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SMMUSD feels the heat over termites

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Contentious talks of how to effectively exterminate termites in Santa Monica and Malibu schools dominated a Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District board meeting Thursday.

The Board was presented with a recommendation to make full-tent fumigation the standard for termite extermination, as opposed to low to non-toxic procedures such as spot heat treatment, but some Board members questioned the validity of applying the recommendation districtwide.

At the meeting, Carey Upton — Chief Operations Officer of SMMUSD facilities and management — had Roosevelt Brown (SMMUSD director of maintenance and operations) detail how his team came to the pro-fumigation position.

Last year, the District treated some schools with fumigation but parents in both Malibu and Santa Monica protested the use of the

SEE **TERMITES** PAGE 6

Fresh Finds: Strawberries



Kate Cagle

LOVE: Strawberries are often associated with romance and are very popular around Valentine's Day.

Editor's Note: Every Saturday, the Daily Press will feature a local vegetable, fruit, flower or food you can find at Santa Monica Farmers Markets.

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Sure, you can get strawberries six months out of the year at Santa Monica Farmers Markets.

But February is when you really need them.

The heart-shaped fruit most associated with love, romance and, of course, Valentine's Day, sells out regularly at McKay Smith's tables on both Wednesday and Sunday this time of year.

"That's the trouble with being a farmer. You either have too much or not enough," Smith said, glancing at the empty table corner where organic strawberries used to sit before a customer picked up the very last carton. "We happen to be in that time period where we don't have enough."

Smith's employees began picking the red berries just before Christmas. By the time plants stop producing in June, Smith's three farms will have filled nearly 100,000 pint-sized baskets with strawberries. The price fluctuates depending on demand - last week his farm produced about a quarter of what he estimates he could sell.

Each one of those baskets has a paper trail because Smith's farms are all organically certified. He is always prepared for an audit: tracking every organic seed, fertilizer and bug that creates life on his farms.

"It's really hard to do organic berries," Smith said. "It's definitely not easy."

SEE **BERRY** PAGE 7

LA school shooting: Unclear where 12-year-old got gun

AMANDA LEE MYERS AND MIKE BALSAMO
Associated Press

The semi-automatic handgun that fired accidentally inside a Los Angeles middle school classroom came from a 12-year-old girl's backpack and the single bullet tore through the wrist of another girl before striking a boy's head, police said Friday.

Los Angeles Police spokesman Josh Rubenstein said detectives are trying to figure out where the girl got the gun, which was unregistered, and why she brought it to school. It wasn't clear what made it fire.

The girl, who was booked on a charge of negligent discharge of a firearm after Thursday's shooting, has retained an attorney and isn't answering questions, Rubenstein said.

Jordan Valenzuela, a 12-year-old classmate of the girl's, told The Associated Press he was in the room next door when the gun went off and talked to her minutes later.

"She was crying," Jordan said. "She was like, 'I didn't mean to. I had the gun in my backpack and I didn't know it was loaded and my backpack fell and the gun went off.'"

Jordan said he saw a hole in the backpack, which the girl was holding, when she asked him to hide the gun for her.

"I said 'No,'" he said. "Then I moved away from her because I was a little bit scared."

The shooting sent children screaming and crying from the classroom as blood poured from the two students who were hit. Police descended on the school, which was put on lockdown, and

SEE **GUN** PAGE 6


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, February 2

The TESS Mission: Exoplanet Targets for Webb

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) will search the near-solar neighborhood of over 200,000 stars for planets crossing between TESS and the parent star. The evening events are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m., offering astronomy news, a family-friendly "tour" of the constellations and the chance to ask astronomy-related questions. Second floor of Drescher Hall (1900 Pico Blvd.). Tickets are available at the door and cost $11 ($9 seniors and children) for the evening's scheduled "double bill," or $6 ($5 seniors age 60+ and children age 12 and under) for a single Night Sky or feature show or telescope-viewing session. For information, please call (310) 434-3005 or see www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or www.smc.edu/planetarium. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Yoga

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

Annenberg Guest House

Free tours begin at 11am, 12pm and 1pm. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Cafe Samo

Student-led concert event, under the direction of Cafe Samo 2018 student directors, Hannah Cohen, Zoe D'Andrea, Sumta Sandhu and Pablo Solano. Features acts from talented singers and musicians performing selections from an array of musical genres, including pop, rock, musical theatre, country, and more. Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Boulevard. 7:30 p.m. $10 for students, $15 for adults

Saturday, February 3

Cafe Samo

Student-led concert event, under the direction of Cafe Samo 2018 student directors, Hannah Cohen, Zoe D'Andrea, Sumta Sandhu and Pablo Solano. Features acts from talented singers and musicians performing selections from an array of musical genres, including pop, rock, musical theatre, country, and more. Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Boulevard. 3:30 p.m. $10.

VITA Tax Assistance

VITA at UCLA is a non-profit organization that provides free tax services to the community. Qualified volunteers assist in filing 2017 Federal and California returns and provide tax consultation. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Poetry Workshop

Poet Brendan Constantine returns to the Camera Obscura with another generative workshop for writers at all levels. Palisades Park, 1450 Ocean Ave. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. $25

Fireworks Book with Debra Disman

Construct an extending pop-up book of repeated forms that grows from all sides as it unfolds. Palisades Park. 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. $5

Sunday, February 4

Lye Soap with Angharad Caceres

Learn to make bar soap from olive, coconut, and other oils, aromatics and lye. Palisades Park. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Watercolor Journey with Timothy Kitz

Join watercolorist and urban sketcher Timothy Kitz in a 6-week immersive watercolor course, open to all levels. Palisades Park. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, February 5th

Annenberg Guest House

Free tours begin at 11am, 12pm and 1pm. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Yoga

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

Black History Month Movie Screening: Marshall

About a young Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, as he battles through one of his career defining cases. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Disabilities Commission Meeting

The mission of the Disabilities Commission is to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and staff on those issues. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 6:30 p.m.

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

New witnesses emerge in actress Natalie Wood's 1981 drowning

MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

New witnesses have emerged in the 1981 drowning of actress Natalie Wood, prompting investigators to deem it a "suspicious death" and name her former husband, 87-year-old actor Robert Wagner, a "person of interest," Los Angeles sheriff's officials said.

For nearly four decades, mystery and speculation have swirled around the death of the actress who was nominated for three Academy Awards and starred in "West Side Story" and "Rebel Without a Cause."

She was on a yacht with Wagner, actor Christopher Walken and the boat captain on Thanksgiving weekend of 1981. After a night of drinking, her body was found floating in the waters off Southern California's Catalina Island. She was 43.

Investigators initially ruled it an accident but reopened the case in 2011 to see whether Wagner or anyone else played a role after the boat's captain said he heard the couple arguing the night of her disappearance. The coroner's office amended Wood's death certificate the next year to include "drowning and other undetermined factors."

In a statement Thursday, sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said new witnesses interviewed since the case was reopened gave statements that "portray a new sequence of events on the boat that night."

One of the witnesses described hearing yelling and crashing sounds coming from the couple's stateroom, she said. Shortly after that, separate witnesses heard a man and woman arguing on the back of the boat and believe the voices were those of Wood and Wagner, Nishida said.

The statements differed from the original version of events provided by witnesses, including those who were on the boat, she said.

The sheriff's department said Wagner is considered a person of interest.

"Do we have enough to make an arrest at this moment? No," Nishida said.

The police statement was issued after CBS News aired an interview with Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. John Corina, who said he doesn't believe Wagner has told the whole story about what happened.

Investigators have said Wagner has not been interviewed since the probe was reopened. They said in 2013 that they had tried at least 10 times to interview him but he refused.

Wagner has denied any involvement in his wife's death and no charges have been filed. His publicist, Alan Nierob, declined to comment Thursday.

Conflicting versions of what happened on the yacht have contributed to the mystery of her death. Wood, Wagner and Walken had all been drinking heavily in the hours before the actress disappeared.

Wagner wrote in a 2008 memoir that he and Walken argued that night. He wrote that Walken went to bed and he stayed up for a while, but when he went to bed, he noticed that his wife and a dinghy that had been attached to the yacht were missing.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MONTECITO

Debris removal continues in Montecito

Despite weeks of cleanup, a large amount of material remains to be removed from areas in and around Montecito that were hit by devastating debris flows early last month.

Santa Barbara County authorities say five of 11 debris catch-basins have been cleared, amounting to about 36 percent of the needed work.

Additionally, work continues to clear channels that carry water down to the ocean. The county says many remain filled with debris and would not be able to carry storm runoff.

The county says it is developing a plan for removal of mud and debris from private properties, and for now the material can be set aside as long as it is away from creek beds and other water channels.

For now, there's no rain in sight.

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Your column here

Mary Marlow — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Term limits for City Council Finally Coming to Santa Monica

On Monday, January 29, 2017 the first step was taken to allow Santa Monica to join with the California State Assembly, State Senate, the L.A. City Council, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors and countless other cities across California that have brought term limits to elected officials.

The "Term Limits for City Councilmembers" Initiative has been filed with the Santa Monica City Clerk. The proposed initiative will need the signatures of 15% of registered Santa Monica voters, approximately 10,500 signers, to appear on the November ballot.

The City of Santa Monica currently imposes no limits on the number of four-year terms an individual may serve on the City Council, which allows incumbents to remain on the Council for decades. We currently have two councilmembers who have been in office for five terms (twenty years) and six terms (twenty-four years).

In fact, in the last twenty–five years, only two Council incumbents have lost an election. Two incumbents died in office and were replaced by appointees, who became incumbents at the next election.

Incumbents seldom lose elections because of the power of incumbency, which includes significant financial support from outside Political Action Committees (PACs) that is unavailable to most challengers. Contributions to PACs are unlimited (Citizens' United). This creates a huge campaign-funding gap for challengers with fresh ideas and perspectives.

This proposal will put an end to career politicians, who become less and less responsive to constituents the longer they stay in office. The proposed charter amendment will limit City Councilmembers to three terms for no more than twelve years in office. Current officeholders will have an opportunity to serve for up to twelve more years should we choose to re-elect them.

Santa Monica already limits members of their Boards and Commissions to no more than three terms. Why isn't what's right for every other official in Santa Monica right for the Council members who appoint them?

Any hope that public financing of elections will solve incumbency problems was effectively nullified by the 2010 Supreme Court decision on Citizens United that removed campaign contribution limits for corporations and unions. Public financing simply can't compete with corporate donors with deep pockets. Unless the U.S. Constitution is amended, Santa Monica will never be able to adopt meaningful campaign financing limits. Incumbents will always have an advantage.

Entrenched incumbency has made our electoral system less free, less competitive, and less representative. We need term limits to keep our city government open, honest, effective, accessible, and accountable to voters.

Mary Marlow is a Santa Monica resident.

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com
Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews, Kathryn Boole, 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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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Crossroads music presentation

Crossroads Invites Community to "Recovered Voices," a free presentation on music banned by the Nazis In the inaugural event of The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Equity & Justice Distinguished Lecture Series, LA Opera Maestro James Conlon will discuss music suppressed during the Nazi regime.

Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences is pleased to invite members of the public to "Recovered Voices: Its Meaning and Its Message," a special lecture by Maestro James Conlon on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Maestro Conlon, acclaimed conductor and music director of LA Opera, will discuss his mission and experience as an advocate and performer of music by composers suppressed during the years of the Nazi regime in Europe.

The presentation is the inaugural event of Crossroads' newly established Younes and Soraya Nazarian Equity & Justice Distinguished Lecture Series, which will help stimulate dialogue among students, educators and community leaders committed to tackling the problems of racism, poverty, war, environmental degradation, educational inequities, religious persecution, genocide and other forms of injustice.

This speaking engagement—arranged through the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School—is free and open to the community. Those wishing to attend are asked to register for this event at www.xrds.org/conlon.

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Equity & Justice Distinguished Lecture Series is an initiative of the Y&S Nazarian Family Foundation, which supports educational causes in a broad spectrum of institutions and through a wide variety of avenues: academic, public policy, community-based, social and artistic programs in the United States and Israel.

This event will be held in the Joanie Martin Community Room on Crossroads' Norton Campus (1634 18th St., Santa Monica). Parking will not be available on campus. Guests should plan to park on the street, take public transportation or use a rideshare service.

This presentation is provided courtesy of the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School. "Recovered Voices" is used with permission of LA Opera.

Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences is a K-12, coed college preparatory school in Santa Monica, California. Crossroads was founded upon five basic commitments: to academic excellence; to the arts; to the greater community; to the development of a student population of social, economic and racial diversity; and to the development of each student's physical well-being and full human potential. One in four students receives financial assistance. The School is highly acclaimed for its programs and is a leader in public/private educational partnerships.

SARA RING, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Citywide

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism launches online store

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) has announced the launch of a new online store, Shop Santa Monica. Visitors and locals alike can now purchase official gifts and souvenirs from L.A.'s beachside city at the touch of their fingertips by visiting: santamonica.com/store.

"We are delighted to have launched Shop Santa Monica in celebration of our charming oceanfront city," said Misti Kerns, President/CEO of SMTT. "Inspired by a destination that is truly like no other, our collection allows people from around the world to enjoy a piece of Santa Monica.

With the launch of our online store, those who love Santa Monica can purchase momentos from their home, no matter how far from sunny, Southern California that may be," she added. "And with Valentine's Day just around the corner, the online store is also the perfect destination for gifts for loved ones."

Shop Santa Monica serves as a digital extension of SMTT's Visitor Information Centers. With over 20 items currently available for sale there is something for everyone. Shipping options include domestic and international. Stay tuned as the selection of choices continues to grow.

Customers can display their Santa Monica pride and showcase laidback, beach-style with Shop Santa Monica's fashionable t-shirts, long-sleeves, sweatshirts, totes and athletic hats. For visitors looking to bring Santa Monica's coastal vibe into their home, Shop Santa Monica offers a selection of destination-inspired home goods including Santa Monica coasters, Route 66 coffee mugs and a book on the most Instagrammed Los Angeles location of 2017, the Santa Monica Pier. Hit the beach in style with limited edition Orlebar Brown board shorts, featuring the Santa Monica Pier.

See what's in store for yourself when you stop by one of the four Santa Monica Visitor Information Centers found throughout the city. Serving as your source for all things Santa Monica, each visitor center provides friendly, knowledgeable staff, free visitor guides and maps, foreign language lines as well as information on attractions, hotels, shopping, dining, museums, galleries, services and entertainment. Find out more on santamonica.com.

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN SALISBURY, SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation Donates $15,000 to Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank has received $15,000 from the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation to address food insecurity in Santa Monica/Los Angeles County. The donation is part of a program, now in its second year called Fill Your Tank – that marks Enterprise Rent-A-Car's 60th anniversary by providing $60 million to fight hunger around the globe.

The global Fill Your Tank program is one of the largest donations aimed at fighting hunger. Over a total of six years, $10 million is distributed annually among larger food banks and charities throughout North America and Europe, in addition to smaller local food banks and pantries in North American communities served by Enterprise. In fact, the Fill Your Tank program donations made locally are determined by local Enterprise operations.

In presenting the donation, Valerie Brandon, Enterprise's Regional Vice President said, "Enterprise Rent-A-Car is part of the Santa Monica/Los Angeles County community and is committed to helping address food insecurity here and around the world. This donation to Westside Food Bank will support those in our community who need a little help to reach to their full potential."

Globally, one in nine people don't get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life, according to the World Food Programme. Today, more than a third of households served by Feeding America include at least one child. And, according to Food Banks Canada, 13 percent of Canadians live in a state of food insecurity, which means they do not have reliable access to adequate amounts of safe, good-quality, nutritious food.

Genevieve Riutort, Chief Development Officer of Westside Food Bank, said, "We are thrilled to receive this generous contribution from Enterprise, which will help bring relief for local folks in need, and awareness to the prevalence of hunger in our own backyard. Financial gifts like these go toward bulk purchases of fresh produce and other healthy staples, to make sure we distribute a full range of nutritious foods. Thanks to Enterprise, we'll be able to provide food for an additional 60,000 meals. This gift will nourish families and individuals in our community who depend on our food every day to stay healthy and fed."

For more information on Westside Food Bank, visit wsfb.org

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Clairann Elizabeth Gallaway (Eberle)

February 6, 1956 – November 28, 2014





Clairann Gallaway, who also went by the names of Joan Johnson and Rhonda Pearson among others, was born Feb 6, 1956 in Port Angeles, WA to parents Edwin and Idy Eberle. She passed away November 28, 2014 in Arcadia, CA.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her eldest son, Gregory Gallaway, and her brother, Edwin Joseph Eberle, Jr., who died in infancy.

Clairann attended public school primarily in Sequim, WA where she excelled in track and demonstrated a sharp mind for learning. She was also a gifted pianist who provided superb musical entertainment for family, friends, and piano recital audiences.

Her childhood was spent actively engaged in the working operation of the family dairy farm where she drove tractor and bonded with her beloved farm animals. She entertained many with her precise imitation of a horse's neigh.

Clairann married in 1974 and proceeded to raise a large family. She later divorced. The second half of Clairann's life was spent in California where she resided until the time of her passing.

Clairann is survived by her children Carolyn Gallaway, Geoffrey Gallaway, Gloria Meyer, Gordon Gallaway, Cindy Kulp, Derrick Eberle, Robert Lara, 19 grandchildren, and her sister, Viola Eberle.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 10 in Washington State. The family is asking for anyone with memories or stories of Clairann, particularly from her time spent in Califronia, to please share and mail them to P.O. Box 1045, Sequim, WA, 98382, or email them to eberlebarn@outlook.com.

TERMITES

FROM PAGE 1

toxic chemicals resulting in the use of a heat-based treatment at some sites.

Roosevelt told the board he was aware of parental concerns of residual poison left behind by fumigation. To assuage concern, Roosevelt said his team spent $28,000 cutting samples of carpet and cushions to do extensive testing to find traces of poison, of which Roosevelt said there was none present. He noted "mind you, tenting was only $32,000."

He said the heat-based system had shortcomings including the destruction of expensive equipment due to the high temperatures and experts still found fecal matter from termites, indicating they were still present after the treatment.

An independent expert, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Tech, was hired to study the two methods and provide an analysis. IPM employee Mario Bazan, said there were no termites found at the fumigated school, yet the heat treated school had termites. He took pictures as evidence for the board.

Staff was asking the Board to develop a districtwide policy for addressing termites. Upton said the recommended time for treatment is during "major modernization" and building rehabilitation projects.

"Fumigation is something we want to do when no one's on campus, give days for it to air out, Upton said. "We then have a cleaning crew touch up on those surfaces. We can do that in spring break and not impact construction."

Upton acknowledged that, with heat treatment, you also have to empty buildings, costing thousands of dollars.

"The Department of Pest Regulation supports fumigation when used appropriately," Upton said. "No harmful effects on humans or the environment. It's a viable choice. I'm looking to your recommendation for this as a standard."

Board member Craig Foster took issue with the presentation and after a barrage of questions, fellow Board member John Kean said he didn't like feeling that the situation had turned into a cross-examination.

"There's plenty in that presentation that seems factually incorrect," said Foster in response. "I know it's uncomfortable, I'm trying to get to the truth."

After public speakers voiced opposition to fumigation, Foster said he wanted the Board to focus on educational issues and said future discussions of this kind should be kept in kind with existing board policy.

In this case, he said the Board has previously talked about an integrated approach to pest management that wouldn't default to mass fumigation and staff's recommendation to establish fumigation as the default treatment was actually counter to the established policy.

"We talk about this too much," he said. "We reached conclusion. When we make a decision we have to stick with it."

Board member Laurie Lieberman said the Board discussions should dismiss with snideness and innuendo. She said the Board shouldn't be focused on the differences between Malibu and Santa Monica.

"I feel best way is to, instead of throwing darts, is to assume we're all on same side," she said.

Foster said the problem is the School Board isn't an expert in pest control and the communities of Santa Monica and Malibu fundamentally differ on the way they want to handle a problem.

"This shows whatever official you talk to, there's very different takes," Foster said. "Sensibilities in Santa Monica and Malibu are very different. Politically, very similar. In terms of pest management? Vastly different. I'd allow my Santa Monica brethren to tell me this is not a priority to them. If Malibu policy is X Santa Monica is Y, I have no problem with that."

At the end of the three-hour conversation, the Board declined to implement a specific policy and Superintendent Ben Drati said he would return with more information in the future.

angel@smdp.com

GUN

FROM PAGE 1

the girl was arrested without incident.

Terrified parents rushed to the campus and waited for hours to be reunited with their children. Once they did, many children and parents sobbed as they hugged, walking from the school as they held each other.

The 15-year-old boy who was hit in the head with a bullet and was initially in critical condition.

A spokesman at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center where the children were being treated didn't respond to messages about his condition Friday, though a doctor treating the boy said he expected him to make a full recovery.

The wrist wound to the 15-year-old girl was considered minor. Three others had superficial face or head injuries, some from broken glass.

Most accidental shootings involve someone actually handling firearms, as opposed to guns getting dropped, said Pete Gagliardi, a former longtime agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"It's pretty rare to hear about an incident like this," Gagliardi said of Thursday's shooting.

He said the gun wouldn't necessarily have had to be cocked to go off in the girl's backpack, but mostly likely would have had to have become entangled with something inside the bag for the trigger to have been pressed.

A strikingly similar shooting to Thursday's happened just south of Los Angeles in Gardena on Jan. 18, 2011, when a gun went off inside a 17-year-old boy's backpack after he set it on a desk, wounding two students with one bullet, including a girl who was shot in the head.

The boy was charged with bringing a gun to a school zone. A spokesman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office didn't immediately respond to a request about the outcome of his case.

The Los Angeles Unified School District has a policy requiring every middle and high school campus to conduct daily random searches by metal-detector wands at different hours of the school day for students in the sixth grade and up.

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber, John Antczak, Krysta Fauria and Brian Melley in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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Kate Cagle

SMITH FARMS: The Farmers Market vendor uses organic practices to grow his fruit.

BERRY

FROM PAGE 1

Up until 2016, conventional farmers protected their strawberry crops from pests and disease with a ozone depleting chemical called Methyl Bromide. The state officially began phasing out the chemical a decade ago, but conventional strawberry farmers considered it instrumental and fought to keep using it until two years ago. Smith washed his hands of the product back in the 90's when a personal health scare convinced him to go organic.

"The doctors was saying 'oh god, your liver enzymes are really high,'" Smith said, "and I couldn't figure out why and then it dawned on me that I used to spray (pesticides) all the time. Since I switched to organic my liver enzymes are way down and they're perfectly normal. I don't know if that's a coincidence."

If customers are concerned about their exposure, berries are on the Environmental Working Groups infamous list of the "dirty dozen" fruits and vegetables that contain the most pesticide contamination. The group says 98 percent of strawberries, spinach, peaches, nectarines, cherries and apples they tested had residue of at least one pesticide. A single sample of strawberries showed 20 different pesticides.

When Smith decided to go organic in 1995, he went to his local library and checked out some books on organic gardening. It turned out to be way more complicated than he thought.

"Oh my god, when we first did the organic farm, I think we lost half our product to bugs," Smith said. "It was really, really challenging."

Now Smith buys predatory mites that eat the aphids and other pests that devour strawberries. He's out in the fields every week monitoring the battle between good bugs and bad. He's also part of a pilot program with Fuel Foods, Inc to try innovative pest control measures that are organic and sustainable.

Organic is a lot of work, but he says customers can taste the end result. If the price of organic causes a customer to balk, he advises them to wait. His crops will peak in April in May, producing bumper crops and driving down the price right when strawberries hit their best flavor.

"They'd save money and they'd be sweeter," Smith said.

If you're looking for strawberries to dip into chocolate around Feb. 14, hit the farmers markets early before they sell out. You can find Smith Farms at the Wednesday Downtown Market and Sunday Main Street Market.

Santa Monica has four weekly farmers markets including the Wednesday Downtown market on Arizona Avenue between 4th and Ocean from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Saturday Downtown market on Arizona Avenue between 4th and 2nd Streets from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Saturday Virginia Ave. Park market at 2200 Virginia Avenue from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Sunday Main Street market at 2640 Main Street from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JANUARY 23 AT ABOUT 3:31 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service at Vons Supermarket – 1311 Wilshire Blvd – regarding an assault with a deadly weapon that just occurred. The reporting party indicated the suspect hit the store manager with a stick and fled the store. The suspect was located at 17th Street and Wilshire Blvd. Officers determined the suspect entered the store and selected several food items. The suspect was confronted by the store manager as he was exiting the store without paying for any items. The suspect struck the manager with a tire iron and punched her in the face. The suspect dropped the food and fled the store. The victim declined any medical treatment. Brandon Mark Hines, 32, homeless, was arrested of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats and a probation violation. Bail was set at $50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 364 Calls For Service On Feb. 02.

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

Transport prisoner 300 block Olympic 1:14 a.m.
Fight 1500 block Lincoln 1:23 a.m.
Trespassing 300 block Santa Monica Pier 2:34 a.m.
Trespassing 3000 block Santa Monica 6:49 a.m.
Petty theft 3200 block Pico 7:14 a.m.
Auto burglary 3000 block Prospect 8:15 a.m.
Burglar alarm 2600 block Lincoln 8:27 a.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 20th 9:06 a.m.
Traffic collision 26th / Pearl 9:14 a.m.
Traffic collision 26th / Pearl 9:14 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1700 block Lincoln 9:42 a.m.
Panic alarm 1200 block 7th 10:03 a.m.
Burglary 900 block Berkeley 10:37 a.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block S Centinela 10:41 a.m.
Fraud 1400 block 21st 11:14 a.m.
Lewd activity 1600 block Ocean 11:22 a.m.
Traffic collision 800 block Santa Monica 11:39 a.m.
Grand theft Ocean / Washington 11:53 a.m.
Petty theft 1300 block Wilshire 12:24 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 2600 block Main 12:52 p.m.
Fraud 400 block San Vicente 1:14 p.m.
Public intoxication 2000 block Lincoln 1:20 p.m.
Rape 2900 block Main 1:49 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block Ocean 1:57 p.m.
Burglary 900 block Berkeley 2:03 p.m.
Traffic collision 6th / Colorado 2:07 p.m.
Petty theft 600 block Broadway 2:09 p.m.
Burglary 900 block Berkeley 3:00 p.m.
Petty theft 2400 block 21st 3:40 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block Lincoln 4:02 p.m.
Burglary 1400 block Lincoln 4:07 p.m.
Burglar alarm 500 block 12th 4:35 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block PCH 4:44 p.m.
Drinking in public 1900 block Pico 4:57 p.m.
Panic alarm 1200 block Montana 5:03 p.m.
Lewd activity 1300 block 3rd St Prom 5:07 p.m.
Battery 100 block Pier 5:17 p.m.
Trespassing 1000 block 2nd 5:44 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block PCH 5:48 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block 4th 5:48 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1200 block 4th 5:54 p.m.
Trespassing 1200 block 17th 5:55 p.m.
Hit and run 1000 block Ocean 5:59 p.m.
Transport prisoner 300 block Olympic 6:18 p.m.
Petty theft 800 block 3rd 6:49 p.m.
Drinking in public 2600 block Main 6:56 p.m.
Petty theft 200 block Broadway 7:29 p.m.
Public intoxication 300 block Colorado 9:14 p.m.
Trespassing 1600 block 17th 9:26 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1400 block 2nd 10:21 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 34 Calls For Service On Feb. 2.

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

EMS 2100 block Oak 12:42 a.m.
EMS 1300 block California 2:01 a.m.
EMS 1800 block Ocean 2:58 a.m.
EMS 200 block San Vicente 4:31 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 5:58 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 6:42 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 7:41 a.m.
EMS 1200 block Euclid 8:16 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Main 8:36 a.m.
EMS 26th / Pearl 9:16 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 2nd 9:36 a.m.
Traffic collision Moomat Ahiko / Ocean 9:42 a.m.
EMS 800 block Santa Monica 11:34 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 12th 11:36 a.m.
EMS 5th / Wilshire 11:48 a.m.
EMS 1100 block Wilshire 11:58 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Lincoln 12:27 p.m.
EMS 2400 block Centinela 1:40 p.m.
EMS 3100 block Santa Monica 2:21 p.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block Pico 3:25 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 2nd 4:20 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 17th 5:29 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 17th 5:44 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 6:03 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Expo Line 6:04 p.m.
EMS 2400 block Wilshire 7:58 p.m.
Smoke investigation 1300 block 2nd 9:03 p.m.
Elevator rescue 100 block Wilshire 9:34 p.m.
EMS 100 block Broadway 9:47 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 9:49 p.m.
Odor investigation 1500 block Berkeley 10:53 p.m.
EMS 800 block Santa Monica 10:59 p.m.



WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Medical History

■ This week in 1933, an American doctor and a refrigeration engineer prepared dried human blood serum for the first time. The freeze-dried serum is the clear fluid in blood containing proteins and antibodies. In its powdered form, it became widely used to prevent childhood diseases and to treat wounded soldiers during World War II.

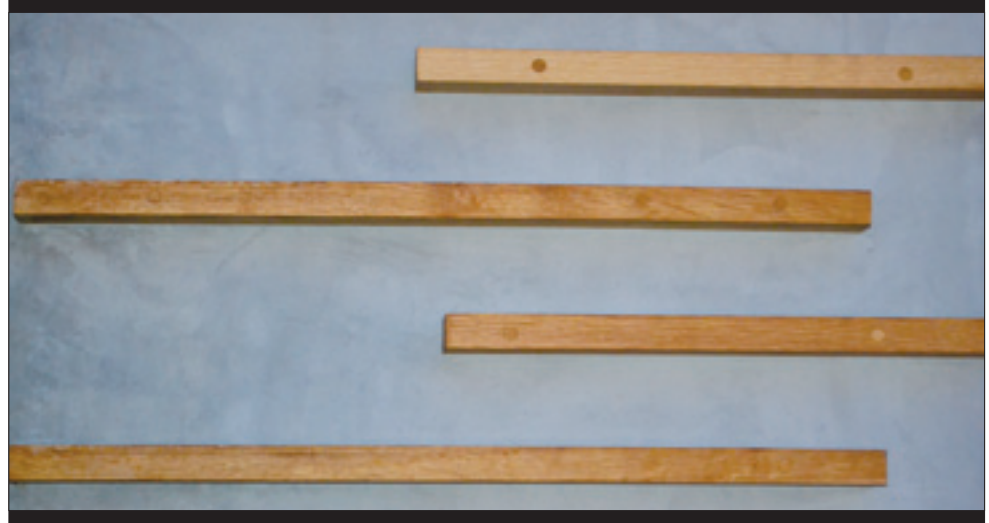
Epitaphs

■ On a tombstone in a Vermont cemetery:

■ Sacred to the memory of my husband John Barnes who died January 3, 1803. His comely young widow, aged 23, has many qualifications of a good wife, and yearns to be comforted.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

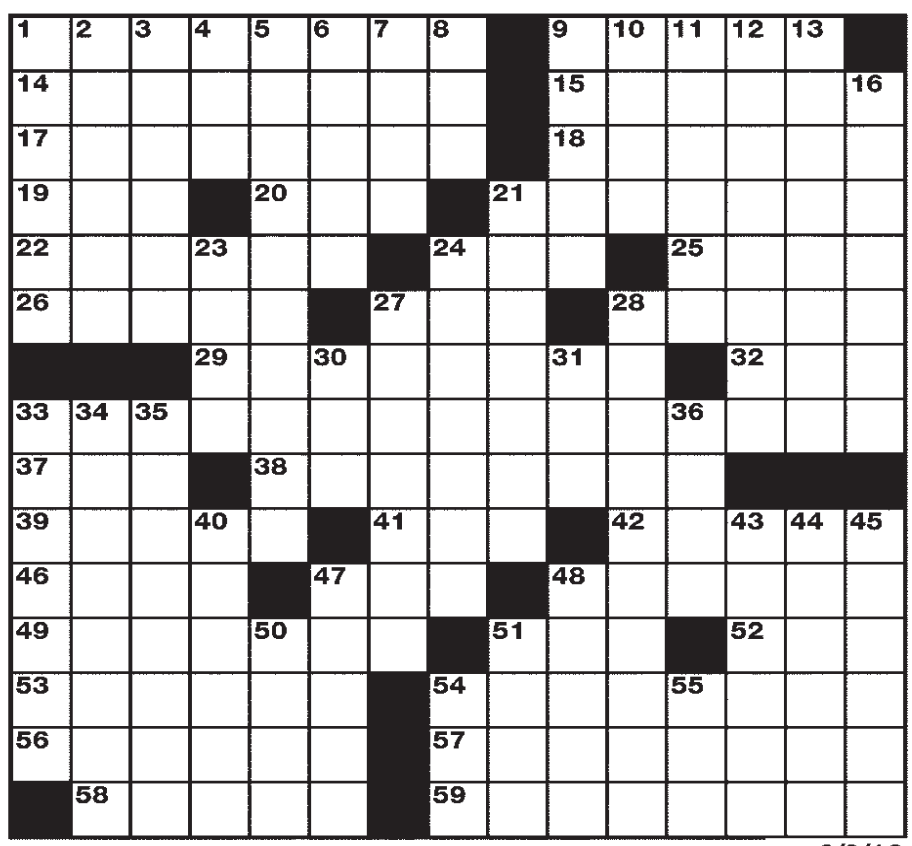
SATURDAY STUMPER by Lester Ruff
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Heart of gold, for one
9 Massage target
14 One way off
15 Doesn't leave alone
17 No longer raging
18 Stone used in sandpaper
19 Run down
20 Soy product
21 '50s game craze
22 Magi's origin
24 Outlaw
25 Smartphone art
26 275-episode sitcom star whose first line was "Beer!"
27 Aristotle's "political animal"
28 Bend out of shape
29 Storage unit
32 Prank missile
33 Response to a braggart
37 Host's invitation
38 Arch quality
39 Poem with "fools like me"
41 Ending for walk or run
42 Cuts out
46 *Operation Football* radio airer
47 Amino acid additive
48 Fully comprehensive
49 Phrase of characterization
51 Slightest sound, so to speak
52 Dickinson preposition
53 Opposite of "dignified"
54 Not allowed on
56 Calm or conclude
57 Drifter in the Rock Hall of Fame
58 Physician/author/knight
59 Third word of many Kirk lead-ins

DOWN

1 Green space
2 End, as offers
3 Adds, as an errata slip
4 Finished helpings
5 Action initiators
6 Lacks
7 About 3,300 feet
8 __ meat
9 He advised Nye, "Focus on pure science"
10 Word from Old Irish for "offspring"
11 Songdom's "quickest way to Harlem"
12 Canon products
13 Elon Musk's birthplace
16 Congo River explorer, 1876-1877
21 Spaces surrounded by skyscrapers
23 Wound up
24 Handling with care
27 Mao, for one
28 Is gaining
30 Hot chocolate, e.g.
31 Typical DVD release day
33 Puts on a pedestal
34 Cockpit concern
35 Enter
36 Home of the Scandic Vulkan Hotel
40 Real thing
43 Region due east of Rhode Island
44 Corporate owner
45 Demolition tool
47 Mob scene
48 Less formal "bound to"
50 Monitor's venue
51 Tomato-paste dye source
54 "The Address is __" ('90s network slogan)
55 Now clear to proceed



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/3/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 3)

You're emotionally stronger and spiritually more generous. Proof: The responsibilities that used to be hard to fulfill will be suddenly as easy as eating cake. Unexpected money in March may seem like the perfect reason to splurge, but you'll be better off saving for travel, as this will expand you in wonderful ways. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 14, 30, 2 and 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Just because it doesn't make sense doesn't mean it's not the truth. And what is truth, anyway? A law? A balance? Something in accordance with reality... but whose? The point here is to keep an open mind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Procrastination is tempting, but maybe it would be less so if you knew unequivocally that you could mend the situation within a few hours. Well, you really can!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
The good news is that any resistance you are experiencing on the way to your goal is self-created. The bad news is the same. Have a chat with yourself about giving up the fight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
The classy way is to show up with enthusiasm. Cynicism might seem to signal intelligence, but what it really signals is a choice of focus, nothing more, nothing less.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Oddly, it will be easier to win at big things than at little ones. Both are significant, though. You might find yourself changing your mind about what's big and little, too — a sign of maturity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Sign up to compete. Competition will be fun — not because you'll win but because you'll do your personal best, which is the kind of win everyone loves to cheer for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Wacky suggestions and oddball requests abound. Take a breath, and continue to be your usual supportive self. After you've let everyone contribute to the work at hand in his or her own way, you'll get yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Many people could fill the same role, but you're different. You'll get the chance to show them just how different you are. Actually, you don't have to do much, just show up and they'll see it right away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Being near another person has its own kind of electrical charge. You'll be sensitive to the vibrations of people and places. Your notes on this will help you in future endeavors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You don't have to see a person in action to get a sense of his or her skills and abilities. You're pretty great at summing people up. Just leave room in your mind to be surprised.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You'll be tempted to ink a deal that binds you in ways that are hard to foresee right now. That's why background checks were invented. Such measures will save you from future stress.

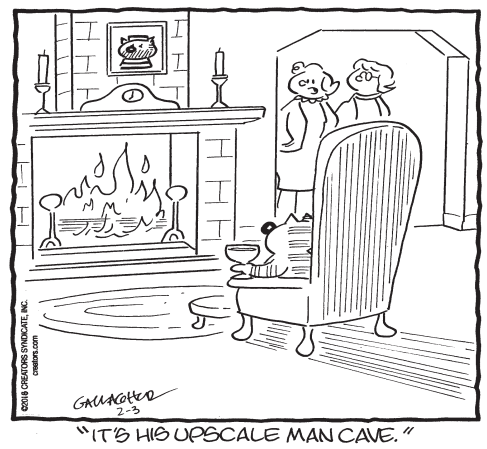
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You enjoy people for who they are and not for what they can do for you. Of course, it's interesting what they can do for you. It will get your imagination churning, to be sure!

Mars and Jupiter Square

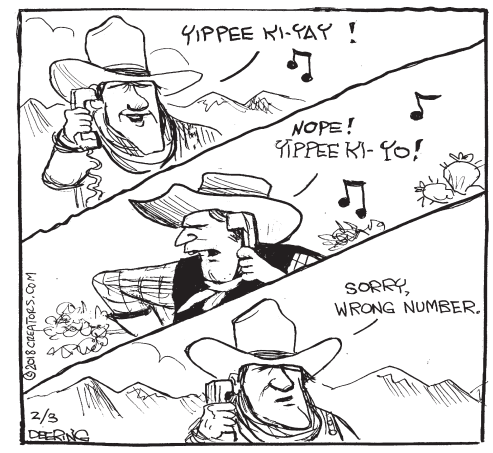
The square of Mars and Jupiter could bring up authority issues. The authorities aim to make people easy to manage and control. True leaders aim to encourage the best and highest from people. The structures and limits imposed by authority are meant to govern and contain. Structures and limits offered by leaders are rules meant to protect and challenge.

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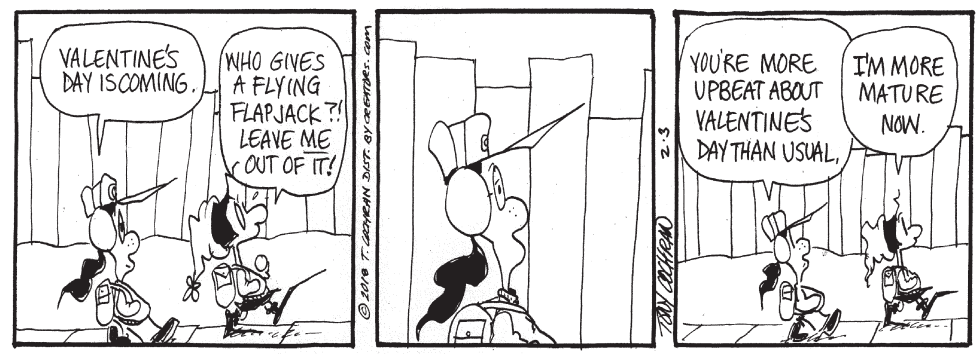
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



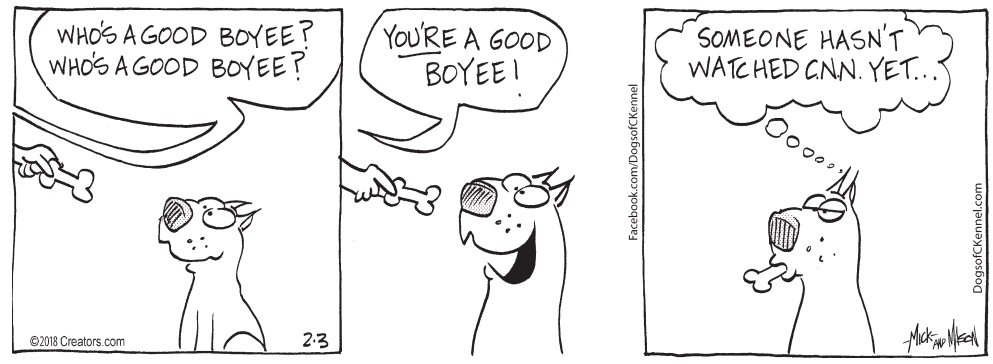
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



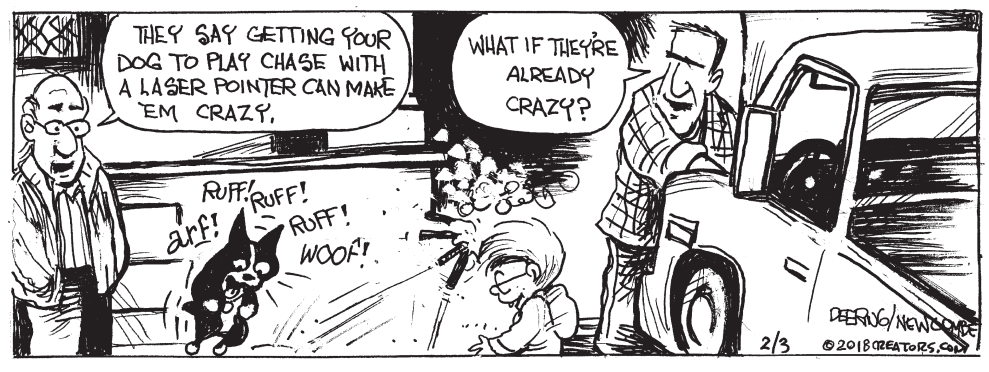
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Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Recording academy announces task force for women

Recording Academy chief Neil Portnow said Thursday the organization is creating a task force to uncover unconscious biases and other barriers that impede women's success in the music industry.

The announcement comes days after Portnow claimed his comments on women needing to "step up" in the music industry were taken out of context. The remarks have been criticized by several prominent musicians, including Sheryl Crow, Katy Perry, India.Arie and P!nk.

Portnow said in Thursday's statement that he now understands the pain his "poor choice of words" after Sunday's Grammy Awards has caused. He says while his comments aren't indicative of his beliefs, they do reflect real women's experiences in the industry.

He promised the Recording Academy would put itself "under a microscope and tackle whatever truths are revealed."

"I appreciate that the issue of gender bias needs to be addressed in our industry, and share in the urgency to attack it head on" Portnow said.

Meanwhile, an online petition posted by singer-songwriter Vanessa Carlton calling for Portnow's resignation surpassed its goal of 10,000 signatures. More than 13,000 people had signed the document by Thursday evening.

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SAN FRANCISCO

77 businesses asked for workers' documents

Immigration agents this week delivered inspection notices to 77 restaurants and other businesses in Northern California and gave them three workdays to prove their employees are authorized to work in the country.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents served the notices Monday through Wednesday to businesses in Sacramento, San Jose and San Francisco.

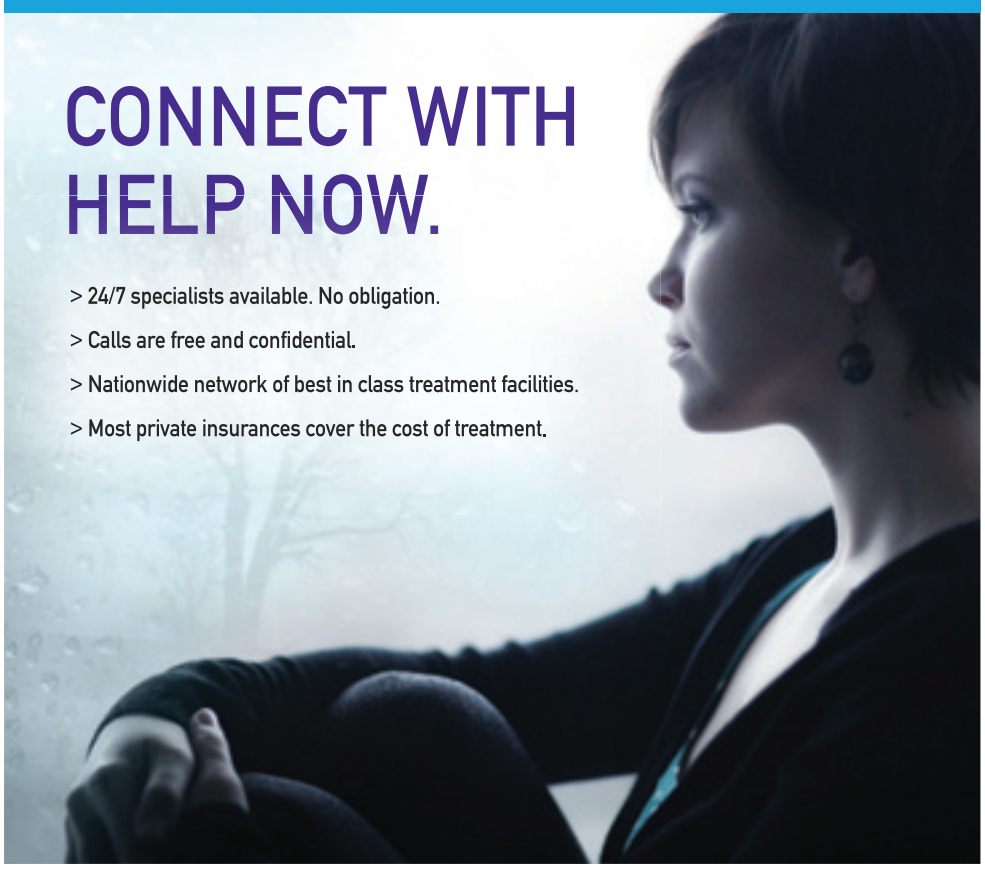
A notice of inspection asks business owners to produce so-called I-9 forms, which employees are required to fill when first hired to confirm they are legally authorized to work.

The audits come two weeks after California Attorney General Xavier Becerra warned business owners they could face fines of up to $10,000 if they violate a new state law that bars them from turning over workers' records to federal authorities.

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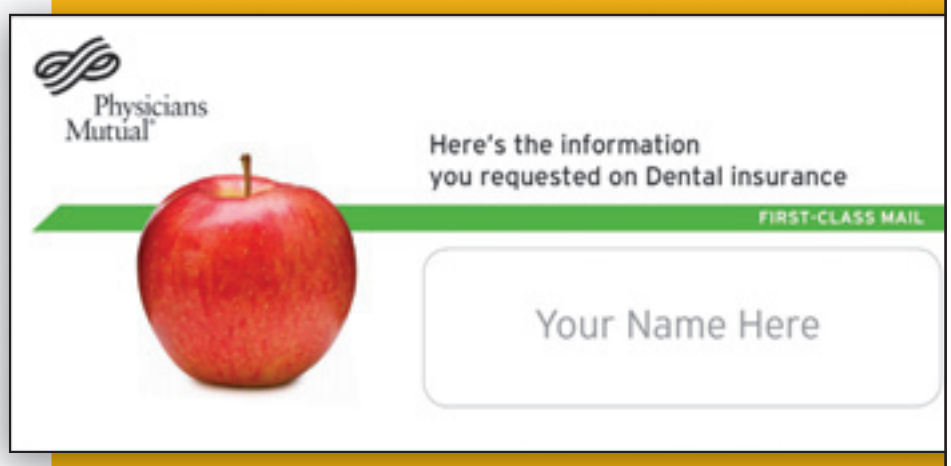


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