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Water use climbs in California enclaves as drought returns

ELLEN KNICKMEYER & AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

Overall water use is climbing in Southern California as that part of the state plunges back into drought, driving state and regional water managers as they consider permanently reinstating some watering bans and conservation programs.

Gov. Jerry Brown lifted California's drought emergency status a year ago, after a wet winter that snapped a historic 2013-2017 drought, and the state ended his 25 percent mandatory conservation order.

Water use has been moving steadily upward since then, especially in a six-county area of Southern California that includes the biggest chunk of the state's nearly 40 million people.

Water use there was up 3 percent in December, the last month for which figures are available, compared to the same month in 2013 before mandatory conservation.

Many of the biggest offenders are well-off communities, with sweeping lawns to keep alive. The average residential user in one Malibu water district, for instance, used 255 gallons a day, according to the state water board — three

SEE WATER PAGE 7

New signs will direct drivers to empty parking spaces

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City Council approved a $105,000 contract Tuesday to design digital signs for 18 city streets and seven parking garages to help visitors quickly find parking spaces when they come to the city. The signs will be integrated with the City's parking availability system and will display messages directing motorists from the freeway-off ramps to available lots.

The signs will also display custom messages during special events, planned closures or unexpected incidents. They are similar to the 21 digital signs the city installed in 2014 to direct drivers to open beach parking.

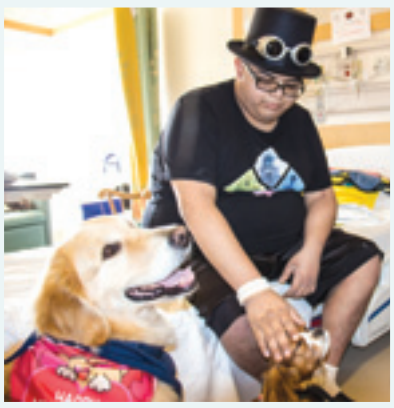
"The beach signs have been successful in directing people to available parking in the different beach lots so they don't drive around going from one lot to another and realize it's full," Mayor Ted Winterer said. The new signs will expand the program to the downtown area near the busy Third Street Promenade.

"The theory is they will reduce traffic congestion," he said.

Construction of the signs will likely happen Spring 2019. In the meantime, parking revenue from city owned garages was down seven percent last year, as more visitors take the Expo Line, Ubers and Lyfts to Santa Monica beaches, restaurants and shopping.

The Council received a flood of mail on the consent calendar item for the new signs, asking elected leaders to postpone the parking project until the Civic Center Sports Field is completed. The copy-and-pasted letter signed by dozens of Santa Monica High School parents

SEE SIGNS PAGE 6









Courtesy photos

PUPPY LOVE

Canine Cupids from UCLA's People Animal Connection (PAC) program were at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica to deliver handmade Valentines to sick children in the pediatrics unit. They also spread a lot of love.

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, February 16

Annenberg Guest House Tour

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

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Crafty Kids: Lunar New Year

Find out what your zodiac animal is and celebrate the 2018 lunar new year – the Year of the Dog. Make an origami dog and lantern. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market Downtown

The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market Virginia Ave. Park

Market in the heart of the Pico/Cloverfield neighborhood. Offers a variety of organic and conventionally-grown produce, in addition to several prepared food options and coffee. The only Santa Monica Farmers Market offering Market Match incentives for WIC and EBT customers. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tax Preparation Assistance

Students from the UCLA organization VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) provide FREE tax assistance for filing both Federal and California State income taxes. VITA aims to help seniors and those with limited or low income. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lego Club

Come have fun with LEGOS and build something amazing. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Screening of 'The Millionaires Unit'

This 120 minute feature examines the lives and legacy of several Yale college students whose entry into early American armed forces aviation during World War I would help set the stage for the creation of the U.S. Naval Air Reserve. No host beer and wine reception to start at 7 p.m. Screening to commence at 8 p.m. This event is being held as a joint fundraiser for the Museum of Flying and The Humanus Film Foundation and tickets are priced at $25 each. Tickets may be purchased ahead at the Museum of Flying website through PayPal. http://www.museumofflying.org

Sunday, February 18

Black History celebration

Celebrate Black History: Wll B, Dr. Kim Harris, Milo Gonzalez at 10:15 a.m. at The Church in Ocean Park. 235 Hill Street, Santa Monica, 90405. We are an interfaith church. All are welcome. Call (310) 399-1631 for more info.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

Candidate presentation at Democratic Club

Join the Santa Monica Democratic Club this Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Santa Monica Library to hear from two candidates running statewide this year. At the April membership meeting, they will be voting on endorsements for every statewide and local race in the June primary. This is your chance to meet these candidates in advance of that endorsement vote.

COMMISSIONER DAVE JONES AND SENATOR RICARDO LARA

Date: Saturday, February 17
Time: Doors open @ 10 a.m., event 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Place: Santa Monica Main Library - MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica

Senator Ricardo Lara is the author of SB 562, the single-payer healthcare bill currently under consideration in Sacramento. He is running to become our next Insurance Commissioner and would become the first openly gay person elected statewide in California.

Commissioner Dave Jones has been California's Insurance Commissioner for the past eight years, implementing the Affordable Care Act, regulating the largest insurance market in the United States, and prosecuting those committing insurance fraud and other financial crimes. He is running for Attorney General.

Join organizers to hear from both campaigns. Senator Lara will speak from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Jones will speak from 12 – 1 p.m. There will be a half hour break in between speakers for all guests to meet and greet each of the two candidates.

For first time and new members, the Executive Board of the club will be available from 10 - 10:30 a.m. for an informal meet and greet. The main program will start at 10:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Parking available. Handicap accessible.

SUBMITTED BY SION ROY

Citywide

George Cardona Selected as City Attorney's Office Special Counsel

City Attorney Lane Dilg announced the hiring of George Cardona to serve as Special Counsel / Chief of Staff in the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. Cardona comes to Santa Monica from the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, where he has served in leadership roles since 2002.

In this role, Cardona will assist the City Attorney with office management and high-priority legal matters.

"George Cardona has earned the respect of the legal community as a first-rate litigator with an unparalleled commitment to public service and the rule of law," said City Attorney Lane Dilg. "I am so pleased to welcome him to Santa Monica."

From 2002 to 2015, Cardona was the Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California. In that capacity, he oversaw approximately 250 attorneys who served more than 19 million residents across Southern California.

"I am thrilled to be joining Lane Dilg at the City Attorney's Office and look forward to working with her and the office's many great attorneys," said Cardona.

Cardona also participated in many of the federal government's most important cases in the region. In the aftermath of the national financial crisis, he led the federal government's civil action alleging that ratings agency Standard & Poor's had engaged in a scheme to defraud investors in Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS) and Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs). The action led to the largest penalty ever against a ratings agency when Standard & Poor's paid $1.375 billion to settle the federal government's action and a series of related state actions.

"George is a brilliant litigator and dedicated public servant," United States Attorney Nic Hanna said. "His move west is wonderful for the City of Santa Monica and a huge loss to the United States Attorney's Office."

In addition to his work at the United States Attorney's Office, Cardona has served as a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County and an Assistant City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and taught as an adjunct lecturer at UCLA School of Law. He is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School, and he lives in Los Angeles with his wife, a dog, and several cats.

Cardona starts on Tuesday, February 20 at a monthly salary of $21,156. The Special Counsel / Chief of Staff position constitutes a title change and is in lieu of the prior Assistant City Attorney position.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

LOS ANGELES

Panel: Los Angeles officer violated rules in fatal shooting

An oversight panel has found a veteran Los Angeles police officer violated department rules for using deadly force when he fatally shot a 70-year-old man wielding a pipe last year.

The Los Angeles Times reports the Police Commission sided with Chief Charlie Beck Wednesday in unanimously faulting Officer Charles Garcia for firing his gun and for tactics used before pulling the trigger.

Cellphone video shows Garcia firing at Alejandro Mendez as he stood several feet away.

Beck said Garcia and his partner should have taken more time to assess the situation or consider other tactical options. Garcia got the blame because his partner was inexperienced.

An attorney representing Garcia said he believed the officers acted appropriately to safeguard bystanders.

It is now up to Beck to decide what punishment, if any, to hand down.

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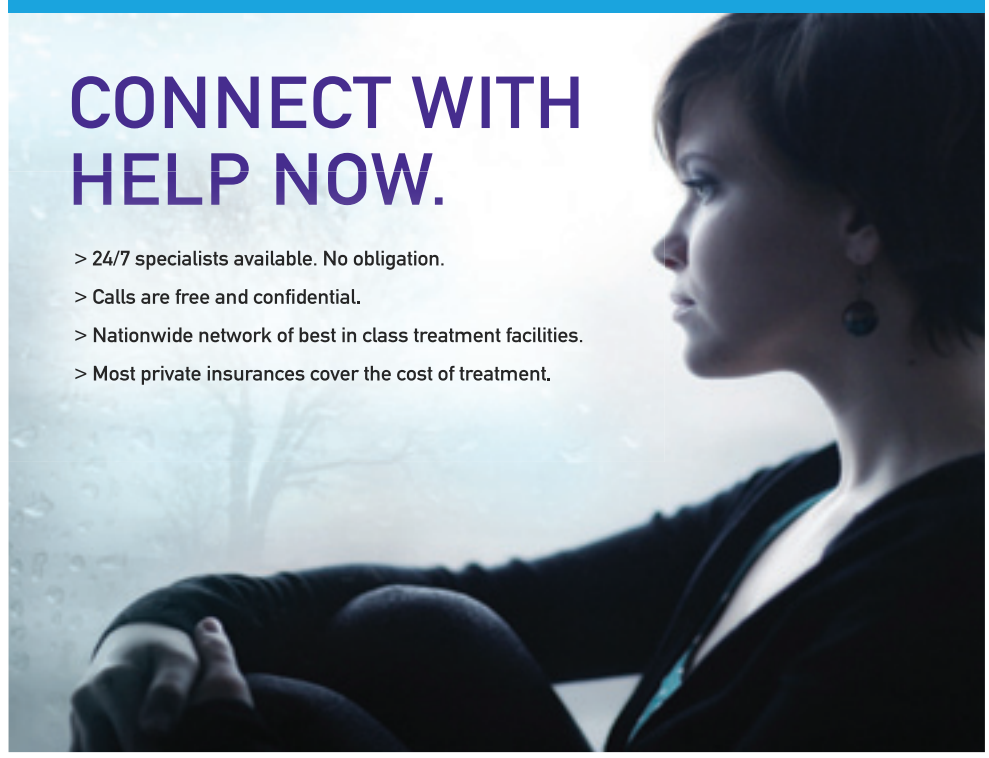
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Trump Presidency Is Hair Raising

BILL CLINTON WAS A RHODES SCHOLAR. Obama was a constitutional law professor. By many accounts, Donald Trump is semi-literate. With Presidents Day on Monday, maybe Darwin was wrong?

Evidently, Trump doesn't read Presidential Daily Briefings. No big deal. If something absolutely has to be read, his staff inserts his name in every paragraph to stimulate his attention. I had a dog like that once. If you'd whisper his name, his ears would perk up.

Trump's chaos presidency is breaking records. The 34% White House staff turnover is double Reagan's. It's triple Obama's. And if/when General Kelly becomes toast, Trump will set a new low bar!

The latest scandal forced White House Staff Secretary, Rob Porter to resign. Ironically, he was about to be promoted to Assistant Chief of Staff. That is until credible accusations of domestic abuse from two ex-wives. In addition to graphic details, from his second ex was a restraining order and from the first the horrific photo of her black eye. (No photo, Porter's still in the White House!)

Four times the FBI warned the White House and denied Porter Security Clearance. And yet for over a year he was handling highly classified materials. In fact, there may be as many as 130 staffers without Full Security Clearances. Sarah Sanders' rambling defense of the conflicting stories is painful to watch.

Among those without full clearance is Jared Kushner. The "Boy Wonder" had to update his Disclosure of Foreign Contacts (SF86) multiple times. Apparently, there were 100 contacts from twenty foreign countries that slipped his mind.

Complimenting Porter, Trump hoped he has a great career ahead. Meanwhile, he referred to the ex-wives claims as "mere allegations."

Trump has defended Roy Moore, Roger Ailes, Bill O'Reilly and convicted rapist Mike Tyson, stressing "due process." And yet, in 1989, Trump, even before the trial, took out a full page ad calling for the death penalty for the all-minority Central Park Five.

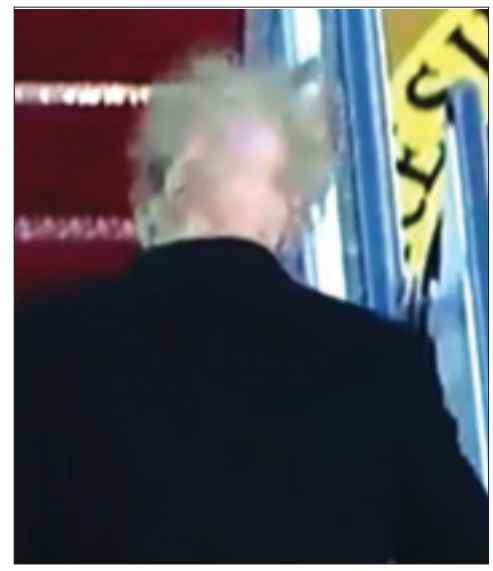
And after years in prison, when the five were exonerated by DNA and a confession from the actual rapist, Trump never admitted he was wrong. (Much like his birther b.s.)

For a few laughs, let's leave domestic violence, the Russian investigation, obstruction of justice, money laundering and possible nuclear war with N. Korea. Instead, let's turn to the latest with porn star Stormy Daniels.

Under "They expect us to believe this?" Michael Cohen, Trump's personal attorney, says he paid the $130,000 to Stormy a week before the election, out of his own pocket! If you buy that, you might have gone to Trump U.

And now, Trump's bizarre hair, which turns out to be as dishonest as everything else about our plump POTUS. To summarize: Last week Donald Trump's hair met a stiff wind and lost badly.

Trump was walking gingerly up the steps to Air Force One when suddenly the back of his head changed appearance like a horror movie right before our eyes. The wind started separating hair from skin and suddenly the back of Trump's dome was as bald as a baby's bottom. (Albeit, a 71-year-old baby.)


Courtesy image
WIND: A gust of wind exposed Trump's head.

The gobs of hair spray and bobby pins were no match. With his stringy hair flying wildly in the air, Trump looked like comedian Professor Irwin Corey. (Except Professor Corey wouldn't be caught dead with orange face make-up and white lip gloss.)

Trump is afraid of sharks and having his food poisoned. (He loves fast food because "They don't know I'm coming ahead of time.") Apparently, he fears revealing his bald spots. He spends 90 minutes a day doing his hair in such a manner as to hide them. (Add 12 diet Cokes and four hours of Fox News and that's a full day.)

And yet, even with all Trump's careful coiffing, one strong gust of wind and voila, the ghost of Professor Corey. (Passed last year at age 102!)

It's said those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. As I write this, we've just had another horrific mass school shooting. The 18th this year or one every three days! Trump tweeted his standard "thoughts and prayers," and gave a prepared speech. Somehow he never really speaks to our hearts, only our hate. And what happened to his Inaugural "The carnage stops now!"?

There's been no policy proposals as Trump doesn't dare offend the gun lobby. In fact he signed a bill making it easier for those with mental problems to get guns. If we care about gun violence, former Republican Congressman David Jolly says, "We must flip the House to the Democrats as Republicans will never do it." But the orange, balding elephant in the room squats in the way.

Despite overwhelming evidence, Trump still denies Russian interference in the 2016 elections. He calls it a hoax and says, "It could have been a 400 pound guy in his mother's basement." Only months away, the mid-terms are clearly in jeopardy.

If you can, have a happy President's Day.

Google"Professor Irwin Corey" & "Trump's Hair Force One." **JACK** is at jackdailyress@aol.com

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Your column here

Jessica Angeles
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Subsidy Program Hurts Local Bakers and Cafes

YOU OFTEN HEAR HOW SMALL BUSINESSES are the backbone of the American economy. Small businesses make up a majority of jobs in the U.S., and we should never lose sight of this job-creating engine in this country, especially given real challenges small business owners face each and every day.

Navigating the gauntlet of state, local, and federal regulations is daunting, not to mention properly ensuring the health of the business, your employees, and putting the best product forward to one's customer base.

Amidst all these challenges, Horchata Mexican Food & Bakery is incredibly proud to serve our local community right here in sunny Santa Monica. Since our founding, we have enjoyed becoming a part of this community, and we continue to delight in the enjoyment our customers have when they come back again and again for our pastries and other offerings.

But like any small business, we are looking for ways to get ahead, to lower overhead, and continue our ability to invest in you, the customer. We love it here in Santa Monica but it's no secret that high costs pose an issue for small businesses like us. I recently learned about the U.S. sugar program, a government sanctioned subsidy program that essentially protects domestic producers of sugar from competition. As a business owner providing sweet treats and a diverse menu of foods, we of course use sugar in our products.

As a result of this federal government program, we have been over-paying for sugar for decades. In fact, the U.S. sugar program dates all the way back to the Great Depression. In form and function, it acts as a market distortion by artificially supporting a higher price on sugar produced here in this country. This alone guarantees profits for billionaire owners of mega sugar-processors here in the U.S. But it actually is far worse. The government shields these sugar producers from foreign competition, closing off the U.S. from imported sugar.

This is critically important because right now, sugar's price in the world market is 50% cheaper than what it is today here in the U.S. So, while businesses like Horchata compete every day in this market, producers of one of our most crucial ingredients are protected from any and all market dynamics, enriching themselves with government support while prices persist at higher levels for small businesses.

Congress enables this program year after year, which costs taxpayer dollars and increases prices that families and businesses pay for all foods with sugar. Some studies have pegged this number at over $3 billion annually, and because of well connected special interests it is businesses like us, our customers, and the American taxpayer who are forced to foot the bill.

We do have an opportunity ahead this year in Congress to once and for all, change this program. Congress is working on the Farm Bill, where this program will be considered along with other crop programs. Also, bipartisan leaders have introduced H.R. 4265 and S. 2086, the Sugar Policy Modernization Act, which will reform the program.

Santa Monica is home for us and we want to continue to grow. A change to this policy would be a major boon for food producers across the country. I applaud Senator Feinstein for her work on this issue, and I am very proud to relay that she is a lead cosponsor of this legislation in the Senate. I urge the remaining members of our congressional delegation from the Los Angeles region to cosponsor the bill as well, and help bring relief to countless of small businesses in the bakery and confectionery space.

JESSICA ANGELES is the manager of Horchata Mexican Food and Bakery in Santa Monica.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Southern California to see warming Santa Ana winds

Southern California's winter is flip-flopping again from cloudy, damp and cool to clear, warm and windy.

The low-pressure system that brought some showers this week has moved east and will be replaced by warming Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles and Ventura counties Thursday night through Friday.

Forecasters say winds could reach speeds of 50 mph (80 kph) in the mountains and the dry gusts will elevate fire danger.

Offshore flow will decrease Friday night but Saturday will remain warm, followed by a sharp cooling trend Sunday and Monday with possible light rain or drizzle south of Point Conception.

Winter rainfall remains well below normal in the region. Downtown Los Angeles has recorded less than 2 inches (5 centimeters) since Oct.1, about 7 inches (17 centimeters) less than average.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Gang-related shooting kills 1 man, wounds another in LA

Police are searching for the gunman in a gang-related shooting that killed one man and seriously wounded another in Los Angeles.

Detectives say the suspect identified himself as a member of a street gang before firing multiple shots at the two victims Tuesday evening in North Hollywood. The gunman then fled in an awaiting vehicle.

A 19-year-old man died at a hospital. His 23-year-old companion was listed in serious but stable condition. They were not immediately identified.

Investigators have not released a suspect description.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: February 20, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES: None

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

• 101 Santa Monica Boulevard (Development Agreement Application No. 13DEV-004). Preliminary review of the updated design concept for a new 115 room hotel; 40,000 SF museum; 79 for-rent residential apartments comprised of 19 replacement rent-controlled units, 18 affordable units, and 42 market-rate units; 24,700 SF retail; 5,000 SF public observation deck on top of the hotel building; approximately 25% open space at the ground level; and subterranean parking. The project also includes retention and rehabilitation of two City-designated Landmark buildings. The proposed maximum height is 12-stories and 130 feet and the Floor Area Ratio of developed space to size of the site is approximately 2.6. The project has been revised in conformance with specific standards for this property, one of three Established Large Sites identified in the Downtown Community Plan.

More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail rathar.duong@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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SIGNS

FROM PAGE 1

and activists accuses city staff of undermining the field by potentially using the signs to manipulate an upcoming parking study for the California Coastal Commission. City Manager Rick Cole says he has been told by the state agency the field may not be approved without a detailed study looking at parking south of the Pier.

"There is concern from the Civic Center Sports Field supporters this will impact the sports field by directing cars to park at the civic center during the parking study and afterward under the local coastal plan," said Ann Thanawalla, member of the parks and recreation task force and a fervent critic of City Hall.

However, the parking study is on track to be finished by this summer, according to Winterer and Cole, who insist the two projects have nothing to do with each other since the signs will be constructed eight months after the parking study is completed.

Cole said he expects to submit plans for the Civic Center Field to the Coastal Commission by October of this year. Because the field will replace parking spaces near the ocean, the Commission must approve plans and they may not limit public access to the coast.

"The concern was raised that staff is seeking to undermine the civic center multi-use field and I just want to for the record clarify that staff is doing everything we can in every department to expedite the completion of the civic center multi-use sports field," Cole said. Cole has faced criticism from a group of parents who remain upset the city submitted plans for a City Hall expansion and a nearby preschool before the field, which reduced parking in the civic center.

In response, the city funded the project before seeking approval from the state agency to quell community skepticism. However, the planning department may have inadvertently fanned the flames when they released the Local Coastal Plan (LCP) earlier this year, which did not include plans for a sports field for Santa Monica High School.

"I heard that feedback," Cole said. "I thought that was such an obviously valid comment that I worked with our planning staff to immediately revise the draft and we issued those changes (Monday) and they have been widely distributed."

"That's the value of having public input," Winterer said.

The LCP puts more emphasis on public transportation and bicycle access near the city's three mile stretch of beach to reduce dependence on large parking areas. The plan also looks at the impact of climate change and rising sea levels on Santa Monica beaches. Once approved, the LCP will transfer the coastal development permitting rights from the state agency to the local government.

kate@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

LA teen suspected of making false 911 call about gunshot

Los Angeles police investigators have determined a 17-year-old boy lied when he called 911 and claimed a group of burglars had fired a gun through the door of his apartment.

Police said Thursday that officials became suspicious when it was found that the bullet hole had come from the inside not the outside, as the boy had claimed.

Detectives obtained a search warrant for the Woodland Hills residence and discovered quantities of marijuana and evidence of a firearm. Officers eventually found a handgun in the bushes below the apartment's balcony.

The teen was arrested on suspicion of illegal discharge of a firearm.

Police say the boy's mother was out of town and she could face charges of child endangerment for leaving an unsecured firearm in a residence with a minor.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

times the U.S. average of 83 gallons per person per day. It's also up 7 percent from the same month in 2013, before Brown ordered the 25 percent conservation by cities and towns in 2015.

The water district for an enclave north of Pasadena, La Canada Flintridge, hit 270 gallons per person, per day water use that month. Residents of an east Orange County water district used 203 gallons a day.

Despite a fall and winter that have brought Los Angeles less than one-fourth of normal rainfall, "you still see thick green lawns" in some communities, said Conner Everts, a Los Angeles-based conservation specialist who works with nonprofits and government agencies.

Wendy Silva, a 57-year-old homemaker from the Orange County city of Santa Ana, wasn't lured by multimillion-dollar rebate programs during the drought that paid homeowners to remove thirsty lawns, and admits to her husband giving their lawn extra water since conservation orders eased.

Silva said she's glad to have her green grass back after seeing it turn brown during the drought. She doesn't plan to swap it out for drought-tolerant landscaping as some of her neighbors in arid Southern California have done.

"I like the lawn," she said. "I don't like the desert look."

Many other Southern California communities have winnowed water use to well below the national average over successive droughts, water officials say. Residents of lower-income communities — with much less lawn — are some of the heroes when it comes to keeping water use down. That includes residents of East Los Angeles, who used an average of 42 gallons a day, and people in Huntington Park, who got by on just 34 gallons.

U.S. drought monitors this month declared parts of Southern California back in severe drought, just months after the state emerged from that category of drought.

A winter of shorts and T-shirts, record warm days, and growing worry over water supply in Southern California are leading California's Water Resources Control Board to consider next week whether to permanently reinstate some bans on water use that were imposed during the drought state of emergency.

If board members say yes, a handful of old-style water practices including using a hose to wash down sidewalks, and leaving automatic sprinklers on during and just after a rain, would be specifically outlawed statewide and could draw $500 fines.

Pending state legislation, meanwhile, would also give local water districts that kind of enforcement power over wasteful water use.

Board members of the Los Angeles-area Metropolitan Water District, the nation's largest urban water wholesaler, also are looking this winter and spring at making drought-style public-education conservation campaigns on social and news media permanent, along with programs encouraging homeowners to replace lawns. More than two-thirds of the water households consume is used outdoors, chiefly for lawns.

The permanent water restrictions that the state is looking at acknowledge that what California is facing now is growing extremes in wet spells and dry spells, not just the occasional drought.

The measures are about "transforming the relationship we have with water, which is increasingly scarce due to climate change," said Max Gomberg, a leader of water conservation programs at the state water agency.

California, the country's top state economy and agricultural producer, depends on 700 miles of canals and pipelines and a network of dams, reservoirs and pumps to pipe water from the wetter north to Silicon Valley and the farms and population centers of the Central Valley and Southern California.

Weather trends are undermining the state's complex water system, however. Rising temperatures and changing storm patterns mean less snow is falling in the Sierra Nevada. Much of what snow does fall melts in place before spring runoff ever reaches the reservoirs that depend on it.

Water reservoirs are full from last winter's welcome, near-record rain. But if Californians draw them down over a dry year, and "we head back into next winter and it's really dry, we're right back in emergency this time next year," Gomberg said.











SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **61.3°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small blend of S and WNW swell fades. Most breaks slow through the AM high tide.

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small blend of S and WNW swell.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



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

ON FEBRUARY 8, AT ABOUT 4:40 P.M.

While patrolling the Vons Parking Lot – 710 Broadway – officers observed a subject driving a vehicle in the parking lot. Officers recognized the subject from previous contacts and were not aware he owned a vehicle. The vehicle was occupied with three additional passengers. Officers conducted a traffic stop to determine the ownership of the car. Officers determined the driver admitted to taking the car without the owner's permission from a parking lot in the City. The driver was placed under arrest. One of the passengers was found to have an outstanding warrant for her arrest for battery. The passenger was taken into custody. Nicholas Lorenzo Murray, 24, homeless, was arrested for grand theft vehicle, possession of burglary tools and a suspended driver's license. Bail was set at $35,000. Amanda Beverly Allen, 31, homeless, was issued a citation for outstanding Santa Monica warrant.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 43 Calls For Service On Feb. 14.

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

Battery 300 block Pico 12:15 a.m.
Speeding Lincoln / Pico 1:48 a.m.
Speeding 7th / San Vicente 2:18 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1900 block Pico 2:40 a.m.
Burglary 2700 block Neilson 2:41 a.m.
Battery 1700 block Cloverfield 6:06 a.m.
Strongarm robbery Ocean / Arizona 6:20 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1300 block 2nd 7:42 a.m.
Petty theft 1000 block Wilshire 8:00 a.m.
Traffic collision 14th / Washington 8:28 a.m.
Assault 400 block Pico 8:43 a.m.
Encampment 2800 block the beach 9:11 a.m.
Theft recyclables Euclid / Pearl 9:24 a.m.
Hit and run 500 block Strand 9:29 a.m.
Fraud 1400 block Ocean 9:47 a.m.
Person down 700 block Ozone 10:10 a.m.
Vandalism 200 block Santa Monica Pier 10:12 a.m.
Death 3000 block Paula 10:41 a.m.
Petty theft 100 block Hollister 11:25 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1600 block 14th 11:58 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 12:01 p.m.
Found property Main / Colorado 12:19 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Franklin 12:22 p.m.
Lost property 1000 block Wilshire 12:24 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th / Washington 12:38 p.m.
Identity theft 300 block Olympic 1:09 p.m.
Petty theft 300 block Olympic 1:10 p.m.
Vehicle with 1900 block Main 1:39 p.m.
Bomb threat 2200 block Santa Monica 1:43 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1100 block 12th 1:43 p.m.
Petty theft 2600 block 3rd 1:54 p.m.
Burglary 1700 block California 2:02 p.m.
Speeding 2000 block Ocean Park 2:04 p.m.
Traffic collision 1100 block Pacific Coast Hwy 2:08 p.m.
Domestic violence Lincoln / California 2:13 p.m.
Hit and run 9th / Idaho 2:14 p.m.
Drunk driving 14th / Wilshire 2:15 p.m.
Auto burglary 1900 block Arizona 2:17 p.m.
Grand theft 2000 block Arizona 2:20 p.m.
Speeding 500 block Santa Monica 2:29 p.m.
Bike theft 1000 block Ashland 2:47 p.m.
Vehicle parked 1300 block 18th 2:56 p.m.
Traffic collision Stewart / Pico 2:56 p.m.
Hit and run 800 block Pacific Coast Hwy 3:11 p.m.
Fraud 2000 block La Mesa 3:54 p.m.
Assault 1600 block Lincoln 3:54 p.m.
Burglary 2900 block 31st 4:42 p.m.
Traffic hazard 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 5:43 p.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 6:08 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln Blvd / Bay 6:24 p.m.
Death 1300 block 14th 6:38 p.m.
Vandalism 1300 block Georgina 6:39 p.m.
Burglary 500 block Strand 6:48 p.m.
Traffic collision 1700 block Ocean 7:06 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 400 block Santa Monica Pier 7:34 p.m.
Vandalism 1100 block 18th 8:30 p.m.
Sexual assault 2800 block Pico 8:59 p.m.
Threats 1300 block Washington 9:06 p.m.
Traffic collision Main St / Ashland 10:08 p.m.
Drinking in public 600 block Wilshire 10:18 p.m.
Lost property 1700 block Ocean 11:10 p.m.
Burglary 17th St / Colorado 11:49 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 36 Calls For Service On Feb. 14.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1400 block Ocean 1:33 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 2:57 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 3rd Street Prom 4:53 a.m.
EMS 19th / Michigan 5:32 a.m.
EMS 1100 block Arizona 6:10 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Arizona 6:53 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 10th 7:09 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300 block Santa Monica Pier 7:35 a.m.
EMS 2800 block Highland 8:22 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 8:43 a.m.
EMS 3400 block Ocean Park 8:44 a.m.
EMS 300 block Montana 9:02 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Yale 9:29 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 25th 9:43 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 9:44 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 10:03 a.m.
EMS 1100 block Santa Monica 10:47 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1100 block 12th 11:04 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield / Colorado 11:26 a.m.
EMS 1200 block 14th 12:03 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 12:52 p.m.
EMS 300 block Colorado 1:06 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 1:13 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Delaware 1:15 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Wilshire 2:41 p.m.
EMS 3000 block Lincoln 3:42 p.m.
EMS 100 block Santa Monica 3:44 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica Pier 4:11 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 3rd 4:48 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 2/14
37 39 44 46 69
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 223M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/13
5 12 15 46 49
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 168M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 2/14
8 15 23 26 46
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 10M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/14
2 8 18 21 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/14
MIDDAY: 3 6 3
Draw Date: 2/14
EVENING: 8 5 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/14
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:46.69

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!

SOS

1. any call for help: We sent out an SOS for more typists.
2. the letters represented by the radio telegraphic signal (· · · – – – · · ·) used, especially by ships in distress, as an internationally recognized call for help.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Smoking Signs

■ While smoking rates nationally have steadily declined, tobacco use remains notably problematic in some racial and ethnic groups, according to new data from the CDC. For example, more than 43 percent of American Indians and Alaskan Natives had used some type of tobacco in the past month, according to a survey. That compares to 27 percent of people who aren't part of those groups.

■ The disparity is greater among American Indians and Alaskan Natives living below the poverty level: More than half use tobacco products. Two reasons: Tobacco products are often cheaper on tribal lands and the tobacco industry has specifically targeted these demographic groups with marketing, say experts.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

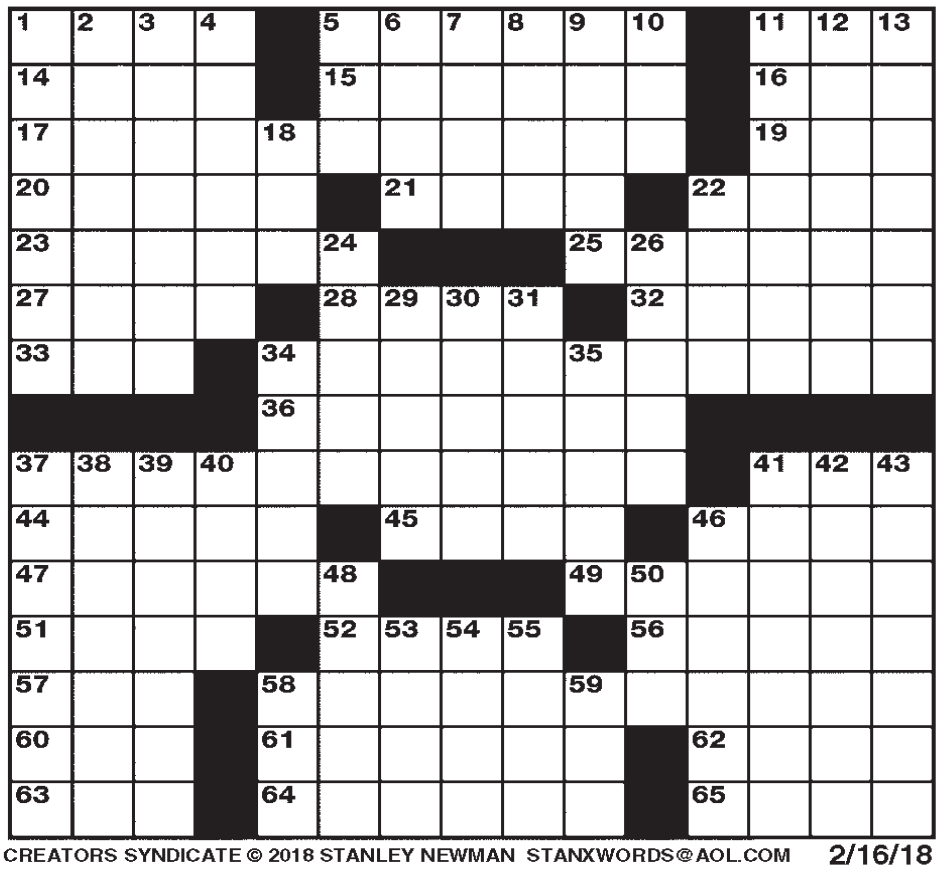
	2	9			6	5		
	1			7				2
	7		5		1			9
			6				7	
1		8				4		6
	4				5			
3			9		4		2	
2				8			6	
		1	7			9	5	

Newsday Crossword

ALPHABETICALLY SPEAKING by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Pac-12 school
5 Attempt to mediate
11 Contacts-list abbr.
14 Cool, in the '90s
15 Gaming center
16 Golden Gate or Presidio, in SF
17 WRONG: __ after __ (very soon)
19 Upper-body muscle
20 Choral platform
21 Musketeer's battle
22 Nonstandard negative
23 Is repentant
25 Rather tall
27 Longstanding squabble
28 Auto radiator part
32 Interior appointments
33 What Tweety calls his adversary
34 RIGHT: __ before __ (optimistic outlook)
36 Morocco neighbor
37 WRONG: __ after __ (CIA directive)
41 Cold War adversary
44 Formally pass
45 Tiny fraction of a min.
46 Do tunneling
47 Dumpling of India
49 Well-deserved
51 "Jabberwocky" starter
52 Gooey mess
56 Make think twice
57 Loathsome
58 RIGHT: __ before __ (Matthew 7:6 phrase)
60 Important stretch
61 Founder of the Shakers
62 Stretches (out)
63 Prime-time hour
64 Visit overnight
65 Vacuum bag contents

DOWN
1 Kite lifter
2 Spicy, hot drink
3 Describes in detail
4 Show up
5 Director Mendes
6 Stepped (on)
7 Shade of beige
8 Whittle down
9 Fan fixations
10 Never seen before
11 Pudding flavor
12 Still, surprisingly
13 Professor's stand
18 Deposit in underground banks
22 Felled in a forest
24 Petroleum source
26 Badge of a sort
29 Ballpark music maker
30 Train depot displays
31 Strangely scary
34 Tavern diversion
35 As of
37 Horse handicapper's favorite
38 Not clued in
39 Fasting period
40 Some PX patrons
41 Heyerdahl's raft
42 More ecological
43 Recuperation aid
46 Concocted
48 Authorized representative
50 Magazine thickener
53 Pop singer Del Rey
54 Air France secondary hub
55 Earnest request
58 Ballet step
59 Sank below the horizon



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Bring on the Dog Days!

Happy Lunar New Year. Bring on the days of the Earth Dog. Dog years are times to pull together the way a pack animal would: Find your order in the group, and strive for the good of all. The earthly element is a stable influence. There's nothing tricky about the time ahead. Loyalty and straightforward hard work will be rewarded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
To be able to give someone a good referral is a gift in and of itself. So if you can't help the situation but you know someone who can, linking the two up could be a huge favor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You were chosen because you're the best person for the job. Someday the position will be handed to a newcomer. Knowing this is the inevitability of all things, you do your best to make the maximum positive impact.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
With careful conservation of personal energy and resources you'll make it to the triumphant end of a long slog. The first step in this victory will be in realizing that you are indeed on a lengthy journey and not a short race.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Try to explain a television drama to someone who's never watched it. The plot sounds confusing! Yet when you watched from the beginning all events flowed naturally. Today, trust yourself, and don't explain your choices to others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
The sign that says "You are here" is the most clarifying and orienting and the best kind of start to the journey. So take stock. These signs don't just come on mall maps. Sometimes they are reflected in the eyes of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
To an outsider it may seem that you've got quite a lot figured out, and yet you don't feel that way on the inside. Many things you wanted fell through. Consider that it was for the best. And look at all you have now!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Much will boil down to this: which problem are you trying to solve? Find one that's resistant to solution, because it's an exciting place to start and because you're up to it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Keep an open mind, because your first idea isn't always your best one. And you'll have lots of stellar ideas if you let yourself play around, experiment and stay curious. Don't worry, your aha! moment is coming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
People associate nervous behaviors with dishonesty, and sometimes this is the case. But the truly dangerous people are the ones who aren't the least bit nervous about their lies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
How do you know if you're coming up against reality or a mistaken belief about it? Does it change when you change? Does it bend to your will? Reality won't — ever. And anytime you fight with reality, reality will win.

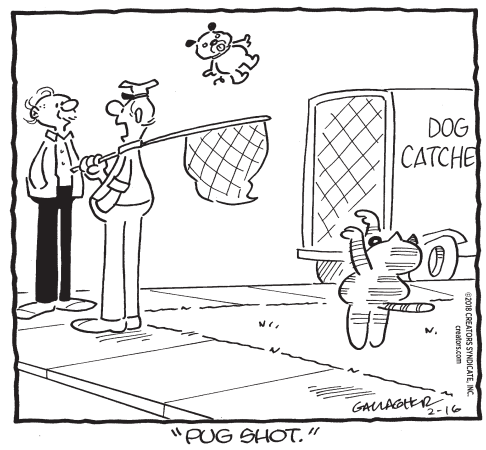
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
If you want to spin in circles instead of move forward with life, worry is absolutely the way to do it. Analysis and speculation will also help. To move forward, lighten up and do some experimenting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Here comes a magical sense of flow. It's like time stands still and its rules just doesn't apply to you: You're totally engaged with life. This is what you were meant for. Get more of it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 16)
It's said that you can't lead where you haven't traveled — patently untrue. Look at all of the exploration missions that have proven otherwise! This year will be such a mission. Not only will you have the pleasure of finding new places, emotional states and manners of being, you'll also bring others on your journey. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 9, 32, 48 and 8.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

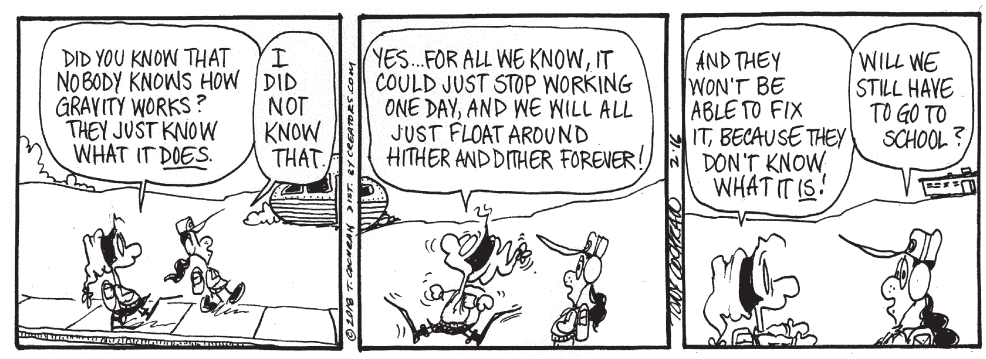
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



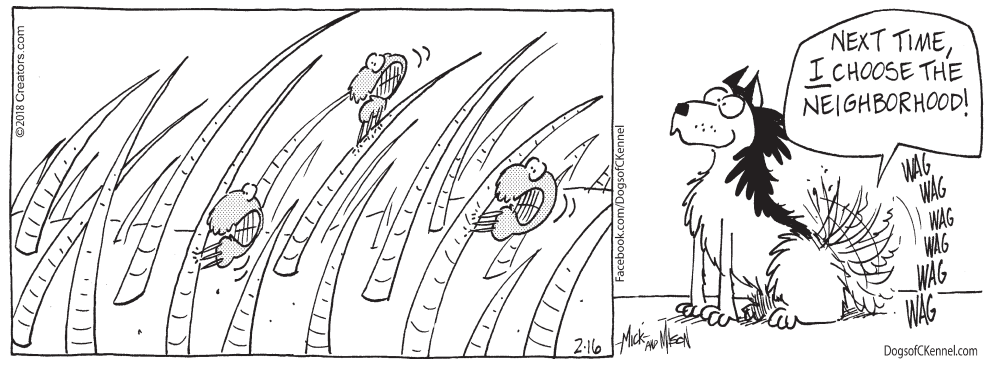
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



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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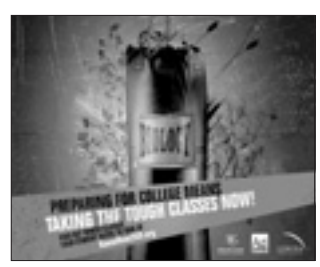
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LOS ANGELES

Man gets death penalty in California homeless camp murders

A gang member has been sentenced to death for murdering five people at a Southern California homeless camp in 2008 and a separate killing.

City News Service says the penalty imposed Thursday on 37-year-old David Cruz Ponce was recommended by a Los Angeles County Superior Court jury in October.

Two women and three men were found shot to death in November 2008 at a homeless camp in Long Beach. The killings remained unsolved until police announced arrests in 2012 and said the motive was drug debts owed by one victim to Ponce.

Co-defendant Max Eliseo Rafael was also convicted in the camp killings and was sentenced earlier this year to life in prison without possibility of parole.

Ponce was also convicted of murdering a man in Lancaster in 2009.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

Lawmakers Introduce Bills to Protect California Tenants from Eviction

Assemblymembers David Chiu (D-San Francisco), Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), and Rob Bonta (D-Oakland) today announced new proposals to protect California tenants from evictions and extend the timelines for tenants who do face evictions.

These bills come after an intense legislative debate about repealing the Costa Hawkins Act, which limits rent control in California. Though the legislative effort did not advance, the discussion brought the plight of tenants in California to the forefront of the ongoing effort to address the state's housing affordability crisis.

"We not only have a housing crisis, we have a tenant crisis," said Assemblymember Chiu. "Tenants in California are facing unprecedented hardships and constantly living under the threat of eviction. Helping tenants stay in their homes in the first place is essential to reducing displacement and homelessness."

Assemblymember Bonta plans to introduce a bill this week to enact "just cause" provisions for evictions statewide. A handful of cities throughout California have existing "just cause" ordinances that require landlords to show a specific and valid reason outlined in statute in order to evict a tenant.

"More and more Californians are being unjustly evicted from their homes," said Assemblymember Bonta. "As California continues to endure this housing crisis, statewide Just Cause legislation is another necessary ingredient to protect tenants and keep a safe roof over their heads. The history, culture, and character of our communities suffer when residents are forced to move from home to home. A statewide Just Cause law will ensure landlords are only evicting tenants for fair reasons. We must fight to protect our neighbors and to preserve the integrity of our communities."

AB 2364, authored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, will close a loophole in the state's Ellis Act that allows landlords to evict all of their tenants while still remaining in the rental business. The Ellis Act was written with the intention of giving landlords the ability to evict their tenants in order to withdraw from the rental market. Advocates from around the state are seeing instances of landlords evicting all tenants in a property and then returning those units in a piecemeal fashion to rental market, skirting the original purpose of the law. AB 2364 will close that loophole.

This bill will also extend the time frame of an Ellis Act eviction to one year for all tenants without regard to age or disability. Current law gives seniors and people with disabilities one year notice and gives 120 day notices for all others.

"Despite the historic gains made last year to build more affordable housing, we must keep our foot firmly on the peddle of progress," said Assemblymember Bloom. "Building more housing is important, but families, seniors, disabled people, and young working adults need immediate help now. We should not be pushing them out of their homes, their communities, because of legal loopholes. This is contrary to the spirit of the Ellis Act when it was passed more than 30 years ago. AB 2394 restores that spirit."

Assemblymember David Chiu introduced AB 2343 to give tenants more time to respond to eviction proceedings and correct several imbalances in the tenant notice and eviction process. This bill will extend the time tenants have to pay rent or comply with other terms of a lease, increase the time tenants have to respond to an eviction lawsuit, and make it easier to defend against eviction cases with legitimate defenses. Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) is a coauthor of this bill.

Richard Bloom represents California's 50th Assembly District, which comprises the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.

SUBMITTED BY SEAN MACNEIL, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER RICHARD BLOOM

SACRAMENTO

California officials warn of pesticide-tainted cactus

California officials are warning people not to eat the Mexican cactus known as nopales sold at certain stores over concerns they may be tainted with unapproved pesticides.

The Department of Public Health said Wednesday that routine samples last month found contaminated nopal cactus pads at six markets and distribution centers across the state.

Products packaged under the names Mexpogroup Fresh Produce, Aramburo or Los Tres Huastecos should be thrown away. Officials say most tainted nopales have been removed from store shelves and destroyed. But it is possible that some may have been sold to other retail locations in California, Nevada and Oregon.

No illnesses have been reported. Officials warn the pesticides can potentially cause poisoning, neurotoxicity and permanent nerve damage.

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