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Housing and safety make list of City's budget priorities

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

City Hall will allocate more funding toward making Santa Monica a safer and more affordable place to live, reducing homelessness and addressing climate change.

City Council decided on a set of goals and values to prioritize in the City of Santa Monica's 2019-2021 budget at its annual retreat Jan. 26. The new budget will organize the services the City provides under these priorities and include metrics that track their progress.

The City conducted a survey in December and January that asked the community – those who live, work or do business in Santa Monica – to select five areas they would like the City to devote more resources to from a list of 23 priorities.

More than 3,000 people took the survey and rated neighborhood safety, homelessness and affordability as their highest priorities. Participants also said transportation, environmental health and overdevelopment were important to them.

Council decided at its retreat to focus on the following priorities: affordability, keeping neighborhoods safe, reducing homelessness, climate change, engaged and thriving community

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

Los Angeles mayor touts major drops in crime in 2018

AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

Crime is down in every category in Los Angeles and homicides are at their second lowest in more than 50 years, the city's mayor and police chief announced Monday.

At 259, homicides in the nation's second-largest city fell 8.2 percent last year, while rapes were down 12.4 percent, gang crimes decreased by 8 percent and property crime went down 2 percent, Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference .

"It's pretty remarkable," said Garcetti, a Democrat who is considering running for president.

"This is one of the safest times to live in Los Angeles in all of our history," said Los Angeles police Chief Michel Moore, who became chief last year.

In 1992, when murders peaked in Los Angeles during the crack cocaine epidemic, there were 1,092 homicides.

Garcetti and Moore both compared last year's statistics to those from the 1990s. Violent crime is down 67 percent and property crime is down 60 percent since 1992, Garcetti said.

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 7

Target and Tesla reiterate plans to open in Santa Monica

Corporations announce plans to open locally but do not have city paperwork

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Target and Tesla have announced plans to open locations in Santa Monica but have not filed applications with City Hall.

Target is looking to open at 420 Broadway in downtown Santa Monica in 2020, a company spokesperson confirmed. The store will occupy 24,000 square feet of space in a building that retailer Fred Segal vacated in March 2016. Renderings of the location show a one-story building with wood paneling and windows facing the street.

The store would be Target's first foray into Santa Monica. The closest locations are in Culver City and Westwood.

The City of Santa Monica has been in talks with Target but has not received any applications to renovate the building since officials last spoke with the company in November, said David Martin, director of planning and community development. He said he thinks a 2020 opening is possible if the company moves quickly through the architectural review process.

Likewise, Tesla has not filed any applications with the City to build a Supercharger at 1401 Santa Monica Blvd, which is currently occupied by a Christmas tree lot, Martin said. The company's CEO Elon Musk announced the location in a tweet earlier this month and Martin said the company last met the City about the project about three months ago.



Courtesy image

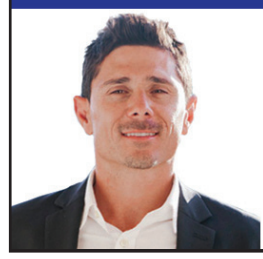
RENDERING: Target imagines a small store in Santa Monica at 5th and Colorado.

Tesla operates thousands of Superchargers around the world. The locations look like typical parking lots dotted with red and white chargers that can power a Tesla in 30 minutes.

Musk said in his tweet that the Supercharger will also feature "an old-school drive-in, roller skates, and rock restaurant." Tesla is also planning to open Superchargers in Pacific Palisades, Venice, Marina del Rey and Westwood.

madeleine@smdp.com


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

DATE/TIME: **10:30 a.m., February 12, 2019**

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0325, 642 Pacific Street. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow a retaining wall up to 5'9" high along with a hedge up to 7' high on top of the retaining wall for a total height up to 12'9" as measured from the sidewalk along the front parcel line parallel to Pacific Street and to allow a 16' high hedge along the west side property line in the front setback. The subject property is developed with a four-unit residential building located in the Ocean Park Low Density Residential (OP2) zoning district. Pursuant to the Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.21.050 and 9.04.050(D), fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Rathar Duong] **Applicant: Mojdeh Memarzadeh. Property Owner: Daniel Aronson.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0353, 3025 Colorado Avenue. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow for a 6' high fence and gate along the front property line within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Multi-Unit Low Density Residential (R2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Gina Szilak] **Applicant: Ralph Mechur Architects. Property Owner: Nazan & Cagatay Kurt.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0363, 917 Marine Street. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow for a 6' high wooden fence along the front property line within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Multi-Unit Low Density Residential (R2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **Applicant/Property Owner: Robert Canny.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0375, 2020 San Vicente Boulevard. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow for a 10' high hedge along the front and side parcel lines within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Cary Fukui] **Applicant: Benjamin Golshani. Property Owner: Shin Trust.**

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Zoning Administrator public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Zoning Administrator at the meeting.

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar applicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Gallery open
Annenberg Community Beach House 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Two Minute Playwriting with Max King Cap
Jump in to playwriting or hone your existing skills while practicing structure: set-up, conflict, redirection, and resolution in bite-sized writing. Each participant will write a two-page, two-character play, then pair with another participant to read both pieces aloud, with each acting in their own and in the other's work. No previous experience required, just a willingness to experiment with words and action. Cost: Free! Register at the link or call 310.458.2239. Palisades Park 2 - 4 p.m.

Beach Volleyball-Youth
Ages 7-15; all levels; in a semi-private setting. Annenberg Community Beach House 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Christine Yoo in conversation with Wally Rudolph
Filmmaker Christine Yoo shows clips from her new documentary, '26.2 to Life' and discusses the prison industrial complex with Writer-in-Residence Wally Rudolph. Her film chronicles a year in the life of San Quentin's 1000 Mile Club, a marathon training group for inmates coached by volunteers from the community. n 'Creating Art in Times of Strife,' Beach House Writer-in-Residence Wally Rudolph presents a series of one-on-one conversations with socially conscious artists across disciplines, discussing how the current state of socio-political polarization and environmental crisis affect and inform each artist's respective process and practice. Rudolph's public events take place 1/29, 2/12 and 3/26/19. Creating Art in Times of Strife Annenberg Community Beach House 6:30pm-8:00 pm.

How to Write a Book and Get it Published
Whether writing your memoir for publication or for your family, a business book for credibility, or a fiction book for fun, writing and publishing a book is an extraordinary experience and gift. Writing coach Jasmyne Boswell teaches the many ways this can be accomplished and how you can get started. Montana Avenue Branch Library 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

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

Cuentos para pequeños/ Spanish Story Time
Para niños de 2 - 5 años de edad. (9 de enero al 13 de febrero) Fairview Branch Library 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Sogochum Hand Drum Dance with DaEun Jung
This workshop begins with a floor warm-up with deep breath work and acknowledgment of the power of gravity. Learn basic skills for playing a traditional Korean hand drum and simple rhythmic patterns. Practice rhythmic phrases in small groups along with simple dance steps and combinations. Hand drums will be provided. Cost: $5 Register at the link or call (310) 458-2239. Palisades Park 12 - 2 p.m.

Fairview Teen Advisory Group
Looking for opportunities to serve your community? Join our Teen Advisory Group! Help improve teen services at the library and earn community service credit. Grades 8 - 12. Fairview Branch Library 3:30 -4:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Deal ends strike against LA-area charter school operator

A tentative settlement has ended an eight-day strike by teachers against a Los Angeles-area charter school operator.

The agreement reached over the weekend is sending teachers back to classrooms Monday at The Accelerated Schools, which operates three schools with 1,850 students.

The teachers struck the charter school operator during the larger strike by teachers against the Los Angeles Unified School District, which ended last week.

Both groups of educators are represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

UTLA says the agreement makes progress on core demands for increased job security.

The union says the walkout at The Accelerated Schools was the first charter school strike in California.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES

Democrat Harris gets support from Iowa's Deidre DeJear

California Sen. Kamala Harris is announcing the backing of Iowa Democrat Deidre DeJear as she travels to the early 2020 caucus state Monday.

DeJear was Iowa's first African American to win a primary for statewide office last year, but lost in her attempt to unseat Iowa's Republican secretary of state.

DeJear has since been courted by several Democrats taking steps toward running for president. Harris campaigned with DeJear in Iowa last fall after the two met in Washington, D.C., and California.

Harris is scheduled to travel to Des Moines to participate in a CNN town hall-style event live Monday evening.

Harris announced her candidacy for president Jan. 21. She also announced that Will Dubbs, a former aide to Hillary Clinton in 2016, will direct the California senator's 2020 Iowa campaign.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMARILLO

50th anniversary of California offshore oil spill marked

Opponents of offshore drilling marked the 50th anniversary of the disastrous 1969 Santa Barbara Channel oil spill by demonstrating against federal policy that seeks to expand energy development off the nation's coasts.

Demonstrators organized by the Center for Biological Diversity and other organizations chanted Monday outside the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Pacific regional office in Ventura County.

The Trump administration moved last year to expand offshore drilling, renewing debate over the risks.

The Jan. 28, 1969, blowout on a Union Oil Co. platform in the channel spilled millions of gallons of crude that fouled 30 miles of coastline and killed thousands of birds and sea creatures.

The spill was one of the catalysts of the American environmental movement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kamala Harris kicks off 2020 campaign, warns of divisions

JUANA SUMMERS
Associated Press

Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, standing outside of Oakland's city hall, formally kicked off her campaign for the White House by presenting herself as the leader who can best unite an America that is at an "inflection point" and facing a critical question.

"We are here because the American Dream and our American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before," Harris said Sunday. "And we are here at this moment in time because we must answer a fundamental question: Who are we? Who are we as Americans? So, let's answer that question to the world and each other right here and right now. America, we are better than this."

Harris, a first-term U.S. senator from California who announced her candidacy last Monday, rallied thousands of supporters at the Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland, her hometown and where she served as a prosecutor before becoming the state attorney general.

Harris invoked the speech that Robert F. Kennedy gave in 1968 when he announced that he would challenge President Lyndon B. Johnson, noting that Kennedy said "at stake is not simply the leadership of our party and even our country, it is our right to moral leadership of this planet."

Harris added, "So today I say to you, my friends: These are not ordinary times, and this will not be an ordinary election, but this is our America."

Harris' campaign is filled with historic possibility. If she ultimately wins the White House she would be the first African-American woman and first person of Asian descent to be president.

Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, said that as she and her sister, Maya Harris, grew up in the East Bay they were "raised by a community with a deep belief in the promise of our country, and a deep understanding of the parts of that promise that still remain unfulfilled."

She has attributed her decision to become a lawyer and a prosecutor to her upbringing, and said Sunday that she and her sister were "raised to believe that public service is a noble cause and the fight for justice is everyone's responsibility."

She said she is running "with faith in God, with fidelity to country, and with the fighting spirit I got from my mother."

Harris's launch has drawn heavily on symbolism. She officially entered the race on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Campaign aides say she has drawn inspiration from Shirley Chisholm, a New York congresswoman who in 1972 became the first black woman to run for president from a major party.

Harris' first news conference as a candidate was on the campus of Howard University, the historically black college in the nation's capital that she attended as an undergraduate. On Friday, she was in South Carolina to speak to members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, of which she is a member. Other members of the group, wearing traditional pink and green, were on hand at Sunday's rally.

Her choice of Oakland for her campaign launch was both biographical and symbolic. The state of California has played a leading role in resistance to the presidency of Donald Trump. And Oakland itself, where she was born and spent her formative years, has a history of activism. The plaza outside City Hall where Harris spoke once housed Occupy Oakland's encampment. When Barack Obama ran for president in 2008, he picked the site for his first Bay Area campaign event.

Michael Ahrens, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, called it "fitting" that Harris chose "the most liberal district in deep-blue California to launch her campaign."

Harris' campaign is expected to highlight her career as a prosecutor as part of her rationale for seeking the presidency. Harris was the first black woman elected district attorney in California, as well as the first woman, first African-American and first Asian-American to hold that job.

On Sunday, she said she has long known the criminal justice system to be "deeply flawed" but that she also knew the "profound impact law enforcement has on people's lives and its responsibility to give them safety and dignity."

Harris said throughout her life she has "only had one client: the people," echoing the words she has used in courtrooms and has adopted as her campaign's slogan.

Harris also did not shy away from taking on Trump directly, saying the U.S. welcomes refugees and calling the wall that Trump wants to build at the southern border a "medieval vanity project" that would not actually stop transnational gangs, which she noted she battled as state attorney general. She also said that, as president, she would "always speak with decency and moral clarity and treat all people with dignity and respect. I will lead with integrity. And I will tell the truth."

Harris is among the first major Democrats to jump into what is expected to be a crowded 2020 presidential contest.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York have announced exploratory committees. Former Maryland Rep. John Delaney and Julian Castro, federal housing chief under President Barack Obama and a former San Antonio mayor, already are in the race.

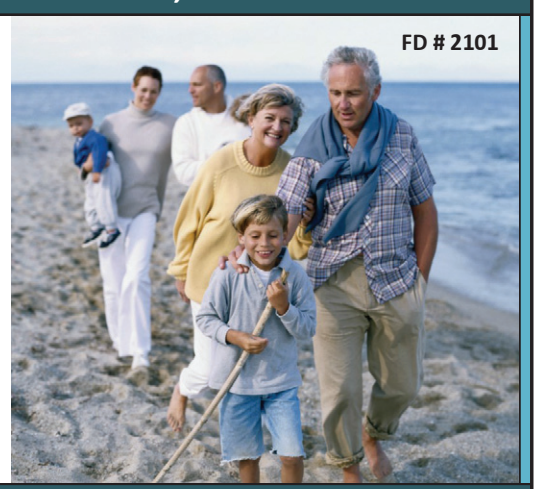
Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Bernie Sanders of Vermont may also run.

After the rally, Harris planned to her first trip to Iowa as a presidential candidate. In the weeks before last November's elections, she traveled to the leadoff caucus state to campaign on behalf of Democrats, and also visited other early-voting states.

Harris's campaign will be based in Baltimore and led by Juan Rodriguez, who managed her 2016 Senate campaign. Aides say the campaign will have a second office in Oakland.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's the vibe of the city?

London. Paris. New York. Denver. And Dallas. Each city has its own emotional pull. The architecture, the food, the nightlife and the day life all the great cities of the world have a vibe. An emotional and artistic foundation that is instantly recognizable as "that city."

When I'm in London it's well dressed people, tea at the National Portrait Gallery and polite salespeople. Being in London is intoxicating with the history and the buildings that command their place in the world.

Paris is glorious for a foodie like me. Memories of the seafood tower at one dinner are flooded out with the dreamy pastries at another breakfast. Anyone who has been to Paris will have a story of the spectacular chocolate croissant and espresso they had at the delightful corner patisserie.

The theater and the chaos that is New York seems almost redundant. Winding one's way through the crowds of people, all trying to get somewhere immediately because they are very, very important people, is always an invigorating, if sometimes annoying experience.

Life in the mountains of Colorado is all about clean living and outdoor activities. Denver is known as the Mile High City for a reason, the elevation is over 5, 000 feet above sea level which is why it takes me a couple of days to acclimatize and be able to walk without wheezing.

Dallas is an art lover's city - I know I didn't think so either! But there are galleries, museums and public art all over the place. I thought it was all JR and Sue Ellen, but there's more to Texas and Dallas than a bad 70s television show. It has an air of sophistication and down home hospitality that I was not prepared for.

So where does that leave us? How do we stack up here in the little city by the bay? We're amazing, and changing, and we have some things that are wonderful, and some that are in dire need of attention.

Santa Monica, the former sleepy beach community that was a haven for crazy liberals, surfers and potheads, granola eaters and peaceniks has evolved. We've become a city that has some great restaurants, lots of middle market ones, and a few that should be shuttered. Our architecture is changing as rapidly as the developers can push something new through a bloated bureaucracy. And our public art is meh.

I've been watching the unfolding of the new building on the Santa Monica College campus with a bit of glee, some hopeful expectation and a bit of sadness. On the one hand, it's a gleaming new blue behemoth of a structure. It adds huge amounts of color and passion to an otherwise rather gloomy and boring campus of beige buildings. It's been a delight to see some bold and bright colors being used in mass. The glass has gone up on most of the building at this point and it's really taking shape as a unique outcropping of design. I'm sad on the other hand at the loss of space that could be used for parks and greens, to allow light and air to flow.

For a campus that is primarily inward facing this new building is surprisingly open to the boulevard and the city. I hope that it becomes the focal point and entryway to what should be a community resource.

I am seeing the community change rapidly due to the complex develop that is happening across the city. From the new apartments/ condos on Pico that sport a wood siding look to the white monolithic blocks on Lincoln with their splashes of yellow as a bone throw to design, the city has a mishmash of sometimes wonderful, but usually uninspired design. I hear that it is a result of the crushing demands by the Architectural Review Board, the city planning and zoning requirements and the need for developers to maximize their return on investment. It's a shame I think that we don't have more of an emphasis on a long term design that embodies and exemplifies our city.

Basically we're known for a Ferris Wheel, an arch over a pier, and a fast fading history. It remains to be seen what the next incarnation of our little burg by the bay shall be. I hope it will be as inspirational and aspirational as some of the other world class cities we could compare ourselves to.

David Pisarra is a family law attorney focusing on fathers' rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@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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Proposed ballot measure would let California parolees vote

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

Tens of thousands of parolees would be allowed to vote under a state constitutional amendment proposed Monday by California's secretary of state and Democratic state lawmakers who called it the next civil rights issue.

The proposal intended for the 2020 ballot would help nearly 50,000 felons who have served their time adjust to being back in the community, said California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and other advocates. Parolees currently are prohibited from registering to vote in local, state or federal elections.

California is one of several states that have or are considering expanding voting rights for felons. The proposal would not affect criminals until they are released from custody, unlike in some other states, but victims' rights groups said it still goes too far.

Democrats control the two-thirds legislative majorities needed to put the measure on the ballot, but the amendment's author, Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento, predicted it will not be an easy vote.

It advances California's efforts to make voting easier and more inclusive while some other states are limiting voting rights, said Padilla, who noted that inmates are disproportionately minorities.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that the history of voter suppression in America is rooted in white supremacy," said Padilla, a Democrat starting his second four-year term as the state's chief elections official.

Advocates said about 6 million Americans are unable to vote nationwide because they are felons or ex-felons.

Fourteen other states and Washington, D.C., already allow felons to vote after their release from prison, said Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove of Los Angeles, who called it "the civil rights issue of the day."

"I'm citizen enough to tax but I'm not citizen enough to vote," said Michael Mendoza, policy director for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. He said he was released on lifetime parole in 2014 after he was convicted as an adult of a second-degree murder he committed at age 15.

The pool of potential voters in the battleground state of Florida grew by as many as 1.4 million people earlier this month after nearly two-thirds of voters there allowed registration by ex-convicts who completed their probation or parole, with the exception of those convicted of murder or sex offenses. Starting in March, Louisiana will allow anyone on probation or parole to vote once they've been out of custody for five years, unless they've been convicted of a felony election offense.

The proposed California constitutional amendment contains no exemptions based on type of crime. But the California amendment would not go so far as Maine and Vermont, which allow felons to vote while they are behind bars. Lawmakers in Nebraska and New Mexico have proposed allowing voting in prison.

Crime victims groups plan to fight the measure, though both sides may have limited financial resources.

"Just because they've are out on parole doesn't mean they have completed their sentence," said Nina Salarno, president of Crime Victims United of California. Voting should be an incentive for ex-convicts to successfully complete their parole, she said.

Christine Ward, executive director of the Crime Victims Action Alliance, said the proposal continues California's pattern in recent years of reducing sentences and increasing earlier releases from prison.

"Why should the individuals who committed these horrible crimes be given the same rights as the rest of us who are following the rules?" Ward said. "I would hope that there are people left in our society that understand that this is just taking it a little bit too far."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Michael Jackson family condemns new documentary on accusers

Michael Jackson's family members said Monday that they are "furious" that two men who accuse him of sexually abusing them as boys have received renewed attention because of a new documentary about them.

The family released a statement denouncing "Leaving Neverland," a documentary film featuring Jackson accusers Wade Robson and James Safechuck that premiered last week at the Sundance Film Festival and is set to air in the spring on HBO and the U.K.'s Channel 4.

"Michael always turned the other cheek, and we have always turned the other cheek when people have gone after members of our family – that is the Jackson way," the statement said. "But we can't just stand by while this public lynching goes on.... Michael is not here to defend himself, otherwise these allegations would not have been made."

The family points out that Jackson was subjected to a thorough investigation that included a surprise raid of his home, the Neverland Ranch, but was still acquitted at his criminal trial in 2005, in a case involving another young man.

Robson testified at that trial, saying he had slept in Jackson's room many times, but that Jackson had never molested him. Safechuck made similar statements to investigators as a boy. Jackson died in 2009.

Both men filed lawsuits in 2013 saying stress and trauma had forced them to face the truth and admit they were sexually abused. The suits have been thrown out on technical grounds but are under appeal.

The Jackson statement calls the men "perjurers" because of this reversal, saying the family is "furious" that media outlets without evidence have chosen "to believe the word of two admitted liars over the word of hundreds of families and friends around the world who spent time with Michael."

"Leaving Neverland" director Dan Reed said in a statement Monday that the film focuses only on the two men and their families because he felt "no need to include the opinions of people with no direct knowledge of what happened" to them.

"Anyone who sees the film will know it is solely about hearing the stories of two specific individuals and their families in their own words, and that is a focus we are very proud of," Reed said.

Reed has said previously he has no doubts about the validity of the men's claims.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, which Robson and Safechuck have done on multiple occasions.

The family insists that truth and evidence are on their side.

"We are proud of what Michael Jackson stands for," the statement said.

ANDREW DALTON, AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

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CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

Moore also pointed out that the 1,008 shooting victims in 2018 were 48 fewer than 2017, 169 fewer from 2016 and 900 fewer than in 2007.

They credited increased diversity of officers, more street patrols and gang intervention for the drops.

Garcetti said the drop is noteworthy considering Los Angeles' growing population. He also pointed out that some of the other largest cities in the U.S. saw more homicides than Los Angeles in 2018.

New York had 289, Chicago had more than 530, Houston had at least 279, and Philadelphia more than 350.

Moore emphasized the continued need for gang intervention, pointing out that 50 percent of all homicides in Los Angeles are gang-related.

He also said too many homeless people, nearly 3,000, were victims of crimes in 2018, calling it "the humanitarian crisis of our generation."

Garcetti and Moore also addressed a report by The Los Angeles Times that found LAPD's elite Metropolitan division disproportionately stopped black drivers.

Garcetti said the report is "deeply concerning" and he's asked for a further review of its findings.

"I want us to look carefully about how we're policing Los Angeles," Garcetti said, adding that audits of the department's gang enforcement and metro divisions are underway.

"We'll get information instead of having speculation," he said.

Moore said the department doesn't tolerate discrimination and the report renews an important question about just how the department's enforcement strategies impact the community.

But he said he's concerned the report was too simplistic and that the incidence of violent crime "does not strictly follow the proportionality of the ethnic makeup of the community."

"Neither should our enforcement strategies," he said, adding that the department is focused on de-escalation and outreach. "Critically important is that the communities of South Los Angeles and particularly the African American community have confidence that this department's efforts are genuine and intended to save lives."

He said the department has had 11 fewer officer-involved shootings in 2018 and for the first time began regularly releasing body camera footage of such incidents.

Garcetti announced the drop in crime on the heels of another success: He helped broker an end to a six-day teachers' strike last week.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

and mobility and access.

The majority of survey takers rated either safety or reducing homelessness as their top priorities. Written responses to the survey displayed frustration with both issues and a desire for the City to take immediate action.

"We need to find a way to manage our (homeless) population to protect our residents and visitors," one participant wrote. "It is not a crime to be poor, or homeless, but it is a crime to rob, assault, steal, and be drunken or threatening in public. We have to get our city back under control."

Council decided to prioritize reducing homelessness and keeping neighborhoods safe by treating the root causes of those issues rather than relying on policing. (City Manager Rick Cole did point out, however, that Santa Monica Police Department has recently hired several new officers.)

"Homelessness is not the disease, it is the symptom of a lack of affordable housing, mental health care and education," said Mayor Gleam Davis. "Similarly, crime is not the disease, but a symptom of lack of education, economic opportunity and equity."

Councilmembers also identified affordability, the third most common response to the survey, as a pressing concern.

"Every priority we could possibly list is potentially undermined by our affordable housing crisis," said Councilmember Terry O'Day.

O'Day, Davis and Councilmember Ana Maria Jara tied affordability to the goal of reducing homelessness, noting that many seemingly secure households are only a paycheck or two away from homelessness.

Councilmember Ted Winterer said the City will need to find ways to build more middle-income housing, perhaps through a policy similar to its mandate that developers include units for low-income tenants in new housing.

O'Day pushed for Council to include addressing climate change in its budget, while Davis, a longtime proponent of the City's educational programs, stressed that staff should craft a budget with ample funding for educational and economic opportunities as well as health care. Mobility was added to the list of priorities because survey takers strongly supported expanding transportation options.

While Council has decided the areas it wishes to prioritize in the budget, the City will also have to scale back some services to account for the $467 million it will have to pay out in pension costs over the next ten years, as well as falling parking and retail revenue.

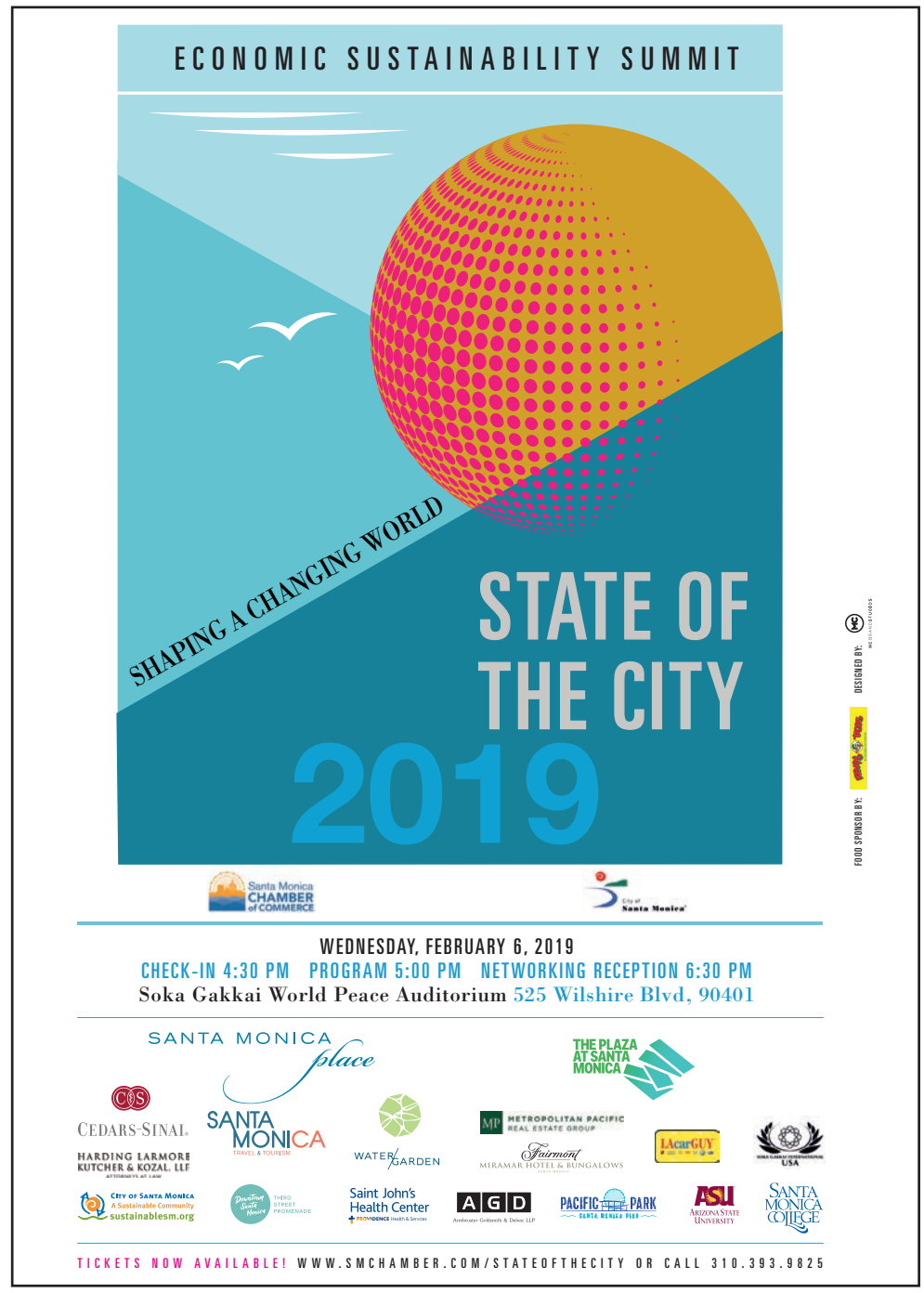
"My deepest fear is that (Council) will expect us to do everything you aspire to and the community asks, and that is literally impossible," Cole said at the retreat.

City staff will return to Council in April with a preview of the budget that includes the new priorities – and some proposed cuts, Cole said. Public hearings on the budget, which will go into effect July 1, will take place in June.

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SURF FORECASTS

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2 ft ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Easing WNW swell. Deep early AM high tide.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2 ft ankle to knee high
WNW swell bottoms out. Small new WNW swell shows late. Deep early AM high tide.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Auto Burglary 2000 block 14th 12:15 a.m.
Hit and Run 4th / Palisades 12:17 a.m.
Fire 1600 block the Beach 12:52 a.m.
Hit and Run 20th / Olympic 1:57 a.m.
Battery 3rd Street Prom / Arizona 2:17 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1500 block California 7:23 a.m.
Prowler 200 block 14th 9:18 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1100 block 9th 10:00 a.m.
Battery 2400 block Wilshire 10:44 a.m.
Auto Burglary 4th / Adelaide 10:48 a.m.
Traffic Collision 26th / Santa Monica 10:51 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100 block Ocean Park 11:53 a.m.
Hit and Run 2900 block 31ST 12:29 p.m.
Arson 1600 block Berkeley 1:18 p.m.
Battery 100 block Broadway 1:59 p.m.
Petty Theft 700 block Broadway 2:17 p.m.
Loitering 2000 block Lincoln 2:41 p.m.
Assault 1400 block Montana 2:44 p.m.
Petty Theft 3100 block Wilshire 2:45 p.m.
Hit and Run 25th / Ocean Park 3:46 p.m.
Loitering 1100 block Lincoln 3:51 p.m.
Traffic Collision 2600 block Main 4:08 p.m.
Fight 1300 block Wilshire 4:27 p.m.
Domestic Violence 1200 block Yale 4:30 p.m.
Trespassing 3000 block Main 4:31 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300 block 18th 5:29 p.m.
Burglar Alarm 1300 block 7th 5:56 p.m.
Trespassing 500 block Arizona 6:44 p.m.
Battery 1300 block 2nd 6:45 p.m.
Hit and Run 1000 block 3rd 6:56 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300 block 2nd 7:10 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300 block Wilshire 7:18 p.m.
Trespassing 1200 block Lincoln 7:23 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1300 block 18th 7:35 p.m.
Drunk Driving 23rd / Ocean Park 8:11 p.m.
Hit and Run 1000 block 3rd 9:12 p.m.
Identity Theft 1100 block 4th 9:13 p.m.
Auto Burglary 700 block Broadway 10:53 p.m.
Burglar Alarm 300 block 24th 11:17 p.m.
Trespassing 900 block 6th 11:18 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency Medical Service 100 block Colorado 1:46 a.m.
EMS 200 block Broadway 3:10 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 5:10 a.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 6:27 a.m.
Traffic Collision 1300 block Stanford 7:26 a.m.
EMS 1100 block Chelsea 7:52 a.m.
EMS 2600 block Pico 8:09 a.m.
EMS 700 block 16th 8:29 a.m.
EMS 800 block Colorado 8:33 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 8:45 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 18th 9:12 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 9:25 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 20th 9:32 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800 block 4th 11:07 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean 11:10 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Main 12:15 p.m.
EMS 600 block Wilshire 12:39 p.m.
EMS 800 block Pier 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Euclid 1:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision 1700 block Cloverfield 1:56 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Berkeley 2:10 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2100 block Wilshire 3:19 p.m.
EMS 1900 block 22nd 4:25 p.m.
EMS 200 block Bicknell 4:32 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400 block 16th 5:28 p.m.
EMS 1500 block Montana 6:41 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 14th 7:15 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Lincoln 7:32 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

California lawmakers seek tax cuts for sluggish pot industry

A group of Democratic state lawmakers and one Republican colleague on Monday proposed slashing taxes to jump-start California's sluggish legal marijuana marketplace.

Democratic Assemblyman Rob Bonta of Oakland, Democratic state Treasurer Fiona Ma and three other Assembly members said at a news conference that the state's year-old legal marijuana marketplace is struggling to keep up with California's entrenched black market not encumbered by state and local taxes and time-consuming and costly regulations.

Bonta said the state's legal marijuana industry is "not occurring as we hoped, expected and wanted."

The proposed bill would for the next three years eliminate the state's $148 per pound cultivation tax on farmers and reduce the state's 15 percent excise tax on retail sales to 11 percent. A similar bill failed to clear the Democratic-controlled Assembly last year.

On Jan. 1, 2018, California broadly legalized marijuana use for adults after overwhelming support for Proposition 64, which promised to fill state and local coffers while helping to eliminate the state's illegal operators. But far fewer licenses and tax revenues have been collected than expected and legal businesses point to the state and local taxes and red tape as the reasons.

California officials said the state collected $234 million in taxes between January and October last year, the latest figures California Department of Tax and Fee Administration has available. Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30 estimates $355 million in annual tax revenues, a $275 million reduction from previous estimates.

Legal marijuana businesses also pay local taxes not affected by the bill.

Palmdale Republican Assemblyman Tom Lackey, who signed on to the current bill, sponsored a similar measure last year that failed to pass out of the Assembly's appropriations committee last year. Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher of San Diego, the chair of the committee, said at the time she and other opponents pointed to a Legislative Analyst's Office estimated last year the cuts would reduce annual funds to the state by up to $297 million for voting no.

Lackey and the other lawmakers supporting the current measure said they hoped a tax cut would increase legal sales and help legitimate operators compete with the black market. Some businesses pay as much as 40 percent in combined state and local taxes, Lackey said.

"Lowering state excise taxes will help the legal marijuana industry gain a better foothold over the black market in California," said Ellen Komp of the pro-marijuana group California NORML. Komp also called on lawmaker to simplify the regulatory process.

PAUL ELIAS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/26
8 12 20 21 32
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 174M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/25
8 16 30 38 61
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 109M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/26
10 16 23 31 34
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 14M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/27
3 12 16 26 27

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/27
MIDDAY: 0 2 4
Draw Date: 1/27
EVENING: 0 8 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/27
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:45.82

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WORD UP!

plexus
1. any complex structure containing an intricate network of parts: the plexus of international relations.
2. a network, as of nerves or blood vessels.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

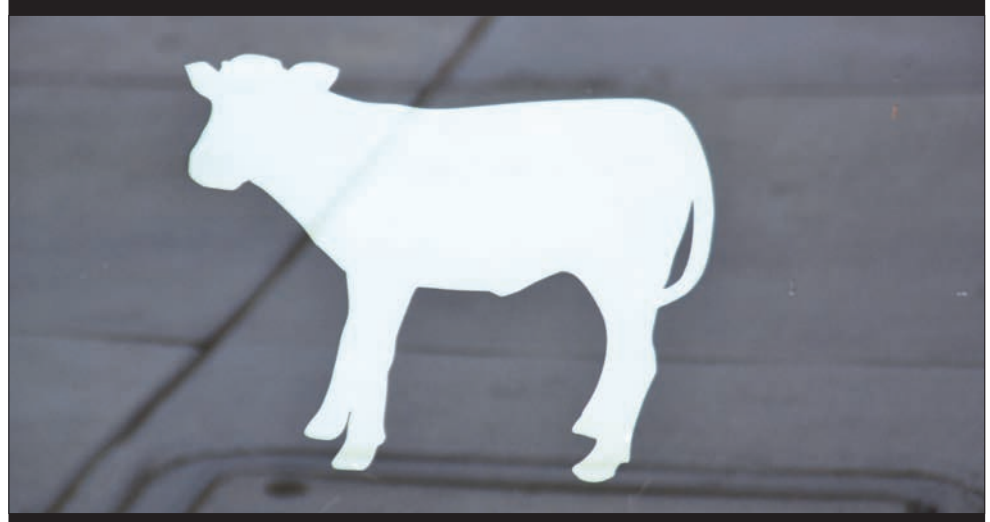
Body of Knowledge

■ The average human head has roughly 100,000 hair follicles, each capable of producing 20 individual hairs over a lifetime (though some, alas, quit early). Blondes typically have more follicles, about 146,000, while people with black hair have about 110,000, those with brown hair about 100,000. Redheads have the least-dense hair, at 86,000 follicles on average.

Get Me That, Stat!

■ According to the American Hair Loss Association, two-thirds of men have begun to experience some balding by the age of 35. By the age of 50, 85 percent of men have significant thinning, primarily due to male-pattern baldness.

MYSTERY PHOTO



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

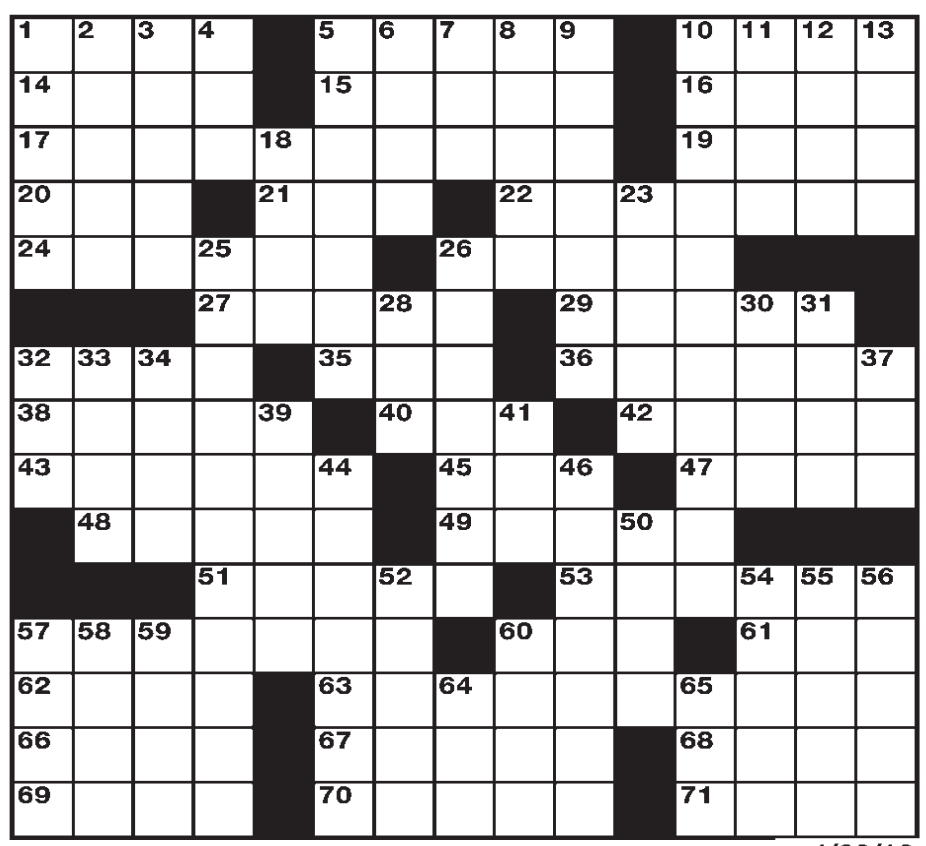
8			4				6	3
2	4		3		6		1	
		6		2				
	1							6
		9	7		2	1		
3							2	
				5		6		
	2		6		7		5	8
6	9				8			2

Newsday Crossword

SPICE RACK by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Polio conqueror Jonas
5 Three-note chord
10 Holders of peas
14 Tell __ (be deceitful)
15 Door-to-wall hardware
16 A Great Lake
17 Crisp cookie
19 Treaty
20 Lincoln's nickname
21 "A mouse!"
22 Knocks over, as a house of cards
24 Not married
26 Spooky
27 Colorado ski resort
29 Human body sculpture
32 Mustache or sideburns
35 Glossy publication, for short
36 Lazy __ (pantry turntables)
38 Speak highly of
40 Compete in a marathon
42 Adhere
43 Start drawing a pension
45 President after JFK
47 Swirling current
48 Style of furnishings
49 Flora and __ (plants and animals)
51 "God __ America"
53 "Grownups only" restriction
57 Have items in common with
60 Ventilate
61 Just published
62 Personal assistant
63 Briny spear with a sandwich
66 Dog-biting bug
67 Wear away slowly
68 Adorable
69 "Transmit email" button
70 Pave again, as a driveway
71 Minor argument

DOWN
1 Lengthy tales
2 Excuse that might be "ironclad"
3 Tablecloth or pillowcase
4 Barrel for beer
5 Common dismissal hr. for elementary school
6 Jeopardize
7 Rural hotel
8 Stone used for marbles
9 Banishes from a country
10 Chinese beef entrée
11 Word-of-mouth
12 Board game cubes
13 Movie sound stages
18 Snakelike fishes
23 Very devout
25 Pungent loaf served with pasta
26 Surrounds overwhelmingly
28 Portion of corn
30 Uttered
31 How many LPs were rereleased
32 __ Royal Highness (queen's title)
33 Chopped down
34 "Just had dinner"
37 Pie in the __ (improbable idea)
39 Bridge guard of folklore
41 Hoops org.
44 Device that stores digital books
46 Tree whose berries flavor gin
50 "Me either"
52 Tip of a tower
54 Refill, as a stamp pad
55 River mouth formation
56 Sugary
57 Clumsy ones
58 Highly objectionable
59 Garden in Genesis
60 Alan of *M*A*S*H*
64 Site to build a house on
65 Vaccine measures: Abbr.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW ORLEANS

NFL playoff 'do-over' lawsuit moved to federal court

Six days before the Super Bowl, the court battle has begun in a longshot lawsuit seeking a possible do-over of the NFC game that ended with a Los Angeles Rams victory over the New Orleans Saints, a game affected by what the NFL concedes was a blown "no-call" by officials.

A Monday hearing in federal court did not result in an immediate ruling. It dealt largely with a jurisdictional question.

The two Saints season ticket holders who filed the lawsuit want it heard in state court in New Orleans. The NFL filed to have it heard in federal court, where U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan heard initial arguments at midday. She was expected to meet with attorneys on both sides again in the evening and it was unclear when the jurisdictional issue, or the case itself, would be resolved.

Officials failed to call interference or roughness penalties when a Rams player leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit at a crucial point in the in the final minutes of regulation time. The Rams won the Jan. 20 game in overtime and are set to play the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl.

The lawsuit by two Saints season ticket holders, Tommy Badeaux and Candis Lambert, says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should implement a league rule – Rule 17 – governing "extraordinarily unfair acts." Remedies include reversal of a game's result or the rescheduling of a game – in its entirety or from the point when the act occurred.

NFL lawyers say the lawsuit belongs in federal court for reasons including the possible scope. They argued that the suit takes the form of a class action that could mean millions of dollars in damages for Saints ticket holders and others in what the suit calls "the Who Dat Nation," a reference to Saints fans and a popular team cheer.

Attorney Frank D'Amico, who filed the lawsuit two days after the championship game, said that, while the lawsuit recounts damages suffered by Saints fans, it doesn't specifically ask for monetary compensation. Instead, D'Amico said, it seeks a court order, under state law, forcing Goodell to investigate the blown call under the never before invoked Rule 17.

D'Amico also insisted that he wasn't specifically asking for a court-ordered do-over or reversal of the game, although that could be the result if the rule is invoked. "We're not trying to keep the Super Bowl from going forward," he said.

That appeared to surprise Gladstone Jones, a New Orleans attorney arguing for the NFL, who said it would be "big news" that D'Amico's clients aren't trying to stop or delay the big game.

As to D'Amico's call for an investigation, Jones said there is no need. League officials, he said, have clearly reviewed the calls. "They have done their due diligence."

His arguments tracked positions taken in weekend briefs filed by NFL lawyers.

"The NFL parties do not dispute that they have previously advised the Saints, including the club's head coach, that one or more penalties – for pass interference or illegal helmet-to-helmet contact – were mistakenly not called late in the NFC Championship Game, and that the NFL would like its officials on the field to make these calls," an NFL filing says.

But it also says Goodell, a defendant in the lawsuit along with the league itself, does not have the authority to overrule a referee on the field. Even if the rule did apply, the NFL attorneys argue, a decision on a remedy is up to the commissioner, not a ticket-holder.

Morgan had to step away from a jury trial in an unrelated case to preside over Monday's hearing. Records show she got the case after it was initially assigned to U.S. District Judge Barry Ashe – who removed himself from the case because he has Saints season tickets.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 29)

Your birthday gift will be a productive shortcut that takes you on a 10-week journey in five weeks. Other highlights of the year include: getting reacquainted with an old friend, enjoying family and your extended support system in a new and more relaxed way and the introduction of a novel and hip hobby. Cancer and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 22, 4, and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

There's so much to do. You're not sure if it's work or play, but you know it's fun, so who cares? Tonight: You'll find your way through what is, essentially, a maze.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

If you're not sticking to your personal rules – not erecting and enforcing personal boundaries – then it's possible you're unconsciously telling someone that it's OK for them to continue in a way that's not desirable to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You recognize what is convenient for you and what makes sense for you, and you have the right and the ability to say no when it doesn't fit into either category.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The easiest way to learn the needs and wants of others is to simply ask. And if you can't ask others, ask yourself. To understand yourself more thoroughly is to understand others at deeper levels, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

A friendship takes your focus. This relationship thrives with good timing and healthy balance, which currently favors giving attention and quiet support over advice and efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

There's an illusion going on, made possible by distance. Get closer to the action. Get inside the action if you can. That's how you're going to know what's really going on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

To glimpse the future, observe what's happening at the boundaries. Boundaries include: edges of territory, opening and closing time, the limits of manners, customs and rules, the change of clothing that signals a shifting of roles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Groups emerge. It's important to know why. What's the attracting force bringing it together? What's the commonality? Inside this information is all you need to know to form a good group or dissolve a bad one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

There's always the option to walk out of the room. It doesn't even have to be a bad room. There might not be anything technically wrong with the room, but if it's not for you, it's not... and you can just walk out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Not long ago, you set out to solve a problem and you built a thing – a system, tool, attitude, set of rules or a guiding philosophy you hoped would be the answer. Now it's time to check that what you built works as intended.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

An agreement you made is turning into much more work for you than you thought it would be. There are people around you who, with a request and some clear instructions, could easily help. All will go well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You won't start what you can't finish. That's just not your style. Actually, it's no professional's style. Professionals decide what they are going to do and what "done" looks like, and they don't stop until the picture matches.

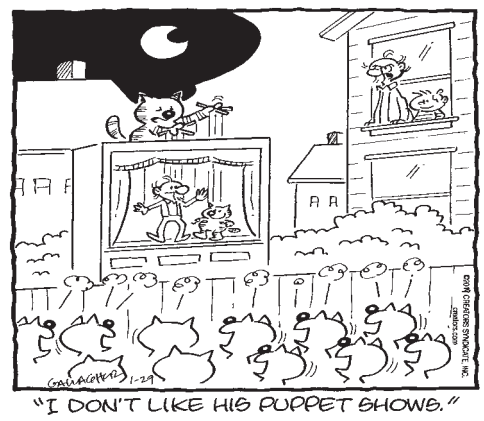
Sun and Mercury Conjunction in Aquarius

In a show, entrances and exits are a big deal. Often they are applauded. Usually they happen in a manner that gives insight into a character. Today's big identity marker of a sun aligns with Mercury, master of comings and goings. Life is a stage and we can win applause with those entrances and exits. Make them count.

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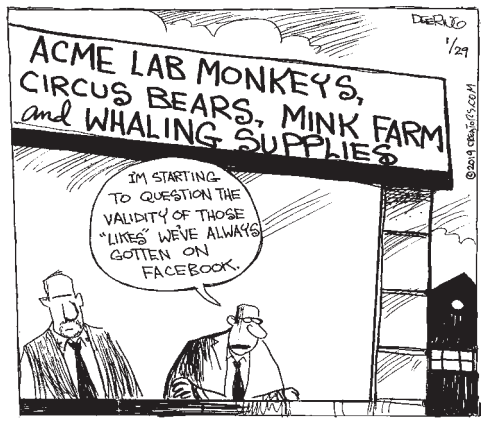
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

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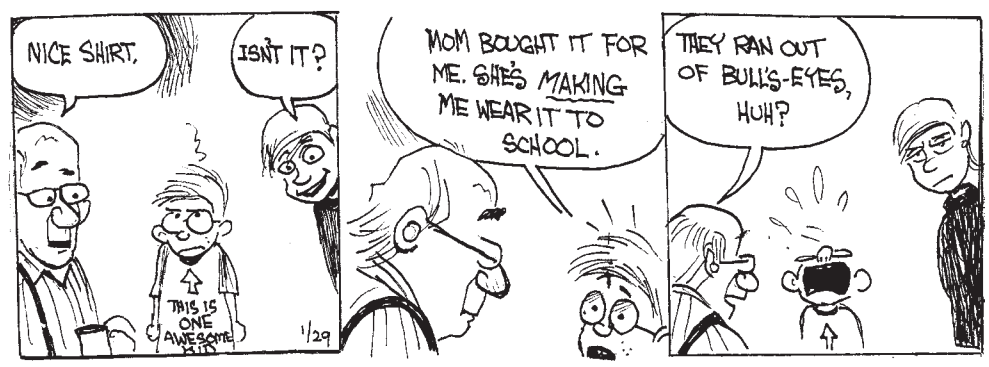
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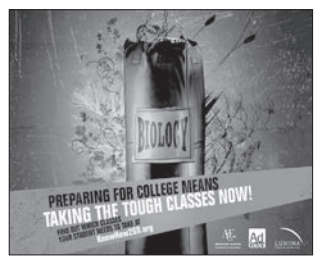
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