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Supermodel launches entertainment concept at downtown mall



Courtesy image

MODELLAND: Tyra Banks is planning an entertainment venue at Santa Monica Place.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Tyra Banks is opening an attraction called Modelland at Santa Monica Place.

Banks, a supermodel and television host, told Variety Tuesday that she is launching a ticketed retail and dining experience at the downtown Santa Monica mall in late 2019. It will be the flagship location of what she is planning to expand as a global chain.

The 21,000 square foot space will be spread over two stories and feature a large gold sculpture of a head facing 4th Street. The second level of Modelland's storefront will be wrapped in gold metal panels that lie flat against the facade and then mold into a head projecting from the building.

"The scale of this element is intended to become a dynamic beacon to the plaza on 4th Street and pedestrians, while bringing vitality to the adjacent public space," City of Santa Monica staff wrote in a report on the project.

The space was previously occupied by pop-up museum Candytopia for four months in early 2018. Modelland will have much in common with the pop-up – it will also sell tickets and emphasize social media as part of the experience – but Banks said she intends for the location to be permanent.

While Banks did not reveal many specific details about Modelland in her interview with Variety, she said it would contain a restaurant and a retail experience.

"Modelland is going to be a place where the modeling world meets fantasy, meets entertainment, meets technology, meets retail, meets dining, meets … your fiercest best self you could ever imagine," she said.

The City's Architectural Review Board reviewed Modelland's design proposal on Monday and stipulated that the gold head should be smaller and the lights illuminating the head be dimmer than what was originally proposed.

madeleine@smdp.com

Downtown Deli expands into wine bar business

MADELENIE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer



Courtesy photo

WINE: Heroic Wine Bar is now open in Downtown.

Heroic Deli has been serving up sandwiches for downtown Santa Monica's lunchtime crowds for two months. Now, its creators are swapping out sandwiches for wine and fining dining in a cozy restaurant next door.

"People who already love our sandwiches will come to the wine bar," said co-creator Jeffrey Merrihue.

Heroic Wine Bar is opening this Friday at 514 Santa Monica Blvd. and will be serving Italian fare from award-winning chef Barbara Pollastrini in addition to a wine, cheese and charcuterie menu. All cheeses and meats at both the deli and the wine bar are imported and the wines are rated 90 points or higher.

Merrihue said the bar and restaurant will be intimate and romantic but also feature a carved wood table seating 16 people as a centerpiece. Diners will sit below a ceiling painted with constellations and wallpaper depicting black-and-white forests.

"We're going for a secret garden vibe," he said.

The menu includes vegetarian, meat and seafood dishes in each of its categories. Customers can choose between a cauliflower ribeye and cioppino as a main

SEE **HEROIC** PAGE 7

Community Corp receives $1M grant to tackle homelessness

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica nonprofit that builds affordable housing won $1 million in a countywide challenge to come up with housing solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

Community Corporation of Santa Monica is proposing using prefabricated housing units to construct permanent supportive housing, which would reduce costs by up to 25 percent and cut construction time in half. The prefab units designed by Plant Prefab can be built up to five stories and their exteriors can be tailored to mesh with surrounding buildings.

"It's an adaptable kit of parts that can be scaled to any site," said CCSM executive director Tara Barauskas.

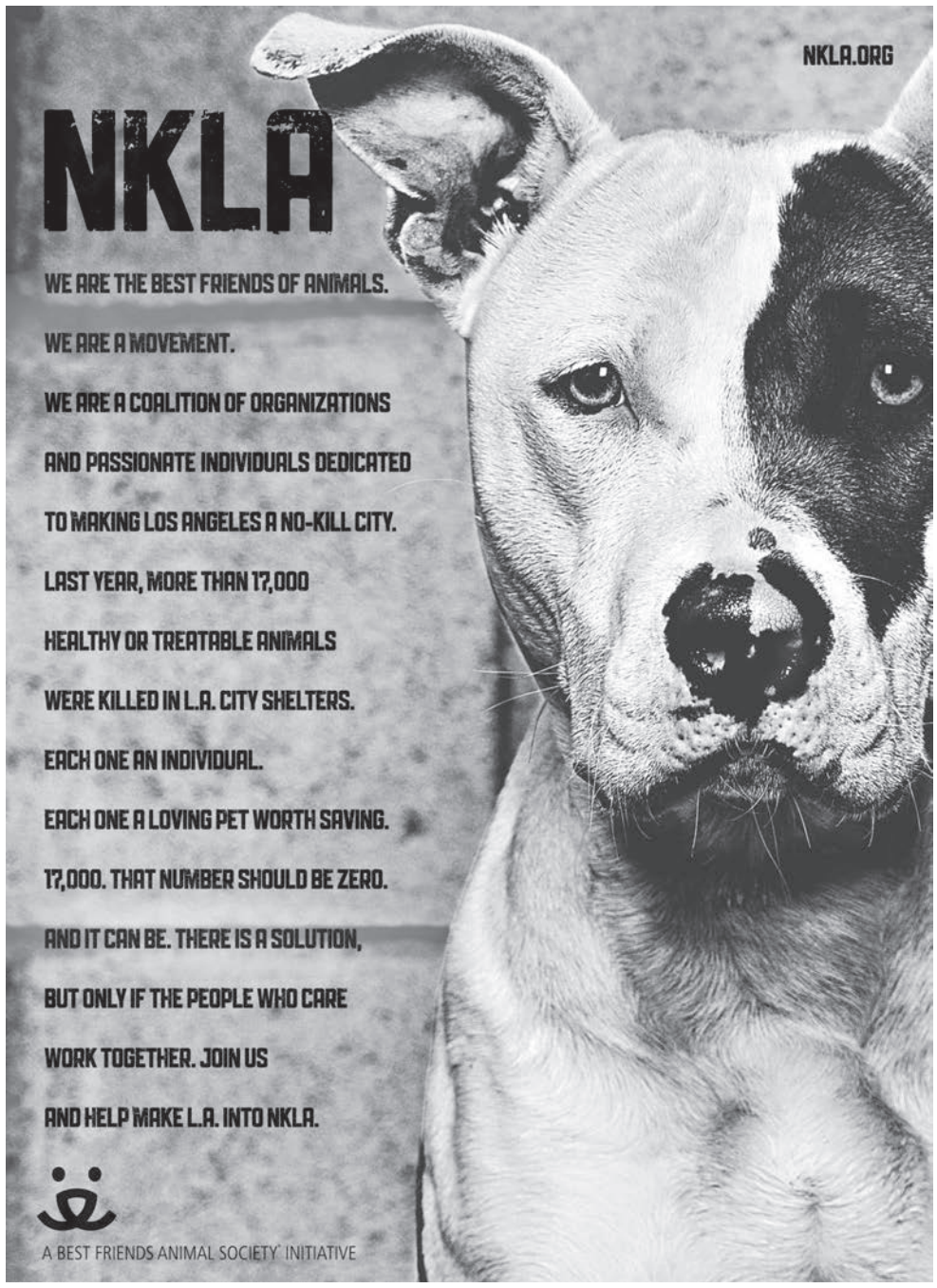
The county's Housing Innovation Challenge awarded

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Westside Writers Mingle
A monthly meeting of SCBWI, an organization of children's writers and illustrators. Open to all. What are the appropriate and inappropriate topics and where do you draw the line in middle grade and young adult stories? Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting
The Santa Monica Planning Commission normally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month in the City Council Chamber. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

Field Sports Advisory Council Regular Meeting
Regular monthly meeting of the Field Sports Advisory Council (FSAC). FSAC is an advisory council to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

GED/HiSET Prep Class
Get prepared to take the Language Arts subject test of the GED or HiSET. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Venice Chamber Happy Hour at Cryohealthcare
Join us at our monthly happy hour at Cryohealthcare! Mix and mingle at this health center that provides the latest developments in cryogenics to help their clients exceed their goals in health, athletic performance, and beauty. Experience Cryohealthcare's Cryochambers, walk-in chambers that use an indirect method of cooling normal room air to cryogenic temperatures of -220 F, in between enjoying delicious drinks and bites with colleagues and friends. Members: $5. Prospective members: $10. For more information and to register, visit www.venicechamber.net. 6 - 8 p.m. 4256 Lincoln Blvd., Marina del Rey, CA

Celebrate: Year of the Pig
Want to know what animal represents your Chinese zodiac sign? Create a traditional rattle drum to ring in the new year! Limited space; registration begins 1/23. For Grades K-5. Pico Branch Library 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 7

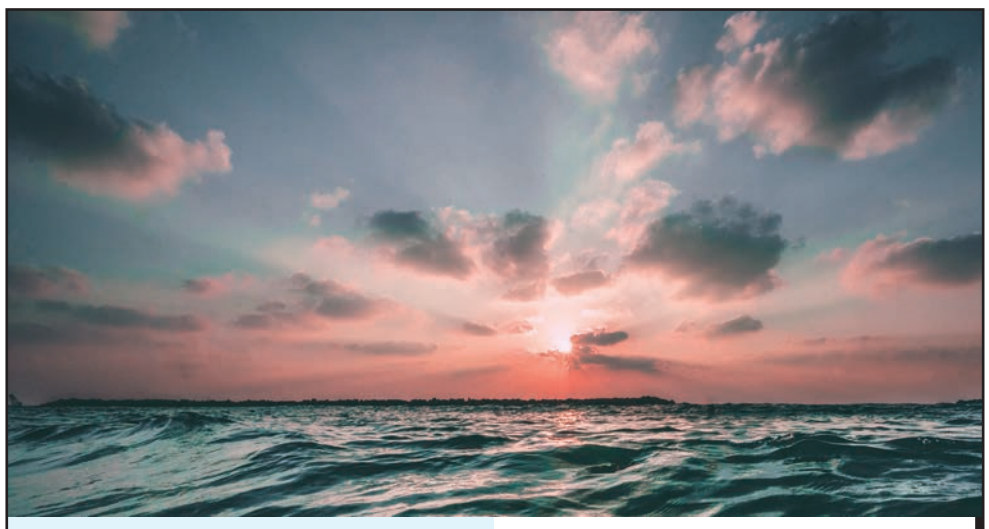
Venice Art Crawl Mixer at Canal Club
Celebrate art, culture and entertainment at the Venice Art Crawl Mixer at Canal Club! Come and meet artists and merchants, and enjoy an evening of friendly networking and socializing. Taste delicious happy hour bites while sipping on refreshing cocktails at Canal Club, a tropical Venice staple. Admission: $5. For more information, visit www.venicechamber.net. 2025 Pacific Ave., Venice, 6 - 8 p.m.

NOMA meeting
A presentation on Frank Bundy's role in Santa Monica history, an update on the R-1 IZO Technical Working Group, and exploration of a private-tree protection ordinance will be on the agenda at the North of Montana Association's regular monthly meeting Thursday, February 7, at 7 p.m. at the Montana Branch Library. Reception begins at 6:30, and all are invited.

Black History Month Screening: I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
Director Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, Remember This House. It is a journey into black history that connects the Civil Rights movement to #BlackLivesMatter. It questions black representation in Hollywood and beyond. Main Library Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium 7- 8:30 p.m.

Library Board Meeting
Library Board Meeting in Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor near computer commons. Main Library Multiple Locations 7 - 9 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Army conducts training exercise in greater Los Angeles

A military training exercise near downtown Los Angeles surprised residents.

Army helicopters flew low in formation and one was seen landing on Wilshire Boulevard late Monday.

A Los Angeles Police Department statement says the Army is conducting training in greater Los Angeles and Long Beach to "enhance soldier skills by operating in various urban environments and settings."

Police say the training is coordinated with state, county and city officials and private property owners.

The exercise will continue through Feb. 9.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Southern California mountains under winter storm warnings

It was snow day for many students in Southern California mountain communities.

A winter storm warning was posted Tuesday for mountains stretching from northwest of Los Angeles, east through the inland counties and south through San Diego County.

In the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains, several school districts have canceled classes due to the weather.

The National Weather Service said the snow level was expected to fall as low as 2,500 feet in the morning and down to 2,000 feet Tuesday night.

The low snow levels could impact highway travel including Interstate 5 over Tejon Pass.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Bank manager gets prison for money laundering scheme

The manager of a Southern California bank branch has been sentenced to two years in federal prison for conspiring to launder more than $25,000 in cash by converting it into cashier's checks.

The Los Angeles U.S. Attorney's Office says 54-year-old Vivian Tat of Hacienda Heights was also sentenced Monday to pay a $2,000 fine.

Tat and a co-defendant were found guilty in September of conspiring to commit money laundering and Tat also was convicted of two counts of causing a false statement in a bank record.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says Tat is a vice president at East West Bank who is currently on administrative leave.

The case is part of an operation called "Phantom Bank," which resulted in indictments of 25 defendants. Nine have been convicted. Sixteen await trial.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA

ABC's 'Modern Family' to end next year after 11 seasons

ABC's "Modern Family," the five-time Emmy Award winner for best comedy, will end its run next year after 11 seasons.

ABC Entertainment President Karey Burke announced the end of the series about the boisterous extended family on Tuesday. It will finish three seasons short of the longest-running sitcom ever, "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet."

The series produced by Christopher Lloyd and Steve Levitan was an immediate hit after its debut in September 2009. It began a five-year streak of winning the Emmy for best comedy a year later. Actors Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen and Eric Stonestreet each won two Emmys.

It's currently seen by nearly 5 million viewers a week.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Woman dies after being struck by foul ball at Dodger Stadium

A grandmother celebrating her 79th birthday and 59th wedding anniversary at a game at Dodger Stadium last August died four days after being hit in the head by a foul ball.

Linda Goldbloom's death Aug. 29 was ruled an accident by the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner. She was in the stands Aug. 25 when a ball hit by a San Diego Padres player sailed over protected netting and struck Goldbloom.

She died at L.A. County-USC Medical Center. The cause of death was acute intracranial hemorrhage with history of blunt force trauma as the secondary cause, the online coroner's report said.

"A very hard, low trajectory line drive came up and hit her in the head," her husband, Erwin Goldbloom, told KNBC-TV in an interview broadcast Monday. "We loved each other very much."

The Dodgers said in a statement they were "deeply saddened" by Goldbloom's death and the "matter has been resolved between the Dodgers and the Goldbloom family." The team told The Associated Press there would be no further comment for now.

"They offered to pay the funeral expenses, but then we filed a lawsuit for wrongful death and that's when we had the mediation," Erwin Goldbloom said. "It was settled."

He didn't disclose further details of the settlement.

ESPN initially reported Goldbloom's death. The Dodgers did not publicly announce her death or what caused it until contacted by the network.

According to ESPN's report, television coverage of the game didn't follow the flight of the ball or show where it ended up.

Goldbloom was a mother of three children and grandmother of seven. Daughter Jana Brody told ESPN she hopes to have a fund established in her mother's memory to help victims of such accidents and their families.

For the first time last season, all 30 major league ballparks expanded protective netting that reached to at least the far ends of each dugout. The push for expansion increased in 2017 after a series of spectator injuries.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS

DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: SMC **CENTRAL PLANT BYPASS PROJECT**. The Project encompasses scope of work in ONE building within SMC Main Campus:

• Central Plant Building: This project modifies the existing central plant system. The Work included shall consist of all construction and services involving work related to: Add bypass line and control valves to the two central plant chillers, Add VFD's to pumps CHP-2.1 and CHP-2.2, Revise sequence of operations of the central plant. Add control to cooling tower filtration system and Test and Commission the central plant systems.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2019. APPLICATIONS MUST BE HAND-DELIVERED.

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN

1. Contractors License Classification. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that Bidders possess the following classification(s) of California Contractors License C. Any Bidder not so duly and properly licensed shall be subject to all penalties imposed by law.

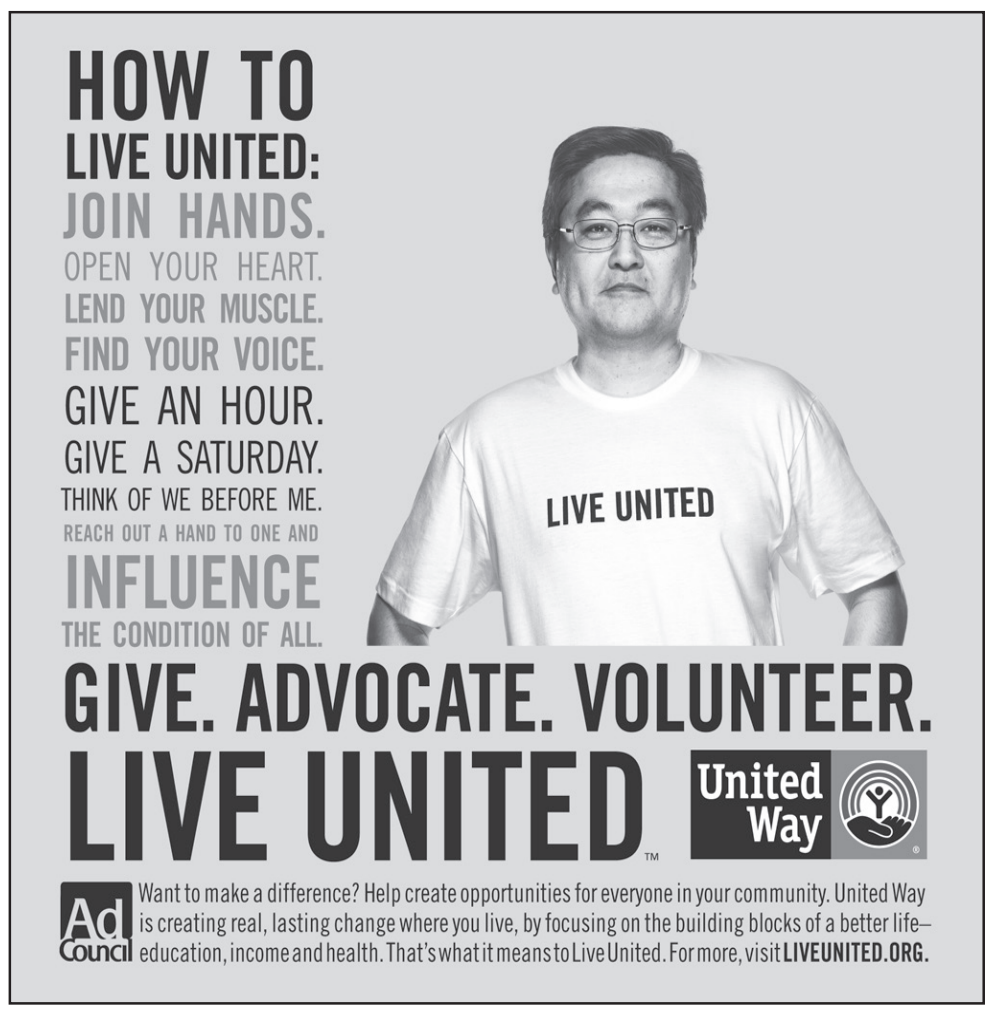
2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor awarded the Contract for the Work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **sixty (60)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. Job-Walk. The District will conduct a **Mandatory Job Walk on Friday, February 15th, 2019, beginning at 11:00 am. Bidder's attendance the Job Walk mandatory.** Bidders are to meet at the DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 for conduct of the Job Walk. The Bid Proposal submitted by a Bidder whose representative(s) did not attend the entirety of the Mandatory Job Walk will be rejected by the District as being non-responsive.

5. Substitute Security. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, substitution of eligible and equivalent securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure the Contractor's performance under the Contract will be permitted at the request and expense of the Contractor and in conformity with California Public Contract Code §22300. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded shall submit its written request to the District to permit the substitution of securities for retention under California Public Contract Code §22300 prior to submission of its first Application for Progress Payment. The failure of such Bidder to make such written request to the District prior to submission of the first Application for Progress Payment shall be deemed a waiver of the Bidder's rights under California Public Contract Code §22300.

6. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees of 03.05.19, to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal. If Alternate Bid Items are included in the bidding, the lowest priced Bid Proposal will be determined on the basis of the Base Bid Proposal or on the Base Bid Proposal and the combination of Alternate Bid Items selected in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Instructions for Bidders.



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Curious City

Charles Andrews
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Revved Up

BUCKLE UP, BUCKAROOS

Hang on tight. I'm a-goin' for a bit of a wild ride and I hope you'll go with me.

From Gandhi to district voting to the Harlem Renaissance to Rick Cole to the Rev. Michael Beckwith and his buddies Stevie Wonder, Obama, Van Morrison, Oprah, the Dalai Lama.

We're all influenced by what comes into our sphere, and how we process it from our unique history, beliefs, commitments and so on. Thank goodness that spontaneity doesn't go too far, though, like all the way to the Pentagon, the Papacy or the Oval Office. It's one thing for a newspaper columnist to emerge from a blues concert or a church service with a new perspective he may act upon in the moment, but we sure don't want our POTUS making policy bamboozled by the last Faux News show he just watched (during his very ample "executive time"), do we? Especially if it means he has to ignore the findings of his intelligence professionals.

My teeth may be ground down 50 percent since 11/7/2018 but I keep looking for a way out of this mess, short of a bloody revolution. And I'm talking about both Washington and Santa Monica, where it seems just as hopeless, But I just can't shake the notion that it shouldn't be. We're a small city and we should be able to prevent being run into the ground by a self-serving cabal.

AGAPE

I finally trekked over to Agape's new home at the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills. Agape is a "transdenominational" spiritual community with roots in Santa Monica. Rev. Michael Beckwith started it in his living room and when it quickly outgrew that small space he moved it to the basement of the Fairmont Hotel, subsequently to a larger space on Olympic, then to Culver City and now to the beautiful Saban. I started going in '86. The main reason I go is that everything I hear speaks to me, no red flags waving, no exceptions.

Number two reason: the music is so good, and that is a spiritual experience. It's truly amazing how many congregants step onto that stage and blow your mind and raise the roof. C'mon, Catholics — a guitar Mass just doesn't cut it.

And then there are the famous folk who contribute their talents. I've caught a lot of great uplifts there but never Stevie Wonder, though he's sung numerous times, including his "Happy Birthday" to Rev. Michael last June. About a month ago Van Morrison, another frequent guest, sang "Into the Mystic" (can't believe I missed that one). I told the Rev I was considering writing a column on his unique history and relationship with music and devotion, particularly in Santa Monica, and he was ready to roll, so I guess now I really need to do it. Good Gosh-Amighty y'all!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Was his theme for the service and I won't bore you with specifics, but a thread I pulled out was changing the world in a peaceful way, through changing yourself. I skipped past the last part because obviously I don't need to change a thing about myself, ask my family (no, don't!), but he brought in Dr. King and Gandhi and their methods of peaceful resistance that yielded great results. I thought, how can I apply this to those evil teddy bears in our SM City government, short of their prayerful kneeling before a guillotine?

And then I had a revelation that just maybe that was the wrong attitude and approach. But what do you do when someone is standing on your throat with no relief in sight? It's a delicate balance of calm but determined resistance, sans violent force. I have not much idea where to go from there except to maybe to ease up on castigating our city leaders, and stick to pointing out policies and actions that harm our city. Ignorance and misinformation are the norm here among most residents (no accident), and so many in SM have no idea what is coming down, until it's too late.

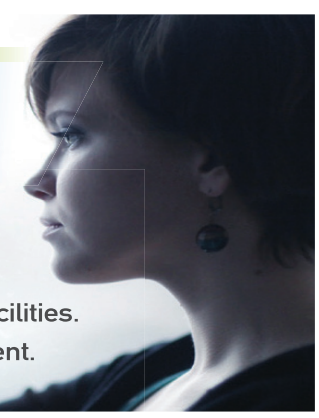
RICK COLE

And district voting you can kind of figure out how they fit in, but the Harlem Renaissance? That was the starting point for a terrific performance by another "Rev,"the Reverend Shawn Amos, ordained only by the spirit (and maybe the incredible Rev. Solomon Burke, his mentor), at the Broad Theater Friday night. Much of Amos's show focused on black history, but any time he's on stage you reach heaven through his talent, charisma, movement, and his tacky-wonderful suits and bright yellow patent leather shoes. He's a very good thing that happens in SM.

You see, it does all tie together.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Lunar New Year allows US companies to find prosperity too

TERRY TANG
Associated Press

As Asian-Americans across the U.S. mark the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, they can celebrate by eating Mickey Mouse-shaped tofu, sporting a pair of Year of the Pig-inspired Nike shoes and by snacking on pricey cupcakes.

The delicacies and traditions that once made a generation of Asian-Americans feel foreign are now fodder for merchandising. Between now and Feb. 17, Disney California Adventure Park is offering "Asian eats" that include the Mickey-shaped tofu and purple yam macarons. Nike is issuing a limited-edition Chinese New Year collection of shoes with traditional Chinese patchwork. And housewares giant Williams Sonoma has a slew of Lunar New Year dishware and its website offers a set of nine "Year of the Pig" cupcakes for $80.

Robert Passikoff, a marketing consultant and founder of Brand Keys Inc., said there's been a "reawakening" in the last few years of the United States' world view of China. But it's also about differentiating your business and growing revenue, not necessarily inclusion.

"They're not there as social workers to create harmony among the disenfranchised people," Passikoff said. "The other side is brands are all looking for an itch, they're all looking for some way to engage customers. And if the Lunar New Year will do it, why not?"

Chinese fast-food chain Panda Express funded a New Year's-themed interactive exhibit inside a Los Angeles mall. "The House of Good Fortune: A Lunar New Year," includes different rooms showcasing customs, like a room of "flying" red envelopes and a "hall of long noodles," a customary dish that symbolizes long life.

"Crazy Rich Asians" cast member Harry Shum Jr. promoted the exhibit and brushed off those who may scoff at the company's efforts.

"I think it's good to be reminded of these traditions. It's been so important for many generations before us to try and pass that on and also experience it in a new way," Shum said.

Andrea Cherng, the Panda Restaurant Group's chief marketing officer and the daughter of Chinese-American founders Andrew and Peggy Cherng, said she knows some Asian-Americans will roll their eyes.

"Now the reality about Panda is that we were many people's first Chinese experience in the U.S.," Cherng said. "But then what a fantastic opportunity for us to be able to bridge cultures and bring to them our interpretation of what's so special about this holiday."

Christopher Tai, 37, of San Francisco, recently bought a Golden State Warriors jersey specially made for the Lunar New Year as a gift for his girlfriend's father. The design includes the Chinese character for "warrior." He said the jersey shows an effort at inclusion.

"They're recognizing an underrepresented part of their fan base," Tai said.

But he wonders if shoppers who snap up Williams Sonoma dishware will come away learning anything.

"I feel like a lot of people are attracted to these aesthetic elements like say red, dragons, dogs or shiny gold, without really knowing the significance of the colors and symbols and what the animals mean," Tai said.

"There's a part of me that's still that kid who felt my culture was very 'other.' From that standpoint, I'm happy to see it more mainstream," said Lisa Hsia, 37, of Oakland, California. "But at the same time when I see Chinese New Year shoes or whatever, I have to ask, who's putting this together and who's it for?"

Most Chinese traditionally ring in the Lunar New Year, which is assigned one of 12 animals each year off the Chinese zodiac, with a family dinner the evening before. The meals typically include a whole chicken, a whole fish, pork, noodles, spring rolls and dumplings, whose shape resembles ancient Chinese gold ingot currency.

Other customs include giving money-filled red envelopes to children or single young adults and sharing mandarin oranges, which represent good fortune. The celebrations, which are also commemorated in Vietnam and other countries with ethnic Chinese communities, can last up to two weeks.

As Asian populations in the U.S. and social media use grow, it's easier for people to be aware of the holiday and its customs.

Xi Chen, who is from China but teaches Mandarin to middle-schoolers in Hamilton, Massachusetts, incorporated dumpling-making as part of her Lunar New Year lesson.

"We don't have many Asian restaurants in town. Some students told me it was the first time in their life they've tried dumplings," Chen said.

Stella Loh, 39, of Los Altos, California, said as a kid, she often got questions like, "Didn't we already celebrate the new year?"

But now, even non-Asian co-workers have been wishing her a happy new year.

"I'd never really brought it up before," Loh said. "It's always nice to know people who aren't Chinese recognize a piece of your own culture."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PASADENA

ABC executive sees silver lining in Oscar flap: interest

ABC's new entertainment chief says this year's pre-Oscars disarray had an upside.

Entertainment President Karey Burke said Tuesday the "lack of clarity" over the ceremony kept the Oscars in the public conversation.

The biggest flap was over Kevin Hart's quick exit as host because of years-old homophobic tweets for which he eventually apologized. T

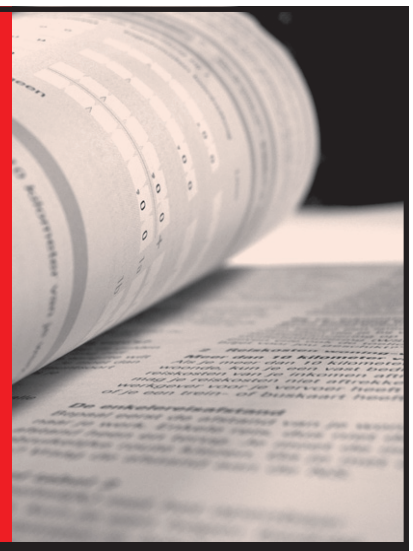
That left the Oscars without a host as the Feb. 24 ceremony on ABC loomed, and producers finally decided to go without one.

Burke said the ceremony will feature a "phenomenal" line-up of presenters, with the advantage of nominees that are box-office hits. That includes best-picture contenders "Black Panther," ''Bohemian Rhapsody" and "A Star Is Born."

Burke also lauded the movie academy's pledge to keep the ceremony to three hours, avoiding the overtime that drains off viewers.

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Beto O'Rourke says he'll decide on 2020 run by month's end

STEVE PEOPLES AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

Breaking months of near-silence about his political future, Democrat Beto O'Rourke said Tuesday that he would announce his decision about a 2020 presidential run "before the end of the month" and suggested he's leaning toward it.

The former Texas congressman, who found political stardom in his unsuccessful Senate bid last fall, opened up about a potential 2020 run in a conversation with a bigger star, Oprah Winfrey, during a taping of her program "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square."

"I have been thinking about running for president," O'Rourke told Winfrey as the packed audience cheered. The 46-year-old Democrat cited his desire to help unify the country. "I'm so excited at the prospect of being able to play that role."

O'Rourke dazzled Democrats last year by nearly defeating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in the country's largest red state. In recent weeks, however, his presidential prospects have been overshadowed by the generally well-received 2020 campaign launches of Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

His comments Tuesday offered a powerful reminder that the Democratic field is far from set.

Winfrey, who has flirted with a potential run of her own, appeared to encourage O'Rourke to run during the wide-ranging interview that spanned nearly an hour.

"What's it going to take for you to say, 'Yes, I'm doing it?'" she asked.

The decision, O'Rourke said, would really be up to his family. He has three children under the age of 13.

"For the last seven years, my family hasn't seen me," he said. He added, "That's the far more important responsibility."

Winfrey herself has been the center of 2020 speculation, though she has said she doesn't plan to run. She remains an influential figure in Democratic politics, however.

Her endorsement of Barack Obama was pivotal to his 2008 campaign. She also took the rare step of campaigning for Democrat Stacey Abrams ahead of her near-upset in the Georgia governor's race.

Winfrey's show blurs the line between politics and pop culture. The lineup on Tuesday featured actors Bradley Cooper and Michael B. Jordan and philanthropist Melinda Gates, underscoring the sense of celebrity that surrounds O'Rourke.

O'Rourke's low profile in recent weeks has taken curious turns.

He treated Instagram followers to a glimpse inside his mouth during a teeth cleaning while trying to decry the Trump administration's border wall. He also recently traveled in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, but his meandering online posts documenting the journey highlighted things like the open-face roast beef sandwich he had for lunch rather than offering hints about how he'd handle the rigors of a presidential campaign.

Compare that to his potential 2020 rivals swarming states that kick off presidential voting: New York Sen. Kristen Gillibrand and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will be in South Carolina this week, Booker is visiting Iowa and Warren is set to formally announce her presidential bid Saturday, then hit New Hampshire and Iowa.

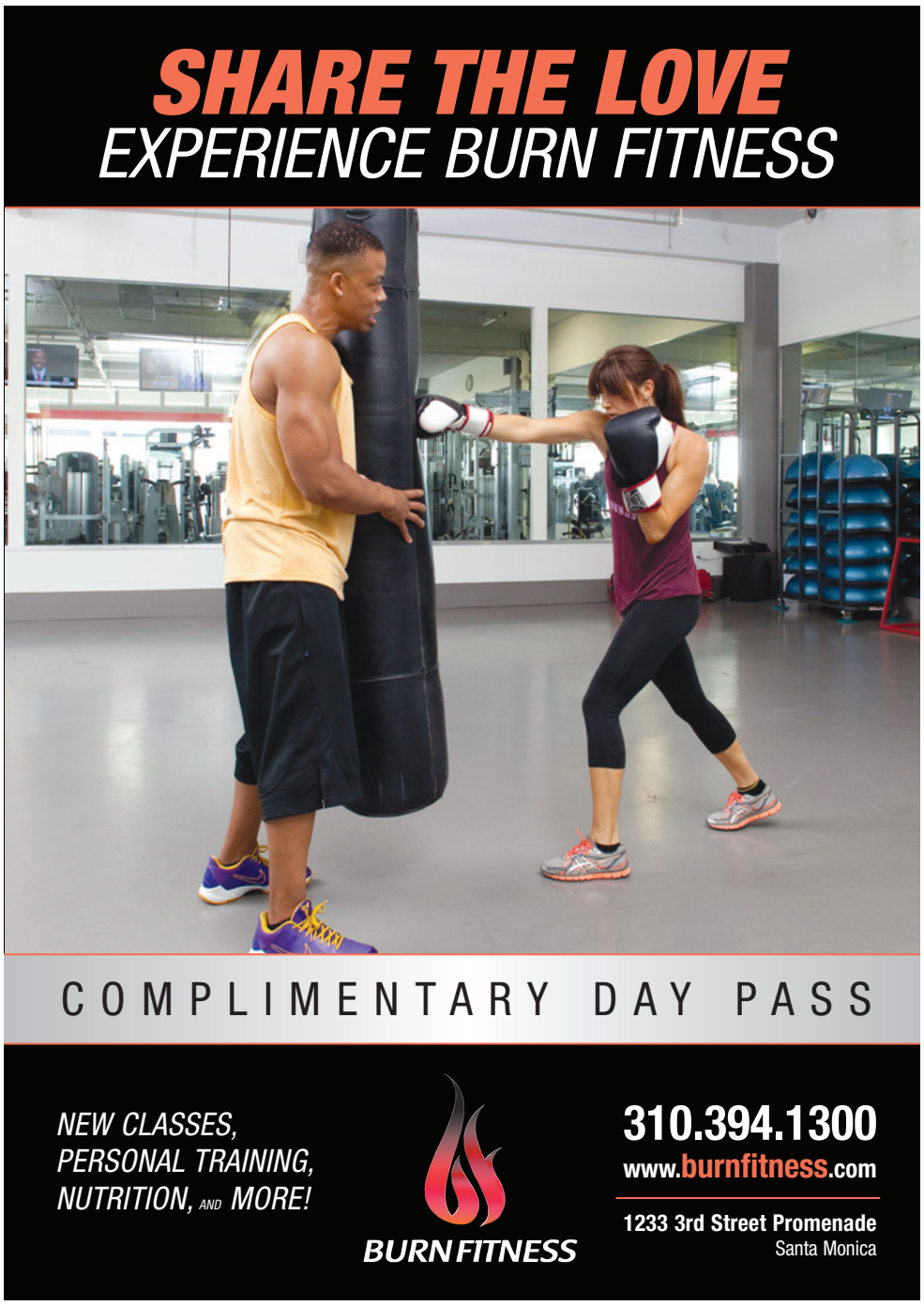
O'Rourke said he needed to spend time traveling alone to help overcome "a profound disappointment in myself that I let so many people down." He said he emerged with the reinforced belief that "people are so good."

The Texas Democrat, who represented a border state in Congress for six years, also took aim at President Donald Trump's push to build a border wall, calling it "a racist response to a problem that we don't have."

Though the taping was Tuesday, the interview won't air on Winfrey's network until Feb. 16. After that, O'Rourke doesn't have another headline-grabbing event on his schedule — at least not yet.

Weissert reported from Austin, Texas.







HEROIC

FROM PAGE 1

course, or sea urchin pasta and lamb ragu rigatoni. Appetizers are all $14, pastas are $16, main courses are $20 and dessert is $10. Wine will run diners $12-14 per glass and $40-50 per bottle.

When Merrihue and Adam Fleischman, the creator of Umami Burger and 800 Degrees, acquired the storefront vacated by vegan restaurant Erven in January, they were surprised to find it had two doors, bathrooms and kitchens, Merrihue said. They saw an opportunity to capture two different markets: lunch and dinner.

"(Heroic Deli) is mobbed at lunch and we do a lot of catering for nearby offices," Merrihue said. "But when people leave work, they want to go to a wine bar."

Heroic Wine Bar fits into Santa Monica Boulevard's growing fine dining scene, he added. Top Chef contestant Nyesha Arrington opened Native up the street in 2017, as did Andrea Inio's Orto, joining mainstays like Tar and Roses.

"It's very quickly become quite a special street in Santa Monica," Merrihue said. "We hope together these restaurants can raise the profile of Santa Monica in general and Santa Monica Boulevard specifically as a place for foodies to visit that's as good as Hollywood, Beverly Hills or Downtown Los Angeles."

madeleine@smdp.com

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

Feb. 1 a total of $4.5 million in Measure H funding to five organizations, including CCSM, that submitted new and cost-effective ideas to build housing for the growing homeless population. County voters approved the Measure H sales tax in March 2017 to generate about $355 million annually for 10 years for homelessness services.

The winners, which include a company that builds housing using shipping containers and a startup that converts detached garages to small houses, have up to two years to complete their projects.

The five organizations will be developing their projects as the City of Los Angeles wrestles with the revelation that the 10,000 units for homeless and low-income individuals promised by its own housing initiative, Measure HHH, will cost substantially more than projected.

City officials originally said 10,000 units could be built at a cost of $140,000 per unit but it now costs $400,000 to $500,000 per unit, in large part because construction has become more expensive in a booming real estate market.

"The costs of building affordable housing are astronomical and it takes a long time to do," Barauskas said.

Architect Angie Brooks of Brooks + Scarpa, who partnered with CCSM to create the proposal, said the prefab kit streamlines the zoning process in addition to making construction quicker and cheaper. The kit uses standard residential zoning standards so cities can approve the projects without a lengthy review process.

The proposal also shortens the process, Brooks said, by temporarily eliminating the need to wait for cities to connect a construction site with utilities. Rather than wait for water and electricity hookups, a building constructed with the kit could use a solar energy system for power and water.

CCSM's building would not be the first prefab permanent supportive housing, Barauskas said. Each of the 102 units in Star Apartments, which opened in Skid Row in 2014, was constructed offsite before being attached to the building's frame. The complex cost $40 million to make, double what was anticipated.

"That design was more elaborate, and this kit is more streamlined and efficient," Barauskas said. "If it works well, it could be rolled out into a larger program."

CCSM will construct a building in Santa Monica using the proposal and is finalizing a site, she said.

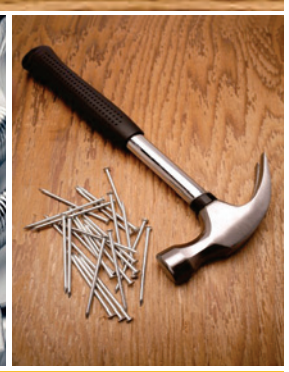
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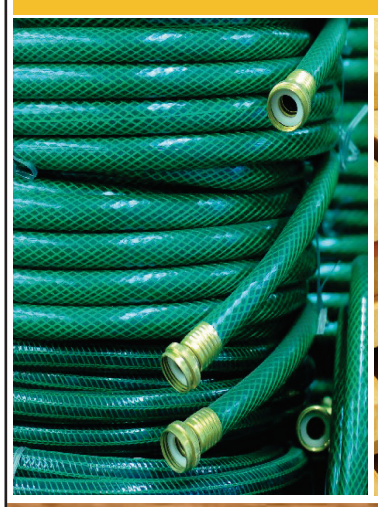
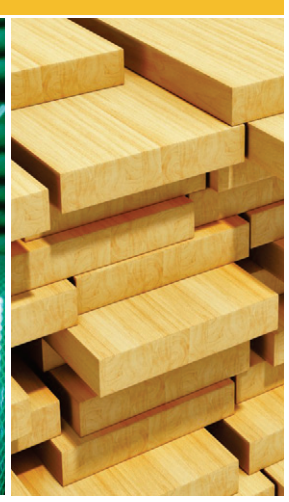
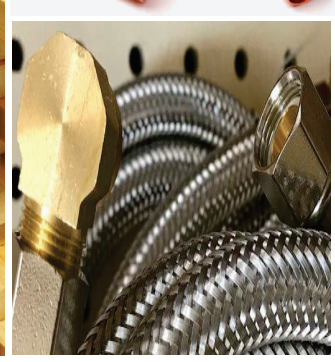
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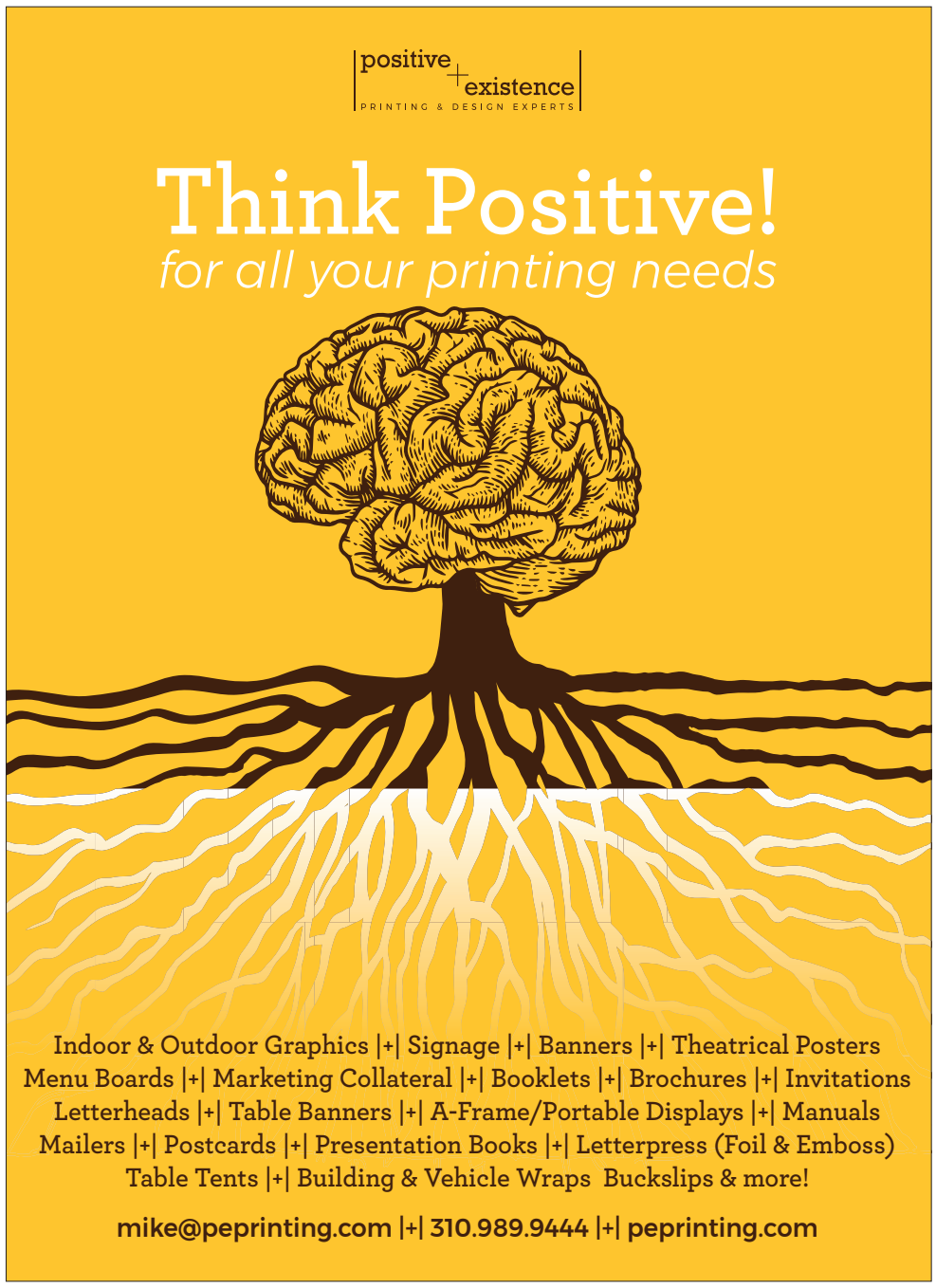


SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.1°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft knee to waist high
Small, easing WNW-NW swell-mix. Favorable light wind, especially in the AM.

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2 ft ankle to knee high
Minimal WNW swell. Favorable light wind, especially in the AM.



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 22, AT ABOUT 1:42 A.M.

While patrolling the 1700 block of Main Street, officers saw a bicyclist riding against traffic with no front light in violation of the vehicle code. Officers attempted to stop the bicyclist. The subject ignored officers and refused to stop. The subject rode into a courtyard of an apartment complex. The subject reappeared walking the bicycle on the sidewalk. The subject was detained and taken into custody. Delores Marie Wright, 18, from Moreno Valley, was arrested for resist/delay/obstructing an officer, operating a bicycle against traffic and operating a bicycle at night without a front white light. Bail was set at $10,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

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

Encampment Centinela Ave / Exposition Blvd 12:25 a.m.
Out of order traffic signals Cloverfield Blvd / Colorado Ave 1:31 a.m.
Attempt strongarm robbery 2600blk Pico Blvd 2:17 a.m.
Party complaint 1200blk 10th St 3:00 a.m.
Fight 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:16 a.m.
Burglary 1900blk 22nd St 4:09 a.m.
Encampment 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:57 a.m.
Auto burglary 2300blk 14th St 6:35 a.m.
Encampment 2700blk Ocean Front Walk 7:08 a.m.
Fight 500blk Colorado Ave 7:12 a.m.
Petty theft 3000blk Airport Ave 7:35 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2600blk 7th St 8:25 a.m.
Death 1600blk Hill St 8:26 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 700blk Hill St 8:35 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1500blk 16th St 9:18 a.m.
Illegal weapon 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:33 a.m.
Fraud 1800blk Broadway 10:24 a.m.
Bike theft 1200blk California Ave 10:28 a.m.
Hit and run 800blk 4th St 10:29 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 10:42 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:47 a.m.
Petty theft 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 11:33 a.m.
Burglary 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:57 a.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 2600blk Montana Ave 12:49 p.m.
Failure to pay parking fee 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:52 p.m.
Overdose 600blk Strand St 12:59 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive parking violations 1800blk Warwick Ave 1:00 p.m.
Overdose 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:04 p.m.
Petty theft 1000blk Euclid St 1:35 p.m.
Petty theft 200blk Broadway 1:54 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:22 p.m.
Scar 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2200blk 20th St 2:59 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1300blk Yale St 3:04 p.m.
Battery Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 3:23 p.m.
Person with a gun 1200blk 17th St 3:26 p.m.
Exhibition of speed 9th St / San Vicente Blvd 3:47 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 14th St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:35 p.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 4:37 p.m.
Burglary 2800blk Neilson Way 4:59 p.m.
Battery 500blk Olympic Blvd W 5:17 p.m.
Stalking 1200blk 16th St 5:20 p.m.
Identity theft 1400blk Stanford St 5:51 p.m.
Malicious mischief 1100blk Pico Blvd 6:08 p.m.
Battery 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 6:12 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 20th St / Broadway 6:22 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 6:34 p.m.
Petty theft 2600blk 2nd St 7:46 p.m.
Fight 1100blk 17th St 8:15 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 26th St / Colorado Ave 8:52 p.m.
Vandalism 1300blk 7th St 9:53 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk lincoln Blvd 10:50 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 1400blk Euclid St 11:26 p.m.
Person with a gun 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:34 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.

EMS 2600blk Washington Ave 12:43 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800blk Broadway 1:48 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Centinela Ave 3:28 a.m.
EMS 900blk Euclid St 3:53 a.m.
EMS 1600blk 14th St 6:22 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 7:51 a.m.
EMS 2600blk 34th St 8:04 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 8:15 a.m.
EMS 800blk Yale St 8:17 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Hill St 8:25 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 11th St 8:54 a.m.
EMS 2400blk 20th St 9:55 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 10:42 a.m.
Bee emergency 300blk Olympic Dr 12:01 p.m.
EMS 600blk Strand St 12:59 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:04 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2400blk 16th St 1:28 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:59 p.m.
EMS 600blk Navy St 3:00 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 3:20 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Franklin St 3:44 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 9th St 4:32 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:37 p.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 4:49 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Montana Ave 5:22 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:30 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Pico Blvd 6:09 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 6:57 p.m.
Elevator rescue 2200blk Main St 7:22 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 7:50 p.m.
Elevator rescue 2200blk Colorado Ave 7:56 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 26th St / Colorado Ave 8:52 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200blk 15th St 8:57 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:10 p.m.
EMS 600blk Navy St 10:38 p.m.
Automatic alarm 200blk Santa Monica Pl 11:46 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/2
10 17 18 43 65
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 204M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/1
2 37 48 66 68
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 139M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/2
3 34 37 45 47
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 16M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/4
4 6 17 20 27

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/5
MIDDAY: 9 9 8
Draw Date: 2/4
EVENING: 1 4 4

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/4
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:41.28

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

WORD UP!

hoggery
noun [haw-guh-ree, hog-uh-]
1. slovenly or greedy behavior.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Never Say "Diet"

■ The Major League Eating record for potato wedges is 3.74 pounds in 8 minutes, held by aptly named Gravy Brown. Warning: Most of these records are held by professional eaters, the rest by people who really should find something better to do.

Best Medicine

■ Patient: "I just heard a great joke about amnesiacs."
■ Doctor: "What is it?"
■ Patient: "I forget."
■ Doctor: "That happens."
■ Patient: "What happens?"
■ Doctor: "You forget things?"
■ Patient: "Who are you?"

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

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

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

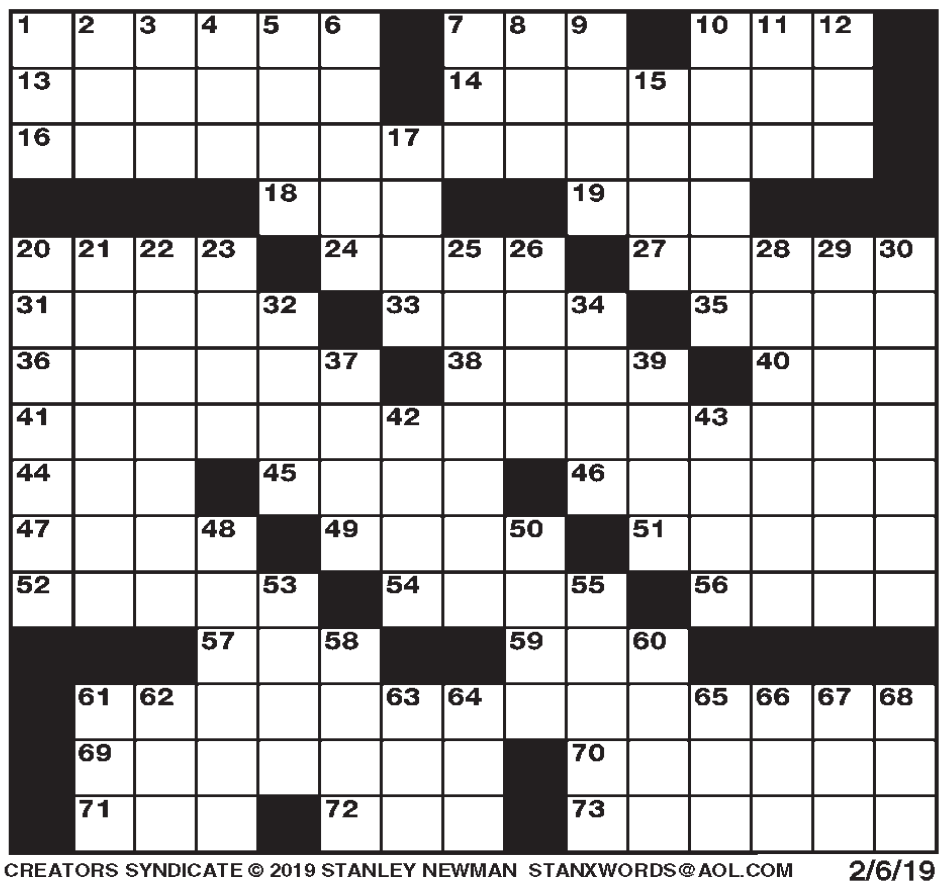
	1			5				
		7				8	1	
	5	3	8		6			7
	8	9	7			4		
		5			8	6	3	
6			5		3	1	9	
	9	4				5		
				8			2	

Newsday Crossword

HANGOUTS by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Legal scholar
7 "T.G.I." day: Abbr.
10 Poker player's prize
13 Old Testament prophet
14 Break up, as an organization
16 Hangouts you know well
18 Explosive initials
19 Poetic preposition
20 Matured
24 Loads and loads
27 Springsteen of song
31 Under siege
33 Young hoodlum
35 Incite
36 Of the stars
38 Perform perfectly
40 Chapter of history
41 Hangouts you visit often
44 Follower of Attila
45 Emblem of approval
46 Stir up
47 Leif's dad
49 Preowned
51 Guide a ride
52 Loved ones
54 Operatic solo
56 Numbers read by bettors
57 Perform a scene
59 Flavor enhancer letters
61 Hangouts you like best
69 Paint remover ingredient
70 Mischief-prone
71 Strawberry shade
72 Genetic identifier
73 Not carefully done

DOWN
1 Peanut butter brand
2 It's s. of Canada
3 Door-busting device
4 Rightmost sundial numeral
5 Seasoning for fries
6 Person, place or ___ (noun categories)
7 WWII leader
8 Tear (up)
9 Spot of land in the sea
10 People walking back and forth
11 Early afternoon
12 NFL six-pointers
15 Critical remark
17 On the peak of
20 Feeling embarrassed
21 Charades signal
22 Latvia neighbor
23 Prefix meaning "skin"
25 Clumsy person
26 Progress slower
28 Overturned
29 Turned sour
30 Mistake eliminators
32 "Lights out" tune
34 *Star Trek* captain
37 In ___ of (instead of)
39 Lane in Superman stories
42 Cape Canaveral org.
43 Golden Rule word
48 Wanted badly
50 Coin featuring 7 Down
53 Tartan wearer
55 Hibachi residue
58 Stepped on
60 Impudence
61 Miles away
62 Top pitcher
63 Rural hotel
64 Wonderland beverage
65 Sci-fi craft, for short
66 Small bite
67 Recipe amt.
68 Bashful



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/6/19

Police: Pilot in fatal California crash had fake records

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

The man piloting a small plane that broke apart over a Southern California neighborhood had false credentials identifying him as a retired Chicago police officer, authorities said Tuesday.

Antonio Pastini was killed when the twin-engine plane broke up shortly after takeoff and fell in pieces in Yorba Linda, igniting a fire in a home where four people died on Sunday. The cause of the crash has not been determined.

Pastini, 75, was initially identified as a retired officer but Chicago police said there were no records of him working for the department.

The credentials found at the crash site included false retirement papers and a police badge bearing the same number as a badge reported lost in 1978, Chicago police Officer Michelle Tannehill told the Orange County Register .

Orange County sheriff's spokeswoman Carrie Braun said the credentials were not legitimate but the pilot was indeed Pastini. The victims inside the home have yet to be publicly identified.

Aviation safety experts cautioned against drawing early conclusions about the cause of the crash.

"At this stage you don't make assumptions. You let the evidence lead you where it leads you," said John Cox, a former commercial pilot and a veteran crash investigator who is head of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators have been collecting parts of the aircraft, the plane's records and information about Pastini, who was described as a commercial pilot with an instrument flight rating.

Preliminary information showed the plane took off around 1:35 p.m. Sunday from Fullerton Municipal Airport, made a left turn and climbed to an altitude of 7,800 feet before starting to descend.

Weather was intermittently rainy across Southern California during the weekend, but specific conditions encountered by the flight were not immediately known.

Observers said the plane initially appeared intact when it fell through a cloud ceiling at an altitude of about 2,000 to 3,000 feet (600 to 900 meters), investigator Maja Smith said.

"Witnesses say that they saw the airplane coming out of a cloud at a very high speed before parts of the airplane such as tail and subsequently wings starting to break off," she said.

The Cessna 414A has a good reputation, said Cox, who said he has flown similar Cessnas since the 1970s. In-flight breakups are uncommon, and causes can range from metal fatigue to instrument failure and forces induced by the pilot, he said.

Losing control of an airplane can also lead to a breakup, Cox said.

One of the first things that might fail in that situation, he said, is a horizontal stabilizer — the structures that look like small wings on the tail.

Photos of the wreck showing the outer portions of the wings apparently snapped off are consistent with the type of forces wings are subjected to with the loss of one or more horizontal stabilizers and when the airplane loses aerodynamic balance, he said.

Associated Press journalists Christopher Weber, Amanda Lee Myers and Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 6)

Remember when you thought you were functioning at full capacity? Well you'll do more this solar return and you'll do it better, and with greater love and joy. The secret is losing what is excessive and superfluous. Also of note – you'll travel with loved ones, at once expanding horizons and deepening relationships. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 21, 5, 28, 3 and 10.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Scientific studies suggest that many humans rate their skills and traits as much better than they actually are. Then there's you, totally underplaying it all. Speak up! Too much modesty means everyone could lose out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
The power struggle is between two parts of you, one that's parental and one that's childlike. Both parts want what's good for you and what will make you happy, though each has an extremely different definition of those concepts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
You're feeling rather uncharacteristically quiet, perhaps because you're still learning, observing and cataloging what you see, at least mentally. You're just not ready to put this education into words yet.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You do certain things because you want to make sure that your efforts don't go to waste. But in a way, once it's out of your hands, it's no longer your business. Let go for now completely. You can check back later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your parents gave you life, but they didn't give you their lives. In matters emotional, professional, spiritual and practical, do it your way regardless of how well it might please your parents or any other authority figure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
"You're a lot," said the member of Generation Z to her overly dramatic friend – a mild-sounding yet crushing insult. You've been on both sides of this sort of dialogue. It's why you're so careful and compassionate today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
A person's record may be clean, but the real standard isn't about what a person has been caught and tried for. The real standard is a matter of personal integrity that has to be reconciled between the individual and the higher self.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
How do you know you're being too hard on yourself? If the way you push yourself or talk to yourself doesn't advance your purposes, and is in fact more of a hurdle than a help, then you're being too hard on yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Favored activities include next level cleaning and organization, the sort that handles the closets, files, drawers and little-seen areas – maybe even the secret chambers of the heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Creative pursuits will show early signs of success, perhaps in the interested eyes of others, the smiles, the excellent questions you get about your process and goals. This is exciting!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You're never too busy to be charitable when the call comes, though often there is no call. To do good in the world these days, you have to be proactive. Notice who needs help, instead of waiting to be asked for help.

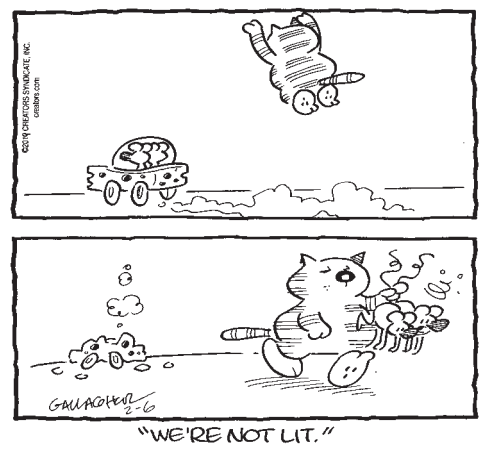
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
The way a person feels about himself, the way she sees her position or exerts her power, these are the sorts of things you can read rather easily today, and there's a way to use this for mutual benefit.

Porcine New Year's Resolutions

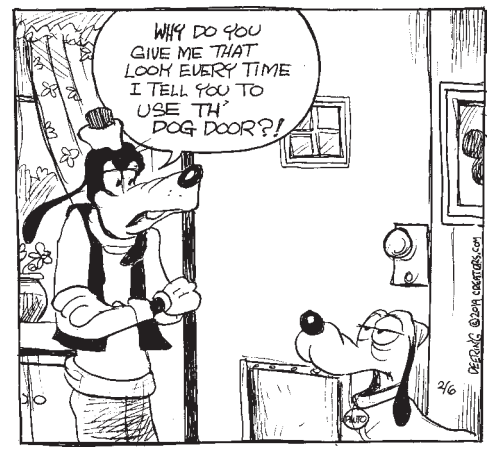
If you want a second crack at New Year's resolutions, this is it. The elevated consciousness of the Pisces moon in these early stages of the porcine era encourage you to create a sacred vision for the next 12 months. Without this purpose, it just won't turn out as well. Human nature has a way of corrupting unguided moments.

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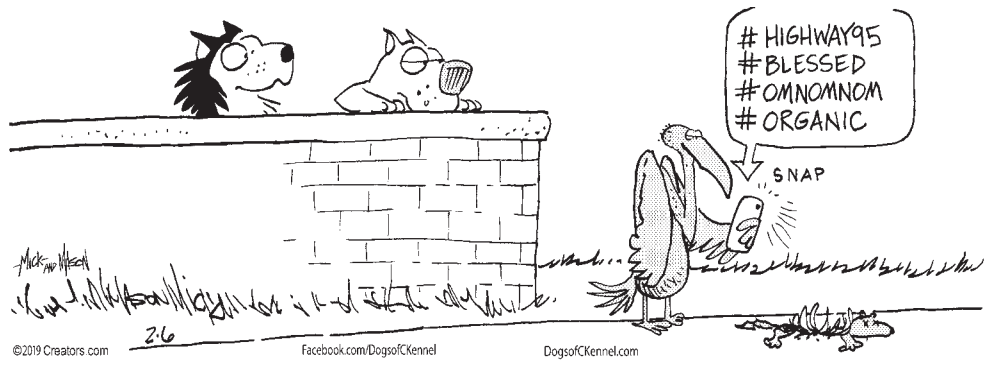
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By TONY COCHRAN



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



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Hopes rise for border funding deal - if Trump will go along

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

Capitol Hill talks to resolve an impasse over President Donald Trump's demands for billions of dollars for his long-sought border wall are inching forward, with lawmakers focused first on forging agreement among themselves — and less on satisfying Trump's shifting demands.

One such sign came Tuesday from Capitol Hill's most powerful Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who says he's not seeking Trump's blessing in advance of striking a deal on border security funding, a move that appears to remove a significant potential hurdle confronting the talks.

McConnell told reporters that negotiators "ought to reach an agreement, and then we'll hope that the president finds it worth signing."

That's a break from his stance during the recent 35-day partial federal shutdown, when McConnell, R-Ky., insisted for weeks that Trump's buy-in would be needed before any agreement could be reached. Trump is seeking $5.7 billion for a U.S.-Mexico border wall, but it's clear that the House-Senate negotiations won't approve nearly that much. The Senate put a $1.6 billion plan on the table last year, though many House liberals think even that amount is too high. Government funding is set to expire on Feb. 16.

The developments came in the hours before Trump's annual State of the Union address, in which the president was sure to again call for his long-stalled border wall.

At the same time, negotiators on the House-Senate panel sounded increasingly optimistic of reaching an agreement. The lead Senate GOP negotiator, Richard Shelby of Alabama, said he had a good conversation with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and that staff is making progress in behind-the-scenes talks.

"Both sides have moved," Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said. "And hopefully we're going to continue to see movement."

But if Tuesday's developments increase the likelihood of an agreement among the pragmatic lawmakers dominating the talks — who are drawn from the deal-making appropriations committees — it could increase the risk that Trump might scuttle the entire effort if he's not satisfied with the border-security package.

Meanwhile, negotiators are leaning on border-security experts to sort through their options. While Trump is insisting on physical structures like walls, fences and vehicular barriers, Democrats are focused more on next-generation scanners, additional manpower and help for detained migrants.

"We're looking to see if there's a way to get together in a comprehensive way — whether it's a barrier, whether it's a fence, whether it's technology, whether it's more personnel. I think it might be all of that," Shelby told reporters.

A group of House GOP lawmakers returned Tuesday from a fact-finding trip to Texas, New Mexico and San Diego. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn., said he came away from the trip with a better sense of what approaches work best in varied locations, but that fences or walls are a key piece of the border security puzzle.

"The wall deters people, and it buys the agents time," Fleischmann said.

Texas Rep. Kay Granger, top Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, was also on the trip said it "absolutely" strengthened her conviction that physical barriers must be part of any agreement. She said the types of barriers that seem to work best — tall steel slats called "bollards" topped by concrete or steel — most resemble fences, not the walls Trump has demanded.

"That's not my problem. I would call it a fence," Granger told reporters.

She said she thinks a bipartisan agreement is "doable" and added, "I don't want another shutdown."

Hanging over the talks is a threat by Trump to label the situation on the southern border a national emergency and invoke powers to transfer money from other portions of the budget — like disaster aid intended for Army Corps of Engineers flood control projects — to his wall project.

Invoking these emergency powers is likely to spark a fierce backlash among lawmakers, including many Republicans. McConnell acknowledged Tuesday that he alerted Trump that both the Democratic-controlled House and the GOP Senate could move swiftly to block an emergency declaration, raising the chances that Trump would have to issue his first veto. McConnell opposes the idea of Trump building the wall by executive fiat but declined Tuesday to say whether he would vote for a resolution to try to overrule him.

There is plenty else at stake in the talks, which are likely to encompass all of the remaining seven unfinished spending bills for the current budget year. For starters, passing a catchall spending deal could pave the way to reverse the automatic cuts to federal spending that would kick in unless there's a bipartisan deal for the upcoming fiscal year.

Democrats said McConnell's declaration was a good indication for an agreement.

"Every time we leave it up to the conferees, Democrat and Republican, House and Senate, we've been able to come up with a good agreement. It's when the president interferes that there's a problem," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

"So my advice to the president, if you don't want to shut the government down, if you don't want to have to declare a national emergency ... stay out of it," Schumer added. "Let the Senate and the House work their way and we can succeed."



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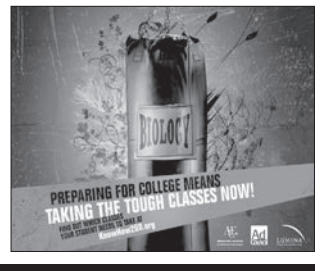
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