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City Council pooh-poohs community concerns over compostable toilets

BY KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City Council is moving forward with ambitious environmental goals for the new City Services building, despite vocal opposition to the scope and cost of the project.

At an often-contentious City Council meeting, City Manager Rick Cole was forced to defend the proposed 52,000 square foot building which is now in it's fourth year planning.

"Whenever you do something on the cutting edge…there are challenges," Cole said to open the discussion about a citizen's appeal to halt progress on the building.

The controversy surrounds some innovative features that limit water use. City leaders want the building to achieve certification by the Living Building Challenge, an international sustainability program. It is a step above the strictest environmental guidelines typically used by developers in the United States, LEED Platinum. To meet the challenge, the building must be completely self-sufficient by producing it's own energy and treating water on site.

"Living buildings give more than they take," according to the website for the Living Building Challenge.

But the heads of four neighborhood organizations worry the ambitious building will take too much from the City's budget. The City plans to pay for the $75 million building over thirty years through lease revenue bonds.

Tuesday night's Council meeting concerned an extensive appeal by Santa Monica activist David Gardner, who has several issues with the building's permit. One major concern: composting toilets required to conserve Santa Monica's limited local water supply.

"I could understand this is in small pilot project, but for this grand

SEE **CONCERNS** PAGE 10







WOMEN'S MARCH

Sam Snow and Dylan Graff

Two student photographers attended the recent protests in Los Angeles and provided their summary of the event. See Page 7 for more information.

Santa Monica celebrates the history of Ocean Park



Courtesy Photo

HISTORY: Two upcoming events explore the history of Ocean Park.

BY MARINA ANDALON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's oldest neighborhood will be explored with several history themed events in the coming days.

The Santa Monica History Museum, the Santa Monica Library and the Santa Monica Conservancy are all hosting explorations of the Ocean Park neighborhood.

On Saturday, Jan. 28 the Ocean Park Branch Library and Conservancy have a joint event.

The Conservancy is celebrating the first anniversary of their award winning Shotgun House, located within the Library's parking lot at 2520 2nd Street.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be music, refreshments, kids' activities, and docent tours of the new exhibits in the Shotgun House as well as the "must-see" interior of the Merle Norman House. The program will open with remarks from City Manager Rick Cole and National Trust for Historic Preservation Field Director, Chris Morris.

"Guests can also view the Center's drought-resistant garden featuring native plants like California fuchsia, yellow yarrow, red buckwheat and coyote mint," according to the Conservancy. "Historian Alison Rose Jefferson, PhD., will also be on hand to discuss African-American history in Santa Monica at the event. The event is free and all ages are welcome."

The Conservancy event will be followed by a presentation at the library from local historian, Richard Orton. Orton is a familiar face within the community, and moved to Ocean Park in 1970. He was a volunteer for 10 years for Members of Sea Colony along with

SEE **HISTORY** PAGE 6


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 26

Current Events Discussion Group

Discuss the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Revealed: Humayun's Tomb

This Discovery Channel India documentary reveals the history of Emperor Humayun's 16th century garden tomb, the jewel of Mughal architecture that predates the Taj Mahal. A discussion follows the screening. (Film runtime: 45 min.) Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GED Prep Class

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

A Night of Ideas.

Join organizers at Bergamot Station for a 7-hour marathon of debates, live performances, readings, art installations, screenings and music. This event is coordinated worldwide by the Institut Français and will take place in 40 cities simultaneously around the theme "A World in Common". Free event/ all sessions in English. There is free parking located at the venue and it is also accessible by taking the Expo Line to 26th Street/Bergamot Station. More information at nightofideasla.com. Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Avenue.

Friday, Jan. 27

Love & Leashes

Pet adoptions at Health Spot. 1110 Wilshire Blvd., 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Guest House

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Beach=Culture, AiR Dinah Berland Office Hours

During her residency at the Annenberg Community Beach House, Berland will be working on a chapbook of poems, titled 'Fugue for a New Life,' presenting three public events and an 8-week workshop with the theme of 'poetry and the art of listening.' She will also be holding public office hours every Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and posting weekly updates at beachhouseair.blogspot.com. RSVP at http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture.

Saturday, January 28

Beach=Culture Artist Talk

Join organizers for an artists' talk about the current exhibition, Los Angeles: Detailed, moderated by educator, blogger, curator, writer, and fellow artist Aline Smithson. Join the photographers featured in the current exhibition, as each reflects on their individual work. 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture

The Abdution from the Seraglio: an LA Opera Multimedia talk

LA Opera community educators provide an entertaining and informative talk on this opera that's been updated to the Roaring Twenties. This riotous staging marries the brilliance of Mozart's comic gem with the flair of a classic Hollywood comedy. En route from Istanbul to Paris, two beautiful damsels in distress are held captive aboard the luxurious Orient Express by a notorious Ottoman royal. It's up to their faithful lovers to rescue them before it's too late! Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate the History of Ocean Park

In celebration of the one-year anniversary of the Santa Monica Conservancy's Preservation Resource Center, local historian Richard Orton talks about the colorful history of the Ocean Park Neighborhood. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 2 – 3:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Registration open for earthquake grants

The 2017 Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program opened registration for $6 million in grants for seismic retrofits. This represents a 25 percent increase in funding over last year, to help California homeowners protect their families and secure their older homes against a catastrophic earthquake.

Through Feb. 27, homeowners in 141 eligible ZIP Codes in 33 cities can register online to receive up to $3,000 toward a code-compliant seismic retrofit. Santa Monica and Los Angeles are covered by the program.

The ZIP Codes included are those facing the highest risk of residential earthquake damage. Risk is determined by combining local geological hazard with the vulnerability of older homes and the construction type.

This year EBB is funded by $3 million from the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) and $3 million from the State of California. California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones and Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (D-Sherman Oaks) were instrumental in securing the state appropriation for the second year in a row.

"This program provides grants that go directly to homeowners so that they can protect their assets and their families," said Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. "Now thanks to the leadership of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, more Californians are able to take advantage of the Earthquake Brace + Bolt program, which means fewer Californians are at risk of financial and emotional devastation when an earthquake hits."

"Expanding the Brace + Bolt program to 1,000 new homes is an important step forward in preparing California for a large earthquake," stated Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. "Bracing and bolting homes to their foundation can help protect property and save lives. I look forward to continuing our work with Governor Jerry Brown, Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones and the Legislature to make further improvements to Californians' seismic safety."

EBB grants are available for houses built before 1979 that include a crawl space with unbraced "cripple walls" (low walls between the foundation and first floor) and are not bolted to the foundation. In a strong earthquake, an unbolted house can topple off its foundation and unbraced cripple walls make the crawl space vulnerable to collapse. CEA estimates there are more than 1.2 million of these houses in high-hazard areas in Northern and Southern California.

Despite Gains, New CEA Research Finds Homeowners Awareness of Retrofitting Lags

Since the magnitude 6.0 Napa earthquake in August 2014, the CEA has been studying both homeowner attitudes and how their homes performed in the quake. The research was conducted in two parts—the first phase was an online questionnaire completed by more than 600 Napa residents and the second qualitative phase included 39 in-person interviews and house inspections.

The recently completed qualitative phase of the CEA Napa Research revealed a lack of awareness among homeowners about retrofitting. Specifically, the interviews found:

One third of owners did not know whether or not their house had been retrofitted.

Others thought their houses were retrofitted when they were not.

Several respondents believed their houses had been adequately retrofitted because their chimney was braced.

Many homeowners underestimated the benefits of retrofitting.

"This study underscores the importance of our ongoing effort to educate homeowners about exactly what a retrofit is and how an older house can benefit," said Janiele Maffei, Chief Mitigation Officer of CEA and Executive Director of EBB. "After the Napa quake, we saw quite a bit of cripple wall damage. As a result, some families were not back in their homes even a year later and others had hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs."

How to Apply for EBB Grants

Registration is open through Feb. 27. Full program rules, detailed requirements, a complete list of ZIP Codes, educational videos, registration and a Contractor Directory are all available on the program website, EarthquakeBraceBolt.com.

The California Residential Mitigation Program (CRMP) is a joint powers authority created in 2011 by the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to help Californians strengthen their homes against damage from earthquakes. Earthquake Brace + Bolt is a program of the CRMP.

– SUBMITTED BY PAUL M. SHERER

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Council puts final stamp on 2024 Olympics bid

The Los Angeles City Council on Wednesday gave final approval to a proposal that could bring the 2024 Olympic Games to Southern California.

The unanimous vote legally empowers the city to host the Games, if Los Angeles is selected by the International Olympic Committee in September.

It also means the city would agree to cover any financial shortfalls, which have long bedeviled the Olympics.

The privately run bid is competing against Paris and Budapest, Hungary, for the 2024 Games.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement that the vote highlighted strong support for the proposal in the city.

The city "is ready to host an outstanding and fiscally responsible" Games, the mayor said.

Planners have projected the Games would cost about $5 billion to stage and the budget could generate a surplus.

Earlier this month the committee behind the bid, LA2024, announced the plan would include a new football stadium. The NFL stadium being built in Inglewood, near Los Angeles International Airport, would be used for ceremonies along with Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum as part of a concept to create a "new games for a new era."

The NFL stadium is expected to open in 2019, when it will be the home of the NFL's Rams and Chargers. It already has been named as host of the 2021 Super Bowl.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PRESIDENT
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Marina Andalon
marina@smdp.com
Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
editor@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Andrew Oja
andrew@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
David Pisarra, Charles Andrews, Jack Neworth, Sarah A. Spitz, Cynthia Citron, Margarita Rozenbaoum

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

OPERATIONS/ CIRCULATION/LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER
Josh Heisler
josh@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
josh@smdp.com

Achling Holliday
josh@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's on around town



Photo by Michaela Bodlovic

COMEDY?: Jonny Donahoe performs "Every Brilliant Thing" February 2 - 12.

SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION ... NO, THEY'RE not the liberal response to the election but rather the subjects of an upcoming comedy—yes, comedy!—at the smaller black box theatre, The Edye at the Broad Stage. It's called "Every Brilliant Thing," written by award-winning playwright Duncan Macmillan, performed by Jonny Donahoe.

Macmillan co-adapted and directed the critically and popularly acclaimed production of "1984" that blew audiences away at the Broad last year. In this one-man show, performed by comedian and writer Donahoe, Macmillan tells the tale of a 6-year old boy whose mother has tried to kill herself. To cheer her up, he concocts a list of "every brilliant thing" in the world that's worth living for. The list continues for three decades as the boy becomes a man and might even help him save himself. The play also boasts roles for audience participation; don't worry, Jonny's a pro at improvisation and he won't let you embarrass yourself.

The show comes to Santa Monica after successful runs in London and New York. "Every Brilliant Thing" at the Edye takes place February 2 – 12; tickets at www.thebroadstage.com or the box office (310) 434-3200.

TRIAL OF THE CENTURY?

The Big Bad Wolf (again, not an election reference) is about to take the stand in Piggsylvania and finally gets his say. Will he get a fair trial in a corrupt piggy court, though? The pigs have a splashy puppet show to use as evidence, but the wolf will counter with a catchy song and dance about a sneeze gone wrong. Who will win this fraught trial?

Enter the jury box and help decide Big Bad's fate in a musical adaptation of the classic children's fable. "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" is the latest production in the Youth Education/Entertainment Series (Y.E.S.) at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre. Adapted by Robert Kauzlaric, it's directed by Anne Gesling, choreographed by Eileen O'Donnell, with new lyrics by Dick Scanlan and music by Paul Gilvary and William Rush.

Affordable tickets ($10 and $12) for performances at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from Jan. 28 – Feb. 12. The theatre is located at 2627 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica. Call (310) 828-7519 for info and tickets.

IRANIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Farhang Foundation (www.farhang.org) is a non-religious, non-political and non-profit foundation that celebrates and promotes Iranian art and culture. From Jan. 29 through May 7, the foundation sponsors a juried exhibition of contemporary Iranian photography at the Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) on Wilshire in mid-city L.A.

Focus Iran 2: Contemporary Photography and Video is the second biennial juried exhibition of contemporary images that relate to Iranian culture and heritage. 33 photos and 9 video works feature an international selection of emerging and mid-career artists from around the world, showcasing a rare collection of diverse perspectives of contemporary Iranian life.

There are some images in the show that may challenge your pre-existing ideas of what life in Iran is like. The exhibition showcases the viewpoints of citizen journalists, personal archivists and storytellers who are connected to Iran either by heritage or admiration. The focus of the exhibition is on making connections between fixed cultural traditions and a contemporary society dealing with change.

Viewers will experience such works as Sanaz Khosravi's digital photograph "False Roots," which examines the struggles of women after the Iranian Revolution; Amir Amiri's "Iranian Carpet," which shows the craft of rugmaking, so important to Iran's cultural heritage; Omid Sariri's "Love," capturing two lovers in a remote and colorful Iranian location; and Saeedeh Keshavarzi's "Life of Things," a photo taken in the oldest part of Shiraz, embodying a "compact collection of Iranian history, culture, religion, architecture, crafts and decorations, all in one room," per the artist's description.

CAFAM is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd., across from LACMA; admission is free on Sundays, for further details visit www.CAFAM.org.

FREE FOR ALL

32 Southern California museums are offering free admission to all on Sunday, Jan. 29. Parking will still cost whatever it does at each venue unless you take public transport.

SEE CULTURE PAGE 5

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to editor@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.



Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Beckett's Profundity Overwhelms at the Odyssey

WHAT COULD BE MORE OVERWHELMING than a play by Samuel Beckett? How about FIVE plays by Samuel Beckett?

Ron Sossi, the fearless founder of L.A.'s Odyssey Theatre and its Artistic Director, has built his reputation on the innovative, unique, and sometimes quirky theater productions he has undertaken in the Odyssey's 48 years of existence.

Beckett5, which he is now directing, is a compilation of five seldom-seen one-acts that deal with some of Beckett's major concerns: death, isolation, anxiety, regrets, and the differences between what is and what might have been. Strangely, though, these profound playlets are not as depressing as they may sound. Brought to life by five extraordinary actors, the scenes offer a range of emotions from wonder to apprehension, meditation to introspection, and every once in a while, but not too often, a small smile at Beckett's playfulness.

In the first scene, the focus is on two large white nylon lumps in the middle of the empty stage. Gradually the larger lump moves and begins to extrude a man from its folds. He is clad in a white shirt, boxer shorts, and a derby, to which he slowly adds trousers, a jacket, and shoes. He stares somberly at the audience for a minute or two, swallows a couple of pills, and then proceeds to undress very carefully and crawl back into his nylon sack. Whereupon the other nylon lump extrudes a sweetly smiling old woman also dressed in a white shirt and boxer shorts who slowly dons the old man's discarded clothes. She dances, makes faces, and continually checks her watch before she undresses and crawls back into her own nylon sack. The play is called "Act Without Words II" and is performed by Alan Abelew, Beth Hogan, and Norbert Weisser.

In "Come and Go" three old friends, Diana Cignoni, Sheelagh Cullen, and Beth Hogan, tastefully dressed in similar suits and hats of pink, turquoise, and yellow, sit quietly together on a bench. When one of them leaves the bench the other two whisper, but when all three are seated on the bench again one of them suggests that they "hold hands in the old way." And they do, apparently reminiscing in total silence.

In "Catastrophe" a sculptor (Alan Abelew} positions a frail, quaking male figure (Norbert Weisser) according to the overbearing direction of Beth Hogan, who is apparently preparing the living figure for presentation as a pathetic victim of some presumably political disaster.



Photo by Ron Sossi

BECKETT5: A new show has five one-act plays.

And finally, in the eerie fourth play, "Footfalls," May (Diana Cignoni), dressed in a soft nightgown and peignoir, paces back and forth, nine steps each way, in an attempt to validate her existence. As she paces, she converses with her unseen mother (Sheelagh Cullen), dying in an adjacent room. To her mother she explains her pacing. The sound of her footfalls reassures her that she has not disappeared, she says, as does her mother's answer to her question, "What age am I now?"

After a brief intermission, the second half of the evening is given up to Norbert Weisser in a dynamic portrayal of Krapp from "Krapp's Last Tape." Scenery has been added: the long boardwalk that May traversed in "Footfalls" is now filled with old books and tins holding reels of tape. Krapp sits at a desk and fiddles with his tape recorder, stopping and rewinding as he listens repeatedly to portions of the journal that he has compiled over the last 30 years. He responds to his own spoken words, arguing with and repudiating his testimony, but mostly reliving a love affair that he now regrets abandoning. His conversation with himself also includes long contemplative silences as he, and you, ruminate together on what might have been.

Beckett5, presented by KOAN Unit, will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 5 at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (310) 477-2055, ext. 2, or visit online at www.OdysseyTheatre.com.

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

CULTURE

FROM PAGE 4

Metro (which is sponsoring this day) is arranging for discounts at some museum shops if you show your TAP card. Some of the museums ask you to go to their websites to sign up for tickets and FYI: general admission doesn't apply to special exhibitions, so do be sure you check individual websites for all details.

You'll be able to visit Annenberg Space for Photography; Armory Center for the Arts; Bowers Museum, The Broad, California African American Museum, California Science Center; Craft and Folk Art Museum; Descanso Gardens; Fowler Museum at UCLA; Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine; Getty Center; Getty Villa; Hammer Museum; Japanese American National Museum; Kidspace Children's Museum; Laguna Art Museum; La Brea Tar Pits and Museum; La Plaza de Cultura y Artes; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA); Museum of Tolerance; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Orange County Museum of Art; The Paley Center for Media; Pasadena Museum of California Art; Petersen Automotive Museum; Pomona College Museum of Art; Santa Barbara Museum of Art; Skirball Cultural Center; Sunnylands in Palm Springs; Zimmer Children's Museum. The Columbia Memorial Space Center is offering free entry on Jan. 28 instead.

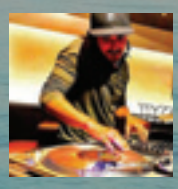
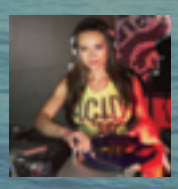
SARAH A. SPITZ is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications. Contact her at culturewatch@smdp.com.

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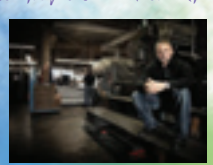
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HISTORY

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica Conservancy.

"Ocean Park has so much history and having a long time resident like Richard Orton is a great addition. He is very knowledgeable about the history and he works hard to preserve the information," said Ocean Park Branch Manager Karen Reitz.

He will provide a lecture that discusses much of the history of Ocean Park and how the neighborhood has transformed.

"When I moved into Ocean Park in January 1970, it was not the popular and beautiful place in Santa Monica. It was the local hangout, and it has changed drastically over the years," said Orton.

Ocean Park came to life with Abbott Kinney's 1891 Ocean Park Development Company. Kinney bought a sandy strip of land in Santa Monica's southwestern edge and not long after came the roads, homes, and piers.

Orton describes the past of Ocean Park, the run down part of town. He explains that with the neighborhood being unattractive to some, it was a place for the locals.

"At the southern end of Main Street was The Oar House, started by Al Ehringer. It was the spot for every college student," said Orton.

He continues to explain that by 1980 Main Street was lively. The street was full of restaurants, bars and shops. With these services came more visitors, making the parking around town very difficult for the locals. At this time parking structures were beginning to be built.

"Then somebody at city hall got the bright idea that affordable housing could be built on top of the structure. Soon it grew like a wedding cake with two levels of affordable housing and two more levels of parking for the people that lived there," said Orton.

This is when Orton became involved with local politics and the Main Street merchants.

Orton has a profound passion and dedication for one of Santa Monica's oldest neighborhood. He will tell facts, and stories, and share his experience of living in Ocean Park.

Historians said the neighborhood is now known for having coffee shops, restaurants and shopping but before the businesses came into town there was an ostrich farm, a Carnegie library, and so much more.

Orton will also speak at the Santa Monica History Museum. This will be the museum's first lecture of the year in its free Discover the History lecture series. The lecture will be held on Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m..

"I do this talk because I have an appreciation of the past. The neighborhood continues to be amazing," said Orton. "It has been around before the turn of the last century, and I feel lucky. Not many people live in an interesting neighborhood like Ocean Park."

This lecture is offered free, but space is limited and residents are encouraged to RVSP to reserve a spot. Contact Kathryn Evans at (310) 395-2290 or kevans@santamonicahistory.org to RSVP for the Museum's event. Visit http://santamonicahistory.org/upcoming-activities-programs/discoverthehistory for more information.

The Ocean Park Branch Library is located at 2601 Main St. For more information visit http://smpl.org. To learn more about the Santa Monica Conservancy, visit www.smconservancy.org/events-programs/special-events.

marina@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Human remains may have been found at fire-gutted home

There may finally be word about the fate of an 84-year-old man who vanished after fire gutted a Los Angeles home last fall.

The Fire Department says a demolition contractor found what are believed to be human remains at the Mount Washington site and notified authorities Wednesday.

Coroner's officials have been notified.

The 9,100-square-foot hillside home caught fire on Oct. 20. It took more than 125 firefighters three hours to douse the blaze.

After the fire, roommates were unable to find the 84-year-old man. Some witnesses thought he may have gone back inside to rescue some puppies and a cat.

A painstaking, weeklong search through the debris failed to turn up any sign of him.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Missing woman found alive

Los Angeles police say a woman who went missing over the weekend, leaving behind her abandoned car, has been found alive.

However, police weren't releasing any other details Wednesday.

Twenty-eight-year-old Laura Lynne Stacy had last been seen Sunday in the Hollywood Hills area.

Her phone was found later that day about 30 miles away, in a puddle of water at Golden Valley Park in Santa Clarita.

Late Tuesday, a tow truck driver found a car in the high desert Lancaster area matching the description of Stacy's 2005 Acura.

On Wednesday, Stacy's parents, police and volunteers searched the area where the car was found.

However, police aren't saying where the woman was located.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Elon Musk tweets mystery tunnel boring project

Elon Musk's already going high, and now he says he's going low.

In mid-December the billionaire tweeted "Traffic is driving me nuts" and "am going to build a tunnel boring machine and just start digging."

On Wednesday, the SpaceX and Tesla founder tweeted he plans to begin in a month or so at his Los Angeles-area rocket factory.

The statements have launched speculation about another fantastic transportation idea from Musk, who is known for advocating a "hyperloop" – a futuristic system of vacuum tubes with passenger-carrying capsules.

But Musk's cryptic tweets leave unclear what kind of tunnel he'll be digging.

One tweet said the starting point will be across from his desk at SpaceX in Hawthorne, California, but didn't say how big the tunnel will be or where it will lead to.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

Your column here

By Sam Snow and Dylan Graff

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Million Woman March

THE MILLION WOMAN MARCH WAS a historical event. It happened all over the world, from places like Los Angeles all the way to Nairobi, Kenya, on January 21, 2017. People who got really upset during the election decided to stand up for what they believed in and held protests.

Women from all around California came to the protest in downtown Los Angeles. Some women brought their families, while others came in groups or by themselves. The range of people at this event went from kids to senior citizens.

"I'm here because I support women's rights," says Robert, a disabled man from Long Beach, California. He held a sign that said "We cannot succeed when half of us are held back", a quote by Malala Yousafzai, a female rights activist.

During the March, it was so crowded that in the course of 10 minutes, you would probably walk 20-30 steps. People marched as a group, together. This march was also a place where friends reunited and protested together.

There were marchers waving the American Indian Movement flag, in protest of the North Dakota Pipeline. Other protesters included a feminist group from a high school in Hermosa Beach, veterans, and kids from Crossroads School.

In the end, thousands of people of all backgrounds and cultures came together to protest the election and Donald Trump.

DYLAN and **SAM** are 5th graders who attend Carlthorp School. They are training to be photojournalists and look for events (like this one) to document. They both love to take photos and have been for 1 year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

UCLA biology professor leads statewide project to create 'environmental DNA museum'

Would you like to become a volunteer citizen scientist helping to document and analyze California's rich biodiversity? If so, you can be among 1,000 volunteers who will collect 18,000 samples of soil and aquatic sediment from across the state through a new University of California program called CALeDNA that intends to revolutionize conservation in California by the end of this year.

Volunteers who sign up on the program's website will receive training, a sample collection kit and a phone app to guide them. The program's scientific team hopes about half of the participants will deploy the kits on hikes in any of the 39 UC natural reserves, and that the other half will sample broadly across California's stunning and fragile ecosystems. CALeDNA will hold several "BioBlitz" events; the first will be held on Feb. 8 at Northern California's Pillar Point near Half Moon Bay.

To figure out what lives in a place – for example, from an undeveloped lot in the desert, a grassland being considered for cattle range or a patch of coastal sage scrub experiencing drought – teams of life scientists have traditionally had to survey the area intensively for up to four years, but they still could not identify everything.

By using DNA-sequencing technology that traditionally has been used to inventory species in marine systems, CALeDNA scientists will be able to reconstruct an entire habitat from a vial of soil. The kit samples will be sent to a team of UCLA molecular biologists, who will extract DNA and prepare the sample for permanent archiving.

This technique captures fragments of DNA, called environmental DNA or eDNA, from cells shed by animals as they scamper by, from plants as fallen leaves compost, and from all the small critters, bacteria and fungi that live underground. High-tech DNA sequencers generate hundreds of thousands of DNA barcodes that scientists will compare to a global database of all barcodes of life. They can then extrapolate hundreds of species with even a trace amount of DNA in a gram of soil.

The CALeDNA program was created under the UC Conservation Genomics Consortium supported by UC President Janet Napolitano's catalyst grant program.

"With more extreme climate sweeping the state, and nearly 1,000 species on endangered or watch lists, California can't afford to wait to take action," said Robert Wayne, a UCLA professor of ecology and evolutionary biology who is leading the consortium.

Conservation International has named California as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, with a large number of species whose existence is threatened by human activity. California's wildlife is particularly at risk because more than 70 percent of natural habitat has been lost due to development and land degradation, Wayne said.

One of the main challenges facing conservation biologists is effectively monitoring species distribution and establishing reliable baselines of a region's biodiversity – which is critical for early detection of species decline. CALeDNA aims to address these challenges by collecting and analyzing samples to establish a baseline of California's biodiversity.

"We will create an environmental DNA museum," Wayne said. CALeDNA will openly disseminate information about its progress with data collection and analysis to make biodiversity monitoring easier and more effective.

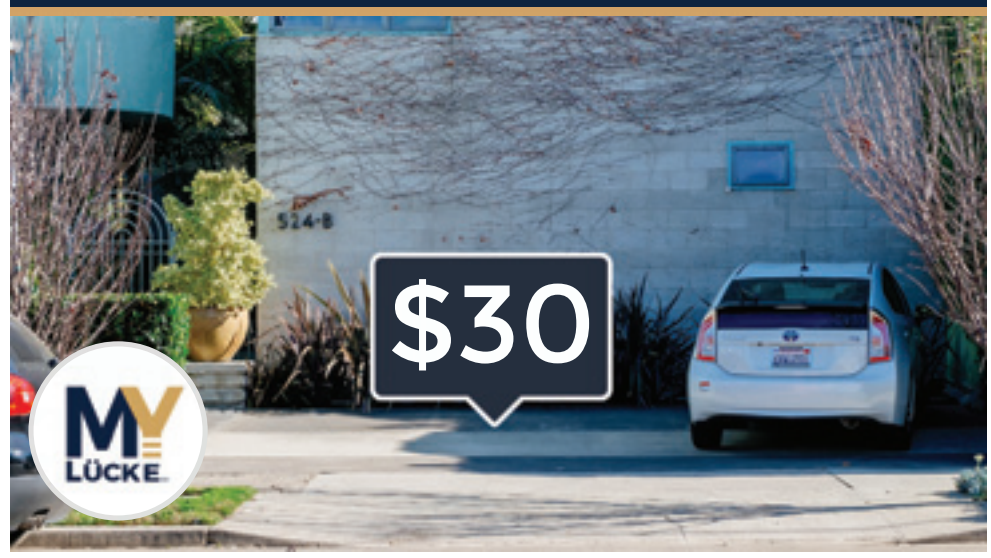
Visit http://www.ucedna.com for more information.

– SUBMITTED BY STUART WOLPERT

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES on PAGE 10!

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Take a photo at one of your favorite spots or businesses on Santa Monica Pier and post it on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, using the hashtags: #SMPIERWINTER and #SPIRITAWARDS

One winner will be chosen at random and will need to show proof of Santa Monica residency via photo ID/bill in order to redeem prize.

CONTEST DURATION

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

VISIT SANTAMONICA.COM/CONTEST FOR MORE INFORMATION



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **57.6°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Old WNW swell drops into the background as long period new WNW swell builds in. More size showing in the PM. Deep AM high tide.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Modest NW-WNW swell. Deep AM high tide.



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 16, AT ABOUT 11:27 P.M.

Officers responded to an assault call in the 1200 block of Palisades Park. Santa Monica Fire Paramedics also responded and rendered aid to a man found to be suffering from significant injuries. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment to his wounds and remains there in stable condition. Witnesses to the incident were able to point out the suspect to officers. The suspect was detained a short distance away. The weapon used in the assault was also recovered and determined to be a full-length garden hoe. The victim and suspect do not know each other and the motive for the attack is unknown at this time. The suspect struck the victim multiple times with the weapon as the victim defended himself. Priscilla Velez-Gomez, 32, from Ontario, CA was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 321 calls for service on Jan. 24.

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

Hit and run 900 block of Lincoln 12:05 a.m.
Fight 2nd/Colorado 1:15 a.m.
Encampment 400 block of Santa Monica Pier 3:38 a.m.
Rape 1500 block of Ocean 4:39 a.m.
Petty theft 700 block of Broadway 6:04 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block of 4th 6:17 a.m.
Auto burglary 2800 block of Colorado 7:43 a.m.
Encampment 1300 block of Berkeley 7:56 a.m.
Petty theft 1000 block of California 8:05 a.m.
Petty theft 1800 block of 12th 8:30 a.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block of Olympic 8:41 a.m.
Hit and run 1400 block of Lincoln 8:49 a.m.
Fraud 1300 block of Ocean 9:20 a.m.
Traffic collision 7th/Idaho 9:22 a.m.
Identity theft 1300 block of Harvard 9:33 a.m.
Hit and run 2400 block of Main 10:05 a.m.
Traffic collision 800 block of 12th 10:13 a.m.
Fraud 1700 block of Robson 10:22 a.m.
Traffic collision 1200 block of Wilshire 10:24 a.m.
Burglary 2000 block of Ocean 10:58 a.m.
Identity theft 1300 block of Harvard 11:10 a.m.
Mark & tag 100 block of Ocean Park 11:12 a.m.
Fight 1900 block of Lincoln 11:25 a.m.
Assault 1500 block of Lincoln 11:38 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block of Ocean 11:39 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block of 10th 11:44 a.m.
Petty theft 1600 block of 9th 12:02 p.m.
Fight 1800 block of Lincoln 12:40 p.m.
Speeding Lincoln/Wilshire 12:53 p.m.
Vandalism 1600 block of 17th 1:11 p.m.
Injured person 24th/Pico 1:13 p.m.
Fight Lincoln/Pacific 1:15 p.m.
Burglary 2300 block of 4th 1:26 p.m.
Hit and run 800 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 2:24 p.m.
Grand theft 3rd/Bay 2:39 p.m.
Injured person 700 block of Montana 2:44 p.m.
Encampment 2200 block of Virginia 2:54 p.m.
Person with a gun National/Overland 3:05 p.m.
Battery 1500 block of 2nd 3:07 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1500 block of Santa Monica 3:44 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 3:52 p.m.
Pedestrian stop 1300 block Palisades Park 3:53 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 800 block of Olympic 3:59 p.m.
Violation of posted 1900 block of 17th 4:02 p.m.
Auto burglary 500 block of Broadway 4:05 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 4th 4:48 p.m.
Petty theft 2100 block of 3rd 5:04 p.m.
Speeding 2400 block of Pier 5:10 p.m.
Aircraft incident 3300 block of Donald Douglas Loop N 5:26 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block of Ocean 5:35 p.m.
Drunk driving investigation Highland/Ocean Park 6:17 p.m.
Fraud 1300 block of Franklin 6:41 p.m.
Hit and run Cloverfield/Virginia 7:04 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 42 calls for service on Jan. 24.

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

Automatic alarm 2200 block of Santa Monica 12:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm 200 block of Arizona 12:44 a.m.
EMS 500 block of Colorado 1:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2200 block of Santa Monica 2:21 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Arizona 2:26 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2200 block of Santa Monica 3:41 a.m.
EMS 1000 block of 11th 6:38 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 2300 block of Kansas 6:40 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 7:14 a.m.
Automatic alarm 700 block of Palisades Beach 7:37 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 7:41 a.m.
CNG/LNG leak 1600 block of 7th 8:25 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block of Ocean 9:29 a.m.
EMS 2800 block of Pearl 9:53 a.m.
EMS 2400 block of Virginia 10:02 a.m.
EMS 800 block of 12th 10:13 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block of 17th 10:34 a.m.
EMS 2700 block of Neilson 11:47 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 5th 12:48 p.m.
EMS 300 block of san Vicente 12:53 p.m.
EMS 24th/Pico 1:13 p.m.
Electrical fire - no fire visible 3000 block of 2nd 1:18 p.m.
Structure fire 1300 block of 12th 1:43 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 4th 1:54 p.m.
EMS 700 block of Montana 2:27 p.m.
EMS 200 block of 19th 2:49 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of 17th 3:10 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of Pico 3:13 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of 5th 3:17 p.m.
EMS 900 block of Pico 3:31 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block of 2nd 4:31 p.m.
Alert 2 - serious 3300 block of Donald Douglas Loop 5:23 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/21
23 25 45 52 67
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 170M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/24
8 42 54 63 67
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 188M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 1/21
7 14 20 22 46
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 72M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/24
3 15 17 26 29

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/24
MIDDAY: 6 3 3
Draw Date: 1/24
EVENING: 4 7 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/24
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:44.78

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

WORD UP!

simpatico

1. congenial or like-minded; likable: I find our new neighbor simpatico in every respect.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Paying Medical Bills

■ New research from the Centers for Disease Control indicates that American families seem to be getting their financial houses in order -- at least in terms of healthcare. The CDC reports that the percentage of people under 65 who said they had trouble paying medical bills dropped to 16.2 percent in the first six months of 2016 compared to 21.3 percent in 2011.

■ The improvement coincided with the expansion of insurance coverage over the last five years of Obamacare. Nearly 18 million people have gained insurance coverage since 2011.

■ President-elect Trump is proposing to repeal portions of Obamacare, but says he may keep some of its most popular aspects, such as a provision that allows children to stay on their parents insurance until they are 26.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

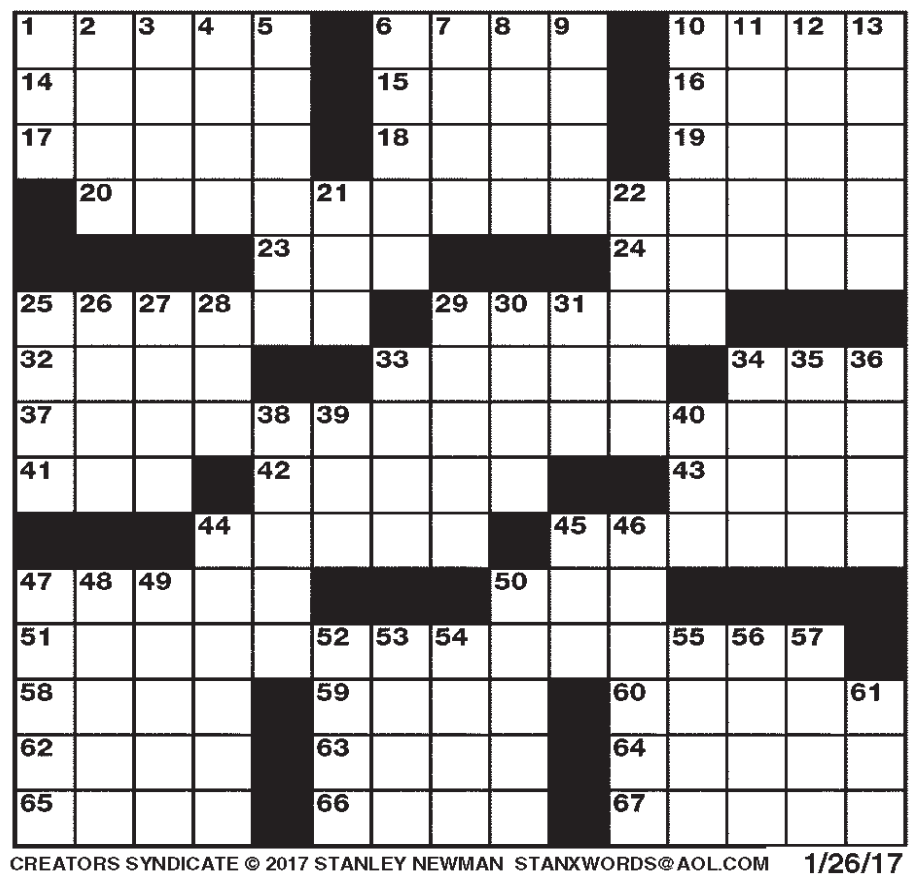
	3		9			8		
6		4			5		7	
5		2			7		9	
	4			6	2			7
1		7		4		5		3
8			3	7			2	
	1		7			2		8
	5		2			7		6
		8			3		4	

Newsday Crossword

HOW OFTEN? by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Uneasy feeling
6 Swindle
10 *War of the Worlds* foe
14 Travel plan
15 Prefix for legal
16 Natural soother
17 Actress Page or Barkin
18 Inventor Bell's nickname
19 Repurposed bedsheet, maybe
20 What the Marines' motto means
23 *Miss Saigon* setting
24 Solemn ceremonies
25 Houses and land
29 Large library volume
32 Brutish boss
33 Bobbin, e.g.
34 Holiday brink
37 Encyclopedia qualifier
41 Zebra cousin
42 Telltale signs
43 In a crowd of
44 Overly theatrical
45 Tart-tasting, perhaps
47 Elbow room
50 Keep out
51 Comment owning up to unfamiliarity
58 Mineral abundant in kale
59 Insurance specialty
60 Hacked-off fairway
62 "Get busy!"
63 Moderate pace
64 Make rhapsodic
65 What most donuts don't have
66 10th-grader
67 Concentrated

DOWN
1 It will often follow you
2 The Big Easy, alternatively
3 Shoreline scavenger
4 Campsite fare
5 Lessee
6 Hiccup, for example
7 Baby elephant
8 Bailiwick
9 Long skirt
10 "Misty" singer
11 In the air
12 Ne'er-do-well
13 Naval commandos
21 "Just what I was hoping for!"
22 Musical syllables
25 Santa __, CA
26 Centers of pride
27 Administrative branches
28 *Go Set a Watchman* author
29 Mimic's work
30 Deep-six
31 __ cit. (footnote notation)
33 Skyline hider
34 Blondie's young neighbor
35 Train of thought
36 Whirling water
38 Bellhop, at times
39 43rd st.
40 Hasty flight
44 Perfumery products
45 Little guy
46 Chipped away at
47 Catty
48 Lloyd Webber score subject
49 Refrain from
50 Gravy ingredient
52 Some haberdashery
53 Lithuanian adoption of 2015
54 Looking down from
55 Mani-pedi implement
56 Dr. Pavlov
57 Little ones
61 Next stop after most greens



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/26/17

CONCERNS

FROM PAGE 1

of scale, it's not right," Gardner said in an interview Wednesday. Gardner is worried about the potential for airborne pathogens that could sicken employees and the public if there are design or implementation problems with the innovative system.

Similar toilets are already being used at a few other buildings in the United States, including the Bullitt Center in Seattle, which is the same size as the City's proposed building. A typical "flush" uses a few tablespoons of water mixed with biodegradable soap. The waste flows down pipes into aerobic composters in the basement. The bio-waste is regularly trucked to a treatment site to make Grade A compost that can be used for gardening.

"There's nothing really that complicated or scary about (the system) and the water savings are really dramatic," said Brad Kahn, communications director for the Bullitt Center in a phone interview from Seattle. "I think this is a real solution that folks should keep an open mind about."

Kahn says the manufacturer of the toilets have only done general maintenance on the system since the building opened in 2013. Giant air vents in the basement pull air down through the pipes, preventing the sewage smell from wafting up through the bowls and, incidentally, creating a nice breeze when someone sits down.

"If you like to poop outdoors I think you're going to like the feeling," Kahn said, who added he's used the compostable toilets at the Bullitt Center "many times."

By saving water with every flush, the Bullitt Center uses 95 percent less water than normal commercial buildings of similar size.

"People often focus on the initial cost of a building, but the City of Santa Monica is going to own and operate this building for a hundred plus years," Kubani told the City Council.

"The lifecycle cost of this building is going to reduce our costs overall."

At the meeting, the appellant expressed concerns the system is illegal under California law, and Cole admitted the City may face some hurdles.

California state law requires buildings connect to the sewage system. Both Kubani and Cole say the building will fulfill those requirements as a backup to the composting system, both for safety and to stay in accordance with the law. State law allows alternate materials and methods for sewage systems with approval by regulators.

"We're working with the regulatory agencies that would permit these sorts of things to demonstrate to them that what we're proposing is going to be safe for the public and for the environment," Kubani said. To Kubani, it is a trail worth blazing in the hopes that other, private projects will one day be just as water efficient.

But critics who lined up to give public comment at the meeting repeatedly complained it's an example of redundancy and wasted taxpayer money in the quest for a plaque on the building. The City received more than fifty emails supporting the appeal of the project's permit.

"It has the potential to be dangerously experimental, aesthetically disappointing and shortsited in terms of the future water table levels," said Northeast Neighbors president Tricia Crane.

To City Council members, the complaints came too far along into the process. The Council voted to pursue the Living Building Challenge back in 2015.

To Council Member Kevin McKeown, the City must purse aggressive sustainability initiatives during the current presidential administration. In fact, the night of the council meeting, Reuters reported President Donald Trump's administration had requested the Environmental Protection Agency remove the climate change page from its website. At best, the president has viewed Climate Change as an open-ended question. Many scientists agree drastic, immediate efforts are needed to thwart global warming.

"I've been asked by almost everybody I meet, what are we going to do locally in the face of what is happening nationally," McKeown said, who moved to deny the appeal and move the project forward. All six other council members voted in step with McKeown, vowing to press on with the ambitious project.

kate@smdp.com

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 26)

Serendipity kicks off this solar return. You'll connect in different social circles in the next 10 weeks. March places you in opportunity's path. If anyone can turn an ordinary situation into an extraordinary moneymaker, it's you. Celebrate the success of friends and family in June; the rising tide will carry all ships. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 35, 20, 14, 9 and 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The placebo effect works when a person trusts and believes the "expert" handing the placebos out. But you can't give a placebo to yourself and expect it to work, as no one really believes his own lies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Some small things deserve small attention, but not all. It's wasteful to focus on trivial matters, but who is to say what's trivial? If it captures your attention, there may be a very good reason worth investigating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Don't assume it's just you talking inside that head. There are multiple noise sources, resonant voices from culture, peers, family and more. Question and test your thoughts for accuracy and usefulness before you act on them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You might not be the cause of your challenge, but regardless, you can still take responsibility for your reaction to it. With some savvy mental and physical maneuvering, you'll change how this impacts you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

To be fascinated by an interest that couldn't care less about you is the best way to learn right now. Principles of detachment will work in your favor. This makes for a pure study, unadulterated by mutual expectation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Second chances abound, and yet nothing can ever really happen twice in this ever-evolving reality. So seize this chance if it seems like a good one. Something like it will come again. But nothing exactly like it ever will.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The social adaptations you learned to get along in a group worked fine for that group -- or maybe they just got you through. But this new situation is different, and the same things won't work. Come up with new methods.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

It may seem there's a lack of resources, but really there's only a lack of ideas. Identify the main obstacle. There's something good in it -- a unique opportunity. What is it? Brainstorm both possible and impossible solutions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Multitasking only works if the two tasks are compatible. Casual conversations go with cooking, podcasts go with cleaning, exercising and driving; music goes with almost everything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You can't run away from worry, because it's not coming at you from the outside. It's within you. You won't escape it so much as discard it. The same goes for any fear you're having. Recognize it then set it aside.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Be less reactionary. In the stressful moments, stop, breathe and gather your power. Much depends on how you see things. Life is a picture; you control the frame. Don't let anyone else touch it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

It may be difficult to tell which ideas are the best ones. If you ask a lot of people, you'll be even more confused. Hint: The bright ideas are the ones that illuminate what's around them.

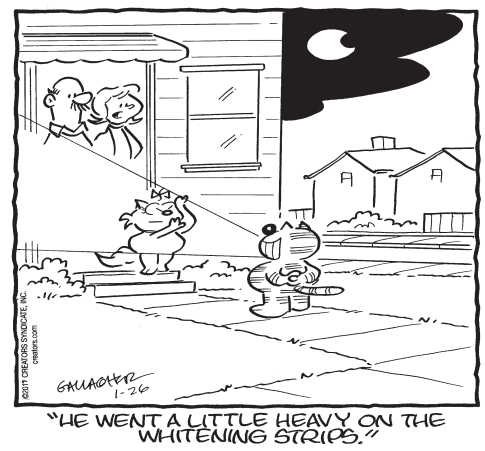
Venus, Saturn and Chaos

We are born into chaos. Some find an order. Others create one. And then there are those who question the order. All have a place; all are doing a job. Even those who find no order, only madness, are doing the job of reminding us of the original chaos. Venus and Saturn square off to challenge our tolerance for one another's style in dealing with it.

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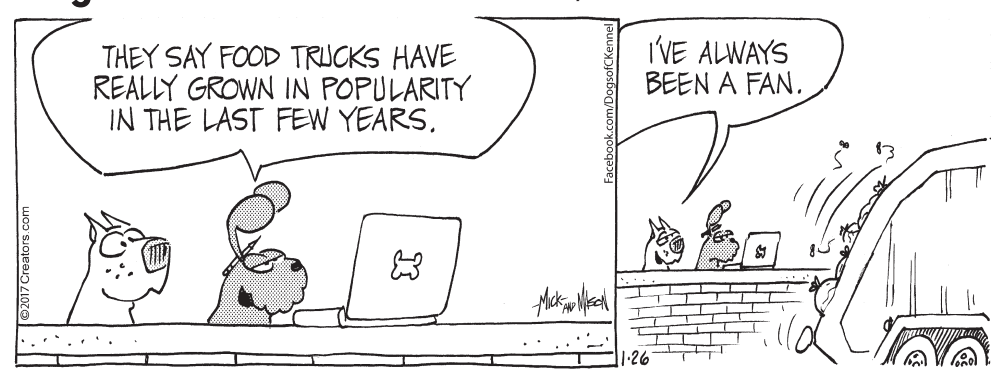
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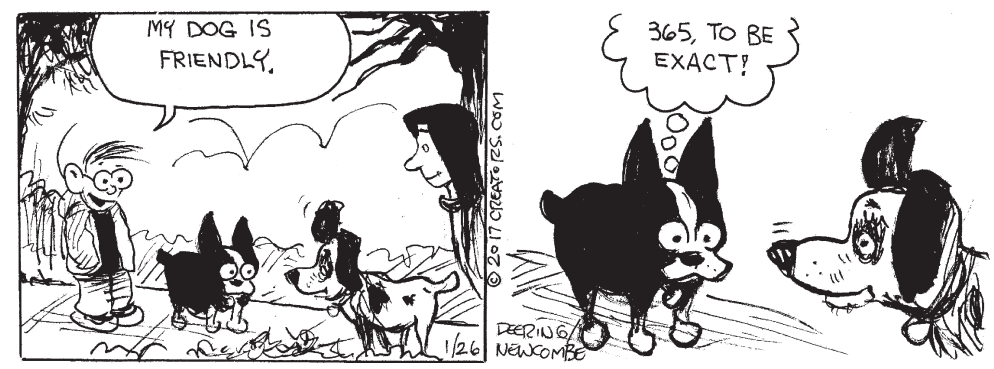
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