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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Board may put an end to passing tax increases to rent controlled tenants

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Rent Control Board Thursday will attempt to tackle an unintended consequence of Proposition 13 and Santa Monica's booming real estate market: skyrocketing surcharges passed along to tenants when the worth of their building (and thus tax bill) is reassessed after a sale or construction. Board members say they want to hear from stakeholders before deciding whether to cap the

SEE BOARD PAGE 8

Blood drive to battle winter flu season

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

This Wednesday the American Red Cross and local Chase Wilshire branch will co-host a blood drive to battle blood deficiency caused by winter and flu seasons as well as recent natural disasters.

"Severe winter weather has had a tremendous impact on blood donations already this year," Sean Inoue, Red Cross account manager, said in an emailed statement. Inoue calls the need for donations

SEE DRIVE PAGE 7

Luxury tenants worry about safety at The Shores

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

An employee at a luxury apartment complex near the beach told police she allowed a homeless man inside the building who later broke open the door to a sixth floor tenant's apartment, according a Santa Monica Police Department report obtained by the Daily Press.

The 90-year-old tenant, Florence Kaufman, was asleep inside her bedroom during the Jan. 13 incident. Neighbors believe the victim at The Shores was so terrified after the incident that it con-

tributed to her death a few days later. The intruder, Anthony Max Aikin, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor vandalism charge and was likely released from jail the same day as the victim's funeral, according to the City Attorney's office.

The 31-year-old man told police a security guard let him in through the back door of the lobby at The Shores after he jumped the fence to get on the property. The guard, Kerrilyn Martinez, confirmed his story to police.

"Martinez stated the southern doors are locked, but, she believed the suspect was possibly a resident

of the apartment (building). For this reason, Martinez allowed the suspect to enter the building even though he did not have a key. Once the suspect entered the building, Martinez observed him walk towards the elevators," said the report by Detective B. Wilkening.

Aikin was arrested soon after the victim's neighbor, Mike McCowan, heard him breaking her door and scared him off. McCowan, a former police officer, reached for one of his guns to defend himself but was out of bul-

SEE TENANTS PAGE 6



MARCHERS

Local students were among the many participants at this weekend's march.

Lily Richman and Michele Wittig



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Calendar

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, January 23

City Council Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica City Council. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.

Fake News Workshop

In this workshop, Librarian Simran Khalsa teaches you information literacy skills that will help you parse the good from the bad, and the truth from the fake. Montana Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 1 - 2 p.m.

Beach=Culture: Writer-in-Residence Luis Alfaro

Join native Angeleno and playwright Luis Alfaro for a fascinating overview of twenty years of art making, community building and national and international theatre work. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market

Fresh seasonal produce sold direct from California farmers. Some nine thousand food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. Downtown. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Yoga

All levels welcome. Drop in for \$15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Computer Class: "Appy Hour" at Ocean Park

Bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop and get individualized help in small groups to get you started with using your device. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street. 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday, January 25

Happiness Room

Come visit SMPL's mobile pop-up Happiness Room, dedicated to all kinds of resources, visuals and interactive features (including virtual reality) on happiness, joy, calm, positivity, flow, gratitude and meditation. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Concert: Bossa Nova & the Jazz Influence

In this cool evening concert, the Angelo Metz Quartet presents a repertoire exemplifying the influence of jazz in the Brazilian musical style of Bossa Nova, and explores its incorporation into the American Jazz songbook. Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Beach=Culture: 'Four Million Angels'

"Four Million Angels" takes a look at the people who fill the streets of Santa Monica on a sunny day. The artists in this exhibit make work that reflects a passionate interest in the people of Los Angeles and speaks of our universal experiences. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday, January 26

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Instructors help students complete and submit 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, 2201 Pico Blvd. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Registration Opens For \$3,000 Seismic Retrofit Grants

Registration is open for eligible homeowners to receive grants of up to \$3,000 for seismic retrofits of their older homes, making them more resistant to earthquake damage. Homeowners have until February 23, 2018, to apply for a grant from the Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program.

EBB is expanding eligibility this year to 17 additional California cities in high hazard areas, bringing the total to 51. The California Earthquake Authority (CEA) has provided \$6 million in funding for the grants this year, enough to support an additional 2,000 or more code-compliant seismic retrofits.

"The natural disasters of 2017 remind us of the need to be prepared for the major earthquakes that are inevitable in California," said Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. "Californians can protect their families by strengthening older homes, which are particularly vulnerable to earthquake damage, and by making sure they have the financial strength to rebuild with earthquake insurance."

Homes with qualifying retrofits are eligible for discounts of up to 20 percent on CEA earthquake insurance premiums.

More than 1.2 million houses in high-hazard areas of California are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes because of the type of construction, according to the CEA. These homes are typically built before 1979, have a wood frame on a raised foundation and have a cripple wall in the crawl space under the house.

"The more houses a neighborhood has that have been retrofitted, the fewer condemned buildings will blight the neighborhood after a catastrophic earthquake and the faster life can return to normal," stated Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. "I strongly encourage eligible residents to apply for EBB grants and retrofit their homes."

"EBB sees increasing momentum and awareness for seismic retrofits among homeowners, local officials and contractors," said Janiele Maffei, chief mitigation officer of the CEA and executive director of EBB. "By helping kick-start a retrofit movement, we are working to reduce the number of Californians who lose their homes in the next catastrophic earthquake."

In addition to offering the grants, EBB works with local building departments on the permitting process for retrofits and to grow the base of contractors trained to do code-compliant retrofits. The EBB's searchable Contractor Directory lists almost 900 trained contractors as of the end of 2017.

Meanwhile, CEA and EBB continue to promote earthquake safety by funding development of seismic retrofit codes and plans to include a broader set of housing types. The results of that research will be released later this year.

Typical retrofits for the type of homes currently funded by EBB grants cost between \$3,500 and \$5,500, and involve bolting the house to its foundation and adding bracing around the perimeter. The cost is minimal compared to earthquake damage, which can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair. In the relatively moderate 6.0-magnitude Napa earthquake of 2014, homeowners received estimates of up to \$300,000 to put their houses back on their foundations.

HOW TO APPLY FOR EBB GRANTS

Through February 23, eligible homeowners can apply for retrofit funding at EarthquakeBraceBolt.com, where they can also find detailed program information, select a licensed FEMA-trained contractor and view the full list of eligible ZIP Codes.

ABOUT EARTHQUAKE BRACE + BOLT (EBB)

Established by the California Residential Mitigation Program, EBB offers up to \$3,000 to help California homeowners retrofit their house to reduce potential damage from earthquakes. A residential seismic retrofit makes a house more resistant to earthquake activity, such as ground shaking and soil failure, by bolting the house to its foundation and adding bracing around the perimeter of the crawl space. For more information, please visit <http://www.EarthquakeBraceBolt.com>.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (CRMP)

CRMP was established in 2011 to help Californians strengthen their homes against damage from earthquakes. CRMP is a joint powers authority created by the California Earthquake Authority and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. For more information, please visit <http://www.CaliforniaResidentialMitigationProgram.com>.

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Opinion Commentary

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's the Point?

David Pissarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shame, shame, go away live in truth today

BACK IN SEPTEMBER I ATTENDED THE I Love Me fundraiser at the Fairmont Miramar hotel. In attendance was fellow Santa Monican Kirsty Spraggon – she's an international speaker, author and show host who specializes in sharing her painful truths so that others can face theirs. It is in the facing our guilt, fear and shame that growth happens and we become happier, more whole individuals.

I pursued a friendship with Kirsty because as an international speaker she had experience and knowledge about the career path I wanted. As I expand into the world of professional speaking, I've actively pursued a social circle of speakers and leaders in the meetings and conventions industry. Kirsty was nice enough to sit down with me for lunch one day at Cava on Second street, and over a bowl of rice and lamb we got to know each other. Her story of personal trauma, which she was able to overcome, is now her trademark. She has shared her story on a TEDx talk and to Fortune 500 companies. Her videos have been seen over 1.7 million times.

As a motivational speaker she has been able to create safe environments for people to open up and share the traumatic experiences that have led to their sense of guilt and shame. By sharing their pain, individuals are able to resolve the trauma, and then move forward in their lives.

Kirsty's own journey began as a truth seeker herself, looking for her own freedom from shame. She found it when, after almost two decades of living with a secret, she bravely shared her TRUTH with the world in a TEDx talk titled 'You're Only as Sick as Your Secrets'. In speaking her truth, she released a ripple of healing into the world.

In the current climate of awareness, with people speaking up about harassments, abuses, and traumas from the past, speaking the truth in order to heal the self and the wider community has become incredibly important. An important part of this has come in the form of the #MeToo movement which has galvanized people in a way that has been surprising to many. "Time's Up" is now elevating truth telling even further and Oprah's speech at the Golden Globes reminded everyone that TRUTH is a powerful TOOL that we all need to learn how to use. Kirsty believes that now is the time for truth telling. And she doesn't just mean big

truths around shame, abuse, addiction and trauma, to name a few, but the little truths - the daily ones.

So, to expand upon her abilities and carry her message further, she has created a major event for those who are ready to confront their secrets. Kirsty has brought together Sampson McCormick, Adapia D'errico and Nichole Sylvester for a full day of openness, sharing and healing.

Sampson McCormick is a nationally known comedian, who was one of, if not the first, Out, Gay, African American male comic. He has performed at some of the most prestigious locations in America, like the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Famous Comedy Store in Hollywood and the White House.

Adapia D'Errico is a leadership facilitator focusing on activating women's abilities by bringing understanding and compassion to the neglected, shunned and shamed feminine aspects of business leadership.

Nichole Sylvester is a mentor who helps both men and women live out their best selves. Having overcome a family history of crime, abuse, addiction and toxic love her mission is to help as many people as possible tap into their personal power and experience beautiful possibilities going forward.

The event is a full day of speakers at the ALEX Theater in Glendale on April 22nd. Tickets for the Truth Telling for Truth Seekers go on sale Tuesday at Noon. <http://www.truthtellingfortruthseekers.com> / Early bird rate use discount code - TRUTHSEEKER \$99 General Admission \$249 VIP tickets.

I know from my own experience that holding a secret is a very painful, soul crushing exercise. If you have a secret that you have been holding on to, whether it's abuse as boy, assault as a woman, or any type of other secret, please take advantage of this event and find a way to release that secret, free yourself from the pain, and share in the joy of living freely.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpissarra@pissarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpissarra

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Citywide

City Attorney Favorably Resolves Second Wage Enforcement Case

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office successfully resolved a wage enforcement case against Merchants Building Maintenance, LLC, a janitorial and security services company. Merchants was charged with failing to pay 36 employees their Santa Monica minimum wage.

For many months, Los Angeles County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs ("DCBA") - contracted as the Wage Enforcement Division of the City - made numerous attempts to seek voluntary compliance from Merchants without any success. As a result, DCBA, in coordination with City prosecutors, administratively charged Merchants with dozens of counts of Santa Monica minimum wage (Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 4.62 and 4.63) violations and prepared the case for prosecution.

On January 19, Merchants admitted to every wage violation as charged, agreed to pay full restitution to the 36 affected employees (totaling over \$23,000), and agreed to pay \$36,000 in penalties.

"This is a positive and fair result," said Chief Deputy City Attorney Yibin Shen, who led prosecution of the case for the City Attorney's Office. "It is paramount in each of our wage enforcement cases that the affected employees receive full restitution for their back wages and that the employer is educated about the City's wage laws. This case successfully achieved both results."

"Combating growing income inequality and improving the welfare of the City's workers are core objectives of the City's Minimum Wage Laws. We look forward to continuing our aggressive education and enforcement of the City's Minimum Wage Laws, with our Los Angeles wage enforcement partners, to ensure that the City's workers, particularly those in low-wage positions, receive fair wages and fair treatment from employers while working in the City of Santa Monica."

To report violations of the Santa Monica Minimum Wage Law, please contact the Santa Monica Wage Enforcement Program of the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at 800-593-8222, online at <http://dcba.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dca/main/home/wageenforcement> or in person at 500 West Temple Street, B96, Los Angeles, California 90012.

For more information about the City's Minimum Wage Law, visit www.smgov.net/minimumwage.

This is the second successful minimum wage case for the City Attorney's Office.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

High school students honored with 2018 Education Awards from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition

Five seniors from area high schools were presented the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition 2018 Education Awards at a ceremony held on January 15 to commemorate Dr. King's birthday at the SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium in Santa Monica. Olympic gold medalist Dr. Tommie C. Smith was the event's keynote speaker.

This year's awards recipients are:

Culver City High School student Isabel Cortes received the 2018 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. A lifetime member of the Girl Scouts, she has an interest in history and government, and is a strong believer in the power of open dialogue and communication to solve problems. Ms. Cortes has focused on raising awareness in the community about an endocrine syndrome called PCOS. Her goals include expanding awareness in her school community about students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs), and creating solid friendships that will last a lifetime.

Culver City High School student Emma Fabros received the 2017 Saul Morrison Award. She is an academic scholar and an active member of the CCHS Student Government, and also Captain of the CCHS Dance Team. Ms. Fabros is thankful for getting to grow up in a family that has raised her with nothing but love and support, and hopes she can give back to others by doing the same. She plans to attend Biola University and study Public Relations, and hopes to follow her passion for fashion and media by pursuing a career in the fashion industry. The award for an essay that 'demonstrates a passion for bridge-building, community, and leadership' is presented to honor the memory and efforts of social activist Saul Morrison to secure equal opportunities for everyone.

Lawndale High School student Malaysia Long received the 2018 Lillie Bell Blakley Award for her entry, "The Birth of Nonviolence." The four-year Honor Roll student aims to major in English and Pre-Law, and has been accepted at several universities. Ms. Long, a member of the Black Student Union and Class President, also dedicates time to volunteer in youth and outreach programs in the community. The award for a work that 'demonstrates an awareness of tradition, legacy, and history' is given in honor of Lillie Bell Blakley, whose passion to "keep moving forward" is apparent in her family's multigenerational commitment to education and service, which includes son and former Mayor of Santa Monica Nathaniel Trives, as well as granddaughter Dr. Toni Trives, chair of the SMC Modern Languages and Cultures Department.

Susan Miller Dorsey High School Public and Service Magnet student Andrew Rodriguez received the 2018 Clyde Smith Award for 'artistic effort and service to making our world a better place.' Mr. Rodriguez, who is applying to college as a Political Science major, has a passion for Law and plans to become a lawyer. The award is given to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition co-founder, director of the former Neighborhood Development Corporation (NRDC), and revered community leader Clyde Smith.

Also, Santa Monica High School student May Kono received a 2018 Honorable Mention Award from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition. Her goal is to work in the film industry as a screenwriter who can inspire people to create change, especially in matters like Asian representation in American film, the environmental crisis, and nuclear weapons abolition. Ms. Kono also enjoys playing in her school's Symphony Orchestra, and writing in her free time.

Each year, schools, churches, and youth groups invite college and high school students to submit an essay, poem, or other creative work that exemplifies the "Six Principles of Nonviolence" in Dr. King's Stride Toward Freedom. The awards are supported by endowments established in memory of local community activists and managed by the Santa Monica College Foundation.

To find out more about the Education Awards or to help support the awards, please call the SMC Foundation at (310) 434-4215.

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TENANTS

FROM PAGE 1

lets. The 84-year-old carried a golf club into the hallway instead and Aikin took off. McCowan called police, warning Aikin was acting erratically.

Detective Wilkening found the intruder still wandering the grounds and arrested him. Aikin told police he was looking for a friend he had met on the beach who also lives on the sixth floor of The Shores. The report says Aikin has an extensive criminal history of trespassing, assault and vandalism.

"Aikin said he was sorry for breaking Kaufman's door and scaring her," Wilkening wrote. "Aikin said he thought he heard voices inside and someone yelling for help. Aikin said he kicked down the door to check on the occupants and to help."

Officers initially booked Aikin on residential burglary charges. However, nothing was stolen from Kaufman's apartment. Instead, her neighbor says the real damage was psychological.

"He killed a woman," McCowan said. The retired police officer and former defense attorney said Kaufman repeatedly thanked him for saving her life but was extremely distressed over the break-in. Her family held a funeral for the widow Thursday.

Pictures taken by police show the door handle ripped off Kaufman's open front door. It's not clear from the report whether Aikin used a tool or his bare hands.

"The hole in the door was large enough for

a human to reach through the door and unlock it from the inside," Wilkening wrote. Aikin received a 30 day jail sentence and two years probation for the vandalism charge but inmates rarely serve their entire sentences because of overcrowding. Because he is homeless, he could not be reached for comment.

McCowan disagreed with the report's description of security at The Shores. He says there are no "guards," only 24/7 concierge service.

"We don't have anybody to protect us," McCowan said, who has restocked on ammunition for his firearms after the incident. "I have bullets for my guns now."

Tenants say they are trying to set up a meeting with management at The Shores to improve security. Requests by the Daily Press to speak to management at Douglas Emmett, the real estate investment company that owns The Shores, have not been returned.

Multiple residents tell the Daily Press trespassing is a major issue at the luxury apartment complex.

"Our security issues are on a 'wish list' and that infuriates me," said Kaysie Kent, who is the secretary of the Shore's resident association. "That's our number one issue. People have moved out because they do not feel safe."

With stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island on a clear day new tenants are paying among the highest rents in Santa Monica. A two-bedroom, two bath apartment is currently listed for \$6,126 a month on the website for Douglas Emmett.

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DRIVE
FROM PAGE 1

“urgent,” stating more than 200 blood drives were forced to cancel due to the season and natural disasters. This has caused “6,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected in just the first four days [of the season].”

Stepping in to help secure more blood donations for the season is a local Chase branch, namely Brian Custer. Custer, who is a commercial loan officer at the bank, felt dismayed by recent natural disasters and wanted to do more.

“After the hurricanes last fall – this was before the mudslides, by the way – I saw the country, our community struggling,” Custer said in a phone call. “I wondered what Chase could do. I talked to a manager and here we are.”

In addition to the high number of cancelled blood drives and uncollected blood donations, hectic holiday schedules factor into more than 28,000 fewer donations than what the American Red Cross typically needs during the winter season.

Due to the small amount of donors, donations are being distributed to hospitals as fast as they are coming in, which could

affect patient care.

“Donations are urgently needed in the coming days to meet the needs of everyday patients and to be prepared for emergencies that would require significant volumes of donated blood,” Inoue says.

So far, the Chase and Red Cross co-hosted blood drive has only around 6 people booked to donate.

Blood and platelet donors of all types are needed but platelet type AB plasma, type O negative, and type B negative blood donations are critically needed. All eligible donors are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible. Eligible donors with types O, B negative and A negative blood are encouraged to make a Power Red donation (a donation which allows you to make two donations in one sitting) where available.

The co-hosted blood drive is located at 2701 Wilshire Boulevard in the American Red Cross Bloodmobile. The event takes place Wednesday, January 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To make an appointment, visit redcross-blood.org and enter sponsor code ChaseSM or email Sean Inoue at SeanInoue@redcross.org.

angel@smdp.com

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LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE
Tuesday, January 23

SamoHi Vikings

No Varsity Events Today

Crossroads Roadrunners

Girls Soccer @ Viewpoint 3:15pm
Girls Basketball @ Sierra Canyon 5:30pm
Boys Soccer vs. Viewpoint 7:00pm
Boys Basketball @ Sierra Canyon 7:15pm

St. Monica Mariners

No Varsity Events Today

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BOARD

FROM PAGE 1

surcharges or find other ways to give already rent-burdened tenants some relief.

“This is madness and it needs to stop and we need to address it as soon as possible,” Boardmember Nicole Phillis said at the Jan. 11 RCB meeting, calling the surcharges a “crisis.” Phillis is suggesting a sunset clause on the pass-throughs that would not allow new property owners to pass specific surcharges to tenants. It could also spare new tenants from paying pass-throughs.

Thursday the Board will discuss a proposed Regulation 3120, which does just that, prohibiting surcharges for local taxes and voted indebtedness (bonds) for tenants who moved in after Sept. 1, 2017 (the day of the last general adjustment). It would also prohibit surcharges reassessed as the result of sale or improvement. Staff is proposing the law go into effect March 1.

City staff say nothing in the City Charter requires the Board to continue to permit pass-throughs to rent controlled tenants. The median monthly surcharge is \$20.73 but varies greatly from property to property, depending on the timing of the last sale and the number of units. The Board is concerned new landlords are taking advantage of the pass-throughs when they purchase multi-million dollar apartment buildings in the City.

“I am still horrified by these surcharge pass throughs,” Nani Granell told the board, who says she is paying \$121 a month in surcharges on her rent controlled apartment. Granell lives at 1025 Ocean Avenue, which was sold in 2016 for \$22.7 million, according to real estate websites. “I was never told when I moved to Santa Monica that I would have to pay a tax surcharge. There’s nothing in my lease (to allow it).”

City staff members say San Francisco is the only other jurisdiction that allows landowners to pass surcharges on bonds to rent controlled tenants. A change in the charter here in 2012 prohibits any automatic surcharges based on new bonds. Still, the board is concerned about surcharges linked to property assessments, including pass-throughs for previous bonds like Measures X

(1998), S (2004), BB (2006) and AA (2008). Landlords can also pass along a stormwater management user fee, the clean beaches and ocean parcel tax, a 2008 School District Special Tax set at \$396.23 per parcel.

“I think we’ll all need to get much more input from stakeholders...as to what to do if anything on past pass-throughs, some which had very specific functions,” Board member Anastasia Foster said, explaining a sunset clause would not help tenants currently in distress. Extensive rehabilitations by a long-term owner can also trigger a reassessment on the value of a property. “There is absolutely no doubt this is an issue.”

“Long term owners can make a credible argument that they relied upon the understanding that they would be able to pass through their surcharges,” the board’s general counsel J. Stephen Lewis said. “They would have built that into their financial planning and their thoughts...with new owners, that’s less true.”

Because of vacancy decontrol, some board members argue landlords can factor the taxes into rental rates for new tenants when their units turn over, instead of tacking on the charges to existing tenants.

Landlord Lori Brown, who serves on the Recreation and Parks Commission, argued property owners should not be the only ones paying for tax increases approved by voters.

“The pass-throughs, that’s what other people voted for,” Brown said. “That’s what you voted for and now you’re going to decide that only a certain percentage of people should pay for it.”

Board member Caroline Torosis asked staff to look at whether a tenant could petition for a rent or surcharge decrease based on hardship.

“I would like to see quick implementation of this because I fear we are in danger of losing tenants because of these turnovers,” Torosis said.

Under the proposed regulation, any landlord who has been collecting a surcharge from a new tenant would be required to reduce the affected unit’s rent by the amount of the surcharge going forward. No collection of a surcharge occurring before Feb. 1 would constitute an overcharge.

kate@smdp.com



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 12, AT ABOUT 6:29 A.M.

While conducting a periodic check of the 1400 block of Palisade Park, officers saw a subject smoking in the park in violation of a Santa Monica Municipal Code. A computer check was conducted and revealed the subject was an “Armed and Dangerous” Parolee at Large with violent tendencies. The subject was on parole for robbery. He was arrested without incident. Steven James Revell, 36, homeless, was arrested for a parole violation. No bail was set.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 331 Calls For Service On Jan. 21.

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

Petty theft 300 block Santa Monica Pier 12:22 a.m.
 Person with gun Main / Kinney 1:03 a.m.
 Domestic violence 2800 block Airport 1:15 a.m.
 Burglar alarm 1600 block Montana 1:39 a.m.
 Transport prisoner 300 block Olympic 2:44 a.m.
 Burglary 2400 block Wilshire 2:55 a.m.
 Hit and run 1900 block 20th S 5:08 a.m.
 Burglar alarm 1000 block California 6:01 a.m.
 Trespassing 1500 block 2nd 6:46 a.m.
 Encampment 1100 block Lincoln 7:06 a.m.
 Petty theft 1500 block 2nd 7:39 a.m.
 Hit and run 800 block 16th 8:36 a.m.
 Loitering 1200 block Wilshire 8:56 a.m.
 Battery 300 block Santa Monica Pier 9:30 a.m.
 Trespassing 900 block Pico 9:50 a.m.
 Grand theft 1700 block Cloverfield 10:06 a.m.
 Battery 1500 block Ocean 10:07 a.m.
 Burglary 1500 block 6th 10:17 a.m.
 Rape 300 block Olympic 10:32 a.m.
 Indecent exposure 1400 block 3rd St

Prom 10:57 a.m.
 Burglary 800 Block 9th 11:15 a.m.
 Encampment 1400 block 7th 11:36 a.m.
 Panic alarm 1700 block Berkeley 11:52 a.m.
 Traffic collision 1000 block Georgina 11:55 a.m.
 Encampment PCH / CA incline 12:38 p.m.
 Petty theft 1200 block 4th 12:52 p.m.
 Burglary 1200 block California 1:20 p.m.
 Burglary 1500 block 12th 1:23 p.m.
 Drinking in public 1400 block 3rd St Prom 1:48 p.m.
 Person down 2800 block Lincoln 1:59 p.m.
 Drinking in public 2nd / Arizona 2:30 p.m.
 Traffic collision 900 block Ocean 3:21 p.m.
 Stolen vehicle 2100 block 4th 4:38 p.m.
 Petty theft 1200 block Wilshire 4:40 p.m.
 Traffic collision 16th / Wilshire 4:48 p.m.
 Hit and run Ocean / Broadway 4:55 p.m.
 Trespassing 1400 block 4th 5:01 p.m.
 Petty theft 700 block Broadway 5:03 p.m.
 Drunk driving Dorchester / Pico 5:17 p.m.
 Burglar alarm 1000 block 10th 5:22 p.m.
 Public intoxication 6th / Broadway 5:25 p.m.
 Domestic violence 1500 block PCH 5:34 p.m.
 Petty theft 600 block Wilshire 5:59 p.m.
 Fight 2700 block Barnard 6:21 p.m.
 Petty theft 1600 block Cloverfield 7:11 p.m.
 Trespassing 1200 block 15th 7:42 p.m.
 Burglary 2800 block Wilshire 8:42 p.m.
 Battery 1300 block Wilshire 8:57 p.m.
 Petty theft 3200 block Wilshire 9:44 p.m.
 Drunk driving 23rd/ Ocean Park 9:54 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 21 Calls For Service On Jan. 21.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1400 block Ocean 2:06 a.m.
 EMS 2600 block Main 2:46 a.m.
 Automatic alarm 2700 block Donald Douglas Lp 9:55 a.m.
 EMS 700 block Pico 10:29 a.m.
 EMS 2000 block of 21st 11:30 a.m.

EMS 1300 block of 15th 11:45 a.m.
 Automatic alarm 300 block 23rd 12:59 p.m.
 EMS 1100 block 7th 2:11 p.m.
 EMS 6th / Santa Monica 2:17 p.m.
 EMS 1300 block 20th 2:19 p.m.
 EMS 1000 block 2nd 2:33 p.m.
 EMS 2900 block Delaware 2:48 p.m.
 EMS 1300 block 23rd 3:26 p.m.
 EMS 800 block 5th 4:00 p.m.
 EMS 1800 block 16th 4:02 p.m.
 Haz mat 16th / Wilshire 5:56 p.m.
 EMS 1100 block 18th 6:23 p.m.
 Freeway Fire 4th / I-10 8:17 p.m.
 EMS 300 block Olympic 9:44 p.m.
 EMS 0 block Sea Colony 10:01 p.m.
 EMS 3300 block Virginia 10:10 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING RESCHEDULED

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) Program funds.

THIS PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 13, 2018 AND WILL NOT BE HELD AT THE JANUARY 23, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive community input to inform the development of the 2018-19 Action Plan. The Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City’s specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City’s overall housing and community development needs as specified in the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in May 2015. The City will notice and hold another public hearing prior to adoption of the FY 2018-19 Action Plan.

Copies of the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan are available on the web at <http://www.smgov.net/ccsgrants>, or you may request a hard copy from the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send any written comments to humanservices@smgov.net or to the above address by February 9, 2018. You may also present your comments verbally at the City Council meeting.

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations please contact the Human Services Division.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 23)

You'll see loved ones more often this year, and your days will be improved by friendship. February shows a financial breakthrough. March brings romance and creativity in abundance. A craving for freedom will lead you to new places and experiences. The skill you pick up in June will continue to enrich you for years to come. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 5, 30 and 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Today will present a "try before you buy" situation in the form of an item or an idea you can play around with awhile before it's decision time. You might be surprised about what makes the cut.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Steer clear of the "amateur therapy zone," in which under-qualified people are overtly attempting to fix emotional matters. Leave it to the professionals. You can learn a lot more in the "zone of casual relating and observing."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

It is easier to be kind and loving when you feel safe. That's why erecting an imaginary bubble of psychic protection around yourself will help your interactions. You'll be open and empathetic, yet you'll deflect negativity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You won't shy away from confrontation; rather, you'll strive to face it the most effective way you can find. You won't mind playing "bad cop" to someone's "good cop" if it keeps the peace in the end.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a little weird when spending your money becomes a group activity. However, weird can be good! And anyway, today this committee approach will be way more fun than spending your money alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Funny thoughts can be wise, and serious thoughts can be foolish. A great thing about today is that it won't be necessary to categorize your thoughts in any terms other than "helpful" or "not helpful."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You are stepping into the gravitational pull of a different sphere of influence. It could be a new crush that will get you orbiting, or it could be an idea, project or attractive interest that draws you ever nearer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

There will be a strong inclination to rate yourself. If you must, then grade solely on what you've learned. Note that it would be ridiculous to grade yourself on money and resources you don't have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Maybe you don't really have bad habits after all. Maybe you just have a few different versions of yourself vying for ultimate power over you, each trying to do what will serve its unique purpose.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You are always creating yourself. Sometimes this occurs in obvious, socially supported ways. But most efforts you make are quiet and internal – decisions to be braver or more compassionate and patient.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

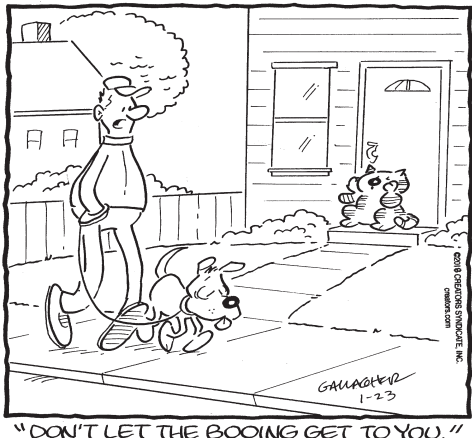
You feel limited in a situation, but it's unclear whether these limits are real. The only way to know is to test them. If your small infraction causes an incommensurate reaction, it's an indication that the boundary is false.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

The kind of change you want doesn't just drop down from the sky or naturally occur if you wait long enough. It has to be made. That's the main reason you'll be so busy today.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



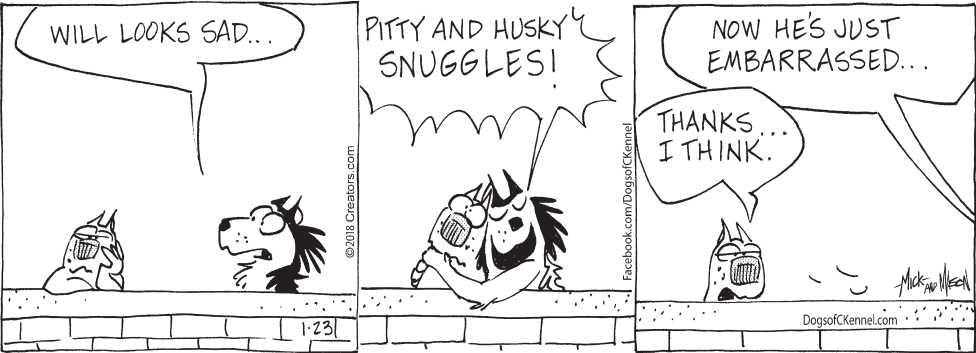
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



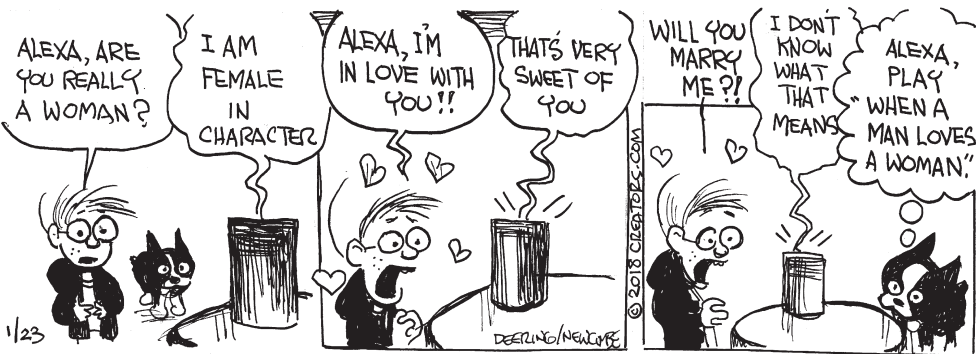
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Power and the Planets

The distribution of power is often much trickier and more nuanced than appearances suggest. Power rides on perception. Perception is governed by what is made public or kept private. Tomorrow's Mercury-Pluto conjunction will be a light switch, able to illuminate or darken the halls with a flick. Get ready for a redistribution of power.

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