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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Councilmember's office hours draw praise but few participants

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

In a room on the second floor of City Hall, Councilmember Sue Himmelrich sat behind a table laden with coffee and snacks, waiting for constituents to come speak with her.

Just two people showed up to the City Council office Tuesday afternoon.

Himmelrich announced at City Council earlier this month and in various Santa Monica Facebook groups that she will be holding office hours about twice a month. The office hours are intended

to be a forum for community members to speak with an elected representative about civic issues.

More than 100 people commented on Himmelrich's Facebook posts announcing her office hours. Many praised the idea, while others criticized it and suggested other ways

Himmelrich could make herself accessible to constituents.

The online discussion didn't make it to City Hall, however.

Himmelrich acknowledged that many people can't take time off work in the afternoon and intends to hold office hours in the

mornings, evenings and weekends at different locations. The rain that hit Santa Monica particularly hard that day may have also deterred people from attending, she said.

Still, she said, she is confused

SEE **OFFICE HOURS** PAGE 11

Softball organization looking to pitch league to local youth



SOFTBALL: Registration closes Saturday but space is still available in the local Girls softball league. Visit www.santamonicagirlssoftball.org for more information. File Photos

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Once this rain clears up (someday), the sun will shine and the season of Spring will soon be upon us. Green grass,

blue skies and a shining sun. In other words, softball season.

Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch, a local nonprofit softball league, is looking to pitch (thrown underhanded, of course) their services to families of growing

girls (ages ranging from 4-14) looking to give their children a physical challenge, teambuilding skills and life skills.

Due to other sports becoming year-round, attendance hasn't completely struck out according to SMGF, but they're

not exactly hitting home runs, either. To combat this, the league is attempting to recruit more kids on the principles the league was born on — fun.

SEE **SOFTBALL** PAGE 11

Los Angeles teachers union hints at new talks during strike

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

The head of the Los Angeles teachers union hinted at contract talks resuming Wednesday as

striking educators in the nation's second-largest school district protested outside hundreds of schools for a third day.

United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl said

the union had “engaged” Mayor Eric Garcetti to help in the dispute over pay, class sizes and support staff levels that led to the first strike in 30 years and prompted the school district to staff classrooms

with substitute teachers.

Caputo-Pearl provided no further details. The mayor lacks authority over Los Angeles Unified School District but has been involved in seeking a resolution.

“We’ll have more information for you later in the day about the bargaining table and when we’re getting back to that bargaining

SEE **STRIKE** PAGE 3



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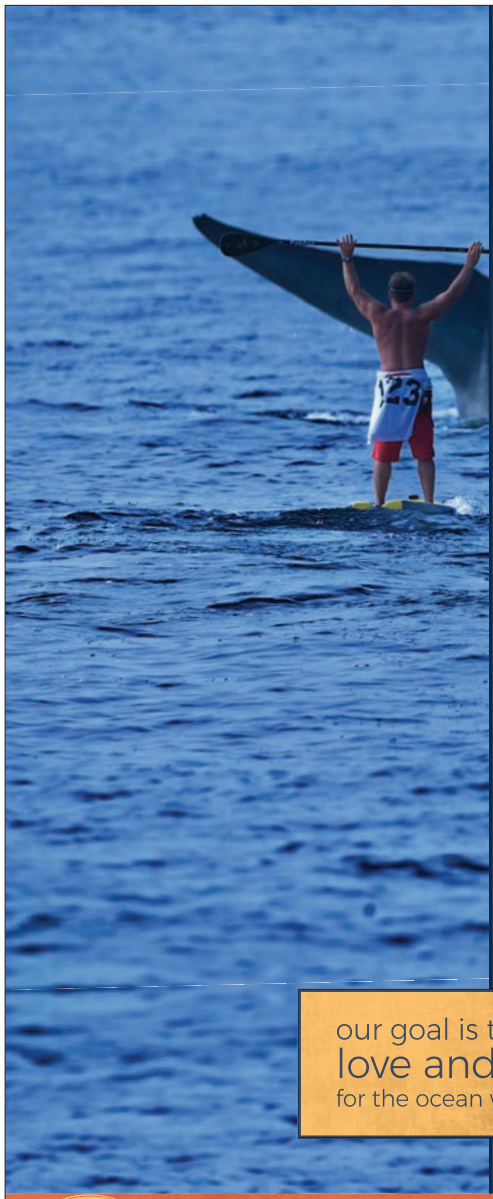
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 17

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught
by Adult Education Center instructors,
who help students complete and sub-
mit their application, and prepare them
to pass the official review. Enrollment
is through the SMMUSD Adult Center
(310) 664-6222, ext. 76203. Pico
Branch Library 10:00am-12:30 pm.

Beach Volleyball-Youth 3:30 - 5 PM

Ages 7-15; all levels; in a semi-private
setting. Annenberg Community Beach
House 3:30pm-5:00 pm.

Experience T'ai Chi

Instructor Pat Akers will introduce
the gentle flowing movement of T'ai
Chi exercise. Appropriate for all ages
and fitness levels. Ocean Park Branch
Library 3:30pm-4:30 pm.

Stuck on Stickers Crafternoon

Make and take stickers in this sticker
extravaganza! Ages 3-11. Main Library
Children's Activity Room 3:45pm-4:30
pm.

The Recreation & Parks Commission Regular Meeting

The December 20, 2018 meeting of
the Recreation & Parks Commission is
canceled. City Hall Council Chamber
7:30pm.

Friday, Jan. 18

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for \$15/class or sign
up for series. Annenberg Community
Beach House Sand & Sea Room 9 - 10
a.m.

Guest House Open

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

Saturday, Jan. 19

Discover The Real Santa Monica

Walk along with a Santa Monica
Conservancy docent and explore the
fascinating history of Santa Monica.
Learn about the visionaries who found-
ed a small community by the Bay.
The two hour tours are every Saturday
at 10 a.m. departing from Hostelling
International at 1436 Second Street.
For reservations: dwt@smconservancy.org
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per person. \$5 for Santa Monica or L.A.
Conservancy members.

LEGO Club

Kids can have fun with LEGOS and build
something amazing. Board games also
available. Ages 4 & up. Montana Avenue
Branch Library. 3 - 4:30 p.m.

CoderDojo Workshop

Teens can practice computer science
and coding skills with volunteer men-
tors from the LA CoderDojo. Use laptops
provided by the library or bring your
own. Ages 11-17. Register at the Main
Library. 3 - 5 p.m.

Manifesto Writing with Max King Cap

Manifestos feature concentrated writ-
ing that exists to challenge, draw
attention, and provoke. Choose a
position, a mantra, an oath—then spell
it out on a single sheet of paper.
1450 Ocean, 1 - 3 p.m. Free. Register
at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/70751 or call (310) 458-2239.

Pico Teen Advisory Council Kick-Off

Teens can learn how you can volunteer
and help plan teen services at Pico
Branch with the Teen Advisory Council.
Enjoy music, snacks, and activities, and
meet the new Teen Librarian. No regis-
tration necessary. Pico Branch Library.
12 - 1 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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STRIKE
FROM PAGE 1

table,” Caputo-Pearl told teachers rallying in the rain outside a high school.

Parents and children — one holding a sign saying, “This wouldn’t happen at Hogwarts” — joined the picket lines. Rocker and actor Steven Van Zandt, an advocate for arts education, also marched, saying teachers are on the front lines “fighting the war against ignorance.”

District officials are urging the union to resume negotiating but have said its demands could bankrupt the school system with 640,000 students.

“We need our educators back in our classrooms helping inspire our students,”

Superintendent Austin Beutner said Tuesday.

All 1,240 K-12 schools in the district are open — a departure from successful strikes in other states that emboldened the LA union to act. Administrators have hired hundreds of substitutes to replace tens of thousands of teachers, which the union calls irresponsible.

The first day of the walkout Monday saw attendance plunge to about 144,000 students. That number grew to 159,000 on Tuesday. Students who miss classes during the strike will be marked absent, but each school’s principal will decide whether they face consequences, the district said.

Some parents who sent their kids to school wondered how much teaching was happening as students were gathered into large groups.

David Biener said his son and daughter completed worksheets in math and history while sitting on the gym floor at their middle school.

“It’s not an ideal situation, obviously, but there was some learning going on,” he said Tuesday. “It wasn’t a free-for-all.”

The union rejected the district’s latest offer to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians and reduce class sizes by two students. It also included a previously proposed 6-percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract.

Caputo-Pearl, the union president, said members are “prepared to go as long as it takes” to get a fair contract. The last strike in 1989 lasted nine days.

Beutner, the superintendent, urged the teachers to join him in pushing for more funding from the state, which provides 90 percent of the district’s money.

Los Angeles Unified says teachers’ demands run up against an expected half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

“The painful truth is we just don’t have enough money,” Beutner said.

The union argues that the district is hoarding reserves of \$1.8 billion. It represents more than 30,000 teachers who earn between \$44,000 and \$86,000 a year depending on education and experience.

Associated Press writer John Antozak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide
Kaleidoscope Performs String Orchestra Program

Kaleidoscope’s 5th season continues with a pair of concerts on Saturday January 19 at 7 p.m. at the Westerbeck Recital Hall at Pasadena City College, and Sunday January 20 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. Both performances are donation-based and open seating.

The newest work on this program is the world premiere of Hexacorallia (2019) by Gabriella Smith, a thirty minute work for string orchestra commissioned by Kaleidoscope with funding from New Music USA.

The entire program is performed conductorless and features some of the leading musicians in the US.

Kaleidoscope’s 5th season features orchestral and chamber music by 21 female and 17 male composers. Most pieces being premiered came from our annual call for scores, which last year received almost 2200 applications from composers in 76 countries.

With a goal of reaching new and more diverse audiences for classical music, almost all of Kaleidoscope’s public performances this season are donation-based admission and open seating (with the exception of ticketed performances on February 23 and 24, and March 30). Additionally, each season Kaleidoscope performs over 60 free performances at schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, and other artistically underserved parts of our community. For a listing of current community partners, please visit: www.kco.la/community

Founded in 2014 by clarinetist Benjamin Mitchell, Kaleidoscope is a conductorless orchestra dedicated to enriching lives through exhilarating concert experiences, artistic excellence, musician leadership, and connecting with the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Kaleidoscope will also be performing outside of Los Angeles for the first time this season, with concerts in Orange County and Santa Barbara. For complete season programming, please visit: www.kco.la/concerts

LOCAL PERFORMANCES:

- Sunday January 20 @ 2 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
- Sunday March 10 @ 2 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
- Sunday March 31 @ 2 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
- Sunday April 28 @ 2 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401

SUBMITTED BY ALEX GRANGER, KALEIDOSCOPE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Citywide
25 Years After Northridge, Red Cross Marks Anniversary by Urging Residents to Get Prepared

In memory of the 25th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region urges residents of Southern California to take the necessary steps to prepare their households for an emergency.

“The Northridge earthquake serves as a reminder that earthquakes are an unavoidable fact of life here in California, so we have no excuse to be caught off-guard,” said Jarrett Barrios, CEO at American Red Cross Los Angeles Region. “The next earthquake could be even more devastating and a little knowledge and preparation can make all the difference between life and death.”

The 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck the San Fernando Valley on January 17, 1994 and was one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history. The Red Cross mobilized 15,000 workers, served 1.7 million meals, provided shelter for nearly 22,000 people and provided mental health counseling to more than 40,000 affected Californians.

In the 25 years since Northridge, the Red Cross and its partners have been working to prepare Southern California for the next catastrophic disasters. A program called PrepareSoCal works to engage community leaders in some of the most vulnerable neighborhoods across Southern California to bring preparedness education to every household.

After a major disaster, families should be prepared with enough food, water, and emergency supplies to last up to two weeks until help can arrive. The Red Cross recommends three basic steps:

GET A KIT. Pack the following items in an easy-to-carry container – a gallon of water per person, per day; non-perishable food; flashlight and hand-crank or battery-powered radio; extra batteries; sanitation and personal hygiene items; copies of important papers; extra cash and any medical or baby supplies family members may need. See full details here.

MAKE A PLAN. Have all members of your household help create your emergency plan. Consider what emergencies could happen where you live; what to do if you are separated and how will you let loved ones know you are safe. Find full details and easy-to-use plan templates here.

BE INFORMED. Learn what disasters are common to your area. Find out how local authorities will let you know an emergency is happening. Make sure at least one household member is trained in first aid and CPR in case help is delayed during a disaster. You can also download the Red Cross First Aid App at redcross.org/apps to have instant access on how to handle common first aid emergencies. Learn how to get fully informed about emergencies here.

For more information and preparedness tips, visit redcross.org/prepare.

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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/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

That's why I'm here, pt. 2

COUNTRY CLASSICAL PUNK JAZZ GRUNGE BLUES

And Glass-Reich-Adams-Pärt Minimalism plus however you want to classify the awesome Stanley Clarke — and that's all on Saturday!! Stay up Friday night and get up Sunday morning and you can add an Icelandic jazz diva and a Hawaiian slack key guitar festival. All of it on a world-class level.

Why in the world would you choose to live anywhere else on the planet, if you love live music? Sheesh. Case closed.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! & Fri, Sat - PETERERSKINE TRIO (officially, it's tenor sax man George Gorzone plus the PE Trio with Alan Pasqua on piano and Derek Oles on bass — Santa Monica's own world-renowned melodic, creative, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious jazz drummer is playing a fairly rare public gig, close to home, live recording, two sets per night, three nights, so wouldn't it be kind of silly of you to miss it?), Thurs, Fri, Sat 8, 9:30 p.m., Sam First, Westchester (near LAX), \$30.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - DAVIDs BROMBERG and HIDALGO, LARRY CAMPBELL (billed as the American Crossroads Trio because of their decades on the road soaking up so many places and styles, from the Village to East LA, Hidalgo of course is co-founder of our own Los Lobos, 45 years in, Campbell is a stunning multi-instrumentalist with three Grammys for producing the late lamented Levon Helm, Bromberg was legendary in the Village folk scene of the '60s then took a deep dive into bluegrass and country, and all three have recorded or toured with Dylan, so there), Thurs 8 p.m., Regent Theater, downtown LA, \$45.

ANNA MJÖLL (what?! — you haven't caught this unique jazz vocalist yet and I've been telling you for years? she always has the very best sidemen in this jazz-rich town, she's gorgeous, she wears purty dresses, and she's unexpectedly funny in a weird Viking way, Herb Alpert's Vibrato is probably the most ravishing club in town and with great acoustics and food, I think they call this a total package), Fri 7, 9, 10:15 p.m., Vibrato, Beverly Glen, \$20 cover after 8 p.m.

LA PHILHARMONIC - MESSIAEN (his sumptuous Turangalila Symphony, conducted by rising if not shooting star Susanna Mälkki, preceded by the U.S. premier of Saariaho's Trans for Harp and Orchestra), Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, \$20-\$164.

LA PHIL HARMONIC - SYMPHONIES FOR YOUTH (A Journey Through Minimalism — an interactive concert experience for the whole family, explore the patterns, layers and rhythms of iconic minimalist music by Philip Glass, Steve Reich, John Adams, Arvo Pärt played by our superlative symphony orchestra, with hands-on workshops for kids, 5-11, but, ahem, parents and such get some great music for a bargain price, eh?), Sat 11 a.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, \$23-\$27.

STANLEY CLARKE (it's Stanley Clarke... here in town... in a great concert hall... he ain't just jazz but he is just genius... go so you can tell your grandkids), Sat 7:30 p.m., the Broad Stage, Santa Monica, \$64 & up.

SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA (you don't want to miss this mix of classics with timely selections commemorating MLK Jr., their annual concert with baritone soloist Mark Edward Smith, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Battle Hymn of the Republic, We Shall Overcome, sing along!), Sat 2 p.m., SGI Auditorium, Santa Monica, free.

TAJ MAHAL & the Phantom Blues Band (I found out about him with his stunning debut album, with Ry Cooder, in the late '60s, caught him live at my college, did an interview, years later in Hawaii where he lived, and you should yes go all the way to Agoura Hills, you'll be glad you did, we're not going to have him forever you know), Sat 8 p.m., The Canyon, Agoura Hills, \$38-\$68.

THE FLESH EATERS, MUDHONEY (the best FE's line-up: 3 from the Blasters, 2 from X, and of course Chris D, new album release plus a bonus, Seattle grunge legends Mudhoney), Sat 8 p.m., Echoplex, Echo Park, \$20-\$35.

MERLE JAGGER (I love these cahoots, all country, some bluegrass and a lot of rock and roll, as the name implies, such great pickers who needs words, always a good show, the LA Farmers Market on 3rd has free music at 7 every Saturday night and it's almost always really good), Sat 7 p.m., E.B.'s Beer & Wine Bar, Farmers Market, LA, free.

Southern California SLACK KEY FESTIVAL (oh I love Hawaiian music and I love that we get this festival every year, George Kuo, Sonny Lim, Bobby Ingano, Kawika Kahiapo, Jeff Peterson, Teresa Bright, Jim "Kimo" West, Kunia Galdeira and mesmerizing dancers and great food), Sun 2 p.m., Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, \$20-\$55.

DEREK SMALLS ("Lukewarm Water Live! - an Adventure in Loud Music" — this is truly An Event, a VIP concert, with a full symphony orchestra and special guests via satellite and an all-star band, his new solo album, Meditations on Ageing, away from his smotheringly-famous former band formerly known as Spinal Tap, will not get old, until you do), Wed 8 p.m., Palace Theatre, DTLA, price unknown (probably really high, maybe \$1000 or more for bad seats, who knows?).

BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET (if I have to tell you who he is just skip to someone you do know, but the rest of y'all, there are good reasons legends are legends and the eldest Marsalis has earned his laurels, this will be like an intimate jazz club setting), next Thurs, 8 p.m., the Soraya, Northridge, \$35-\$78.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: WHISKY X LA, can't wait to hear featured act ST. PAUL AND THE BROKEN BONES, one of my faves, alone worth ⅔ the price of admission but then you get to taste all those whiskies, 60, and fab food, again at SMO's Barker Hangar, Fri Jan. 25; BUT, BUT, what am I gonna do because that same night is an unbelievable show, THE CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN will be spouting his hell-"FIRE!!", only one other U.S. date so far, his tour a year ago was his first in 40 years, look him up, this is a guy who read the winds and saw

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The “King of Brooklyn” Tells His Story

Can you imagine seeing the name “Melvyn Kaplofkis” up in lights on Broadway? Well, neither could he. So he changed it to “Mel King” and became “The King of Brooklyn.” But the Jewish stand-up comic in this one-man show is actually named Danny DiTorrice and he tells his story in a new play called “Forever Brooklyn.”

It isn’t really his own story, though. It’s a story concocted and directed by Mark Wesley Curran, an Episcopalian from an Irish-American family who was captivated in his youth by the culture and music of the Jewish and Italian families who lived in his neighborhood.

And so “Forever Brooklyn,” his first musical comedy, begins with a clarinet solo, klezmer style, rendered by “Melvyn Kaplofkis”. After which Melvyn digs right in to the introduction of his family, which he presents in each of their distinct voices. There is Jacob, his father, owner of a local record shop, who tells him “you earn respect if you work for it,” his mother Mamala, who rules the household with an iron tongue, (“a little of her goes a long way,” Melvyn says), and two sisters, Franny and Zoey, one with a negative personality and the other with a positive one: the Yin and Yang of the Kaplofkis family. All of them, naturally, are appalled by his Big Dream to be a Big Star in Show Business. (All of them except Zoey, of course.)

He begins his career in the living room, where he entertains the family, and in the classroom, where he makes the other students laugh. But, he confesses, he never really feels that he belongs. It’s the “conflict of assimilation” that makes him feel “torn between two worlds.”

To show his affection for his world of Brooklyn, he sings a parody of a song of Barbra Streisand’s: “On A Clear Day You Can See Canarsie,” and to celebrate his Jewish culture and traditions he sings “Hava Negila,” “Ose Shalom” and a parody of the song from “Fiddler on the Roof”: “Tradition,” which he sings as “Sedition.”

Soon two important men enter his life: Big Brucey, a radio disc jockey and talk show host who “discovers” him and brings him

to public attention, and Vinnie Scarmucci, a mobster who hires him as a bagman to collect “protection money” from the local store-owners. (Vinnie, according to Melvyn is “like most Italian mobsters, built like a fire hydrant.”)

Big Brucey arranges Melvyn’s first gigs at the fancy resorts in the Catskills’ Borscht Belt, and from there he begins his climb to stardom and success. To say nothing of the money!

The high point in his career comes, however, when he is booked to appear on Johnny Carson’s “Tonight Show.” And following that is a series of photo-shopped magazine covers featuring his smiling face and photos of him with such luminaries as Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, and the Kennedys.

But still, he feels a sense of “emptiness” within himself. A feeling of “striving, but never arriving.” Until one day he meets a Korean girl named Mai Lin, who inspires him to sing, in a parody of the song “Maria” from “West Side Story,” “Korea: I Just Met A Girl from Korea...” And he recognizes, at long last, that “Happiness is an inside job.”

Although Danny DiTorrice has charm, a pleasant singing voice, and a legitimate Brooklyn accent, the play is badly misidentified as a “musical comedy”. The music is limited to the few short parodies of other songs and even shorter bits from traditional songs and hymns sung in Hebrew.

As for the “comedy”, there aren’t any laugh-out-loud moments. Or even polite giggles. “Forever Broadway” isn’t “Yentl” and it isn’t “Annie Hall”. It is, as they might say in Yiddish, “a mixed-driddle”. Relabeling it a “coming-of-age drama” would certainly help.

“Forever Brooklyn” can be seen at the Whitefire Theatre, 13500 W. Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. through February 9. For reservations, call (800) 838-3006 or online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3613939>.

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

popular hit, No. 1 out of the gate and gold within a week, his stage show should be awe-inspiring, the Forum, Feb. 8.

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

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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

the course of music and history changing and reflected it with his huge smash hit, Fri Jan. 25; hot hot TRAVIS SCOTT (I don’t often do arena rap shows but this guy is psychedelic, he has pipes, his last album Astroworld was a critical and

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Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

[Send comments to editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

The joy of music

BROKEN GLASS AND OTHER PIECES

I will risk the scorn this statement heaps upon me. I was never a big fan of David Bowie. Yes, I said it out loud. So when my friend Ted told me that the Los Angeles Philharmonic had commissioned Philip Glass to write a world premiere symphony based on Bowie and Brian Eno's Berlin Trilogy, I thought, well, I generally like Glass, and maybe I can bone up on Bowie before going and learn a thing or two.

In fact, Glass created two symphonies already, based on two of the Berlin Trilogy albums, "Low" and "Heroes," both of which were performed by LA Phil earlier in the year. I listened to parts of these pieces on YouTube and found them pleasing to the ear, in not quite typical Glass style, which was snarkily described by the late LA Times Music Critic Martin Bernheimer as "Xeroxed arpeggios." Apparently, these two hew closely to the music that Bowie and Eno created for those two albums.

The concert I attended on Sunday at Walt Disney Concert Hall featured three works: "Tumblebird Contrails," by Gabriella Smith, a 27-year-old contemporary composer; "Grand Pianola Music" by John Adams, who conducted the LA Phil for this concert, and "Symphony #12: The Lodger," by Glass, inspired by the third album in the Bowie/Eno Berlin Trilogy.

TUMBLEBIRD CONTRAILS

"Tumblebird Contrails" was a revelation, an entire soundscape created by instruments that are not usually used in this way. She writes poetically in the program about the single moment during a backpacking trip at Point Reyes that inspired the piece, "sitting in the sand at the edge of the ocean, listening to the hallucinatory sounds of the Pacific (the keening gulls, pounding surf, rush of approach waves, sizzle of sand and sea foam in the receding tides)" among other sounds and images, including the droning hum of airplanes exuding contrails across the sky. She describes the title as a "Kerouac-inspired, nonsense phrase I invented to evoke the sound and feeling of the piece."

This piece succeeded in evoking Smith's experience, using musical instruments to create environmental and man-made sounds, and the harmonic and dissonant way those sounds resonate and separate in nature. The waves were indeed rolling over us, as were the seagulls flying and crying overhead, and I could hear the hum of the planes as if they were just above us at that moment. You'll never walk out humming anything like this piece, and in my humble opinion, you want to see and hear it performed live because it's such a visceral experience. We'll see what it sounds like recorded because the concert was being recorded the day we were there. The audience loved it. And so did I.

GRAND PIANOLA MUSIC

Next up, Maestro John Adams conducted his own notorious "Grand Pianola Music," which he says was inspired by a moment while driving down the I-5 and being

overcome by two "gleaming, black stretch limousines," that transformed into a vision of "the world's longest Steinway Pianos, giving off volleys of B-flat and E-flat major arpeggios."

And it's quite a piece of music: two grand pianos, spooning together onstage, their lids removed and innards visible, and the pianists facing each other. Three vocalists added a layer of unearthly sounds that float above and sometimes capping off the music being performed. The instrumentation was also unusual: no strings involved. But it's amazing what the right combination of percussion, horns, reeds, wind instruments, voices and pianos can pull off, and in this case did. "Grand Pianola Music" was a minor miracle to my ears.

I was completely baffled as to which instruments were being played when, and I tried to follow them. But my ears were really drawn to the unusual percussion instruments: glockenspiel, crotales, marimba, suspended cymbal, maracas, woodblock, 2 triangles, tam-tam, xylophone, tambourine, bass drum, small pedal bass drum, crash cymbals, 5 tenor drums.

Percussionist Matthew Howard played an impressive role in all this; the crotales look like racked bells and he used two bows, pulling up and down along their edge, making them sound something like the eerie theremin. He also played them as bells with four brass mallets. He bounced between a number of instruments and did a masterful job.

"Grand Pianola Music" was badly received when first performed, but times have changed. I found it completely engrossing and the audience responded with a standing ovation.

THE LODGER

But now we come to what was the big ticket item on the program, Glass on Bowie... which I absolutely hated. I could not wait for it to end, and judging by the comments I heard others make, they were very happy to leave the concert hall after this one.

The music is bombastic and simply imposes itself on the lyrics. Instead of trying to make music out of music, Glass focused on text (he did say it was the most difficult part of Bowie's trilogy for him to get a grip on). But even in context of the album, which was experimental in nature, the lyrics make little narrative sense because they were randomly generated to begin with.

Pair these lyrics from seven of Bowie's Lodger album songs, with a wonderful pop singer (Angelique Kidjo), whose greatest vocal strengths are not showcased here, and on top of that with no melodious correlation to the music, and you get what I consider to be a compositional failure.

Sorry folks, I call it as I see it...or in this case, hear it.

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

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The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Merv Hecht

SMOKER: Clutch has powerful smoker but much more than BBQ is on the menu.

Clutch And A Tour To Korea Town

I usually eat lunch in the Santa Monica-Venice area or, less often, in Pacific Palisades. There are so many wonderful restaurants in Santa Monica that I'm often stumbling into one spectacular restaurant after another. This week my family and I went to Clutch, after I noticed a beautiful smoker in their parking lot last week when I parked there illegally to go to the Baby Blue BBQ across the street. Clutch is at 427 Lincoln Blvd. technically in Venice.

So we went for smoked foods. But we found much more. The Mexican food was very good, especially the ceviche. We were there before 7 p.m., so we got the happy hour specials which included wonderful, tasty small tortillas, some served with this delicious ceviche, and others with the smoky pulled pork. The seafood on the menu also looked very interesting, such as fire grilled lobster tail, mesquite grilled oysters, and fire grilled octopus.

But the best dish was the smoked pork ribs. Lots of smoky flavor, cooked almost crisp with all the fat burnt off, and three delicious sauces, the habanero too hot to handle.

What more is there to say? It's not beautiful, it's small and not so comfortable, it was quite loud. But the service was good and the prices really reasonable. A big sandwich runs \$14-16, Draft beers are about \$8, and everything seems discounted at happy hour! We will be back there soon.

That all said, once in a while my son Spencer, who teaches Japanese and Chinese culture, and I go into one of the Asian centers to see what's new. Last month we were treated to a great tour of Korea Town by Penny at Avital Tours. I highly recommend both that tour and that company, which does other tours as well.

The first stop was a typical Korean BBQ at Gwang Yang at 3435 Wilshire Blvd. There was nothing unusual about this choice, but the cuisine was first class. I had been there before with Korean friends who claimed it as their favorite restaurant.

Next was The Prince, which brought back memories. The Prince is located in what was once the Windsor restaurant,

perhaps the best serious French restaurant of its day. Nothing has changed except the menu, which is now Korean. The interior is so beautiful, and like nowhere else I know in Los Angeles. The food was average except for the spicy marinated chicken wings, which were delicious.

Escala was something very different. It's a hangout for central Americans but with Korean influence. There was quite a mixed crowd there, and the food was also a mix of Korean and Central American dishes. We had a rice dish which was OK, but I saw others eating much more complex dishes that I couldn't identify, and I vowed to return someday and find out more.

Finally we ended up in another historic landmark, this time an interior courtyard inside a building from the 1930s I guess, at 3465 W. 6th St. The courtyard was quite large, with cars circling through it, and about 10 or 12 commercial spaces. There was a long line to get into one Korean restaurant, and when I asked someone in the line why she said it was owned by a famous Korean comedian and he might be there that night.

We had Korean desserts at the Snow Monster. I stopped in to one other tenant, which turned out to be a beautiful sushi restaurant. And there were a number of other food sellers as well as clothing and other retail stores inside the courtyard.

It wasn't just the food that made the tour so great. We learned a lot about the history of Los Angeles, and saw some beautiful historic buildings that I had never noticed.

Isn't Los Angeles wonderful?

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur" and it is available on Amazon. Or you might like his attempt at humor in "Great Cases I Lost." He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send both positive accolades and negative comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.



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SURF FORECASTS

THURSDAY - POOR - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Lingering WNW swell-mix in the AM. New WNW swell on the rise in the PM.

FRIDAY - FAIR - SURF: 4-6 ft shoulder high to 1 ft overhead occ. 7 ft
Healthy dose of WNW swell to peak overnight and ease through the day.
Conditions are cleanest for south facing breaks with decent size wrapping in.



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Don S.

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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 JANUARY 10, 2019 AT ABOUT 7:43 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service at Raven Spa - 208 Pier Avenue - regarding a male subject exposing himself. As officers were driving to the location, the subject was seen in the 200 block of Main Street in Venice. The subject fled from officers and began to run away. Following a brief foot pursuit, the subject was taken into custody. Officers determined the subject entered the business, exposed himself and manipulated his genitals in front of several people. The subject was taken into custody. Justin Welsh, 24, homeless, was arrested for indecent exposure, lewd acts, under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and resisting arrest. Bail was set at \$10,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.

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

Vehicle parked on sidewalk 800blk 18th St 1:01 a.m.
Petty theft 1700blk 21st St 3:37 a.m.
Domestic violence 1900blk Pico Blvd 3:51 a.m.
Auto burglary 100blk Hill St 6:08 a.m.
Fight 1500blk 2nd St 6:08 a.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 6:26 a.m.
Periodic check 100blk Wilshire Blvd 6:32 a.m.
Elder abuse 2300blk 4th St 7:02 a.m.
Battery 2900blk 4th St 7:22 a.m.
Shots fired 2500blk Pico Blvd 7:35 a.m.
Malicious mischief 2900blk Barnard Way 8:08 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 3100blk 5th St 8:32 a.m.
Petty theft 700blk Broadway 8:47 a.m.
Violation of temporary no parking signs 800blk 16th St 9:03 a.m.
Exhibition of speed Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 9:20 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 7th St / Pico Blvd 9:20 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 800blk 11th St 9:27 a.m.
Death 3000blk Prospect Ave 9:29 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 7th St / Pico Blvd 9:30 a.m.
Fraud 1800blk Broadway 9:30 a.m.
Fraud 2700blk Neilson Way 9:39 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 10th St / Montana Ave 9:39 a.m.
Fight 2600blk Montana Ave 10:28 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 11th St / Pico Blvd 10:33 a.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1100blk Montana Ave 10:45 a.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 2900blk Pico

Bld 10:52 a.m.
Battery 700blk Broadway 11:42 a.m.
Elder abuse 900blk 3rd St 11:57 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1100blk Marine St 12:22 p.m.
Malicious mischief 800blk 10th St 12:31 p.m.
Burglary 1500blk 17th St 12:33 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1300blk Harvard St 12:55 p.m.
Public intoxication 1600blk 7th St 1:00 p.m.
Fight 1200blk Ocean Front Walk 1:22 p.m.
Harassing phone calls 2300blk Broadway 1:49 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 1:57 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 3200blk Pico Blvd 2:06 p.m.
Grand theft auto 800blk Pacific St 2:36 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:36 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 3200blk Pico Blvd 2:57 p.m.
Malicious mischief 900blk 3rd St 2:58 p.m.
Fraud 1500blk Ocean Ave 3:22 p.m.
Battery 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:27 p.m.
Elder abuse 2100blk Oak St 3:42 p.m.
Petty theft 7th St / California Ave 3:58 p.m.
Stakeout 5th St / Bay St 4:14 p.m.
Petty theft 1200blk 4th St 4:21 p.m.
Trespassing 600blk Wilshire Blvd 4:50 p.m.
Critical missing person 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 5 p.m.
Encampment 2100blk Lincoln Blvd 5:18 p.m.
Grand theft 800blk 12th St 5:40 p.m.
Fraud 1200blk Ocean Ave 5:43 p.m.
Prowler 900blk 5th St 5:50 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:12 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service.

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

Carbon monoxide alarm 3000blk Main St 1:38 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:13 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 2:29 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Pico Blvd 6:51 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Colorado Ave 8:19 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1800blk Euclid St 8:25 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Prospect Ave 9:26 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 9:47 a.m.
Broken gas main 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 10:45 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 12th St 10:59 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 11:16 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300blk Olympic Dr 12:02 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 18th St 12:13 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1400blk Ocean Ave 12:44 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Pearl St 12:55 p.m.

EMS 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:07 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 1:57 p.m.
Automatic alarm 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:04 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Michigan Ave 2:26 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 2:30 p.m.
EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:32 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Colorado Ave 3:44 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500blk California Ave 6:56 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 7:21 p.m.
Automatic alarm 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:26 p.m.
Structure fire 2600blk Centinela Ave 7:29 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 7:53 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 8:11 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 8:15 p.m.
EMS 200blk Broadway 9 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:19 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 1/12
7 36 48 57 58
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 112M



Draw Date: 1/15
29 52 58 60 62
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 68M



Draw Date: 1/12
6 18 24 31 42
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 10M



Draw Date: 1/15
5 15 23 34 36



Draw Date: 1/15
MIDDAY: 4 4 5
Draw Date: 1/15
EVENING: 5 3 1



Draw Date: 1/15
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:48.74

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WORD UP!

akimbo
1. with hand on hip and elbow bent outward: to stand with arms akimbo.
(of limbs) splayed out in an awkward or ungainly manner: After the strenuous hike, she sat on the floor with her legs akimbo.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Best Medicine
■ A man went to see his doctor because he was suffering from a terrible cold. The physician prescribed some pills, but they didn't help, and the man returned the next day. The doctor gave him an injection, but that didn't improve the man's cold either.
■ On his third visit, the doctor told the man to go home and take a hot bath, immediately followed by standing outside in the cold. "But doc," protested the patient, "If I do that, I'll get pneumonia."
■ "I know," replied the physician. "I can cure pneumonia."

Mania of the Week
■ Oligomania: Obsession with a few thoughts or ideas.

MYSTERY REVEALED

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Lise Hill was the first person to identify the photo as Marine Market. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

B	A	S	I	C		L	I	M	P		P	O	L	O
A	M	A	N	A		A	R	E	A		A	V	O	N
L	E	M	O	N	G	R	A	S	S		S	A	N	E
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B	O	S	S			A	N	T	E		H	A	R	E

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

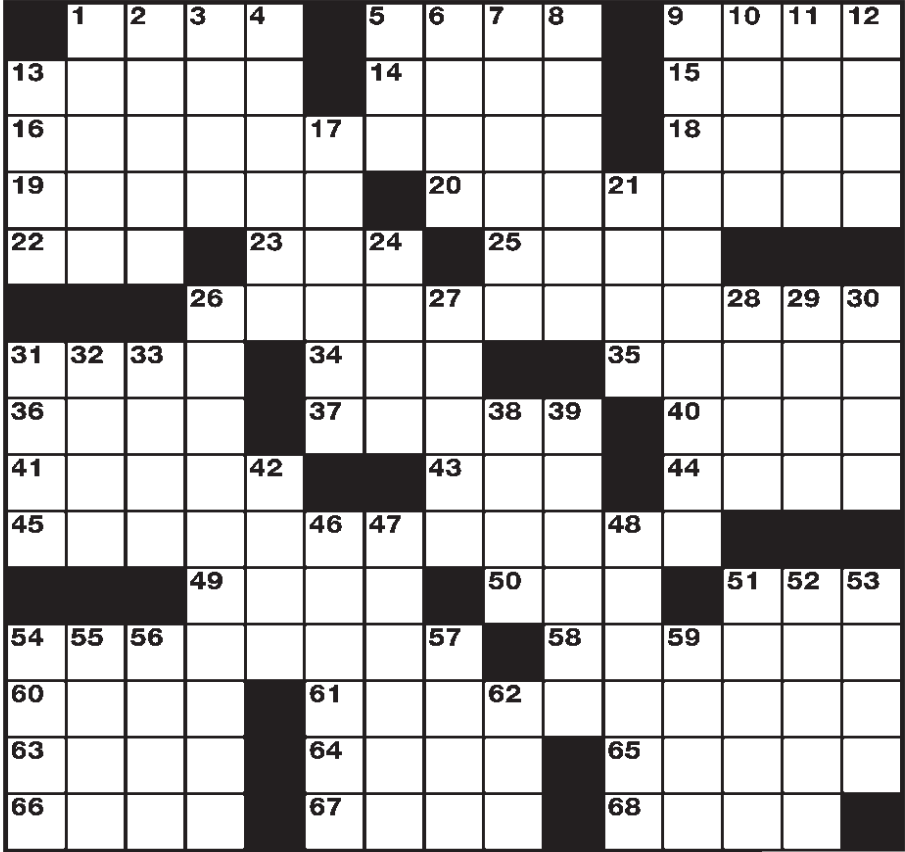
AIR SHOW by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Before long, in verse
5 Toy rival of K'Nex
9 Concede, with "up"
13 Gradient
14 "It's a deal!"
15 Boy's choir range
16 Loses intentionally
18 Have nothing to do with
19 Surrounded by
20 Showing off memorization, maybe
22 Coiling creature
23 App Store platform
25 "Ciao!"
26 Tooled around
31 Lhasa ____
34 Kernel container
35 Pack animal of 32 Down
36 Unwelcome look
37 Lingers
40 Geologic periods
41 High fashion label
43 Tablecloth topper
44 Ungrouped
45 Not privy to stuff
49 Steakhouse specification
50 Tolkien creature
51 "Wish I could unhear that!"
54 Some Joint Chiefs members
58 Over the moon
60 Boring event
61 Start winning and winning

DOWN

63 Fractional prefix
64 "____ pronounce you . . ."
65 House made of hide
66 Graceful swimmer
67 Superhero accessory
68 Move with care
8 Garage descriptor
9 Not easy to rouse
10 K-12
11 Much more than surprise
12 Album number
13 Unconfident try
17 Answers (for)
21 Leaning type: Abbr.
24 Datum
26 Etymological info
27 Window holder
28 Legal prefix
29 Unibody Apple
30 Talcum/walcum rhymers
31 Venerable pet food brand
32 It's just north of Chile
33 Spot in a sedan
38 One of the Ives
39 Misappropriated
42 Way over yonder
46 Adjective for *Othello*
47 Capital in Lewis and Clark County
48 Recently
51 Muscle car options
52 Donnybrook
53 Not engaged
54 Attaches
55 Teen sleuth since the '30s
56 Family nickname
57 Cool it
59 Field of expertise
62 Carry a balance



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 17)

The fun of taking part in interesting and beautiful projects kicks off a glamorous period of time. Then, just when you start to wonder if anyone is seeing the real you, you'll get an opportunity to put function over form and prove what you're all about with the difference you make in the world. April brings a windfall. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 40, 33 and 20.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're ready to let old things go – mostly having to do with unwanted possessions. But some stale emotional content will go, too, as though such things are invisibly tethered to the physical items, and maybe they are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Though following another person's path will teach you the way, eventually you'll either take it over and claim it as your own or venture off, claiming a new path. Ultimately, you're most powerful when it's your path.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Your parents have defined you in a certain way. Your friends have in another way. Even your pet defines you as "dispenser of food and treats." The only definition that matters? Your own. Let it grow and change. Keep tweaking it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

People will go very far to give off the appearance of control, especially if they actually do not have as much of it as they would like. Someone is trying a little too hard. Now why do you think that is?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

This day is tinged in drama that may include tantrums and general bad behavior, the likes of which would be easy to categorically reject, though there's also wisdom to be gained if you look a little further into cause and motivation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

It may seem like a few errands eat up the whole day. Furthermore, this doesn't fit the image you have of how you'd prefer to spend your hours today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

There's one area in which you're really quite stuck. It's time to get creative about the problem. Start by tackling a smaller part of the issue and shrinking your standard for what counts as progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You can do the thing alone but it's going to take you so long and be so arduous that by the time you finish, your attitude will have soured. So include people. Enlist help.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Everyone's got their own insecurities, fears, secrets... whatever it is, you're definitely not the first, last or only person to deal with it. You might not be in the mood to share, but to do so would cut your suffering in half.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You think you know what you're good at, but put it to the test anyway. You might be surprised how things have shifted since you last looked. The more accurate you can be in your assessment, the faster you'll learn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You may not want the extra pressure of being the leader, but if you don't share your vision and ideas, everyone will suffer, most of all you. Don't hoard your talents.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Everyone in the group has a different role. You feel that someone isn't pulling a fair share of the weight, and this may be true, but all do not have to be contributing the same amount for this to work extremely well.

The Moon's Message

Getting a message across will be of the upmost importance. If you communicate thoroughly, explain carefully and clearly state what's implied, those who wouldn't have understood otherwise will get it while those who understood all too well will get bored. The social Gemini moon suggests: Read the room. Cater the message to the audience.

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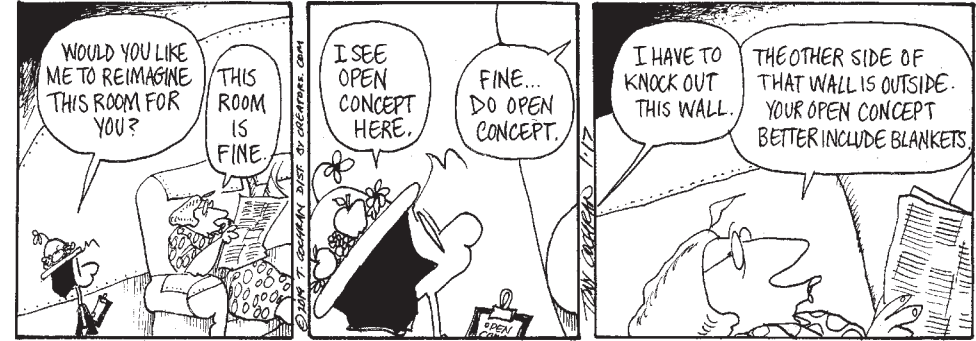
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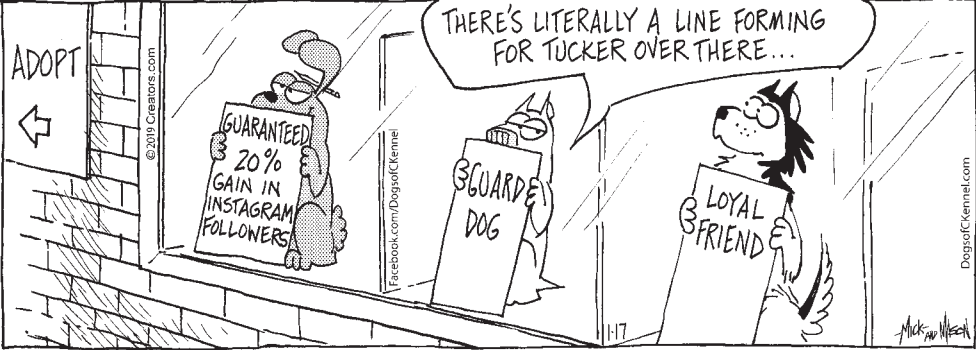
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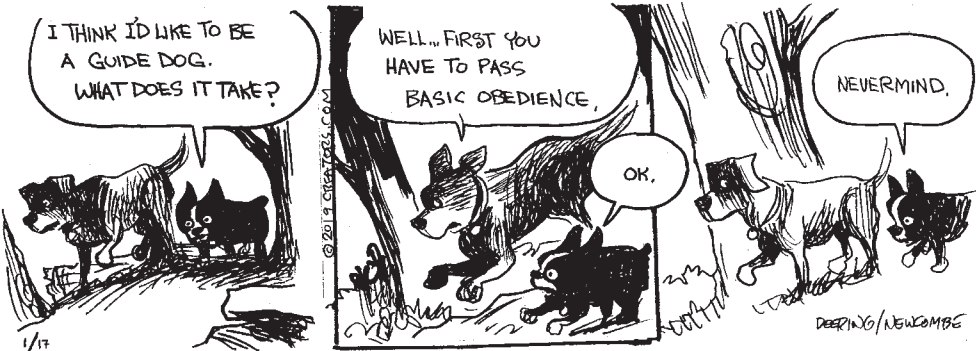
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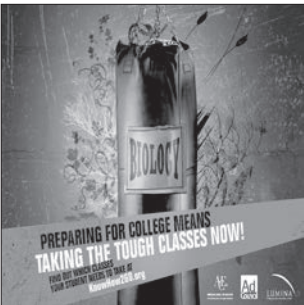
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SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

“It’s just a great thing to be a part of,” Jennifer Thompson, founder and membership director of Fastpitch said. “Making friends is the emphasis of this league, especially with the lower age groups, but this is all about having a good time, getting the community together and preparing these girls for life.”

Thompson adds that most girls in the league grow up in the sport, joining their league at a young age and going on to play throughout their lives.

“The girls that join our league are the future of women’s sports! Many go on to umpire in our league, play varsity sports at high school and some even continue their careers into the college level,” he said.

One such girl enjoying her softball career

is 15-year-old Sydney Schneider, who began in Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch at the age of 7, playing for the league every season until she was 14.

“Not only did I learn the fundamentals of softball, I learned how to be part of a team and made some of my closest friends,” Schneider said. “I became a junior umpire when I was 12 and continue to umpire every season. The league is a community where I always feel at home.”

Registration closes for the league January 19, 2019. The league is specifically in need of female athletes for SMGF’s 6u and 8 u divisions, ages 4-9. SMGF is open to kids in Santa Monica and surrounding areas, including Pacific Palisades and Malibu.

For more information, visit <https://www.santamonicagirlssoftball.org/>

editor@smdp.com

OFFICE HOURS

FROM PAGE 1

as to why so few community members made an appearance, especially because Council is appointing a new member Jan. 22. She said she thought at least some of the applicants for the Council seat, which now numbers almost 40, would come by.

“I think people complain frequently that (councilmembers) aren’t accessible,” she said. “This is an opportunity for people who want to talk about the City.”

Many residents feel disconnected from Council and the decisions it makes, said Mary Marlow, who serves on the board of the Santa Monica Transparency Project, a government watchdog. She said she thinks office hours will make City Hall more responsive to community concerns.

“Most people just don’t feel they have the

opportunity to be heard, much less listened to, and this is a wonderful start,” Marlow said. “I hope other councilmembers join in.”

Himmelrich said she hopes other councilmembers follow suit. So far, only Councilmember Greg Morena has said he plans to join the office hours.

Zina Josephs, president of the neighborhood organization Friends of Sunset Park, said she thinks the office hours will encourage better communication between Council and residents.

“The ways we have to communicate now are speaking for two minutes at Council meetings after waiting for hours, or sending emails that rarely get a response,” Josephs said. “I think it would help councilmembers understand residents’ concerns and views on various issues.”

Himmelrich is holding her next office hours on Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at City Hall.

madeleine@smdp.com

Northridge quake thrashed Los Angeles 25 years ago this week

JOHN ANTCAZAK

Associated Press

Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city’s San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA’s Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building’s ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Vivid images from the quake included

scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society’s overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of “drop, cover and hold on.” Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city’s most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 “soft-story” buildings like Northridge

Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with “non-ductile reinforced concrete” construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

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