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Bloom bill expands hearing aid coverage

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The state assemblymember representing Santa Monica is introducing a bill to require California health insurers to cover hearing aids for children.

Richard Bloom, a former Mayor of Santa Monica who represents the Westside in the California State Assembly, introduced a bill Tuesday that would make California the 25th state to mandate that private health insurance companies cover the costs of hearing aids for children. Only one in 10 deaf or hard of hearing children in privately funded plans has coverage for hearing aids, leaving more than eight thousand California children without any kind of health insurance coverage for their devices.

Hearing aids cost between $1,500 and $4,000 per ear and must be replaced every three to five years. Children from families who earn less than $40,000 per year receive free hearing aids through California Child Services, but middle-class families receive no assistance, said

SEE **BLOOM** PAGE 6

Costume Designers Guild honors Ruth E. Carter, Glenn Close

JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
AP Entertainment Writer

Ruth E. Carter may be receiving Oscar recognition for her costume designer work on "Black Panther," but she told a packed room at the Costume Guild Awards on Tuesday night that she has created wardrobes for other superheroes throughout her illustrious career.

"After working on 'Black Panther,' you all asked me 'How did it feel experiencing designing my first superhero?' Truth is, I've been designing superheroes my entire career," she said after receiving a career achievement award at the guild's 21st annual awards show at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The union celebrated the year's outstanding work in film and television highlighting the intricacies of contemporary, period and sci-fi or fantasy designs.

While accepting a career achievement honor, the designer rattled off several films she worked on including "Malcolm X," 'Amistad," "Selma," "Marshall," "Do the Right Thing" and "Meteor Man."

"These same heroes and sheroes who helped shape our country helped me build my career and voice in the Afro-future," said Carter, who was also won a competitive award for "Black Panther." She could

SEE **GUILD** PAGE 11



PAGEANT

Photo by Rod Aberegg at You Blinked! Photography

Samantha Macklin competed in the Royal International Miss Pageant in Fullerton CA. She walked away with the Queen title of RIM's Miss West Coast Jr. Teen. With the title comes an invitation to attend Nationals, to be held in Orlando Florida this July. Samantha's platform for her reigning year is, "Paws for Pets" collecting money, towels and blankets for the smaller shelters here in Santa Monica.

Oscars: A record year for women, but is it progress?

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

At the glad-handy Oscar nominees luncheon earlier this month, film academy president John Bailey proudly told the 171 nominees in the room that there were a record number of women nominated for Academy Awards this year. The statement seemed to take everyone a moment to process, or calculate, but soon Lady Gaga, Amy Adams, "Black Panther" costumer Ruth E. Carter and others were applauding.

Numbers-wise, women did have a comparatively good year. In the 20 non-gendered categories, 52 individual women were nominated, up eight from last year's 44.

And yet why does it feel like progress is not being made? Perhaps because there have still only ever been five women nominated for best director (none this year), and

SEE **OSCARS** PAGE 6

Border wall, bullet train: California vs. Trump escalates

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Disputes over President Donald Trump's border wall and California's bullet train are intensifying the feud between the White House and the nation's most populous state.

The Trump administration on Tuesday said it plans to cancel or claw back $3.5 billion in federal dollars allocated to California's high-speed rail project, seizing on Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent decision to scale back plans for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles route.

Newsom branded the move "political retribution" for the state's lawsuit against Trump's declaration of a national emergency. California led a 16-state coalition in filing the suit Monday, challenging Trump's

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 21

Current Events Discussion Group

Join The Fairview Branch Library for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors, who help students complete and submit their application, and prepare them to pass the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Center (310) 664-6222, ext. 76203. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Soundwaves Concert: Vicki Ray PianoSpheres Preview

Contemporary piano music performed by Vicki Ray. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7:30 p.m.

Making Black History: #ArtInAction

Raise your voice through art and draw inspiration from contemporary artists like Kara Walker and Diedrick Brackens to contribute to a collective work of art. See your artwork displayed at the Greens Festival in Virginia Ave Park. All supplies provided and no experience necessary. Grades 8 - 12 in The Annex. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 22

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.

Fireside at the Miles; music and theatre by the historic fireplace

Jazz Singer Angie Wells brings her unique talents to fireside for the first time. Come and enjoy some classics and a few surprises with Angie and her Jazz Quartet. Part of Fireside at the Miles Series. Cost $5-$10 on Eventbrite. The Miles Memorial Playhouse 1130 Lincoln Blvd. 8 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Discover The Real Santa Monica

Learn about the visionaries who founded a small community by the Bay. The two hour tours are every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. departing from Hostelling International at 1436 Second Street. For reservations: dwt@smconservancy.org or by phone at 310-496-3146. $10 per person. $5 for Santa Monica or L.A. Conservancy members.

NOMA meeting

State Senator Ben Allen will be the featured speaker at the North of Montana Neighborhood Association's annual community gathering and celebration Saturday, Feb. 23, from 2-4 pm at the Aero Theatre,1328 Montana Ave. SM Mayor Gleam Davis, the Samohi Jazz Combo, neighborhood issues of the day, and film of Santa Monica past and present will complete the program. Refreshments and free popcorn will be on hand at the neighborhood tribute. Doors open at 1:15 pm, and all are invited.

Get Started with 3-D Printing

Learn the basics of 3D printing and design by completing a guided project. To register, email ideashappen@smgov.net one week before event. For ages 7-12. Montana Avenue Branch Library 11:00am-12:30 pm.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Public Reception to Welcome U.S. Navy Warship & Sailors to Malibu Pier for Malibu's Navy Days

Malibu will welcome the presence of a Navy ship anchored off the iconic Malibu Pier and celebrate the Navy and enlisted sailors serving our country during Malibu's Navy Days, February 22- 25.

The public and the media are invited to welcome the ship and sailors at the Welcome to Malibu ceremony and press conference on Friday, February 22, 1:30 p.m. on the pier.

The Malibu Navy League, the City of Malibu, Pepperdine University, and the Malibu Chamber of Commerce are joining in partnership to host the ship and over 200 Navy personnel who will come ashore to enjoy visiting the Malibu community during their shore leave.

Malibu individuals and businesses are encouraged to welcome and thank the Navy personnel (and their families) for their service to our country as they visit Malibu during their shore leave throughout the weekend. In addition, Navy personnel will be serving the community through service projects during their stay. The ship will anchor on Friday, February 22 and depart on Monday, February 25, and will be visible from the Pier and the shore to visitors for photo opportunities during its stay off shore. There will be no public tours of the ship.

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet leads naval forces in the Pacific and provides realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. They coordinate with Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet to plan and execute missions based on their complementary strengths to promote ongoing peace, security, and stability.

For more information from Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/c3f/.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Generic construction

Editor:

I'm truly sad to see yet another pair of two completely undistinguished, beyond generic, glass and concrete slabs that our city planners seem determined to fill every empty space with in Santa Monica. The only positive thing to be said is that at least they're not black, a color so out of character with the city, like blackheads, as can be seen by the ones already sprinkled around the city.

I'm sorry to be so harsh, but while other small cities on the sea in California cherish and preserve the character and ambiance of their cities, such as Santa Barbara, Ventura, Carmel, Santa Monica planners and developers can't seem to destroy ours fast enough.

The attempt to be cutting edge with the latest trend, and mostly with 'no sense of place' just fails miserably, and yet it seems the planners, and politicians view themselves as being so very ahead of the curb while concerned residents are simply stuck on the turnip truck, and don't get it.

This while the city planners who mostly don't live here, roll off the 10 each day into their 'paid' parking garage and then walk across the street to work, for a salary far higher than just about any municipal workers in the state, if not the country.

MARY KAY GORDON
Santa Monica

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Royale rumble: 'Apex Legends' smashing 'Fortnite' records

JAKE SEINER
AP Sports Writer

For the first time since its meteoric rise, "Fortnite" is no longer a no-doubt victory royale atop the video game industry.

"Apex Legends" — a battle royale from Electronic Arts — has charged into the market and smashed "Fortnite" records for downloads and viewership since its release three weeks ago. Tyler "Ninja" Blevins and other streaming stars have powered that surge, as has the emergence of an 18-year-old "Apex" superstar. Esports teams are already scrambling to sign talented players and invest long-term, while others are raising concerns about overcommitting to the suddenly volatile battle royale genre.

Developed by Respawn Entertainment and published by EA, "Apex" has shaken the industry by building on many of its shining successes. It has pulled popular elements from other battle royales — a type of video game where players are dropped into a map and fight in a last-man-standing format against up to 100 other gamers — while making a few key changes.

Like "Fortnite," "Apex" is free to download and play, making its money by selling outfits and other upgrades for use in the game. Among its key differences: "Apex" players compete exclusively in teams of three and can choose characters with varying abilities, features essential to team-based esports like "League of Legends" and "Overwatch."

The game also went hard after the existing battle royale audience. EA recruited Blevins, Richard "KingRichard" Nelson and other famous gamers, asking them to put down "Fortnite" and stream "Apex" following its release Feb. 4. Blevins alone has over 13 million followers on Twitch, immediately giving "Apex" a massive audience. It's unclear if EA paid those influencers to play the game, and EA did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

"Apex" had 25 million downloads in its first week, crushing the "Fortnite" mark of 10 million over its first two weeks after launching in 2017.

"I think 'Apex' has caught everybody by storm," said Andy Miller, CEO of NRG Esports, which rosters teams across various video game titles. "They did a phenomenal job of getting the influencers to play it first, feeding the market on Twitch and then watching everybody starting to play the game, and the game is good."

Six days after the game launched, NRG announced it was recruiting "Apex" players, making it the first esports organization to seek a pro specifically for that title. General manager Jaime Cohenca led the search, combing through applications and Twitch streams. With the game being so new, Cohenca wasn't entirely sure what he was looking for other than an "exceptional talent." He "knew immediately" when he came across Dizzy.

Coby "Dizzy" Meadows is an 18-year-old from Florida, and he is believed to be the best "Apex" player in the world. NRG signed him Feb. 12, and later that day, Meadows made major waves in the esports community by killing 33 of his 59 opponents in one match — a viral moment that generated nearly 500,000 views on YouTube alone. The next day, Meadows teamed up with Blevins and Nelson, also an NRG player, to win the $200,000 Twitch Rivals Apex Legends tournament against a lineup of streaming megastars.

Behind big draws for Dizzy, Ninja and KingRichard, "Apex" smashed another "Fortnite" record that day: 8.28 million hours of "Apex" were streamed on Twitch, topping the "Fortnite" mark of 6.6 million from July 20, per The Esports Observer.

Meadows has played regularly with Blevins and Nelson since. They won another tournament together later that week, and in the finals, Meadows had as many kills on his own as the entire opposing team.

"We knew this was a kid we had to take a flyer on," Cohenca said. "Dizzy was a rock star."

The question now: What comes next for "Apex," "Fortnite," and the stars and companies building up around their popularity? No doubt, NRG's fast move on Meadows has paid off, and other top esports organizations have since begun recruiting their own "Apex" pros. But it's still not clear what kind of scene they're staffing up for.

Epic Games, the developer behind "Fortnite," hasn't prioritized that game's competitive sphere in the same way that companies behind "League of Legends" or "Overwatch" have. Top "Fortnite" players like Blevins aren't necessarily stars because they win every tournament. Ninja is a skilled gamer, for sure, but what has separated him is that he's entertaining, a talent that pairs well with a goofier game like "Fortnite."

Right now, it's unclear where "Apex" is going, and for how long it can hold that space. That's part of why Ari Segal, CEO at



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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Great Nina Simone

I was privileged to have seen her perform once in the mid-'80s, playing piano and singing in a small jazz club in Silver Lake named Mark's. If that wasn't special enough, it was like a private concert for my jazz singer wife and me and the one or two other people there (plus Mark). It was raining hard, it was mid-week, Mark's was not in the right part of town for a jazz spot, and had not promoted the show well. Simone gave a fine performance anyway and seemed in good spirits. We approached her afterward, offered to buy her a drink and had a nice long conversation. With a towering music icon. She was really nice.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — GARY CLARK JR. (I was knocked out the very first time I heard him years ago and he's only gotten better, this will be in front of a crowd of music fanatics and they will get there EARLY, if you're not reading this in the morning you may already be too late, but the Amoeba stage is a great place to see anyone, always go at least two hours early, face it, you've got plenty to occupy your time until the show starts), Thurs 6 p.m., Amoeba Music, Hollywood, free.

Mark Hummel's GOLDEN STATE LONE STAR REVUE featuring WES STARR, ANSON FUNDERBURGH, MIKE KELLER, RW GRIGSBY, MARK HUMMEL (it's Gary Clark Jr.'s fault, and a slew of other TX musicians, that you don't know this Golden State Lone Star Revue better, there are so many great players in TX and especially around Austin, like Clark and Wes Starr, that only some get really famous, but this TX-CA group is landing right here in SM and blues lovers who miss this show will be kicking themselves, five great players but listen up to that rhythm section, drummer Starr and bass man Grigsby have been playing together since HS in Rome, GA, and with the likes of Asleep at the Wheel, Carlene Carter, Jimmy Vaughn, Delbert McClinton, and in '86 Starr toured with Jimmy Page post-Zep in The Firm, I've seen this revue a couple times and Starr in other bands and I can tell you, he could hold his own, in ANY style, with anyone, maybe even that Brit drummer with the same last name, no relation), Fri 8 p.m., McCabe's, $30.

LA PHIL: GUSTAVO DUDAMEL conducts MAHLER Symphony No. 9 (Dudamel has built his reputation partly on his affinity for and mastery of Mahler's emotionally complex work, so this will be memorable I guarantee, I've been waiting for this, Mahler's official last symphony, he always felt the no one should try to write more than the master Beethoven, don't forget the informative and entertaining pre-concert lectures an hour before the performance), next Thurs 8 p.m., next Fri 11 a.m., Sat, Sun 2 p.m., Disney Hall, DTLA, , next Thurs $79-$237, next Fri $78-$229, next Sat $135-$158, next Sun $79-$156.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — VICKI RAY (is she really "phenomenal and fearless," this Grammy nominated contemporary piano master? — you can drive downtown LA and pay $20-$35 at Zipper Hall the following Tuesday to find out, or get a preview of that show for nada at our own Main Library), Thurs, 7:30 p.m., Santa Monica Library Main Branch, DTSM, free.

TONIGHT! — JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET (they're only a year older than I am so just imagine if I had kept up those accordion lessons...), Thurs 7:30 p.m., Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman University, $25-$45.

THE JOY WHEEL (I saw it last weekend, I predicted it, it is terrific, really funny, topical, directed by JASON ALEXANDER, another hit for those Ruskin people, and you still didn't even know that great little theater at the airport is there? — boy have you missed out), Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM Airport, $25-$35.

BOB SEGER & the Silver Bullet Band ("sold more than 75M records worldwide, making him one of the world's best-selling artists of all time," the figure seems accurate but doesn't even put him in the top 100, tied with the likes of Journey/ack!, Kiss/please, Manilow/gag, R.Kelly/PU, shame, and Kenny G/ack! hack! gack!!, I remember getting a review copy of his second Capitol album in '70, Mongrel, great cover, and I became an instant fan, what a voice, this guy rocks hard, didn't pay much attention till 5 years later when Katmandu bent my ear, a stone cold great rock performance, Seger also has many ballad hits and I hope he still has that remarkable scream because this is his last tour, I think you should go), Sat 8 p.m., The Forum, Inglewood, $69-$129.

MAZZY STAR, Gold Star (fascinating Santa Monica band from 1989, this is the original group with hiding Hope Sandoval, rabid cult following, rare appearances, get tix while you can, I'm warning you), Tues, Wed 8 p.m., Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Koreatown, $59.50

COMING ATTRACTIONS: LA OPERA: MOZART's The Clemency of Titus, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Mar. 2, 7, 10, 13, 16, 24; STEVE EARLE, Amoeba Music, Mar. 4.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: The Coathangers, Mannequin Medicine, Turbulent Hearts, Well Hung Heart, Cannibal Corpse, Morbid Angel, Pretty Vicious, Lords of Acid, Verbal Abuse, Single Mothers, Dog Tag Tattoo.

BODACIOUS BIRTHDAY: NINA SIMONE (1933) — a unique talent, performer and person, widely regarded as one of the most influential recording artists of the 20th century, took up piano at 3, performed at church and gave her classical concert recital at 12 in Tryon, NC but when her parents, who proudly took seats in the front row, were moved to the back for some white folks, she refused to play until they were seated in front again — this is 1945!— which she said contributed to her getting involved later in the Civil Rights movement.

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 5

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WINNER

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To Grow Up In Lebanon

Capernaum. A lovely name for a village near the sea. Surrounded by blue mountains, with the sun glinting off the silver leaves of the olive trees and the sound of children laughing as they chase each other around the village square.

Unfortunately, Capernaum, actually the name of a small village on the shore of Lake Tiberias, is not the subject of these bucolic images. It is the title of a Lebanese film and the name, in Arabic, means Chaos. It would be more appropriate to call it Squalor. Nevertheless, the film is nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language category. And it is magnificent!

Written and directed by Nadine Labaki, "Capernaum" won the Jury Prize and a 15-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018.

The story deals with a devastatingly poor family, refugees from Syria, living in the slums of Lebanon. The oldest child, a 12-year-old boy named Zain, (played by Zain al Rafeea) is charged with the responsibility of finding and undertaking a variety of menial jobs as well as caring for the younger children in the family. And absorbing the physical and emotional abuse of his perpetually angry and neglectful parents.

Although he has never been to school, he is bright and street-smart and as the film begins he is sitting in a courtroom explaining to a judge why he wants to sue his parents "for giving me life". It is a life of unremitting sadness, made even more sad when his parents sell his 11-year-old sister to a man who wants to marry her.

When his sister dies in childbirth, Zain leaves his family and takes his chances living on the street. He finds the occasional scraps of food, steals others, and is relatively indifferent to sleeping on the streets in the midst of detritus and garbage that never gets picked up. Actually, it's not much worse than sleeping with his parents and siblings, huddled together on the floor in a single tiny room.

Eventually he meets a young Ethiopian woman named Rahil (Yordanis Shiferaw) and her adorable baby who steals every scene in the film and acts so brilliantly that you'd think he'd been doing it for years. His name in the film is Yonas, but in real life he is named Boluwatife Treasure Bankole.

The next day Zain offers to babysit Yonas as Rahil goes off to work. And the second half of the film is devoted to the adventures (and misadventures) of Zain and Yonas, as Rahil is picked up by the police and sent to jail for being an undocumented refugee.

Zain, alone, manages to occasionally feed and diaper the baby boy and wheel him around on makeshift wagons (one in particular has enormous round washing tubs as wheels) and these are the scenes that really strike home as the viewer lives through the miserable poverty and humiliating experiences that so many people in the world are subject to.

This absorbing film took six months to shoot, with actors who were not professionals and who often added their own personal thoughts and dialogue to the script. Labaki included these in the film and often reworked the script around them. By the time she was finished, the film was 12 hours long and the next two years were spent in editing it down to two hours and ten minutes. If you love this film as much as I did, however, you'd be happy to sit through the whole 12 hours of it.

"Capernaum" was released in Los Angeles in time to be considered for an Academy Award on February 24. It is currently screening at a number of AMC and Laemmle Theaters around town. Check your paper or computer for venues and times.

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

After graduation she spent the summer at Julliard preparing for her anticipated admission to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and her family moved there. When she was denied it crushed her, and she always suspected it was racially motivated. She performed and spoke at civil rights meetings, such as at the Selma to Montgomery marches, and wrote tough songs like Old Jim Crow and Mississippi, Goddam, which she penned right after the murder of Medgar Evers and the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL that killed four young black girls and partially blinded a fifth; she said it came to her "in a rush of fury, hatred and determination." She also felt the music industry shunned her because of that song. She was next door neighbor to Malcolm X in Mount Vernon, NY and espoused black nationalism and violent revolution rather than the non-violent ways of Dr. King.

She wound up in self-exile and… so much more, her gripping story told in several books, and most interestingly in a biopic I saw in 2015 and highly recommend, What Happened, Miss Simone? I was so fortunate to have heard her in LA in a small club, and chatted afterward (see above).

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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Project: Pavement Preservation Southern California

Pavement preservation work, including asphalt paving, crack sealing, mirco-surfacing and pavement markings will take place on all routes and parking lots with in the monument from
03/4/18 through 4/30/19

Signs and flaggers will control traffic while work is being performed. Please be alert and obey all posted traffic control signage and flaggers. Temporary parking and sidewalks will be designated. Expect delays will occur from
8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
Expect a maximum of 15-minute delays. There will be no impact to traffic outside of these times and days. Additional information will be provided at the visitor center of daily road work delays and closures, with the monument

For more information please contract:
Intermountain Slurry Seal, INC
1120 Terminal Way
Reno, Nevada 89502
775-358-1355

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION
Intermountain Slurry Seal INC.

BLOOM

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Michelle Christie, executive director of the Culver City-based No Limits for Deaf Children and an advocate for the bill.

In California, 195 children who need hearing aids do not have them because their families cannot afford them, according to the California Health Benefits Review Program. Even families who can afford to purchase the devices often postpone their child's hearing aid maintenance or audiologist visits because private insurers do not cover the cost of hearing aid services.

"We believe that a child's ability to hear should not be based on their family's income," Bloom said. "Yet here in California, thousands of families have to pay for their child's hearing aids out of pocket. Some are forced to forgo hearing aids altogether while others have to delay maintenance or replacements. I introduced AB 598 because I believe that needs to change."

Michelle Marciniak, co-chair of Let California Kids Hear, a coalition that promoted AB 598, said the legislation has been introduced twice before but momentum in California and around the country for such legislation has risen in the past few years. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the California Children's Hospital Association and the California Academy of Audiology all support the bill, she said.

All California children receive a hearing status screening at birth, Christie said, and if they get hearing aids before they are six months old, they grow auditory neural pathways and develop academically at the same rate as hearing children. Children who receive hearing aids by age six still reap many of those benefits.

But because very few private health insurers cover hearing aids, some children miss out on those opportunities, Christie said. Parents are often surprised to learn that they are not covered because insurers cover dental and vision care, she added.

"No Limits believe every child should have the opportunity to hear and that insurance companies should cover the cost of hearing aids," she said. "Hearing aids impact a child's entire life. We need to remove the financial stress for parents so they can focus on their child's happiness and abilities, not on gathering money for their basic needs and rights."

madeleine@smdp.com

OSCARS

FROM PAGE 1

only one who has won. There's also the fact that none of the films nominated for best picture this year had a female director.

Look closer at the individual categories and the gaps become abundantly clear. It's been 21 years since a woman has won for original score (Anne Dudley for "The Full Monty"), 13 years since one has won for adapted screenplay (Diana Ossana for "Brokeback Mountain"), 12 years since the last original screenplay win (Diablo Cody for "Juno"), nine years since the first and only female best director win (Kathryn Bigelow for "The Hurt Locker"), and eight years since a woman won for best foreign film (Susanne Bier for "In a Better World") or sound mixing (Lora Hirschberg for "Inception").

In addition to director, this year there are no female nominees for cinematography, editing, score, or visual effects. There's only ever been one woman to get a cinematography nod (Rachel Morrison just last year), and only three women in history have ever gotten a visual effects nomination — although they have a pretty great track record as two out of the three won. The only category that has always had a female nominee is costume design.

The gender divide becomes clearer when comparing the number of women nominated to their male counterparts. The Women's Media Center reported earlier this month that over 75 percent of the nominees this year were men.

"A nomination for an Academy Award can open doors," said Jane Fonda, co-founder of the Women's Media Center. "With three out of every four non-acting nominations going to men, women, again, are missing that stamp of approval."

Melissa Silverstein, the founder of website Women and Hollywood, said it "doesn't feel like a record year."

"Women continue to be shut out of the top categories," Silverstein said. "The fact that no films directed by women are nominated for best picture says it all."

Yet women could take the stage at the end of Sunday's ceremony and carry home an Oscar if the best picture winner is "The Favourite," ''Roma," ''A Star Is Born" or "Vice"; all have at least one female producer.

This year's Oscars will spotlight the achievements of several female directors. Lebanese director Nadine Labaki's "Capernaum" is competing for best foreign language film, while the documentary feature category includes Julie Cohen and Betsy West for "RBG" and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi for "Free Solo." Several female directors are also nominated for short films.

Yet the best director category remains frustratingly elusive for women. Awards blogger Sasha Stone, who wrote the Women's Media Center report, thinks that in the current landscape, women can only break through when there is a consensus choice to push, like last year with Greta Gerwig and "Lady Bird." This year, attentions were split between Debra Granik ("Leave No Trace "), Chloe Zhao ("The Rider "), Marielle Heller ("Can You Ever Forgive Me?") and Lynne Ramsay ("You Were Never Really Here ").

"The problem is the Oscar race is a machine and it's a very tightly controlled machine, controlled by publicists, bloggers, critics," Stone said. "If there isn't one person that all of those people have rallied around to push into the race, then that person is not going to get in."

The directing category is subject to so much scrutiny because of the power that position holds both on a film set and in the industry.

A directing Oscar nomination, and win, Stone noted, proves to the industry that a person is a "legitimate power player ... somebody who can get projects made."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences itself has for the past few years been taking steps to diversify its largely white and male membership. Forty-nine percent of the invited 2018 class were women, and if all accepted it would bring the film academy's overall percentage of women to 31 percent.

But nominations can only come from what the industry puts in theaters, and what the largely male run studios choose to put millions of awards marketing dollars toward.

Bailey, for his part, told the audience of power players at the nominees' luncheon that the numbers are far from equal.

"We need to do better," he said. "Gender parity is an industry matter, not just an academy matter."

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

So Much Art!

What a whirlwind week it was for contemporary art all across Los Angeles. There were at least 4 different art fairs that took place, two of which I attended. Art LA Contemporary celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica. And the prestigious and stunningly presented international Frieze Art Fair made its very impressive debut at Paramount Studios. All I can say is WOW.

ART LA CONTEMPORARY

Art LA Contemporary (ALAC), focuses on established and emerging galleries, boasted 100 exhibitors from 19 countries, 15,000 international visitors and record-setting sales, with multiple galleries reporting more than $100,000. Kathryn Grayson of The Hole said she sold three works in the first few minutes of the show.

San Francisco-based Ever Gold Projects sold over 20 works during the opening night, including a marble sculpture by a notable LA-based female artist Petra Cortright that raked in $80,000 from a Bay Area tech collector who used cryptocurrency!

The one work that stole my heart, listed at $75,000, was Lita Albuquerque's "The Lights Inside It," made of 24 Karat gold leaf on resin with pigment on panel, a highlight of more than $100,000 in sales reported by Peter Blake Gallery in Laguna Beach.

This gorgeous, enormous meditative piece truly looks like it is lit from within. A hauntingly beautiful blue background that morphs, Rothko-like, from darker to lighter tones, surrounds a glowing golden orb that creates a pulsating effect against the background. I envy the buyer. Please invite me over so I can see it again. Sigh.

I also discovered a Los Angeles-based workshop, well known to artists but not to me, called Mixografia. They've invented several unique techniques for printmaking in three dimensions, allowing for elements of relief, texture and fine surface detail. Invented and patented by Luis and Shaye Remba, all their print and paper making equipment is built in-house.

On the walls, they displayed a multi-colored dazzler by Jacob Hashimoto, called Tiny Rooms and Tender Promises, that reminded me of many-patterned tiny cocktail umbrellas, with push pins and threads connecting them. And Analia Saban made a ghostly looking Three Stripe Hand Towel with Unsewn Label on handmade paper, and it looks exactly as described.

How to describe an abstract work: Jorunn Hancke Ogstad created a piece shown by Oslo-based Gallery VI,VII that I returned to no less than three times. In a gentle teal and aqua-washed colored background, she constructs elements that seem familiar: a square with green and white stripes, a pair of unmatched chromosome shaped strands, white spaces, lines, curves…an overall sense of peace in this work, to my eyes.

And one more artist of note, new to me, Robyn O'Neil is Omaha-born and now LA-based, but was represented here by Western Exhibitions in Chicago. Her drawings feature small figures against vast panoramas. In "Low American Grace," she has deconstructed some of the figures (bull and horse) from Picasso's famous "Guernica" and positioned them in the sky of an imaginary landscape that looked primeval. It just jumped off the wall at me.

FRIEZE ART FAIR

One of the most prestigious art fairs in the world, in the same tier as Basel Art Fair, this was the first year for Frieze in Los Angeles and it was a smashing success.

The outdoor commissioned projects included a giant inflatable ketchup bottle; an enormous green, snaky creature spilling out a faux building's windows and into a faux subway entrance; and lines of "laundry" hung between buildings, reminiscent of Brooklyn tenements.

I got into "Tom Pope's One Square Club," a one square meter wooden container box, decked out like a private London club, complete with velvet ropes outside, and a wallpapered and mirrored interior, with two small hanging art pieces, a bar, where you're served a glass of champagne, and 7 minutes of face-to-face conversation with the charming performance artist himself.

Pope calculated that one square meter of London real estate in Kensington (the priciest neighborhood) costs $15,000, and this was his response to that shocking reality. This "private club" is available for $150,000 but the artist must be part of any activities that take place within its tiny walls. Only 3 people can fit in at one time. I was lucky to get a one-on-one with him.

Inside, the galleries—all of which were invited to participate—presented some of the most impressive contemporary art on the planet today. Once again, I was blown away by how remarkable the LA galleries look in the context of the international scene. Blum & Poe, LA Louver, multi-city Gagosian Gallery, Susanne Vielmetter, Hauser and Wirth, Regen Projects all shone.

Some of the outstanding pieces I viewed included an amazing Gordon Parks photograph, "Department Store, Mobile, Alabama, 1956," featuring a black mother and daughter, dressed in lacy finery, standing under a neon sign, "Colored Entrance," and looking apprehensively at something across the street from them. Heart-gripping photograph at Jack Shainman Gallery from New York.

Shainman also displayed Topos" by Ghanaian/Nigerian artist El Anatsui, who creates tapestries woven from detritus, such as aluminum pop-tops from soda cans, foil from wine bottles and chewing gum wrappers, thousands of pieces collected from across the continent and connected by tiny wires to create what looks like a wall-sized hanging curtain.

This fair took place, as Hemingway wrote, in a clean well-lighted place and was beautifully and elegantly presented, allowing each gallery to shine without being overwhelmed by the volume of participants. I look forward to its return.

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.

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Searching

My brother in law writes music. One of his hits was "Searchin.' " That's what I'm doing now. My two favorite Italian restaurants have recently closed, and I'm having a problem finding my new favorite Italian hang-out.

I have a history with Italian restaurants. In order to stay at UCLA in 1955 the dean said I had to pass a foreign language course, and I chose Italian. I had never taken a foreign language and I didn't even know what conjugation meant, at least not in the grammatical sense. So I ate every night for one semester at Mario's Italian restaurant in Westwood Village, and the waiters helped me pass my Italian exam.

When I became a lawyer and started to make $8,000 a year, and could afford the very best restaurants, I started taking clients to Valentino's in Santa Monica. What a treat! Piero Salvaggio was always there to kiss me on the cheeks and select a wonderful bottle of wine. The food was just like in Italy. Now it's closed.

More recently I've been enjoying Lago on the Promenade. The owner Wes and his wife are so friendly. The seafood pasta and seafood soup were wonderful. The menu was extensive and it was never too loud, and so convenient after a movie across the street. Now it too has closed.

What's an Italia-phile to do? I started searching. We rarely go east of the 405 freeway, but for this task we ended up at Osteria Mozza, on Highland and Melrose Ave. My wife and I took our two sons, because we knew we were going to order more than we could eat.

The first task was to qualify the sommelier, who showed up at our table right away. She had a wine list, like at Valentino, much too long to read before dinner. She knew our friends at Castello di Verduno, although the list only had their lesser wines, not their wonderful Barolo. She knew what she was talking about, so we let her select an Italian wine from Northern Tuscany, not over $100, blended with Sangiovese and some Merlot to smooth out the Sangiovese. It was OK but probably not worth $90, although the price was mitigated by her waiving the $40 corkage fee on the wonderful bottle of Uruguayan Tannat wine that we brought with us. The Tuscan wine retails at $44, which means the restaurant bought it at $22 and should mark it up no more than $66. The wines I would have liked to order were in the $200+ range or more. But at least we had found a wine list reminiscent of Valentino in the good old days.

So we ordered the dishes most highly prized in internet reviews. The mozzarella tasting was OK, but not worth $26 and not worth the trip. The little ears pasta with sausage and fennel was very good. The cheese ravioli at the next table looked wonderful. The duck was OK as just duck, but the skin wasn't crisp and there was nothing on the side. We asked the waiter if the lamb stuffed grape leaves were spicy, because my wife won't eat anything spicy and he said "not at all." They arrived and she tasted one and spit it out—-it was really spicy from red pepper. That said, the rest of us thought they were the best lamb stuffed grape leaves we've ever had.

We didn't stop there. The grilled octopus was slightly over-cooked, but not bad, with nice little potatoes on the side. The sweetbreads were a disaster: I like them with the texture of oysters. These were little fried nodules in a bed of green leaves with absolutely no sweetbread taste. But this negative experience was overshadowed by a wonderful chocolate caramel dessert.

So what can I say? We are still searching. Orto in Santa Monica is not bad. I lunch with clients at Obika from time to time. But, in the long run, the days of fine Italian dining seem to have gone the way of fine French food. To find it you have to go to the country itself.

I would go back to Osteria Mozza for an occasion warranting a $2-300 bottle of wine. But I would just order the Italian pasta dishes. I think they should scrap their attempt at pretentious French and Mediterranean foods, and stick with what they seem really good at, genuine Italian foods. I yearn for the wonderful rabbit and wild boar stews from the Piedmont, the slow cooked red wine and tomato sauces from Tuscany, and the seafood from Sicily. I miss little pieces of Parmesan cheese with a few drops of 50-year-old balsamic vinegar. I love ripe Italian tomatoes with fresh garlic, basil leaves, oil and vinegar—maybe some anchovies. And wouldn't it be wonderful if a restaurant like this would have a few special wines by the glass, like an aged Barolo, that had been opened in the morning so they could be ready to drink in the evening?

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur" and it is available on Amazon. Or you might like his attempt at humor in "Great Cases I Lost." He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and beverages, including wines, internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.







TRUMP

FROM PAGE 1

power to declare an emergency to earn more money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"It's no coincidence that the Administration's threat comes 24 hours after California led 16 states in challenging the President's farcical 'national emergency,'" Newsom said in a statement. "This is clear political retribution by President Trump, and we won't sit idly by."

It's the latest spat between Trump and California, which has styled itself as the Democratic-led "resistance" to the administration. Newsom, less than two months into his tenure, has appeared more eager to hit back at Trump than former California Gov. Jerry Brown. The lawsuit is California's 46th against the Trump administration.

Using a broad interpretation of his executive powers, Trump declared an emergency last week to obtain wall funding beyond the $1.4 billion Congress approved for border security. The move allows the president to bypass Congress to use money from the Pentagon and other budgets.

Trump's use of the emergency declaration has drawn bipartisan criticism and faces a number of legal challenges.

Still the president has told reporters he expects to prevail.

"I think in the end we're going to be very successful with the lawsuit," Trump told reporters, calling it an "open and closed" case.

Trump had earlier singled out California for its lead role in the suit, seeking to link the state's high-speed rail project to his plan for the wall.

On Twitter, Trump claimed the "failed Fast Train project" was beset by "world record setting" cost overruns and had become "hundreds of times more expensive than the desperately needed Wall!"

The estimated cost for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles train has more than doubled to $77 billion. That's about 13 times the $5.7 billion Trump sought unsuccessfully from Congress to build the wall.

Hours later, the U.S. Department of Transportation told California it planned to cancel nearly $1 billion in federal money allocated to the rail project and wanted the state to return $2.5 billion it had already spent.

Trump's comments about a "failed" project followed Newsom's comments last week that the current plan for an LA-San Francisco train would cost too much and take too long. Instead, he said he'd focus immediately on a line through the Central Valley while still doing environmental work on the full line. That work is a requirement for keeping the federal money.

Still, the U.S. Department of Transportation said Newsom's remarks reinforced concerns about the project's ability to deliver. The department wrote Newsom's comments mark a "significant retreat from the State's initial vision and commitment and frustrated the purpose for which the Federal funding was awarded."

California Republicans who have long called the project a waste of money applauded the Trump administration's move to take back the money.

"It is time to move on from the broken high-speed rail project and redirect our efforts to infrastructure projects that work for Californians," said U.S. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, a city on the train's route.

But Newsom said the state intends to keep the money. Losing it would be a major blow to the chronically underfunded project.

"This is California's money, and we are going to fight for it," he said.

The agreement with the federal government allows the administration to withhold or take back the money if the state fails to make "adequate progress" or "complete the project or one of its tasks."

If the federal government decides to take the money back, it doesn't have to wait for California to write a check. Instead it could withhold money from other transportation projects.

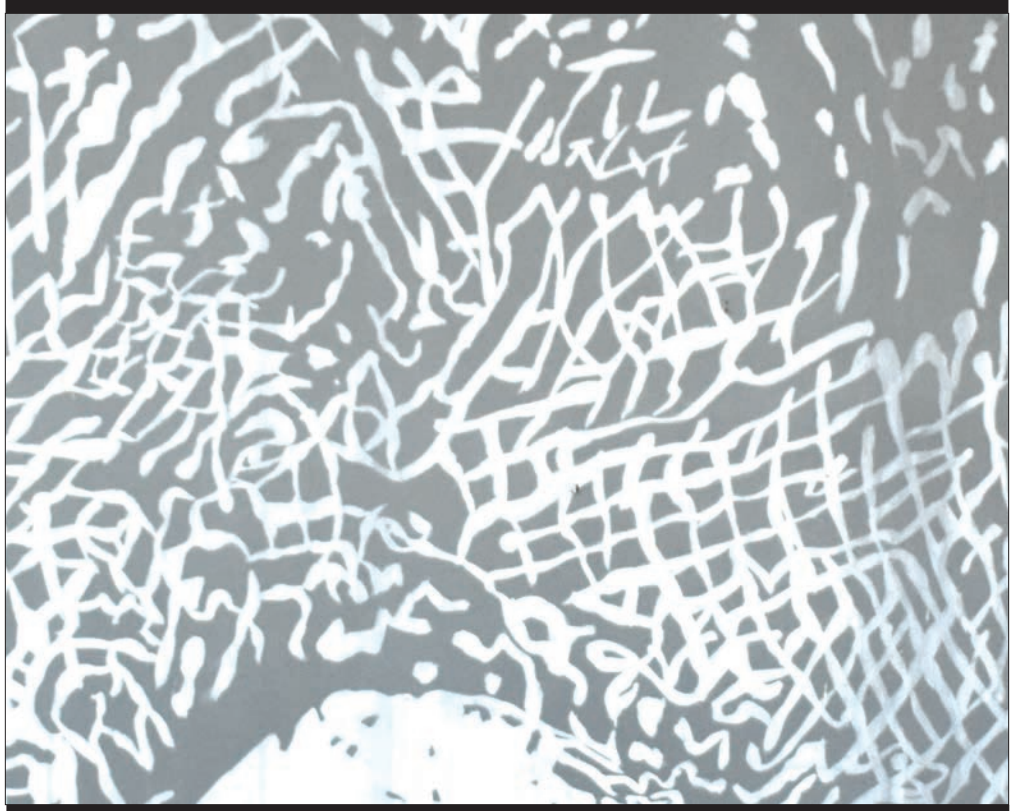
Tuesday's comments won't be the last; the administration has given California until March 5 to respond formally.

Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize.



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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To Calls For Service.
THE FOLLOWING CALLS WERE SELECTED FROM 304 ON FEB. 19 BY SMDP STAFF

Auto burglary 1100blk 6th St 5:15 a.m.
Auto burglary 1000blk 5th St 5:25 a.m.
Auto burglary 1000blk 5th St 7:19 a.m.
Assault Cloverfield Blvd / Broadway 7:33 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 800blk 19th St 7:44 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 1300blk 4th St 8:02 a.m.
Out of order traffic signals Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 8:08 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 8:20 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 5th St 9:21 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 9th St 10:06 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100blk 5th St 10:12 a.m.
Bike theft 1400blk 2nd St 10:16 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 5th St 10:17 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 10:59 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 11:09 a.m.
Fight 1700blk Main St 11:15 a.m.
Petty theft 300blk Colorado Ave 11:39 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 2200blk Virginia Ave 11:41 a.m.
Fraud 2000blk Montana Ave 11:51 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 300blk Olympic Dr 11:56 a.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 12:11 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 12:27 p.m.
Auto burglary Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 6th St 12:57 p.m.
Burglary 2200blk Colorado Ave 1:26 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 6th St 2:37 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 2600blk 14th St 2:47 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 2:51 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 600blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:52 p.m.
Grand theft 2200blk Main St 2:52 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:02 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400blk 4th St 3:05 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 3:23 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 900blk 26th St 3:55 p.m.
Person with a gun 500blk Olympic Blvd W 3:55 p.m.
Battery 600blk Grant St 4:14 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:37 p.m.
Battery 100blk Fraser Ave 4:54 p.m.
Burglary 900blk 15th St 5:01 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 2600blk 31st St 5:22 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To Calls For Service.
THE FOLLOWING CALLS WERE SELECTED FROM 23 ON FEB. 19 BY SMDP STAFF

Emergency Medical Service 400blk Expo Line 1:10 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 1:12 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 2:50 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 23rd St 7:10 a.m.
Wires down 700blk 15th St 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1000blk Centinela Ave 10:43 a.m.
Odor investigation 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:58 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 11:00 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 11:02 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Broadway 11:53 a.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 11:58 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 12:00 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 19th St 12:38 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 23rd St 12:42 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 1:54 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 2:51 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 3:04 p.m.
EMS 200blk Colorado Ave 3:09 p.m.
EMS Stewart St / Olympic Blvd 3:40 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Ocean Way 4:07 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:59 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 6:58 p.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:24 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 2/16
29 30 41 48 64
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 282M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/19
17 24 34 56 65
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 224M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/16
5 14 15 35 45
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 20M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/19
1 3 9 14 15

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/20
Midday: 3 0 3
Draw Date: 2/19
Evening: 3 3 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/19
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:47.11

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



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.0°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Watching for new dose of NW swell-mix to top out. Minimal SSW swell.
Post-frontal, breezy WNW wind. Lingering showers.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach
Primary/fading NW swell-mix. Secondary SSW swell fills in. Conditions improve for the AM.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

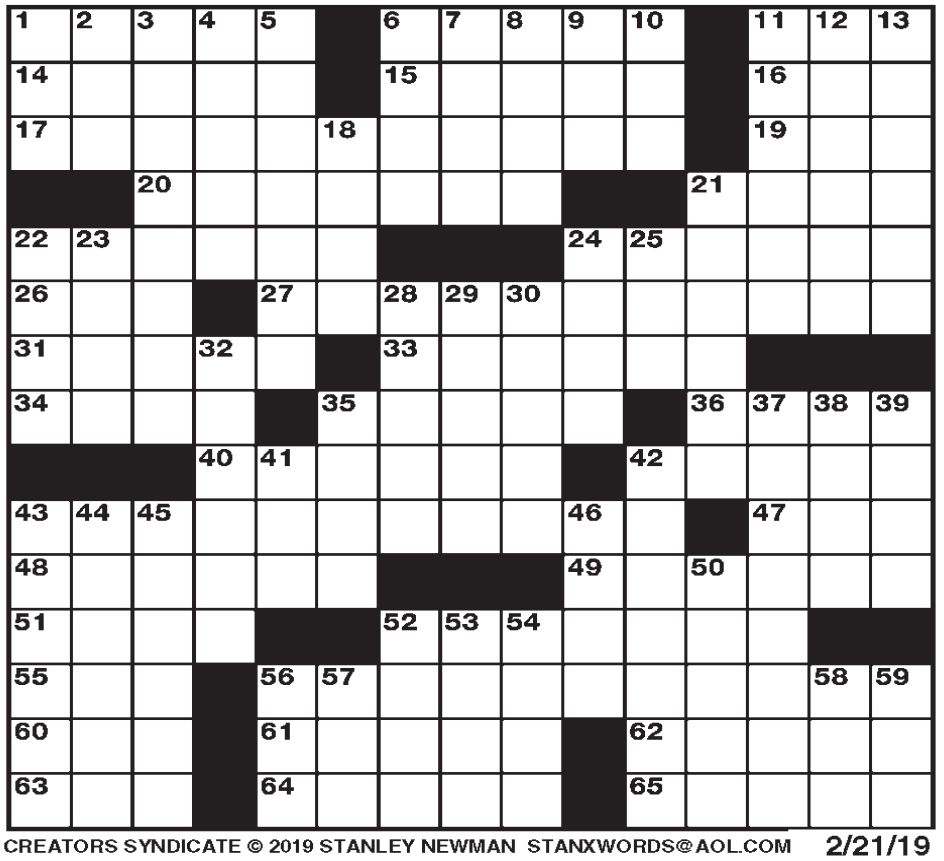
5	8			9		4		
	7		3		4		2	
2		4		7				3
		1			7	5		2
	6			1			3	
4		2	9			7		
3				6		2		8
	4		8		1		9	
		5		3			6	7

Newsday Crossword

A MATTER OF DEGREE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Rain clouds
6 C-E-G, e.g.
11 Pen name
14 Bling out
15 Unruly bunch
16 Healthcare.gov law: Abbr.
17 Just in time
19 Goal-scoring grp.
20 Went past
21 Leave suddenly, slangily
22) and (
24 Mozart hangout
26 Momentous period
27 A while back
31 Biscotti flavoring
33 Israeli novelist
34 Name derived from Dolores
35 Former Maine senator
36 Shade close to beige
40 American elk
42 ___ *With a View* (Forster novel)
43 Having numerous aspects
47 Drop off briefly
48 Pieces for eight
49 Modifies
51 Change direction
52 Label on some robes
55 Aurora counterpart
56 Top college athlete
60 Egyptian "boy king"
61 Southeastern cruise port
62 Line in a ledger
63 NBA extra periods
64 So far
65 Concludes a case

DOWN
1 Flatbread of India
2 Oath affirmation
3 Seattle transportation
4 Short-vowel mark
5 Highly focused
6 Son of Odin
7 Sub ___ (hidden)
8 Reconcile, with "out"
9 Hubbub
10 Home for cubs
11 Yogurt flavor
12 Chinese divination book
13 Port of Peru
18 Estimator's phrase
21 Brit's schnoz
22 Sound from a steeple
23 Water near the Leaning Tower
24 Workbench attachment
25 Texter's "I think"
28 Overwrought
29 Feign feelings
30 Namely
32 Finn's friend
35 Places for buy peels
37 Hits the target
38 Concrete construction
39 Officiates at T-ball
41 Toward the rudder
42 Fan club member
43 Relocate in
44 Defraud, so to speak
45 Late-'40s events
46 Maneuver carefully
50 Tablet reading
52 Jergens rival
53 What you go by
54 Let off
56 Physicians' org.
57 Grafton's ___ *for Lawless*
58 Marbles in museums
59 Gov. Cuomo's domain



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 21)

You go merrily into this solar transit and with plenty of company in the first 10 weeks. Then comes an incubation period in which rapid connections happen, the likes of which will spring your vision to life in June and July. Being financial shrewd now sets you up to invest in a lucky August opportunity. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 12, 37 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Assess key players in your scene. Where do they lie between the two poles of character and intellect? Character without intellect is lovable, agreeable and boring. Intellect without character is exciting and dangerous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
There are smiles that make the day brighter, people who lift and move you along a happier path. When you can't be in their presence, it really helps to be under a beautiful sky. If not, a big gesture in the name of cheer is priority one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Don't talk about what everyone knows, and don't show all your cards. What about holding things in suspense for a while? The tension will make life interesting. It's a champion move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
"Location, location, location," was once the clarion call of those seeking business success, opportunity and glamour. These days, it's not about where you are so much as who you're connected to. Good luck in that area today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your feelings are strengths, not weaknesses. Keep learning how to use them to your best advantage and know that whatever you feel, it's right for you and for the moment. Also, know that you're not the only one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
As you broaden your horizons and become an even more well-rounded person, it gets easier to create rapport with many different types. But it gets harder to find people who can keep up with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The popular people aren't always that likable, and the likable people aren't always that popular. The one to go for is likability because you'll be happier and more respected when you value the group above your own glory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Though it's very important to you to do certain actions in a particular order, what others see is the result, not the process. Use your best judgment to assess how much behind-the-scenes information you should share.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Focus on what you need, not what you want. Wants are more fun, but that's beside the point. Look thoughtfully into the status quo. What are you taking for granted? Check supply levels. Your future self will thank you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Compatibility within a group of very similar members may be more easily achieved, though it's the more diverse groups with less internal compatibility that often come up with a better product.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
If you declare your goals and resolutions, you leave yourself open for criticism, competition and worse. But if you don't, you miss out on the opportunity for possible encouragement and support. So declare, but only to a select few.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
In this age of oversharing, cautious silence is a power move. It's easy enough; all you have to do is seal the lips. And yet hardly anyone will think of it. Use discretion and, paradoxically, you'll stand out by not standing out.

How to Prepare for a Square

If opportunity arrives well-dressed, making formal announcements and invitations, it's an anomaly and something to celebrate. In the spirit of readying yourself for tomorrow's Mercury and Jupiter square, remind yourself that usually opportunity doesn't arrive at all because it is, in fact, already there, hiding in shadows, waiting to be noticed.

WORD UP!

behemoth
noun [bih-hee-muhth, bee-uh-]
1. any creature or thing of monstrous size or power: The army's new tank is a behemoth. The cartel is a behemoth that small business owners fear.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Medicine Goes to the Dogs, Precisely

■ Precision or personalized medicine is the mantra these days. It's the idea that medical science can use tools like genetic sequencing to better understand your specific ailment and how best to treat it.

■ What's good for man is apparently good for his best friend, too. A new company in California's Silicon Valley is touting targeted therapies for our canine buddies. For a price tag in the low four figures, it will sequence a dog's tumor and generate a list of recommended treatments for owners' veterinarians.

■ Cancer is a major health issue in dogs. Roughly half of all dogs over the age of 10 develop cancer at some point in their lives, often skin, lymph node or breast malignancies. Traditional cancer care for dogs is not inexpensive, ranging from $150 to $600 per dose of chemotherapy and $1,000 to $6,000 per radiation treatment, according to the Veterinary Cancer Society.

■ Precision medicine is still relatively rare among human patients, with roughly 12 percent of persons with advanced cancer receiving next-generation sequencing. More than 60 percent of advanced cancer patients receive no genomic testing at all, reports STAT.

Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

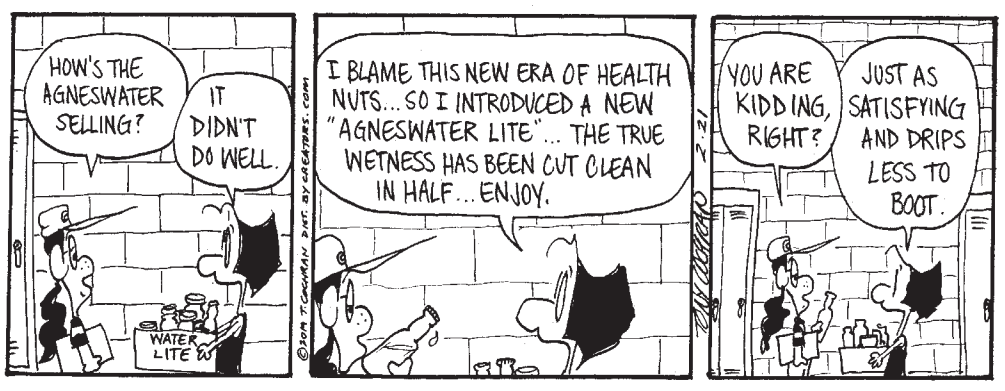


"IT'S A BASSOON ONLY DOGS CAN HEAR."

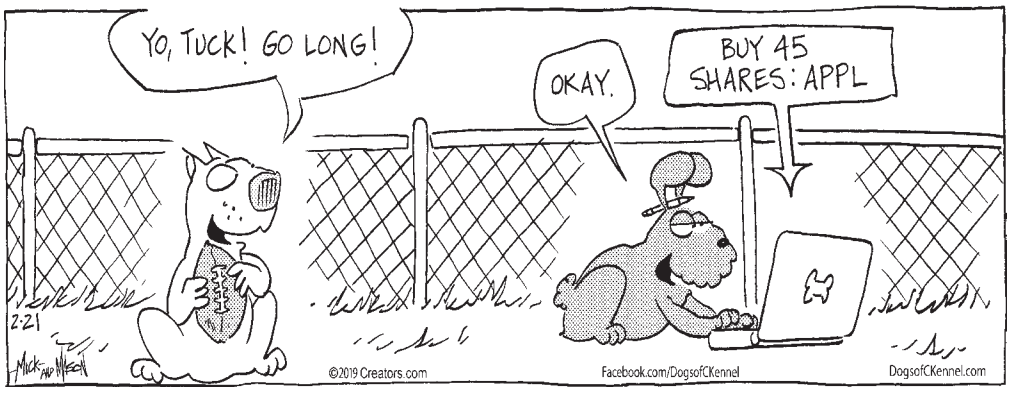
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



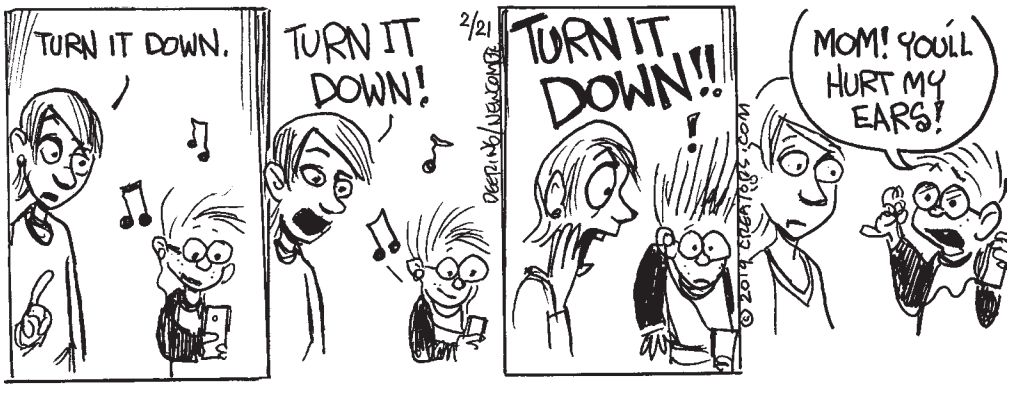
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



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



Zack Hill
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Lions Roar

Susan Lee DeRemer — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What is a Lion?

When I tell people that I belong to the Santa Monica Lions Club I am often met with a simple question – What's the Lions Club? Upon replying it is a service club, the next question is – What's a service club?

Ninety-five years ago, the Santa Monica Lions Club was formed by business leaders that worked and lived in Santa Monica. They wanted a chance to network and give back to the community. They met weekly for lunch, found projects that helped others and had fundraising events to cover the costs. Membership grew and the Lions, along with other service clubs, such as Rotary and Kiwanis, became the cornerstones of the community.

As time progressed, our lifestyles changed, our community grew and evolved, and the SM Lions transitioned to reflect these changes. In 1987 when women could join Lions Clubs, Carol Ann Emmitt, along with Dot Gelvin, became the first women in the Santa Monica Club that same year. With the advent of technology work schedules altered, traffic increased and communications changed. Lions meetings shifted to two lunch meetings a month with monthly board meetings in the evening. But through it all, the concept of community service remained a constant.

This year members from our SM Lions Club have participated in a diabetes screening and education program, prepared dinner for families at the Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House, provided an opportunity for high school student to develop their speaking skills while earning up to $21,000 in scholarship support, and received grant applications from local nonprofits requesting funding.

On March 16 we will present our 5th Annual Lions Eyes Across California event at Virginia Avenue Park from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. We will be offering our first children's eye screening, as well as our first diabetes screening. We will continue collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids, checking adult eyes and offering free reading glasses.

The tradition of service continues to be a priority for Lions. As our motto states, we serve. Would you like to be part of building a better community? Please consider joining us for any of the projects we have each month that include, helping the environment, serving our veterans, promoting healthy lifestyles, etc. If you are interested, please contact Susan at 310-442-9513.

To learn more about the Santa Monica Lions, you are welcome to attend a lunch meeting on the 1st or 3rd Thursday of each month. Please contact to Marilyn at santamonicalion@gmail.com to RSVP for lunch. Our meetings are held at the Elks Lodge at 1040 Pico, Santa Monica from 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Tourism Talks

By Misti Kerns — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Honored With Economic Excellence Award

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce recognized the local tourism industry for its key contributions to the economy with the 2019 Economic Excellence Award during its State of the City on February 6, 2019.

"On behalf of the entire tourism community in Santa Monica, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) is honored to be recognized for our industry's contributions to our local economy," said Misti Kerns, President/CEO of SMTT.

"Take a walk along the pier or on our beaches and you are bound to be greeted by a myriad of languages and just as many smiles. Santa Monica is known worldwide as a destination for dreamers, a city that welcomes all and a place to come as you are. The tourism industry welcomes visitors from across the globe to soak up the essence of the California lifestyle. And what do visitors do in exchange for this experience? They not only make our city more diverse and interesting, but also contribute tenfold with the economic and employment impact they provide our community."

Tourism is an industry that employees 13,345 individuals in Santa Monica doing jobs that cannot be exported. Through hotel transient occupancy tax over the last decade hotels have delivered nearly $440 million to the city's general fund with a record breaking $66 million in 2018 alone. Sales tax generated by visitors has been estimated at nearly $90 million over the last ten years.

Santa Monica's local businesses thrive thanks to the careful balance of both residents and tourists. Visitors contribute to many facets of our community spending annually $346 million dining in our restaurants and $790 million supporting brick and mortar retailers, directly benefiting small business owners to make Santa Monica a place that is truly powered by the people.

Each year State of the City brings together businesses and resident communities to hear from the City Manager and Mayor about Santa Monica's newest initiatives and features entrepreneurs who speak to the latest trends and innovations regionally and globally. This year's event featured a panel with City Manager Rick Cole, Deputy City Manager Anuj Gupta, President of Halogen Ventures Jesse Draper, and Longview Global Advisors consultant DJ Peterson.

GUILD

FROM PAGE 1

become the first African-American on Sunday to win an Oscar for best costume design.

"I am constantly inspired and carrying a message of perseverance and hope that each character shares from film-to-film," she added. "There are pieces of me from my heart in each costume."

The 18th century ensembles in "The Favourite" and the glitzy costumes in "Crazy Rich Asians" were also selected as the best costumes of the year Tuesday.

Carter and fellow Oscar nominee Glenn Close received special honors at the ceremony.

Halle Berry and Danai Gurira presented Carter with the career achievement award. The costume designer thanked "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler, longtime friend and director Spike Lee and those who worked with her to create the costumes for the Marvel superhero film.

Gurira, who starred in "Black Panther" as one of Wakanda's elite warriors, yelled out "This is the year of Ruth Carter" as Coogler looked on and smiled from his seat. Berry made a Wakanda Forever crossed-arm gesture before she called Carter "strong, respectful, opinionated and well-respected."

"Ruth taught me the importance of a costume and how it was a portal into bringing my character to life," said Berry, who was dressed by Carter in the 1991 film "Jungle Fever."

Close was honored with the spotlight award as actor Michael Chiklis praised the actress for her ability to captivate audiences through her roles. He said "You sit up a little straighter. Your senses sharpen, because you know she's about to make everything happen."

Chiklis also said Close saved nearly 800 costume pieces she has worn in films, so they won't get destroyed or sold to rental companies. The actress donated some of her costume collection to the Indiana University, where it will be preserved in an archival facility.

"My costumes have always been much more to me than whatever character they are designed for," said Close, who is nominated for an Academy Award for best actress for her role in "The Wife." ''They are all beautiful masterpieces created by a team who takes as greater pride in their craft as I do in mine. You make what I do possible."

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