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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
02.07.19
Volume 18 Issue 74

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Recharge app provides temporary feeling of home away from home

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

If during your workday you've ever felt like stopping home for a shave, a nap, shower, or even just some Me time but felt you couldn't due to distance or time or any other external factor, a growing app has something for you.

Recharge, a hotel-finding app that allows users to rent rooms by-the-minute, is launching a "Homes" section to their app which will allow hosts to rent out their homes and guests to rent them for any amount of time.

Manny Bamfo, CEO of Recharge, says the platform's goal is to give commuters in the LA area (especially in Santa Monica where most are commuting into the city) a "home-replica" during a day that could be around 10-14 hours with work and a lengthy commute.

"This morning, you made a journey and left your home, and sometimes on that journey, you

SEE **APP** PAGE 11

Southern California clear, very cold after days of storms

Associated Press

After days of rain and heavy snowfall, Southern California skies are clear and cold.

A mix of freeze warnings and frost advisories were in effect Wednesday morning for many areas from the Central Coast south to San Diego County.

The California Highway Patrol said Interstate 15 was closed in the Mojave Desert near the Nevada state line due to icy conditions.

The National Weather Service reported five-day precipitation totals include more than 11 inches of rain and as much as 3 feet of snow at locations in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

Statewide, mountains are glistening with snow after a series of major storms in what is turning out to be a very wet winter.

Snowcapped peaks extend from the Sierra Nevada to mountain ranges much closer to the coast, including the rugged backdrop behind metropolitan Los Angeles.

On the Southern California

SEE **WEATHER** PAGE 6



SIGNING DAY

Courtesy photos

Some student athletes at Santa Monica High School have chosen colleges in a signing ceremony. See Page 3 for more information.



New lawsuit claims deficiencies in scooter safety



Matthew Hall

FLIGHT OF BIRDS: A former scooter mechanic claims he was fired for raising safety concerns.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

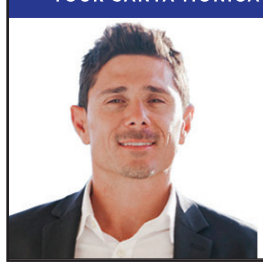
A former mechanic for Bird is alleging in a lawsuit that the company breached its agreement with the City of Santa Monica to provide safe, durable scooters.

Screenshots of Bird's internal communication show that an operations specialist asked mechanics in November not to take scooters off the road or report them as damaged if they had missing screws, grips or kickstands, loose necks, handlebars, bolts or brains, or broken reflectors.

Bird operates in Santa Monica under the City's Shared Mobility pilot program, which requires scooter companies to provide highly durable, safe devices that are designed to withstand the demands of outdoor and shared use. It also stipulates that scooters carry a front white light and a rear red light, working brakes

SEE **SCOOTERS** PAGE 11


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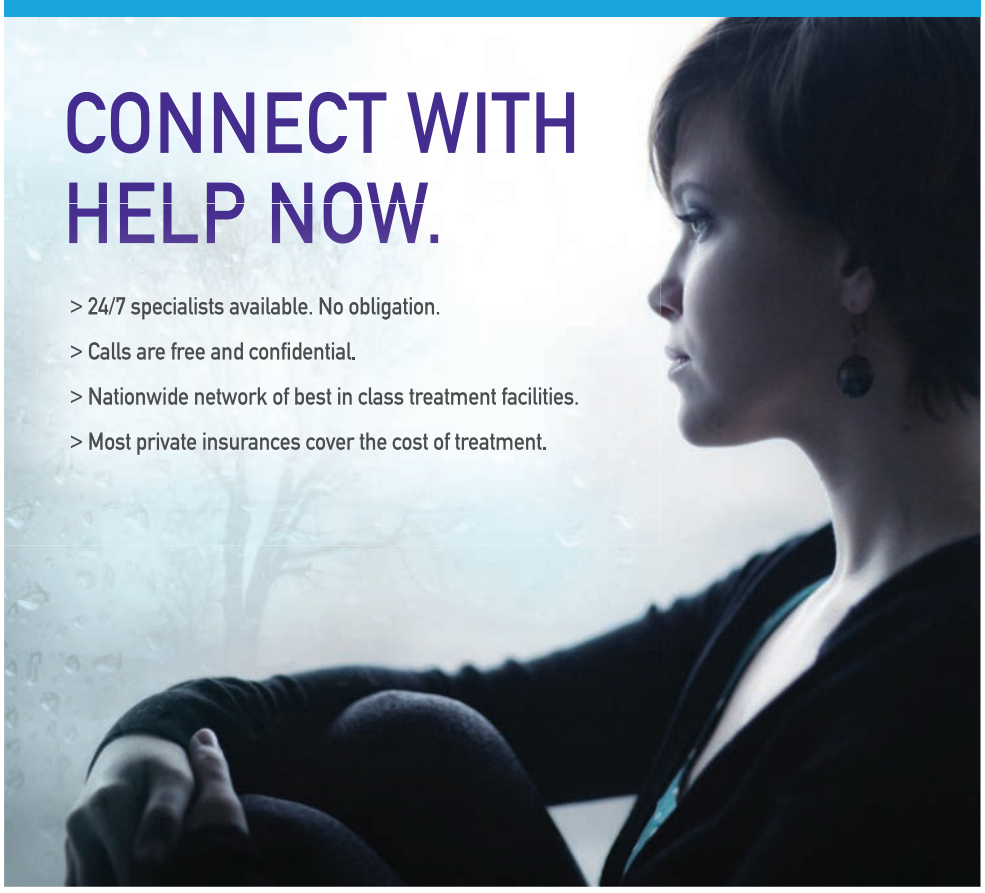
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: An Empowering Workshop for Parents

Parents and caregivers play a unique role in child abuse prevention. Learn practical actions we can all take to help protect the children in our lives. Presented by the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center. Fairview Branch Library 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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.

Friday, Feb. 8

Vision Board creation

Our brains like visual input. Through a written process, we will discover your vision of 2019 and beyond and create a vision board. Vision Board creation lead by Coach Ashley Wrobel. Friday, 3-5 at 2701 Ocean Park Blvd. Suite 140. Bring photos and a pair of scissors.
Limited room so attendees must register at ashley@CallAshley.com or (310) 450-1209.

Natalie Jacob Jazz Band

The Miles Memorial Playhouse 1130 Lincoln Blvd 1 p.m.

Senior Singles Mingle: Book Lovers Edition

Find your literary soulmate at this casual soirée for older adults. We'll provide the ice breakers and conversation prompts, you bring an open mind and an interest in meeting and mingling with like-minded lit lovers. Main Library Multipurpose Room, 2nd Floor 2 - 4 p.m.

Craft, Swap, or Create @ Your Library

Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us at the library to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures, and while you are at it, make some time to create, invent and learn a new craft or skill. Sewing machine, crochet tools, and other items available for your use. Pico Branch Library 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mat Pilates

Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises
that engage the mind and condition the total body. Montana Avenue Branch Library 3 - 4 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Barbara

Santa Monica-Based Director Pascui Rivas Celebrates World Premiere Of "Ordinary Gods" At The Santa Barbara International Film Festival

A renowned Director of film, commercials and documentary, Santa Monica-based Pascui Rivas journeys to the Santa Barbara Film Festival this month for the World Premiere of his labor of love, "Ordinary Gods." Filmed in eight different countries over the course of three years, the first-time feature director offers a compassionate observation of the lives of six young professional soccer players, as they struggle with injury, homesickness, and the pressure of being a young talent on the international stage.

A testament to human perseverance, "Ordinary Gods" examines what it takes to thrive – not just in the world's most beloved sport, soccer – but also in life itself. The globetrotting documentary dives deep into the captivating lives of aspiring soccer players with a unified dream - to pursue their passion on the world's most prestigious soccer stages. Imbued with heartfelt revelations of their day-to-day realities, along with the political and economical nuances that surround them, the documentary sheds light on their ordinary struggles while navigating the extraordinary circumstances that define the world's most popular sport.

SANTA BARBARA FILM FESTIVAL | "ORDINARY GODS" SCREENINGS

Friday, February 08
8 - 9:49 p.m.
Metropolitan Metro 4 Theatre - Aud 1

Saturday, February 09
4 - 5:49 p.m.
Metropolitan Fiesta 5 Theatre - Aud 3
Tickets: http://schedule.sbiff.org/films-events/372045425

SUBMITTED BY ALEX LAMPSOS

Citywide

Students sign with college teams

Samohi held a signing ceremony recently to recognize student athletes who have accepted offers to play at the college level. Listed below are the students, their sport and chosen school.

Caleb Downing, Baseball, Wheaton College. Simeon Downing, Baseball, Whitman College. Stephen Alexander, Football, Dakota State University. Melvin Hicks, Jr., Football, Morehouse College. Kameron Jackson, Football, Benedictine College. Eduardo Saldana, Football, Whittier College. Amir Tryon-Ingram, Football, Morehouse College. Kobe White, Football, Eastern New Mexico University. Maya Cooper, Soccer, Cal State Fullerton. Daikiara Williams, Soccer, Arizona State University. Alexandra Steigelfest, Soccer, Syracuse University. Elizabeth Gross, Volleyball, Campbell University. Arianna Mattioli, Volleyball, Loyola Marymount. Lauren Gaudry, Water Polo Indiana University. Sawyer Koetters, Water Polo, US Naval Academy

DAILY PRESS STAFF

Citywide

Lawyers & Judges Will Make Music To Benefit Santa Monica School

Popular songs and classic big band tunes will be featured at this Big Band Bonanza concert where lawyers, judges and legal staff come together in harmony on Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Moss Theater in Santa Monica to benefit New Roads School.

Gary Greene, Esq. and His Big Band of Barristers, aka "America's #1 Legal Band," will perform favorites including "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Dream a Little Dream of Me," "Copacabana," "Eleanor Rigby," "Over the Rainbow," "Beauty and the Beast," "I Can't Believe You're In Love With Me," "Body and Soul" featuring the Honorable Arthur Gilbert on piano and more. The Singers In Law, Roxy Darr and Mary Stanford will perform with Gary's Big Band. For more information, please visit www.LALawyersPhil.org.

Concert tickets range from $20 to $45. Concert ticket proceeds will benefit New Roads School in Santa Monica and the LA Lawyers Philharmonic. Both are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. To purchase tickets, visit https://BigBandBonanza.eventbrite.com.

For concert information, visit www.LALawyersPhil.org.

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA MARISA KAISER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOS ANGELES LAWYERS PHILHARMONIC

Citywide

The Committee for Racial Justice presents: A Black History Month Special

Committee For Racial Justice will commemorate Black History Month 2019 with words and music. Drummers and African Dancers will open the program.

CRJ's February 10th gathering will feature guest speaker, Miranda Sheffield, a social justice activist and scholar. She will discuss the history of enslaved Africans who escaped capture and the tactics they deployed to resist being caught. Miranda will discuss how their actions can aide today in people's struggle for justice and freedom.

Sheffield carries a dedicated background in social justice advocacy and resistance. For the last 10 years her primary form of work has been dedicated to working with black and brown youth who have experienced foster care and, in addition, providing reproductive health+STI training at the Edelman Children's court. She also assists pregnant and expectant foster youth to access informed health care information.

In 2014, Miranda begin to organize with the Black Lives Matter Los Angeles chapter around the police murder of Ezell Ford. This led to BLM occupying the front of the LAPD office.

In the last year Miranda has spent her time living in London attending SOAS University of London to pursue a master's degree in Human Rights Law. Her research focuses on law, race and colonialism, exploring the rich history of resistance by Maroons and fugitive slaves throughout the African diaspora.

Come and join in the celebration and conversation. This event is sponsored by the Committee for Racial Justice. Co-sponsored by Church in Ocean Park, Virginia Ave Park, and the African American Parent, Student, Staff Support Group. For more information, call Joanne at (310) 422-5431.

Sunday, February 10, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Potluck supper at 6 p.m. and program starts at 6:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg. 2200 Virginia Ave. Child care provided.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

SACRAMENTO

Battle resumes in California over police use of deadly force

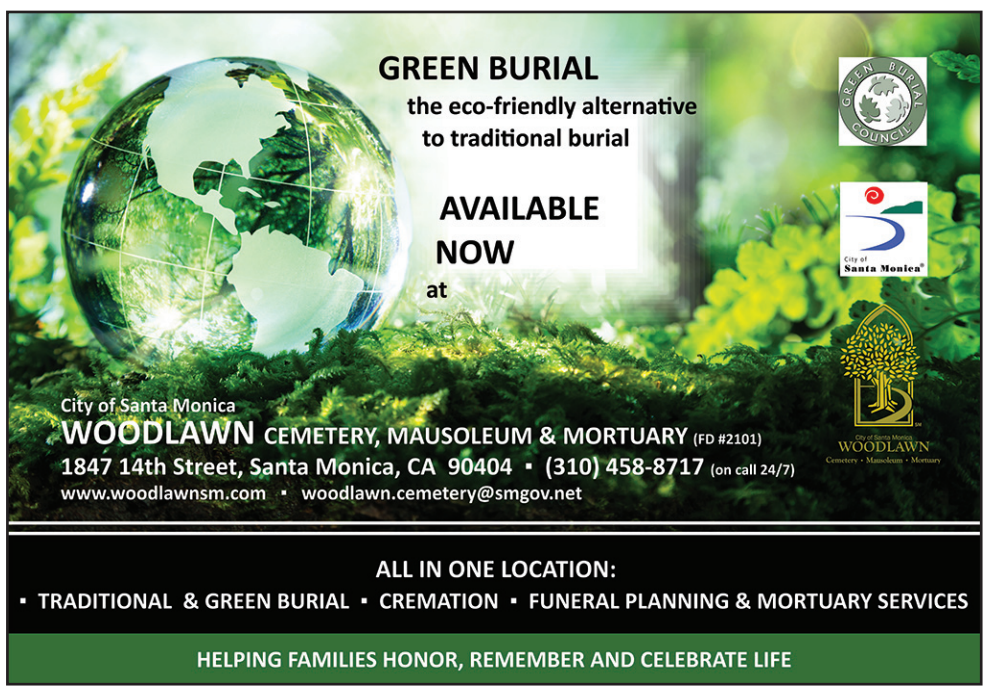
One of the California Legislature's hottest criminal justice debates is resuming with competing proposals over when police can use deadly force.

Democratic Assemblywoman Shirley Weber of San Diego said Wednesday that she'll try again to set a nation-leading standard. Her bill would allow police to kill only when there is no reasonable alternative in order to prevent imminent and serious injury or death to the officer or another person.

Law enforcement groups propose keeping the current standard that lets police open fire when they fear for their lives. But they're also calling for more training and an emphasis on trying to calm suspects before using lethal force.

Senate leader Toni Atkins blocked Weber's bill last year but says she hopes to find common ground this year.

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Franti Love And Pussy Riot

Grammys coming up Sunday at Staples, all those music stars here have time on their hands, some inevitably pop up and perform at local venues, just for fun. If you hear of a good'n, email me right away.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Artists Talk: A Conversation with PUSSY RIOT founder NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA, and SHEPARD FAIREY, Catherine Opie and Tavares Strachanthis, followed by a live performance by Pussy Riot (OK maybe not everyone's bowl of borscht but if you care about the intersection of art and politics this should be landmark, forget easy chatter about suffering for your art, Tolokonnikova and two other PRs spent two years in Siberian prisons for their Moscow-based activist art collective's unrelentingly anti-Putin songs and performances, were released and promptly ran onto the field at the World Cup Final last June in Moscow to demand freedom for all political prisoners, Fairey's guerilla street art has made him also a star of risky political art, note that the original Pussy Riot is long gone but Nadya IS PR so this will be voices and music of real experience, hard knocks and danger), Mon 7:30, The Broad Theater, Santa Monica, $59-$89.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — MICHAEL FRANTI (Godbless Michael Franti, as I look around and wonder why our artists are not rising up to use their talents and popularity to fight what's gone terribly wrong with our country, I remember Franti has always been a force for the positive, for love and mother earth, equality and justice, always made really good music that has a healing message rather than a best-selling sexy one, catch up with his work then go see him, new album out, Stay Human Vol. II, watch his video for The Flower and see if you can hold back tears, I couldn't, but his music is barefoot spin, stomp and dance joyful for the most part, we need lots more Michael Frantis, this is a film screening followed by Q&A and a short acoustic performance after), Thurs 8 p.m., El Rey Theatre, $40.

TONIGHT! — A BOWIE Celebration with MIKE GARSON, EARL SLICK, CARMINE ROJAS, Lee John, Corey Glover, Bernard Fowler, Evan Rachel Wood (can't bet the farm, these put-togethers are always iffy, but this could be musically very good because the first three actually played with Bowie a lot, Garson and Slick were essential and Garson went on to make his mark as a respected jazz pianist, and the others are mostly established pros in their own right), Thurs 9 p.m., The Orpheum Theatre, DTLA, $50-$75.

TRAVIS SCOTT (I like rapper Scott's imaginative, kind of psychedelic videos and he promises his stage show will be epic, and though he kind of fizzled in his Superbowl slot it was set up for failure, having to weave around that Maroon moron, but this Forum gig will give him lots of space and time, let's see what you got, Scott, and then two days later you'll see him again on the Grammys), Fri 7:30 p.m., The Forum, Inglewood, $99-$249.

SLEEPLESS: The Music Center After Hours: Quinceanera Reimagined (is the theme for this year's nocturnal nonsense event, twirl and party from almost midnight till 3 a.m.), Sat, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA, $20.

LIBRARY GIRL presents I Love You A Thousand Ways (what better way to for-real celebrate love with all its many faces, a few days before the commercial candy- and flower-selling holiday, with real couples reading of their real love, this could make you smile big or cry big, 'cause, love makes the world go 'round, right?), Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $10.

ACCADEMIA BIZANTINA (you like Vivaldi? all Vivaldi, from this oversized "quartet"), Sun 7:30 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $42-$109.

JOHN McEUEN & the String Wizards (it's a long trek from SM and not cheap but it's a great, intimate room for acoustic music, and mostly... it's the great John McEuen, almost-founder — he replaced a departing Jackson Browne four months in — of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, the first Western band allowed to tour the Soviet Union, in '77, playing 28 sold-out concerts and a televised appearance estimated to have been watched by 145 million people, who will be performing and narrating an overview of his amazing half-century career, what an opportunity, and if he says his band are String Wizards, you best believe it), Mon, Tues 8 p.m., The Coffee Gallery Backstage, Altadena, $30.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: THE JOY WHEEL (I saw the table reading a while back, really good, now directed by JASON ALEXANDER, can't wait, these Ruskin plays usually sell out), Ruskin Group Theatre, Feb. 16; JAZZ BAKERY — DON BRADEN QUARTET (go just to hear the great Billy Childs on piano), Feb. 16; Malibu Fire Relief Fundraiser — INGER LORRE, TEXACALA JONES, Fifi, The Harsh Carpets, The Bye Byes (wow, what an '80s-'90s LA punk all-star lineup, for a good cause, right here in SM), Casa Escobar, Feb. 16; ROSANNE CASH (a gem in a royal music family), The Saroya, Feb. 17; RICHARD THOMPSON (superb multi-instrumentalist, always an excellent show), The Teragram Ballroom, Feb. 19, 20; LA Phil Chamber concert, All Brahms, with complimentary wine reception, Feb. 19; BOB SEGER & the SILVER BULLET BAND (last chance! farewell tour! he's been rockin' hard for half a century, hope he does Katmandu), The Forum, Feb. 23.

BODACIOUS BIRTHDAY: KING CURTIS (1934) — only 37 when he was murdered on the steps of his Manhattan apartment in a fight started by a pair of drug dealers, Aretha and Stevie Wonder sang at his funeral, he was R&B, a honker, jazz, a rocker and a soul sax man who left school as a teen to tour with Lionel Hampton, later famously backing and boosting a host of music royalty like Aretha on "Respect" (he led her backing band The Kingpins, who opened for The Beatles at Shea Stadium, can you imagine trying to hold that crowd? with instrumentals?) and on her incomparable Aretha Live at The Fillmore West double album (killed the crowd with Zep's "Whole Lotta Love"), soloed on John Lennon's Imagine album, on The Coasters' "Yakety Yak" and "Charlie

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 5

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Prelude to an Execution

"Death House" is not a play for the faint of heart. But if it were a film instead of a play, it would most assuredly win an Oscar for the Best Film of the Decade. With Best awards for each of the three actors, as well as for the playwright and the director.

The playwright is Jason Karasev, the director is Michael Peretzian, and the actors are Sam Anderson, Chase Cargill, and Verity Branco, and together they experience so many intense moments that in the end it leaves them, and the audience, completely wrung out. But it's worth every moment of it!

Sam Anderson, as George, begins the action wandering around a starkly furnished "waiting for death" room, mumbling to himself. In addition to his position as preacher in a local church, he also serves as spiritual advisor to the men and women sentenced to death and housed in this nearby prison. He has been the prison's chaplain for more than 30 years, and this work has taken its emotional toll. But now he is to be replaced by a younger man, a preacher who has a much harsher view of criminals and crime. And it is George's job to show him the ropes.

The new man, Allen (Chase Cargill), breezes in full of excitement, anxious to show George, his early mentor, how successfully he has mastered all the routine processes leading up to tonight's electrocution. But he angers George almost immediately by abridging some of the steps with a boisterous "And blah, blah, blah..."

George, incensed, realizes that this man, Allen, is the wrong man for the job. And Allen confirms that assessment as they reveal their very different approaches to the work. Allen believes he can help the prisoners by talking to them about God, but he acknowledges to George that "Criminals deserve the punishment they get, and we are providing justice."

"We have nothing to do with justice," George snaps, "we have responsibility! I am their friend," he adds. "Sometimes the only friend they have."

"You will be with them for six hours and they will come to trust you," he continues. "And their families will be present at the end."

Allen responds with anger, protesting that it is a privilege to be entrusted with this job, to which George responds, "It's not a privilege, it's a burden. And you're going to do it 80 or 90 times."

As their conversation escalates, George asks Allen why he is so angry and so full of hate. "Hate does not heal hate," he says, as Allen responds by vomiting. "(These prisoners) are my family," George says. "Have you no compassion?"

At this point there is loud banging on the room's metal door and George opens it to admit the condemned prisoner — a woman.

And so the second act begins as Liliana (Verity Branco) brings a new dimension to the discussion. She is young and beautiful. Also calm and resigned to her fate. And intuitive enough to recognize that Allen has a drinking problem. As she enters their conversation she slowly draws them out until, eventually, all their secrets have been disclosed. Including hers.

At her request, George produces a "last supper" on paper plates, with a bedsheet serving as a tablecloth, and other makeshift refinements, and when it is finished she begs him to take her verbally through the procedures, one by one, that she is soon to undergo. It is a devastating scene, second only to the unseen execution, which ends the play.

I have to emphasize, once again, that this play is remarkable for its verbal exchanges and for the way the three magnificent actors bring it to life. It's a production that ought to be seen by everyone, no matter which side of the death penalty issue they espouse.

"Death House" will play Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm through March10th at The Road Theatre on Lankershim, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. For tickets call (818) 761-8838 or online at www.roadtheatre.org.

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

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

Brown," LaVern Baker's "I Cried a Tear," Joe South's "Games People Play" (with the great slide guitarist Duane Allman), Sam Cooke's "Having a Party," Gladys Knight's "Heard It Through the Grapevine," on the original theme song for Soul Train, with HS schoolmate Ornette Coleman, with Solomon Burke, Nat "King" Cole, The Shirelles, Nina Simone, Nat Adderley, Buddy Holly, Ruth Brown, Waylon Jennings, Brook Benton, The Isley Brothers, Eric Clapton, Champion Jack Dupree, Bobby Darin, Wilson Pickett, Chuck Willis, Andy Williams, Joe Turner, The Drifters, Neil Sedaka, Wynton Kelly, Sunnyland Slim, Herbie Mann, Roosevelt Sykes, The McGuire Sisters, Buck Clayton, Delaney & Bonnie and about 100 more, and recorded three songs with Jimi that were lost in a fire before they could be released — there, now you have some idea how heavy this cat was, but, of course, the best way to know is to go listen.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He 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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WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

coast, palm trees frame vistas of frosty ranges several dozen miles inland.

The San Diego office of the National Weather Service posted a satellite image showing snow on ranges across Southern California and in the high desert.

Blowing snow early Wednesday in the Antelope Valley desert can be seen in video posted on Twitter by the Los Angeles County sheriff's Lancaster station.

In the Sierra, the Mammoth Mountain ski resort reported 7-10 feet of new snow in four days — so much that people are urged to keep the potential for "snow immersion suffocation" in mind.

South Lake Tahoe resorts also are sporting multiple feet of new snow.

Bitter cold also moved into the Sierra Nevada on the heels of a storm that dropped 3 feet of snow on the mountains around Lake Tahoe.

Wednesday night's lows were forecast to dip to between 3 degrees and negative 7 at Tahoe, with teens in Reno.

The storm that dumped 6 feet of snow on mountaintops along the Nevada-California line the three previous days pelted northeast Nevada with record rainfall for the date on Tuesday.

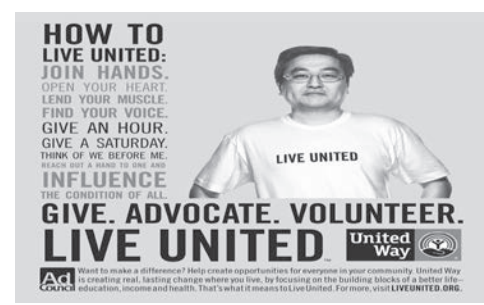
The .25 inch of rain recorded at Ely near the Utah line broke the old record of .19 set on Feb. 5, 1976. Eureka also got .25 inch, breaking the previous record of .08 set in 1997.

Up to 17 inches of snow fell on the mountains near Elko.

SANTA MONICA FORECAST

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 60. East northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. Calm wind becoming north northeast around 5 mph in the evening.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 61. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the morning.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.
Saturday: A 40 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 60.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.
Sunday Night: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.







Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Photo Frenzy; LA Foodways

Judging from the size of the crowd on opening night of Photo L.A (last Thursday at Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar), photography may just be the hottest ticket on the art market these days. It was jam packed and very noisy with buzz about the 65 galleries, showing works from the historical to the hysterical, from classic to contemporary, with a surprisingly good-sized presence of Chinese galleries.

Anytime you walk into a show with so much to see, it becomes truly overwhelming. After a while, only those images that jumped out from the temporary walls commanded my attention. I'm focusing here on just two artists whose works I found outstanding, Mitchell Dobrowner (Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles) and Seung Hoon Park (Susan Spiritus Gallery, Irvine).

STORMS AND LANDSCAPES

Mitchell Dobrowner hasn't been chasing storms for all that long – only ten years. But the power of the images he captures makes you wonder whether he has a direct line to mother nature. His storm images are simply spectacular, from lightning strikes to tornado ropes and funnels to the many kinds of clouds he captures: rainshafts, starships, lenticular, vortex, nimbus, wall and shelf clouds over broad, often desolate landscapes, shot in high contrast black and white.

A two-minute YouTube video demonstrates how he does it, just a tripod, a camera and a real time weather map on his phone. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQbmXxU2dkg

His storm work has been collected in a book, appropriately called "Storms" (you can find it on Amazon) and in Los Angeles he is represented by Kopeikin Gallery on La Cienega Blvd., which focuses on his storm works.

Dobrowner also photographs landscapes, and at Photo LA one of those shown was "Fly Geyser, Black Rock Desert, Nevada," a Hobbitty looking rock formation surrounded by several spill-capture pools at different elevations, and rock steps leading up to one of the pools. It's got soft edges, you can almost feel the mist spraying on you as geyser gently erupts.

Dobrowner has also shot epic images of Monument Valley, Canyonlands, mountains, deserts, rock ranges, and even Iceland. Find out more here: http://www.mitchdobrowner.com. Look to the left, under menu, to view his many images and find out more about his publications.

FOUND ON FACEBOOK

What a find for Susan Spiritus Gallery of Irvine. Now representing Seung Hoon Park, she tells me she found him on Facebook! This South Korean photographer cuts strips of 8 mm and 16 mm film that he loads vertically and horizontally into his large format camera. Once exposed, he later weaves the strips into a mosaic-like image of the landmarks, city scenes, buildings and interiors that serve as his subjects.

Each image takes about ten hours to weave together; once he completes weaving, he photographs the final product. See his work here: https://susanspiritusgallery.com/artist/seung-hoon-park/2015-new-textus/prater-park-wein-textus-144/.

These works brought to mind Chuck Close's pixelated portrait paintings and David Hockney's Polaroid landscape composites, except that in the case of Close, these "pixels" are much larger, and in the case of Hockney, they're not pictures of the same place taken over time. Park's images, nevertheless, are unique.

He's traveled the world to create them, from New York Public Library and the Dvorak Concert Hall in Prague which were on view at Photo LA (approximately $4500 per image); as well as Vienna, Rome, Milan and Venice, Italy, Eastern Europe, Singapore and New York.

LA FOODWAYS ON KCET

Until the 1950s, Los Angeles County was the largest food producing county in America. Now it's home to one of the largest food insecure populations in the country.

A new documentary on KCET by Raphael Sbarge, "L.A. Foodways" tells the history of how our rich agricultural roots became a food desert, featuring a number of non-profit organizations that are trying to find solutions to this problem.

We hear from Rachel Surls, director of the Los Angeles County Master Gardener program and co-author, with Judith Gerber, of From Cows to Concrete: The Rise and Fall of Farming in Los Angeles for historical background.

Also featured, Rick Nahmias is founder and Executive Director of Food Forward (www.foodforward.org), a food recovery organization that has rescued 65 million pounds of produce in ten years, partnering with hundreds of social justice agencies to distribute it to those in need. Through backyard and public space harvests, Farmers Market recovery (25 markets per week) and daily pickups at the Downtown Wholesale Produce Market, Food Forward feeds 1.25 million people a year with fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste.

The Watts Labor Community Action Committee works with Food Forward to create a Farmers Market in South L.A.; Seeds of Hope helps communities build gardens and urban agriculture spaces in unused spaces; and the Los Angeles Food Policy Council has made remarkable strides in creating opportunities for private property owners to share their barren lots for agricultural purposes.

The documentary premiered at Laemmle's Ahrya Fine Arts Theatre in Beverly Hills last week and aired last night on TV, but will repeat on KCET on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 5 pm, and Wed., Feb. 13 at 11 p.m.

Get your recorders ready; LA Foodways a really eye- and heart-opening film.

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.0°

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

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

DAILY POLICE LOG

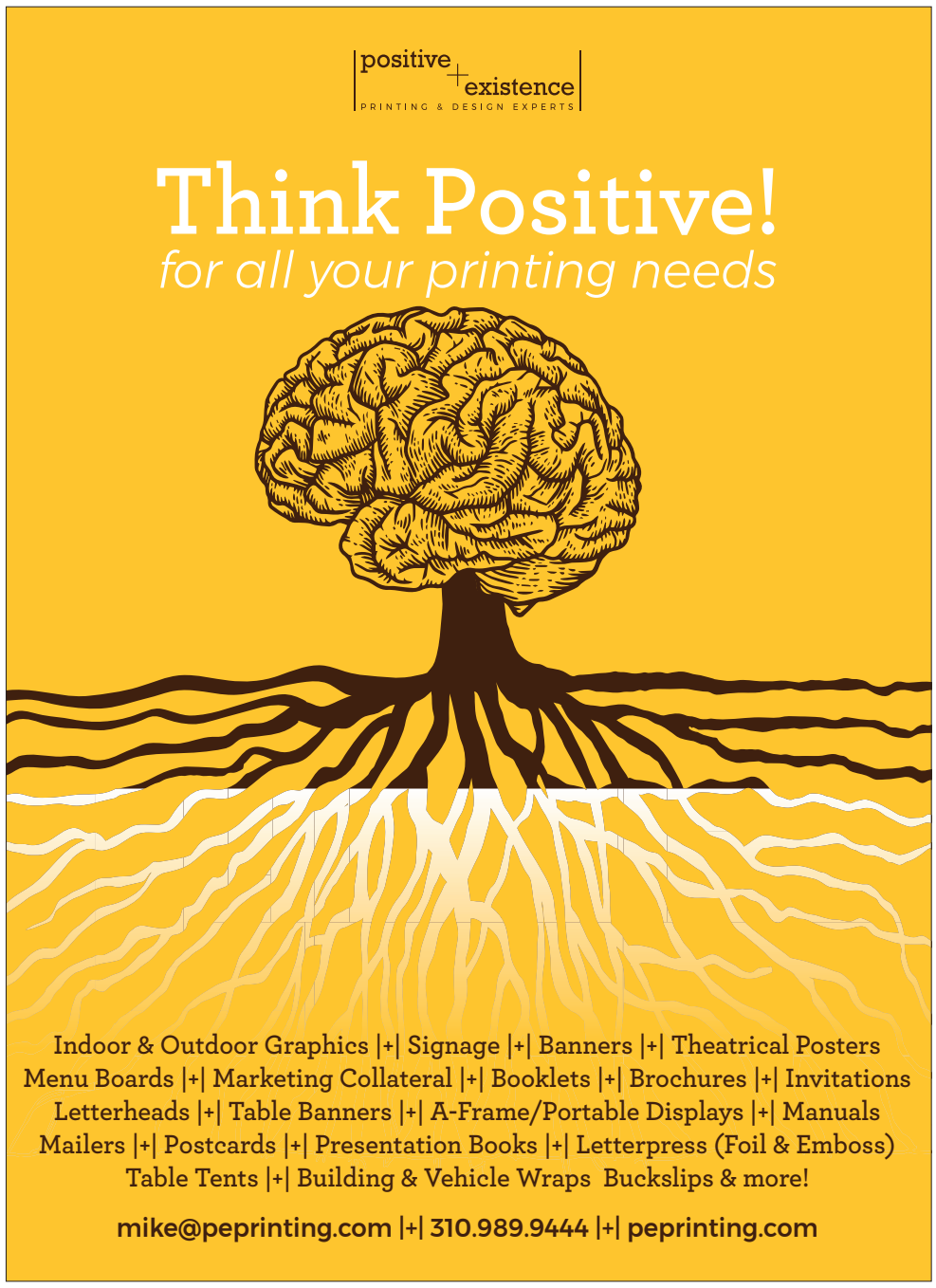
The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

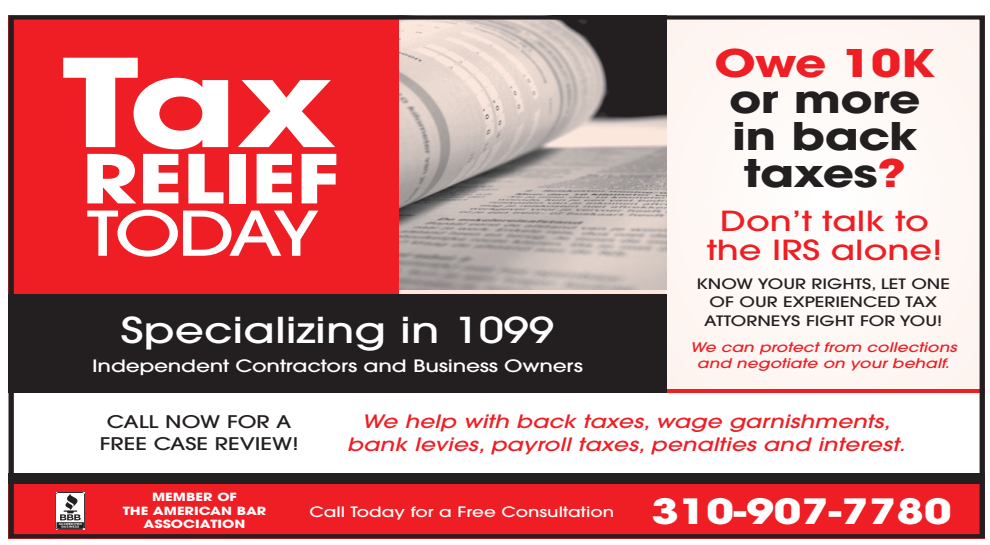
Petty theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:19 a.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 24th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:56 a.m.
Vandalism 1700blk Michigan Ave 2:51 a.m.
Burglary 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:02 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk 11th St 6:55 a.m.
Burglary 1900blk 12th St 8:17 a.m.
Threats 1500blk Ocean Ave 9:02 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 600blk 10th St 9:17 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 800blk Pine St 9:17 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Santa Monica Pier 9:23 a.m.
Petty theft 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 10 a.m.
Lewd activity 1500blk 2nd St 10:02 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1100blk 10th St 10:08 a.m.
Abandoned vehicle 800blk 6th St 10:52 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk Berkeley St 10:53 a.m.
Exhibition of speed 20th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:54 a.m.
Domestic violence 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:55 a.m.
Identity theft 300blk Arizona Ave 11:17 a.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 1100blk 18th St 11:41 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 12:08 p.m.
Hit and run 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:29 p.m.
Petty theft 1800blk Euclid St 12:37 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 24th St / Pico Blvd 12:54 p.m.
Encampment 200blk the beach 12:57 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:24 p.m.
Petty theft 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:38 p.m.
Petty theft 1500blk Ocean Ave 2:10 p.m.
Battery 1500blk 2nd St 2:41 p.m.
Hit and run Centinela Ave / Ocean Park Blvd 2:43 p.m.
Stalking 1800blk 10th St 2:55 p.m.
Attempt strongarm robbery 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:00 p.m.
Violation of restraining order 900blk 19th St 3:10 p.m.
Battery 1800blk 16th St 3:39 p.m.
Petty theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 3:55 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk the beach 4:00 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 1500blk 16th St 4:02 p.m.
Bike theft 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 4:03 p.m.
Burglary 1600blk Berkeley St 4:12 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 2000blk Arizona Ave 4:38 p.m.
Battery Franklin St / Wilshire Blvd 4:41 p.m.
Burglary 1200blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:44 p.m.
Illegal weapon 600blk Wilshire Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Olympic Blvd 4:53 p.m.
Petty theft 100blk Wilshire Blvd 5:33 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries Neilson Way / Bay St 5:57 p.m.
Armed robbery 1200blk 4th St 6:12 p.m.
Bike theft 1000blk 2nd St 7:28 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:53 p.m.
Panhandling 700blk Broadway 7:59 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 11th St 8:02 p.m.
Petty theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:19 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 12th St 8:24 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 1500blk Wilshire Blvd 8:31 p.m.
Petty theft 800blk 14th St 9:02 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1800blk 21st St 9:05 p.m.
Burglary /walk through 1800blk Euclid St 10:41 p.m.
Domestic violence Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 11:15 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 300blk Santa Monica Pier 11:47 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.

Traffic collision with injury 24th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:56 a.m.
Automatic alarm 100blk Colorado Ave 2:26 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:51 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800blk Ocean Ave 3:59 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Harvard St 5:00 a.m.
EMS 400blk Expo Line 6:35 a.m.
EMS 900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:16 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Ocean Way 7:22 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 7:35 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700blk Ocean Ave 8:39 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1100blk 12th St 8:47 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 14th St 10:16 a.m.
Wires down 1500blk Euclid St 10:41 a.m.
EMS 300blk California Ave 11:52 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700blk 22nd St 1:22 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Odor of natural gas 2000blk Virginia Ave 2:47 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Broadway 5:30 p.m.
Elevator rescue 400blk Santa Monica Pier 5:53 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2400blk 16th St 6:38 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 7:12 p.m.
EMS 200blk Broadway 7:51 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:15 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1400blk Harvard St 8:40 p.m.
Public assist 1000blk Montana Ave 8:57 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 16th St 9:10 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 9:32 p.m.
Flooded condition 1400blk 15th St 11:19 p.m.





DAILY LOTTERY

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

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/5
3 34 36 59 66
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 157 M

Super Lotto Plus
Draw Date:2/2
3 34 37 45 47
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 16 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/5
5 10 14 34 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/6
MIDDAY: 9 6 2
Draw Date: 2/5
EVENING: 2 9 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/5
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:47.92

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!

temerity
noun [tuh-mer-i-tee]
1. reckless boldness; rashness.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Observation

■ "A natural death is where you die by yourself without the aid of a doctor." – Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Medical History

■ This week in 1947, Stanford University researchers Hubert S. Loring and C.E. Schwerdt successfully isolated the poliovirus. Laboratory tests and photographs showed it to be at least 80 percent pure and that it could lead to producing an impurity-free vaccine for use against infantile paralysis. Other vaccines existing at the time had problems with large amounts of impurities. The virus was obtained by purification from ground-up brain and spinal cord of rats infected with the poliovirus.

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

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

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

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

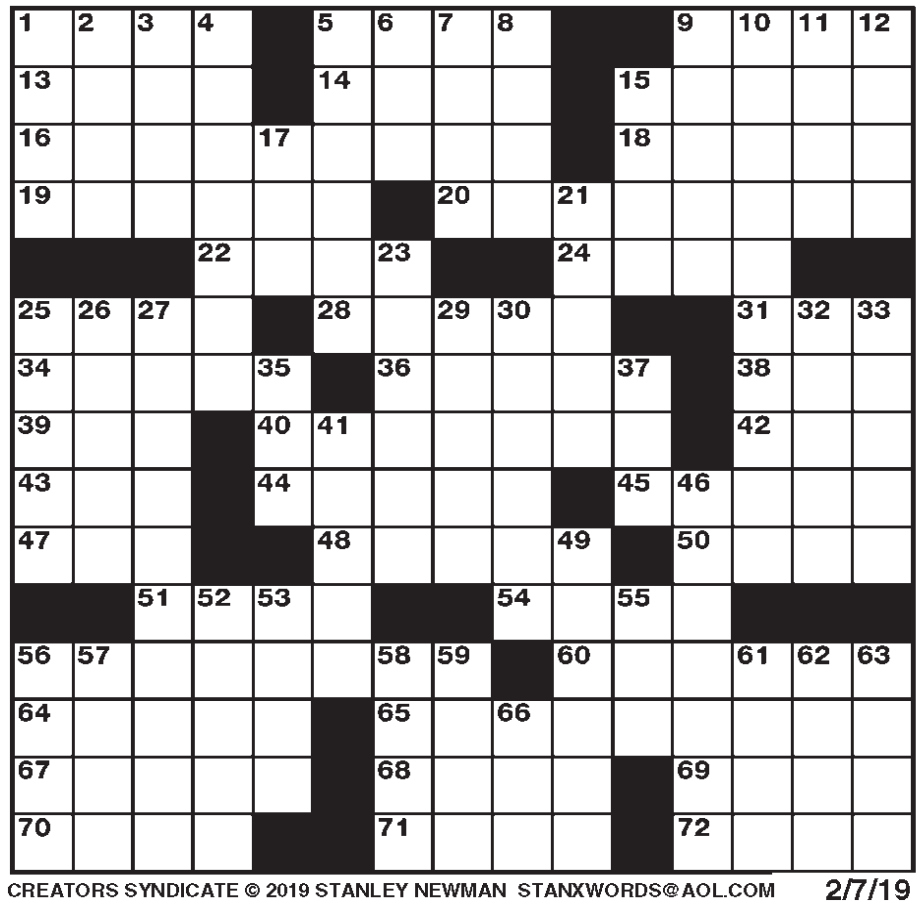
	2	6	4			3		8
4				2				6
1			6		9		5	
3		5				8	2	
6			5		2			7
	9	1				5		4
	6		2		4			9
7				6				5
8		2			5	6	4	

Newsday Crossword

A LIST by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 '70s Israeli leader
5 Cause for a delay
9 Some NCOs
13 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
14 Tee alternative
15 Retail network
16 Northern Mexico metropolis
18 Steer stopper
19 Italian religious center
20 Common power tool
22 Aquatic barrier
24 Tomato variety
25 "Time was . . ."
28 RSVP
31 Word of wonder
34 Expressed displeasure
36 Put up
38 Tethered NASA chore
39 Where bills are output
40 Having no choice
42 Humorist's skill
43 Tight-lipped
44 Liqueur category
45 Onrush
47 *Simpsons* shopkeeper
48 Steam emitters
50 Clancy hero
51 Cook quickly
54 Have an elaborate meal
56 Catty
60 Certs alternative
64 Chef's hat
65 Brit's winter vehicle
67 Seize, as power
68 Grandson of Abraham
69 Urgent request
70 "I've __ thinking . . ."
71 Lop a crop
72 Conduct a trial of

DOWN
1 Family nickname
2 Mythical archer
3 Rustic lodgings
4 Pension recipient
5 More nimble
6 Negative connector
7 Some craft brews
8 Artist from Aragon
9 Captivate
10 Duct, for instance
11 *Simpsons* saxophonist
12 Put something over on
15 *Pinocchio* goldfish
17 Jargon suffix
21 __ Canyon National Park
23 Organic antenna
25 *Time*'s 2012 Person of the Year
26 Still snoozing
27 Official bulletin
29 Top-notch
30 Map table
32 Lloyd Webber score
33 Scarfed up or wolfed down
35 Brother of Bashful
37 QB stats
41 Legal filing
46 Maxim
49 Shows keen interest
52 Road reversal
53 Persist in
55 Zip
56 Very short pencil
57 Affectation
58 Cab alternative
59 Come up short
61 Flooring selection
62 Very long stretch
63 Small talk
66 Pasture sound



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/7/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7)

You know many sides of love, yet you'll get a new emotional vocabulary this year as love takes new forms and produces different kinds of joy. More features of this solar return: a family addition, a strange series of events that answers one of your oldest questions and a style upgrade that changes your daily routine. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 24, 4 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You didn't want it or plan it. You never thought it really fit you... and yet here you are in this circumstance that seemed either to choose you or to land on you, depending on how you look at it. Make the most of it. This is a gift.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
When the end is not in sight, it's good to keep it in mind. Maybe create a special vision or a symbol for it to use as motivation to keep going forward until you've completed the task.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
That species of pride called "arrogance" invokes a particularly negative reaction from you today. Does it calm you to know the perpetrator is coming from a place of extreme insecurity?

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Now you look back on some things that happened with a very different opinion than you had when it was all going down. This is proof that you're always growing and evolving. You refuse to get stuck.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Some things are simply not worth doing. But which ones? You can't learn which ones from a book or any other media, or even from your best friends. Only your heart can tell you what's worth doing and what's not.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
To prepare for today's social demands, it will help if you decide beforehand what you want to talk about. Having good topics on the ready will allow you to relax, them to relax, and a productive communication to ensue.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You have to ask, "Am I going the wrong direction entirely?" Maybe there's a better way. Toy around. Think creatively. Tease solutions out with good questions. What about leverage? What about approaching from another angle?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Maybe there is no a scenario in which you won't be criticized for the choice you make. So you may as well do what your heart says is right so at least you can be on your own side.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Better organization will improve your relationships. How? It will allow you to carve out the right sort of time for the other person and to spend it doing the things that really matter to you both.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
One way your loved ones can make your life easier and better is by making the effort to show up strong and mix well with your other loved ones. Anyone who causes you problems in this regard is not being very loving.

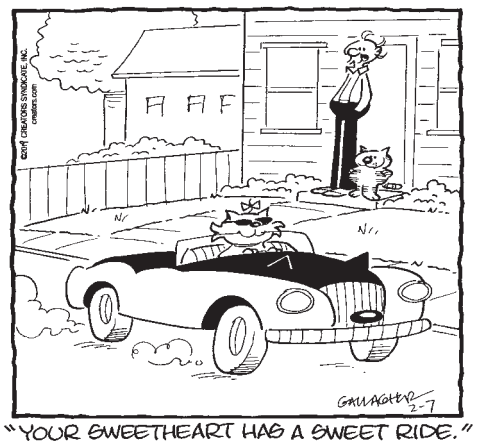
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
One of your projects seems to be dragging on forever and you may even fantasize about abandoning it, but this is no time to lose heart. You're almost there – really! Rest if you have to, but don't give up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
While no one can obtain talents they don't naturally possess, obtaining new skills is a different story entirely. You can do so much when you put your mind to it. What matters now is what's worthy of your mind.

Venus Change in a Song
The adjustment to this Venus change could be summed up by the early '90s Haddaway song, "What is Love?" which follows up the query with a request, "Baby don't hurt me/don't hurt me/no more." The lyrical juxtaposition brings up a good point. You don't have to know what love is to know what it feels like or to fear its consequences.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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• Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **letters@smdp.com**

Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



"YOUR SWEETHEART HAS A SWEET RIDE."

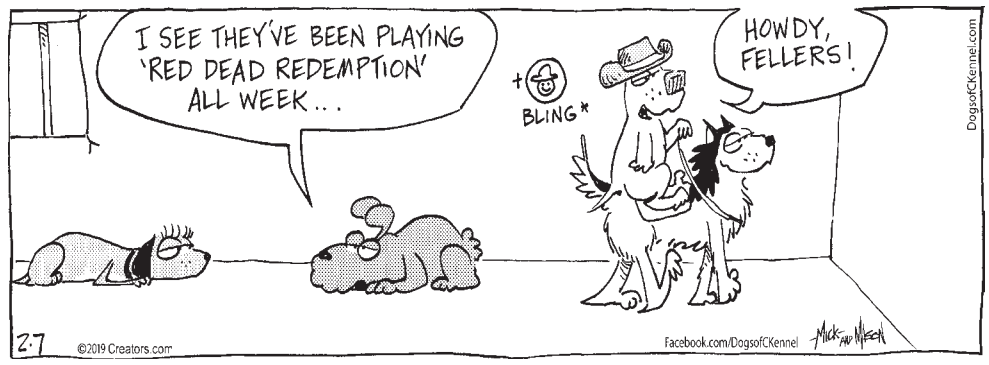
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



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



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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SCOOTERS

FROM PAGE 1

and a warning bell.

The former Bird mechanic who filed the suit in Los Angeles Superior Court Jan. 29, Matt Fisher, told the operations specialist, Marwan Metwalley, that he felt the policy Metwalley had outlined would put riders' lives in danger.

"It's hard to watch this neglect, waste and uninformed decision making," Fisher wrote in a message on Bird's Slack account. (Slack is a workplace messaging app.) "I apologize if I'm out of place here, but being honest is what I'm about."

Metwalley replied that upper management had set the policy.

"This is what we were told by upper management, we are still making adjustments and figuring things out," he wrote. "However your hostile attitude is not appreciated."

Fisher said his manager called him into a meeting with other supervisors shortly after to discuss the exchange. He alleges an operations supervisor, Claudia Hellstrom, told him to stop bringing up safety concerns on Slack.

In early December, Fisher was informed by employment agency Target CW that his engagement with Bird had ended. He had been working for the company as a charger and mechanic in downtown Santa Monica since February 2017 and had received excellent performance reviews.

"My client worked for Bird for over a year and did a great job across the board, but everything went bad for him when he started making sure safety was actually taken into consideration," said Carney Shegerian, Fisher's attorney.

Shortly after his termination, according to the lawsuit, a competing scooter company hired Fisher as a mechanic. Before he started work, he spoke to ABC 7 News about how he believed Bird fired him because he spoke up about safety issues. The competing scooter company withdrew his offer after the article was published in December. The lawsuit alleges a company representative told Fisher he had "ruined his career" by going public with his concerns.

Fisher claims in the lawsuit that he has been "blacklisted from the scooter industry" and is suing for lost past and future income and employment benefits, damage to his career, and psychological and emotional distress. He is also alleging that Bird's conduct toward him constitutes oppression, fraud and/or malice and is seeking punitive damages.

The lawsuit joins a class action lawsuit filed by a Santa Monica-based personal injury attorney in October in claiming that Bird has neglected safety. The lawsuit claims two of the eight plaintiffs suffered injuries in accidents caused by mechanical failures.

"Bird and all the other scooter companies have a great idea to keep fewer cars on the road, but they have to watch out for safety," Shegerian said. "In the manner that these companies leave scooters out on the street, they're open to easily getting broken or having problems, and they need to take care of that."

Bird said it ensures its scooters are safe to ride.

"While we are not able to comment on the specifics of former contractors or ongoing litigation, we can share that as a transportation company the safety of our riders, chargers, mechanics and all others who interact with our vehicles is our utmost concern," a Bird spokesperson said. "As a result, we take the safety and maintenance of Birds very seriously and provide thorough instructions on how to safely ride, maintain and care for our vehicles."

madeleine@smdp.com

APP

FROM PAGE 1

may be far from home, more than half your day. Sometimes you want privacy, a place that can feel like home."

Bamfo says the Home idea sprang from seeing Uber and Lyft drivers stopping by the Recharge offices to use the restroom. Bamfo says he was concerned for the drivers, wondering how stressful it must be to be potentially far from home with nowhere to freshen up or rest.

"That was our first idea. Wouldn't be great if we had a truck stop kind of thing. Not just for Uber and Lyft drivers, but all of us— Business people, moms and dads with babies and kids that need to make emergency stops. Especially in DTLA where it's hard to find a public restroom. Moms and dads need to change those baby diapers."

In addition to a spot for people to rest or rent out their space, Bamfo notes that Recharge is friendlier to cities from a regulatory standpoint. The company notes in a Medium post that some home-sharing services encourage short-term tenants over longer-term ones, which can decrease long-term housing supply and drive up rent in an area.

Bamfo says Recharge "operates in a different lane" than other homesharing services noting that Recharge Home sharers are "people that actually live in their homes and apartments" adding that in New York, San Francisco and LA, the app hasn't faced any regulatory concerns from those respective cities.

"It's a way residents can make money without displacing anyone," Bamfo said. "Bottom line, we allow people to buy living space for as long or as short as they want, and we're excited about it."

Recharge's Home is currently in beta in New York, San Francisco and soon LA. There is currently a 2,287 person waitlist for Los Angeles with 7 Homes in beta in Santa Monica.

angel@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4383 FURNISH AND DELIVER CAL TRANS APPROVED FAST DRYING TRAFFIC PAINT

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Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



Your column here

By Maria Loya

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supporting our rights to hold government accountable

As a SMMUSD parent and the plaintiff in the CVRA lawsuit against the City of Santa Monica, I would like to respond to several letters published that falsely claim that I or my husband are behind the recent lawsuit filed by Kevin Shenkman against SMMUSD for unlawful student fees. For the record, not myself nor Oscar recommended that Kevin and the plaintiffs sue the school district. In fact, we have no control over what litigation Mr. Shenkman decides to take on. However, I do support any parent or resident's right to hold its government accountable for not following the law.

I filed a lawsuit against the City of Santa Monica for violating the CA. Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause in our State Constitution. Judge Palazuelos agreed on both counts that the City of Santa Monica instituted an at-large election system to intentionally make it difficult for people of color to get elected to the City Council. Early in the process, we reached out to City officials with the intent to address the issue and avoid litigation but we were ignored. The City Council decided to move forward to defend an unlawful election system because they wanted to preserve their political position at the cost of millions of public dollars. It is no surprise that defenders of the current City Council avoid mentioning the intentional harm that was done to voters of color and residents who were marginalized by the unconstitutional at large election scheme. They would rather have the readers believe that some how district elections will harm rent control, when in fact, the current City Council has been responsible for over development and the destruction of thousands of rent control units in the past 10 years.

Back to the issue of the SMMUSD litigation at hand. The question to ask is- Why are people writing letters making false claims that Oscar and I are somehow behind the lawsuit against SMMUSD? Could it be that we are a distraction to the decisions being made by the majority of the School Board that is resulting in the wasteful misuse of public funds that could otherwise go to the education of our children?

Did Mr. Shenkman and the plaintiffs attempt to settle this issue out of court? If SMMUSD violated the law by charging parents for supplies or fees, why would SMMUSD move forward with the lawsuit and not settle? These are all good questions that must be asked. But instead we are presented with a false narrative that only works to vilify the parents that are raising serious legal concerns instead of holding Board members accountable who are voting to misuse public funds to defend an unlawful practice.

This kind of tactic isn't new for SMMUSD. In 2014 parents raised health concerns tied to PCBs in the school buildings. Many teachers and students were claiming to have gotten sick due to PCB exposure. Instead of testing and remediating the problem, the majority of the Board led our district into an entrenched legal battle that cost our school district millions of dollars in public relations, environmental firms and legal fees. In the end, the school district lost the case and was forced by the courts to do what Oscar urged the Board to do. Millions would have been saved if they would have listened. The same pattern is once again repeating itself and for the record, Oscar has urged the school board to stop wasting public funds and instead do what's right.

Since legal matters are always part of closed session discussions the public has no way of knowing which elected official is for or against litigation. Maybe it's time for more transparency and a change in policy so that the public can know who is really wasting our children's education for their misguided and ego driven legal adventures.

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