requests for proposals, qualifications, quotes, or services. The scope of work should not significantly change, otherwise, a new request should be generated rather than issuing multiple change orders, which bypass the required detailed selection process.
2. All bids for future projects must be received at the Districts office and not received by the consultant. Segregation of duties should be paramount.
3. Human resources department to obtain and retain personnel file documents as noted on internal checklists, such as W-4's and pay rate and benefit changes.
4. Human resources department to monitor the change register report on a frequent, periodic basis, preferably every pay period.
5. To clean HRS system for jobs classifications and codes, in order for payroll department to avoid issuing one time pays checks.

The Board will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 1651 16th Street. The open session begins at 6 p.m.

angel@smdp.com

INCREASE
FROM PAGE 1

"At least if you guys were going to do that you should have had the benefit of that discussion," Gold said. In a letter to Council, Gold argued it was morally wrong to use the settlement funds for unrelated projects.

Mayor Ted Winterer and Councilmember Kevin McKeown both clarified for the record they were fully aware of the implications of their budget votes and staff had been fully transparent.

"It there's an issue, it's on us," Winterer said.

The city's water supply currently consists of 25 percent imported water and 75 percent local groundwater. Right now the City's water fund balance is $36.7 million, which is more than half a million dollars more than predicted because of better than expected financial performance. In fact, Kubani said the City saved $300,000 by importing less water than prior years. Even with the savings, future improvement projects threaten to drain the fund.

"If we did not put in a 5 percent rate increase, basically, we're going to spend through all that money and then we're not making enough revenue to…keep us in the black," Kubani told the City Council Tuesday. The rate increase will generate $5 million in additional revenue over five years.

"What is especially alarming… is that the settlement funds that we have that provided us with the confidence that we were going to get to all of these goals are being allocated in different ways and parcel out and it's still not clear what the costs are and whether we'll have the funding to get to these objectives," O'Day said.

Because of current drought restrictions, the water use per person per day now averages at 110 gallons, down from 126 gallons per capita in 2014. Future projects include reservoir chlorination, a pilot reverse osmosis upgrade at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant, as well as plans and studies to look at recycling water.

With the five percent increase, household rates go from $3.01/HCF to $3.16/HCF and commercial rates go from $4.27/HCF to $4.48/HCF.

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WINNER

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

March We Must, Saturday

LAST WEEK I ASKED

"Are you ready for 2018?"

The week before I declared, "I am now, for no particular reason or event, determined to be unrelentingly optimistic."

It ain't easy when you put your intentions out there for many to read, remember, look up and throw back at you, and then Agent Orange makes it so hard to make good on them.

Come on, that's only 63 words in, I'm not losing you already because you're so sick of hearing about Herr Hair, am I? Always remember, that's a crucial part of his strategy. When are you/me/the media going to stop getting sucked in, distracted, worn down by P.T.rump, playing his game?

This Saturday morning might be a really good time to stand up and be counted. (Hint: Women's March II.) (BTW, calling him names is not petty, but a strategy. Some won't even hook the title of President to his ample wagon, but I do, because it is the ugly reality we are dealing with. But giving him the respect he deserves, which is less than zero because of his actions and words, states that we are not accepting this as the New Normal. We are Americans and we shall not be brought so low, by this carnival barker and his greed-crazed conspirators, the Republicans.)

HANG ON

I promise I'll get back to Santa Monica and the depressing things swirling around here. About which I'm optimistic.

We get played so easily, by this "unpresidented" demagogue of low intelligence but brilliant manipulative skills. It is so much easier to be brilliantly manipulative when you have no morals, no empathy, no rules, no obligations, no loyalties, no relationships, no agenda other than your own profit and self aggrandizing. Talk about simplifying your life.

In fact, it makes the completely daunting, near-impossible job of being President of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of the mightiest military in history, leader of the Free World, easy as pie. No presidency ever has been this easy, by far, trust me. That's why you see him on the golf course so much. He can do anything and say anything and not worry about consequences as long as he feeds his base. Why, he could probably stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and... you know. Break the law. And suffer no consequences. So far.

For the same reasons you don't want to read about him, I don't want to write about him. I have backed off considerably, you must admit. But I've gotta write, and you've gotta read, because we all need to renew our resolve. Sometimes minute by minute.

TOUGH WEEKEND

For those of us with conscience, heart, soul, awareness, knowledge of history, of geography, pride in country.

He chooses the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial weekend, no less, for some of his most egregiously racist remarks. Then gleefully calls around to see how much of a ruckus he's raised. Then officially, half-heartedly, half-assedly denies he ever spoke them. But the timing reminds us that this despicable man who lost the popular vote by millions and wiggled into the White House because of the obsolete Electoral College we are burdened with, is the ugly antithesis of the Nazarene, that Rev. King could not even have imagined rising to power half a century after the progress sparked by his assassination.

Sorry what we've done with your dream, Dr. King. Really, really sorry.

SHAME ON US?

Well, yeah. We are guilty for our silence. History will judge us. We must speak up, resist, force our representatives to end their silence and inaction. (A cheer for Rep. Ted Lieu here, on all counts.) This is intolerable. We are, because of The Donald and his GOP vampire army, now living in a much more dangerous world (Hawaii), with the rest of world alternating laughing at us and cringing in disbelief and helpless fear.

Politicians love power, they live for it (even if their motives are pure) and collectively we have the votes, to tell them unequivocally if you do not right the ship of state, you will be stripped of your power, thrown out, this year, onto the trash heap of history.

A very good time to deliver that message, with our millions of bodies and voices, is this Saturday at the nationwide (worldwide) Women's March. Or think of it as the Humans March. The March for Sanity and Dignity. The One Year Anniversary/No More. 9 a.m., Pershing Square here in LA. It's as easy as hopping on a train. But there's so much at stake. I can't take another MLK Day like this one (although the Santa Monica Symphony performance was uplifting and excellent).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK: Are you okay with spending more than $100M making our City Hall annex a resume booster for ambitious local politicians and bureaucrats? Okay with pols and bureaucrats who violate the Brown Act, the Oaks Initiative and election funding rules with no consequence? Same for our new lobbyist regulations? Do you think Santa Monica College (SMC), for all its terrific education of a handful of our students, has become a cancer to our small city, sucking up properties and a billion in our bond money while providing no on-campus housing, throwing their 35,000 students into our shrinking apartment inventory, and insisting on a glorified kindergarten on the grounds of our Civic Center, to mainly serve RAND, City Hall and their employees, many of whom don't live in Santa Monica? Are you okay with a massive hotel development in the center of our Downtown, that benefits a developer, Local Union 11, and the politicians who benefit from their favors, or would you like to see a park-like open space for all our citizens to benefit from? How about skyscrapers lining Ocean Avenue? Should we keep hiring more and more City staff, when many agree we are already the most overpaid overstaffed CA city around and those benefits and pensions are going to kill us in the very near future. Has serious crime become a serious problem here? Will Forward replace a weakened SMRR in the quest to overdevelop Santa Monica? What about the water?

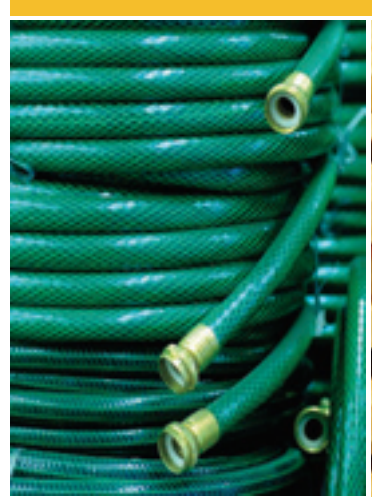
QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "No tyrant, however evil, has yet lacked ready hands to execute his most abominable will. To read how eagerly men have rushed to serve the despot is the bitterest, the saddest matter of history; it is the saddest sight in our own day." — Richard Jefferies

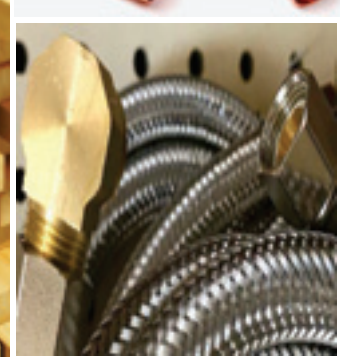
CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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California governor considers one-tunnel water plan

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

Gov. Jerry Brown's administration is proposing scaling back his troubled plans to redo California's water system, releasing a new plan that would build only one tunnel to ship water from Northern California instead of two, and put Southern and central California water agencies directly in charge of designing and building it.

The state posted the revised proposal late Friday on a state website that solicits bids for state contracts, saying for the first time that it was considering postponing one of the two tunnels indefinitely and asking potential contractors for engineering and other services to say how they would handle a one-tunnel project instead.

Lisa Lien-Mager, a spokeswoman for the state, said Tuesday that "no decision has been made to change the project."

Brown had been pushing to launch construction of two giant $16 billion water tunnels to better secure water supplies for farms and cities to the south before he leaves office this year. The project, which would be California's biggest water project in decades, last year failed to gain enough support from local water agencies that would benefit from the project and pay for it.

Environmental groups have opposed the original twin-tunnel project, fearing Southern California water agencies would use the 35-mile (55-kilometer) tunnels to drain too much water from the Sacramento River, above its delta with the San Joaquin River.

The Sacramento is the state's biggest river and a vital supplier of fresh water to the San Francisco Bay, part of the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas.

Brown and other project supporters say the tunnel project would modernize California's current, outdated north-south delivery system, where pumps and overall water withdrawals are blamed for the steady dwindling of native fish and other wildlife that depend on delta water. Brown's father, then-Gov. Pat Brown, oversaw building of that water project in the 1950s and 1960s.

The revised state proposal talks of building the tunnels in stages, with one of the four-story-high tunnels built now, and the second tunnel at some unspecified time. The new proposal also would cut the number of intakes pulling water from the Sacramento River, from three to two.

Water contractors have previously said they were considering paring the project from two tunnels to one, in hopes of more easily winning support for a smaller project. The newly posted revised state proposal marks the first time the state has publicly put such a proposal in writing.

The state did not immediately release a revised cost for the scaled-down proposal.

Osha Meserve, an attorney working for Northern California farmers opposing the project, said the revised proposal makes "more clear the project they want to do is a failure. Now they're trying to morph into something else."

Scaling down to one tunnel would make the project more affordable. Also, some environmental groups that oppose the two-tunnel plan have been receptive to the idea of one tunnel, if it takes less water than a bigger project and is operated carefully.

Project opponent Restore the Delta said any one-tunnel project would require new environmental studies and applications. Another state water agency whose approval is necessary for the project, the state Water Resources Control Board, is watching the discussions on a possible scaled-down project, and would take any project changes under consideration, spokesman Tim Moran said.

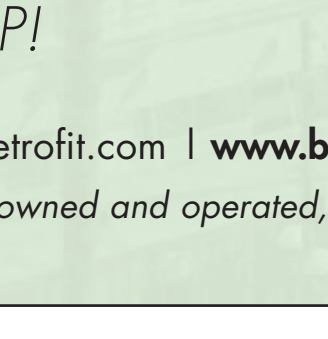
Bob Muir, a spokesman for Southern California's giant Metropolitan Water District, the project's main backer along with the Brown administration, referred questions to the state and to an association of state water contractors.

Water districts choosing to buy into the project would manage the design and build of the tunnels, including choices on contractors, rather than the state's Department of Water Resources.

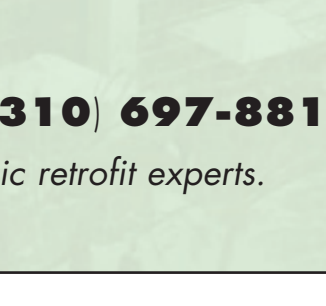
Lien-Mager, the state spokeswoman, said state water officials would retain "a strong oversight and supervisory role" over building of any eventual water project.

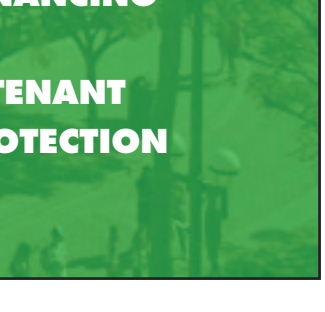
Metropolitan, which supplies water to almost half of California's 39 million residents, so far has been the main water agency to say a single tunnel could work, helping assure a more reliable water supply for its urban Southern California customers.









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LAWSUITS

FROM PAGE 1

into effect until later this spring.

THE COURTS

Apart from New York, the other attorneys general participating in the lawsuit are from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

The New York attorney general says the FCC made "arbitrary and capricious" changes to existing policies and was unjustified in departing from the FCC's long-standing policy of defending net neutrality.

The legal challenge could face an uphill battle, however. Antitrust attorney David Balto says the courts have generally shown deference to agencies to set regulations as long as they provide adequate explanations. A court would likely judge that the FCC has the authority to class the internet as an "information service" and invalidate the prior rules, just as the Obama-era FCC had the authority to label internet service a telecommunications utility and regulate it more heavily.

The parties may have to file suit again after the FCC's order is published in the Federal Register. That hasn't happened yet. The different suits may also be consolidated.

REPEAL IN CONGRESS

Democrats in the Senate will force a vote on a simple repeal of the FCC's repeal, using the same law, the Congressional Review Act, that Congress used to undo the Obama-era internet privacy rules . The vote probably won't happen for a few months.

Democrats need a least two Republican votes to pass a repeal in the Senate. Maine's Republican Sen. Susan Collins has already said she'll support it. But the resolution would probably run into difficulties in the House, where Republicans have a much bigger majority. And President Donald Trump seems likely to veto it. The White House has said it supports the FCC's efforts to roll back regulations.

However, if net neutrality does become a campaign issue with young voters in the 2018 elections, as some Democrats hope, they could use Republicans' "no" votes on restoring net neutrality rules to their advantage.

STATE BILLS

The FCC order bars states and cities from imposing rules on broadband providers that contradict the FCC's plan. Lawmakers in a number of states are pursuing net-neutrality bills anyway.

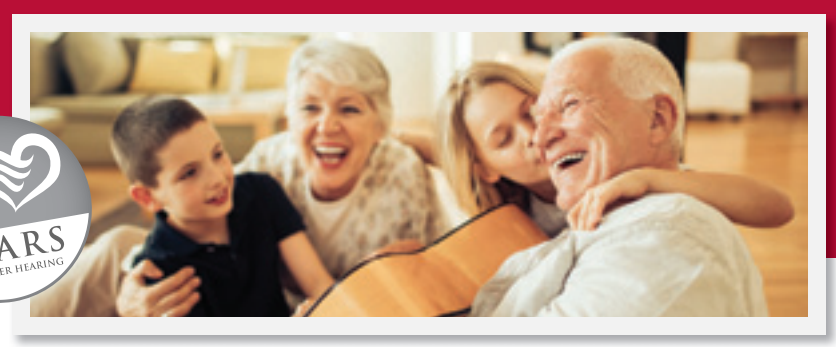
In New York, a bill would bar the state from contracting with broadband companies that don't follow net-neutrality principles.

In California, one bill would forbid companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon from blocking, limiting or interfering with customers' internet service. Another is similar in its approach to the New York bill, predicating state contracts and local cable franchises to companies following net-neutrality policies.

State lawmakers have also introduced bills in Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Washington, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, which tracks state bills. A New Mexico state senator has said he will propose legislation.



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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **60.6°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high
WNW swell due to ease - larger sets possible. Stay tuned. Small S swell mixes in.

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-4 ft** knee to shoulder high
Dropping WNW swell through the day.



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 JANUARY 6, AT ABOUT 2:58 P.M.

While at the 1600 block of Ocean Avenue, officers saw a bicyclist riding his bicycle on wrong side of the roadway. Officers performed an enforcement stop to issue the subject a citation. Officers identified the subject and determined he was on formal probation for a narcotics offense with search conditions. A search of the subject led to the recovery of narcotics paraphernalia, a "shaved" key and a canister of pepper spray. The subject was taken into custody. Terrell Burnett, 45, from Los Angeles was issued a citation for possession of burglary tools and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 332 Calls For Service On Jan. 15.

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

Public intoxication 1200 block Princeton12:52 a.m.
Drunk driving 21st/ California 12:59 a.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Ocean 1:34 a.m.
Restraining order violation 2400 block California 2:58 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 2nd 3:34 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block 6th 4:49 a.m.
Burglary report 1100 block 3rd 6:15 a.m.
Encampment 400 block Santa Monica Pier 6:35 a.m.
Loitering 2400 block Pico 7:54 a.m.
Auto burglary 500 block Washington 8:26 a.m.
Burglar alarm 2400 block 33rd 8:37 a.m.
Trespassing 1700 block 16th 8:40 a.m.
Prowler 800 block 17th 9:46 a.m.
Indecent exposure 5th / Olympic 10:09 a.m.
Panic alarm 2600 block 28th 10:22 a.m.
Petty theft 1600 block Cloverfield 11:20 a.m.
Person down Urban/ Pico 11:30 a.m.
Prowler 800 block 14th 11:57 a.m.
Indecent exposure Main / Pico 12:04 p.m.
Hit and run 3100 block Lincoln 12:24 p.m.
Fraud 2900 block Pico 12:43 p.m.
Trespassing 1600 block 19th 1:03 p.m.
Burglary 3000 block Wilshire 1:17 p.m.
Person down 900 block Marine 1:25 p.m.
Threats report 3200 block Santa Monica 2:06 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block 3rd St Prom 2:08 p.m.
Public intoxication 1900 block Cloverfield 2:08 p.m.
Trespassing 2600 block 34th 2:17 p.m.
Burglary report 3000 block Wilshire 2:38 p.m.
Petty theft 1200 block 3rd St Prom 2:39 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block 3rd St Prom 2:51 p.m.
Auto burglary 900 block PCH 2:51 p.m.
Public intoxication 2200 block Virginia 2:52 p.m.
Loitering 1800 block Wilshire 3:10 p.m.
Burglary 2200 block 3rd 3:11 p.m.
Petty theft 2100 block Ocean 4 p.m.
Fraud 1100 block 18th 4:39 p.m.
Battery 500 block Wilshire 5:08 p.m.
Public intoxication 2600 block Lincoln 6:30 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln / California 6:37 p.m.
Fight 800 block Broadway 7:28 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 1700 block Ocean Front Walk 7:43 p.m.
Traffic collision 2400 block Ocean Park Blvd 7:59 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 2nd 8:11 p.m.
Hit and run 2400 block Main 8:34 p.m.
Hit and run 17th / San Vicente 8:59 p.m.
Battery 100 block Pico 9:04 p.m.
Public intoxication 4th/ Santa Monica 9:50 p.m.
Drunk driving 300 block 14th 10:07 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 24 Calls For Service On Jan. 15.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1300 block 3rd St Prom 12:58 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block Pico 1:22 a.m.
EMS 1400 block Lincoln 2:15 a.m.
EMS 900 block 12th 5:42 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Arizona 7:21 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 21st 9:22 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Oak 10:55 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 12:17 p.m.
Vehicle fire Cloverfield / I-10 12:56 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 11th 1:18 p.m.
EMS 2200 block 25th 3:30 p.m.
Traffic collision Pacific Coast / CA Incline 3:52 p.m.
EMS Franklin / Santa Monica 6:01 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block 9th 6:14 p.m.
Automatic alarm 100 block California 6:52 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 7:53 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 2nd 8:10 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 8:36 p.m.
EMS 2700 block Neilson 9:13 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Michigan 9:37 p.m.
EMS 4th/ Santa Monica 9:43 p.m.
Public assist 9:43 p.m.
EMS 19th / Wilshire 11:08 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 1/13
14 25 35 58 69
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 62M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 1/12
17 18 33 46 60
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 50M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 1/13
3 24 28 33 40
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 15M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/15
14 18 19 33 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/15
MIDDAY: 5 2 7
Draw Date: 1/15
EVENING: 8 5 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/15
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:42.93

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!

decathect
1. to withdraw one's feelings of attachment from (a person, idea, or object), as in anticipation of a future loss: He decathected from her in order to cope with her impending death.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Observation

■ "One of the signs of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important."

■ —British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), whose work did prove to be terribly important but who died at the age of 98 from influenza

Self Exam

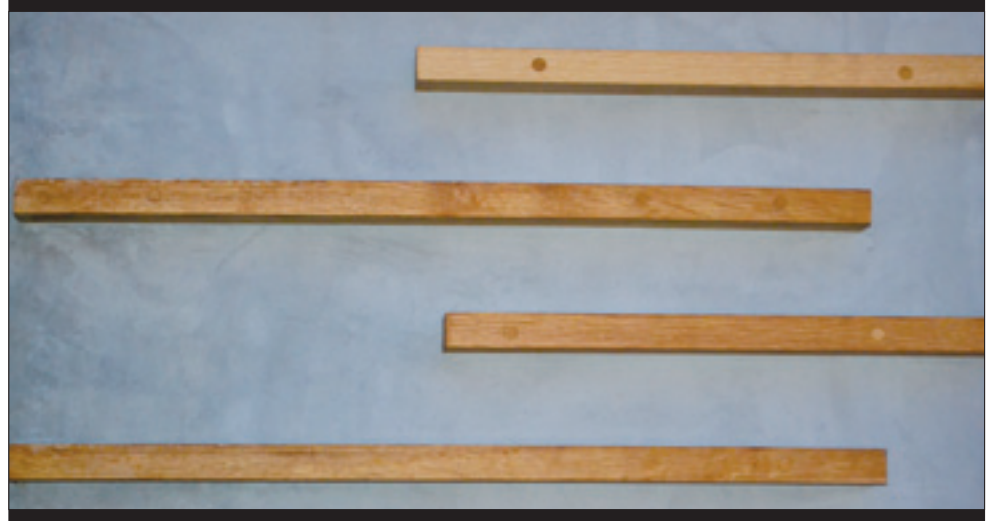
■ Q: What percentage of the body's calcium is stored in the bones?

a) 15 percent
b) 55 percent
c) 68 percent
d) 97 percent

■ A: d

MYSTERY PHOTO

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

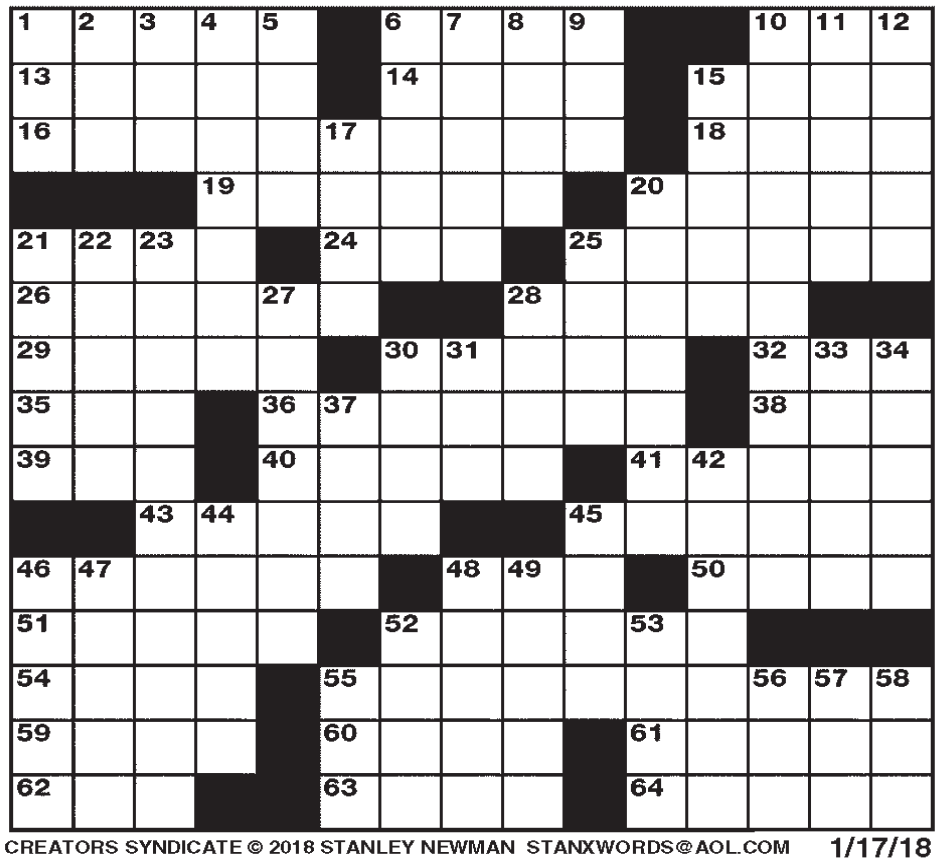
7	6	2	9	8	4	1	3	5
9	5	1	3	6	2	8	4	7
3	4	8	5	1	7	6	2	9
1	8	4	2	5	3	9	7	6
6	3	5	1	7	9	2	8	4
2	7	9	6	4	8	3	5	1
4	9	7	8	3	6	5	1	2
5	2	3	7	9	1	4	6	8
8	1	6	4	2	5	7	9	3

Newsday Crossword

STICK WITH IT by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Cash, slangily
6 "Let's go!"
10 Category
13 Judges' attire
14 Capital of Italia
15 Read electronically
16 Roast meat on a stick
18 Parcel (out)
19 Enter gradually, as water
20 Specialized market segment
21 Out of harm's way
24 Type of toothpaste
25 Repaired, as some roofs
26 Wetlands birds
28 Tot's vehicle
29 Uplift
30 Dot-com commerce
32 Santa __, CA
35 Compete (for)
36 Batter-dipped frank on a stick
38 *"O Sole __"*
39 Discontinue
40 Causes harm to
41 "Burnt" shade of brown
43 Enticements
45 With no intermission, as a play
46 Old sayings
48 Luau wear
50 Region
51 Actor's memorizations
52 Ace, in poker slang
54 Lendl of tennis
55 Sugar-coated fruit on a stick
59 Abe's coin
60 Craving
61 Gets weary
62 Notable period
63 Pub beverage
64 Food for birds

DOWN
1 Title for some spouses
2 "That's impressive!"
3 __-Wan Kenobi
4 Apartment dwellers
5 Big Apple's Arthur __ Stadium
6 Fancy pancake
7 Exxon merger partner
8 Saudi Arabia neighbor
9 Take into custody
10 Frozen dessert on a stick
11 Wood-shaping tool
12 Weak-__ (timid)
15 Smug smile
17 63 Across barrels
20 Carpenter's power tool
21 Put dinner on the table
22 One more time
23 Breaded fruit on a stick
25 Threesome
27 Computer repairers
28 Small amounts
30 Makes a misstep
31 Demolition letters
33 Family member
34 Major blood vessel
37 Inning-ending plays
42 Baked entrée
44 Go-between
45 Full of grease
46 Mad Hatter guest
47 Underwater explorer
48 Fencer's thrust
49 Born first
52 Unadorned
53 Chows down
55 Baby panda
56 Prefix for "before"
57 Took the initiative
58 Double-curve shape



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/17/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 17)

If there's one thing that will make this solar return a sweet dream for you, it's good timing. Don't rush! Life only happens one moment at a time and trying to cram in too much will rob you of the delicious experience. Stick to your top wish. Prioritize and hold it sacred and you will succeed beyond your wildest imaginings. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 22, 23,14 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Watch out for laziness in others, and be vigilant against the tendency yourself. As the ancient wisdom suggests, "He who is lazy in his work is brother to him that destroys."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
It's time to travel light, both metaphorically and literally. Why carry more than is necessary? Leave past pain and future worries out of the satchel. Carry only what you'll need in this hour.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Did you know that over half of college graduates don't wind up in the field of their major? Relatedly, today you will not apply what you've learned in a direct and logical fashion. You're still better for having learned it, though!

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
To handle the current problem, you will need more data about it. You'll also need a few different tools and resources. Gather information, and look for people who have already solved this or something similar.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It's not too late. It's never too late. If you knew with every fiber of your being that this was the truth, what would you do now? That's the best way to spend your day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Getting out of yourself will be the biggest challenge. One way to settle in more comfortably (which is the first step) will be to turn your focus to the environment and become curious about the people in it and all that's going on there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Seductive and glamorous propositions abound. Before you head further into this, find out more from trusted sources. Ignorance, like darkness, is a lack of illumination that can cause some pretty serious stumbles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
What if you knew that trying to make something better was as absurd as trying to perfect the sea or improve upon the sunlight? What then? Maybe this isn't about changing so much as it's about learning the magnificence of a thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Some use the term "free spirit" as a put-down akin to "flaky." It's a stance rooted in the fear that, given the entire range of choices, we'd go all wrong. Loosen the reigns on yourself today and you'll see how untrue this is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Love will be like talking to the moon. The light inside you will be quietly, constantly reflected. You'll feel at once big enough to hold the vastness of space in your palm and small enough to be enveloped in it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Any harm that is done in the name of believing the wrong thing can be undone in the name of believing the right thing. Go back and examine the beliefs that led to the discontent. One or more of them is faulty. Root it out.

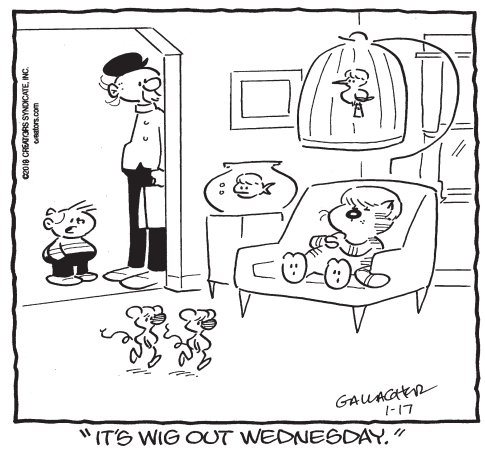
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
The message can be the most eloquent, reasonable and perfectly crafted expression in the world, but if it is pitched to a non-receptive person it's still a communication fail.

Venus in Aquarius Ushers in the New

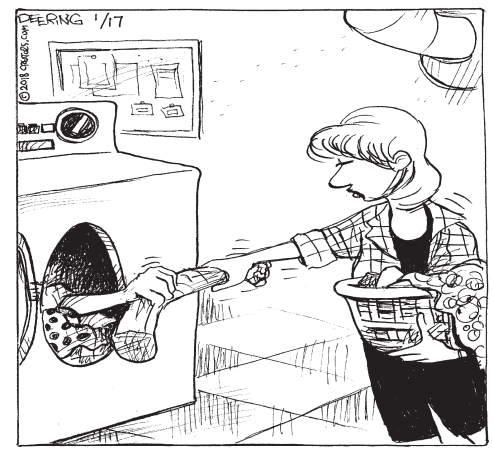
Familiarity is the enemy of glamour. It's why fashion changes each season. It's why there's always something coming up to replace the old phrases, songs and dances that were working just fine. Even if you're not into glamour per se, fresh excitement in some form is still undeniably a necessity of the human spirit – so sayeth Venus in Aquarius.

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