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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Ethics report identifies shortfalls in City procedures

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

An independent investigation into the City of Santa Monica's ethical procedures has determined Santa Monica officials experienced "lapses in judgment" in relation to the Elizabeth Riel case and that the City can enforce its anti-corruption laws.

City Hall hired John Hueston last year to address concerns about

the way the city has handled ethics complaints related to the Oaks Initiative and the hiring/firing of Elizabeth Riel. In both cases, local advocates have argued the City's actions have eroded public trust and potentially violated standards of behavior.

Hueston returned his report this week with recommendations

SEE ETHICS PAGE 10

Joint downtown developments at Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Planning Commission will hopefully finish their multi-month discussion of the old Post Office site and hear preliminary proposals for a pair of downtown developments

at a special meeting this Wednesday.

The new owners of the former Post Office building at 1248 5th St. want to reuse and expand the building to create a 14,490 square foot office space project within a

SEE PLANNING PAGE 6

BASEBALL:
Alcala returns to St. Monica as coach
Former student working to improve Mariners program

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Walking onto the St. Monica Catholic High School campus brought back a flood of memories for Michael Alcala.

A former student at the Santa Monica private school with numerous connections in the local community, Alcala is now the head

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 7

Coast to coast on Camelina plants

Certified light aircraft set to make flight from Rhode Island to Santa Monica with biofuel

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

High school science teacher Ross McCurdy and his crew took off from North Central State Airport in Lincoln, Rhode Island at 10:20 a.m. on Saturday, April 16 in a small engine airplane filled with renewable Camelina plant seed oil,

SEE PLANE PAGE 9



CLOSE LOSS

Santa Monica High School hosted Culver in an Ocean League lacrosse match and lost 9-8. With the loss SAMO's record falls to 1-1 in league play and 5-5 overall. Pictured are James Griffin cradling the ball, Connor Bass escaping from a Culver player, Brady Hall chasing down an opponent and Sandoval Elias saving a shot on goal.

Morgan Genser editor@smdp.com

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, April 19

Find Free & Open Source Software

Discover free and open source alternatives to popular software programs. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Teen Time @ Pico

A space just for Teens. Stop by and play board games, make some crafts, play music, do homework or just talk to your friends. Refreshments will be provided. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Movie Screening: The Martian (2015)

Matt Damon stars in this adaptation of Andy Weir's novel, in which an astronaut winds up stranded alone on Mars, struggling to survive and get back to Earth. (144 min.) Seating first come, first served. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Squirmy-Wormy Vermicomposting

Help start a worm composting bin and examine semi-finished worm compost. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before program. Ages 4 & up. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Career Prep Series: Scholarship Workshop

Learn how to access scholarship resources. This 5-week workshop is provided in collaboration with the Virginia Avenue Park. Call the branch for more information. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 - 7 p.m.

Twitter: Tweet Like a Pro

Learn about Twitter and how to use it to discover the latest news that matters to you. Advanced level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20

Preschool Story Time at Main

Story series for 3 to 5 year olds. A ticket is required to attend each session. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, the morning of the program, at the Youth Reference Desk. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Commission for the Senior Community Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Commission for the Senior Community. Ken Edwards Center, 1:30 p.m.

Crafternoon: T-shirt Tote

Bring in an old T-shirt to recycle into a reusable tote bag. Grades 6 & up.

Thursday, April 21

Sustainable Quality Awards

The Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) inspire local businesses to adopt sustainable practices and support Santa Monica as a sustainable community. Awards are given for excellence in Sustainable Economic Development, Social Responsibility, and Stewardship of the Natural Environment. Businesses demonstrating excellence in all three categories are awarded the Grand Prize. Visit www.smsqa.com for more information. Le Meridien Delfina Hotel, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SEE LISTINGS PAGE 3

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Avenue Park
Community Corp.
to host employment
resource fair

On April 22, Community Corporation of Santa Monica - a local non-profit organization that builds and manages affordable housing and associated resident service programs - will host an Employment Resource Fair open to the public, in partnership with the City of Santa Monica, service providers, educators and non-profits, including Chrysalis, the Hospitality Training Academy, JVS, Santa Monica College's Sustainable Technologies certificate programs and Cosmetology Department, WISE & Healthy Aging, IDEP-SCA, Youth Build, SABIO LA, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica and Antioch University.

The evening will feature resource tables and informational exhibits from local employment search organizations, web development boot camps, vocational and educational programs, and certificate programs. During the event, participants can sharpen their interview skills with speed mock interviews, learn about where to go for employment resources, and get resume feedback.

"According to the City's 2015 Wellbeing Project, unemployment levels in 90404, 90401 and 90405 are higher than the US average. Unemployment is a community issue and as members of this community

we want bring awareness to the amazing organizations working here in Santa Monica and in the surrounding area that are experts in employment searches, career guidance, skill development and vocational training," said Ayde Gonzalez, Director of Residents Services for Community Corp.

Community Corp. will host the Fair on Friday, April 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Thelma Terry Building at Virginia Avenue Park located at 2200 Virginia Ave. No RSVP is required, and the event is free for the entire community. For more information, those interested can contact Sabrina Fields, Community Corp.'s Senior Resident Services Coordinator, at (310) 394-8487 extension 211.

For more information, visit www.communitycorp.org.

- SUBMITTED BY AYDE GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTS SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY CORP.

Citywide

Maker of "Neuro" drinks
agrees to pay \$500,000
in fines and restitution

Neurobrands LLC, the Santa Monica-based maker of the "Neuro" line of drinks, has agreed to a permanent court injunction that requires it to change its marketing practices. The company will also pay \$500,000 in penalties and restitution as part of a settlement with local prosecu-

tors.

The final court judgment was approved and signed by Judge Lisa Hart Cole in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Santa Monica courthouse.

An investigation by the Santa Monica City Attorney and Los Angeles County District Attorney Offices led to a civil complaint alleging that the Neuro drinks in question lacked the necessary scientific evidence to back up many of the health-related claims advertised.

Neuro drinks currently come in four varieties: Neuro Sonic, Neuro Daily, Neuro Bliss and Neuro Sleep.

Neurobrands' claims prohibited under the permanent injunction are: supports memory, provides fuel for the brain, promotes healthy aging, provides mental energy, delivers sustained focus, strengthen your focus and creativity, daily dose of immunity, enhances mood, relieves muscle cramps, helps normalize sleep patterns.

Under the terms of the judgment, Neurobrands will pay \$500,000 in penalties and restitution. It also will be bound by a permanent court injunction that requires it to:

"Stop using the ad claims listed above, unless supported by new scientific evidence; Maintain 'competent and reliable scientific evidence' to support all future health-related claims; Conduct additional scientific studies of its drinks to support future claims; Change the marketing and

branding of Neuro Bliss, Neuro Daily, and Neuro Sonic to clarify that they are conventional beverages, not 'dietary supplements'; Change the marketing and branding of Neuro Sleep to treat it as a true dietary supplement, not a beverage; and Assure that the caffeine level in Neuro Sonic conforms with FDA food safety requirements."

Neurobrands did not admit to any liability as part of the settlement.

"Words matter," said Adam Radinsky, Santa Monica's Chief Deputy City Attorney for Consumer Protection. "Especially as more and more people become concerned about what they eat and drink, a product's health claims need to be fair and accurate," said Radinsky. "If something is claimed to have health benefits, the manufacturer needs to back that up with reliable scientific evidence."

"Consumers are not expected to be research scientists," said Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh. "They're entitled to rely on what they read and hear."

Neurobrands was launched in 2007. The company has nationwide marketing and sales, including at many large supermarket and grocery chains. The company has used social media and catchy advertising campaigns to expand its sales.

- SUBMITTED BY THE SANTA MONICA CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

Introduction to Social Media

Overview of social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and how you can get started. Seating is first come, first serve. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Social Security and Retirement Planning

Learn about the new laws affecting

Social Security benefits, and find out how to maximize your income, in this workshop led by Greg Andrews at Searchlight Financial Advisors. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Housing Commission. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4:30 p.m.

Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Eating sustainably

Editor:

With the 47th annual observance of Earth Day just around the corner, this is a great time to explore more effective ways of slowing climate change and conserving Earth's natural resources for future generations.

A 2010 UN report charged animal agriculture with 19 percent of manmade greenhouse gases - more than all transport - and recommended a global shift to a vegan diet. A subsequent World Watch study placed that contribution closer to 50 percent. Meat and dairy production also dumps more water pollutants than all other human activities combined. It is the driving force in global deforestation and wildlife habitat destruction.

Last fall, England's prestigious Chatham House declared that reducing meat consumption is critical to achieving global climate goals. A report from Oxford University found that global adoption of a vegan diet would reduce greenhouse emissions by two thirds. The 2015 U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has recommended reduced meat consumption and an environmentally sustainable diet.

Just as we replace fossil fuels by wind, solar and other sustainable energy sources, we must replace animal foods with the more sustainable vegetables, fruits, and grains. Being mindful of this can help us make better choices at the supermarket.

Shane Undrow
Santa Monica

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PRESIDENT

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Jeffrey I. Goodman
jeff@smdp.com
Jennifer Maas
jennifer@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Genser
editor@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Bill Bauer, David Pisarra,
Charles Andrews, Jack Newirth,
Sarah A. Spitz, Cynthia Citron,
Margarita Roze

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310-458-7737 or email
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SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

Jenny Medina
jenny@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Andrew Oja
andrew@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

ASSISTANT GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Cocoa Dixon

OPERATIONS/CIRCULATION/LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER

Josh Heisler
josh@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt
josh@smdp.com
Aching Holliday
josh@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401

OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Local

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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

Santa Monica Daily Press

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SMC Malibu campus approved

BY EMILY SAWICKI

Special to the Daily Press

Bring on the Coastal Commission.

California Coastal Commission (CCC) approval is the only thing that stands in the way of a proposed 25,310-square-foot brand new Santa Monica College (SMC) satellite campus and Los Angeles County Sheriff substation in the Malibu Civic Center.

That's because Malibu City Council approved a variance in the floor area ratio (FAR) that allows the project to move forward as designed.

Floor area ratio is defined by the city as "the ratio of the building square footage to the square footage of the site." In Malibu, FAR is limited to 0.15, but the college has earned approval for a ratio of .20, despite complaints by some residents and council members that the project is too large.

The final vote was 3-1 in favor of the variance in FAR, and thus moving the project forward, with Council Member Joan House voting against the permit. Council Member Skylar Peak abstained from voting after voicing complaints about how "super frustrating" it was to see projects that do not conform to building standards.

"[The project is] likely to be appealed to the Coastal Commission, whether it's approved or not," Peak lamented at the meeting Monday. "I just think that's lame. It's a bad use of public funds and public money."

Public comment was largely in favor of the project, which needed to provide public benefits in order to be considered for the increased FAR. Those were listed by college representatives as providing classes, including shorter-term "emeritus" classes for seniors; a new 5,640-square-foot sheriff's department substation; a multipurpose room for community use; an improved emergency communication tower; and an "interpretive center to support Malibu's Legacy Park."

Longtime nursery school teacher Kay Gabbard described the college campus, which is designed to hold classes for 210 "full time equivalent" students, as a "stepping stone for many students to a dream," noting that SMC is rated first in the State of California for transfers to University of California and California State Universities.

Malibu resident Lauren Sills agreed that the project provided a public benefit.

"These amenities are quintessential public, civic-minded amenities. This is our civic

center and I can't think of anything that would be more public serving than these amenities," Sills said.

The project was also supported by various members of AMPS, Advocates for Malibu Public Schools.

The complaints of those who came to speak against the project were summed up in a statement in a letter by Malibu Township Council President Richard Lawrence, which was read at the meeting by resident Ann Doneen.

"Why do we set standards when they are so easily put aside?" Lawrence asked in his letter.

During council comment and questions, Peak pressed SMC representatives for an answer to that question.

"At what point in this project do you look at our building codes?" Peak asked. "It seems like it's being shoved down our throat."

SMC government relations director Don Gerard replied that the project developed out of a necessity to include a lot of benefits on a small parcel of land.

He described that the SMC satellite project hit a snag finding property in the Civic Center, that sent it to the county for land.

"The project was in limbo for a bit, and then came the opportunity to work with the county, and the conversation with the county is a more complex conversation, because there's two interests that wanted to be served here," Gerard said. Those two interests were the sheriff substation and the college campus.

"The use of county property becomes the obvious solution," Gerard continued. "But there are restraints as to how much county property is available."

Gerard said that finally, after balancing the needs of the City of Malibu, LA County, the LA County Sheriff's Department and SMC, a number of public hearings were held. Finally, the project design was chosen.

After further discussion, Peak said he was "coming around" to the idea that the project provided public benefits, but he was still concerned about the variances.

In the end, Peak abstained from the vote, with a prediction that it will not be smooth sailing ahead for the SMC team. Peak said an appeal was sure to come from the CCC.

"I hope that when it comes back from the Coastal Commission, you can figure out a way to make it fit," Peak said.

editor@smdp.com

THIS STORY FIRST APPEARED IN THE MALIBU TIMES.



FILM REVIEW
THE DARK HORSE

Not Rated
124 Minutes

Released April 1st / special premiere March 30th hosted by James Cameron

Now playing at the Laemmle Royal West Los Angeles

“The Dark Horse” is a powerful film, a biographical study of an extraordinary and transcendent New Zealand man of Maori descent, Geness Potini. “Gen” was a genius with bipolar disorder. He figured out how to use his own obsession with speed chess (a form of chess with timed plays) as a tool to develop the minds of bright underprivileged kids. Along the way he battled a great deal of prejudice against his race and his mental condition. An earlier documentary of Gen’s life called “Dark Horse” was shot prior to his 2011 death from a heart attack. The filmmakers of “The Dark Horse” decided that a feature film about this inspirational legend was a necessity.

Gen was never a success in an academic environment despite his high intelligence. In fact, he was in and out of mental institutions. However he was self-taught in a wide variety of subjects and was fluent in Maori, English and Chinese. Using chess, Maori mythology and analogies from his own life, Gen was able to communicate with troubled kids who were intellectually superior yet had learning or behavioral problems such as ADHD or dyslexia. He had a remarkable influence on the lives of many.

The filmmakers do a fantastic job bringing the reality of the story front and center. Director James Napier Robertson, a New Zealand actor turned writer/director, has assembled a great crew and cast. U.S. composer Dana Lund, who moved to New Zealand to score the film, adds a superb sound track. Never intrusive, it only adds to your immersion into the environment. Cinematographer Denson Baker has used almost entirely a hand-held style where the camera moved only when the characters moved. This works to draw the audience into the emotion of each chess player.

Cliff Curtis plays Gen. He is an actor of Maori descent, born In New Zealand. However, in past films and television he has played many different ethnicities - another example of how homogenized our various races are becoming. Many of Gen’s friends had similar reactions watching Curtis play him on set. He was able to channel such an uncanny resemblance that the friends felt they were seeing the real Gen arise from the dead. The movement of the camera with the players, combined with great performances by all will make you feel as if you are moving within the story yourself. You will feel like you are playing chess with these resilient and colorful characters.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave. (310) 260-1528	(310) 451-9440 TUES. 4/19/16
WED. 4/20/16 Café Derby 7:30PM	Batman V. Superman: Dawn Of Justice 10:05AM, 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 7:15PM, 10:35PM, 6:15PM, 9:45PM
AMC Loews Broadway 4 1441 Third Street Promenade (310) 458-3924	The Boss 9:45AM, 12:15PM, 2:50PM, 5:20PM, 7:50PM, 10:30PM
TUES. 4/19/16	Criminal 10:50AM, 1:55PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM
Batman V. Superman: Dawn Of Justice 1:20PM, 10:15PM, 3:35PM, 6:55PM	Deadpool 10:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:40PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM
The Boss 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM	Hardcore Henry 11:00AM, 1:25PM, 4:50PM, 7:10PM, 9:35PM
Demolition 10:35AM, 1:05PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, 9:40PM	Zootopia No Green or Red Tickets 10:30AM, 1:15PM, 4:00PM, 6:45PM, 9:25PM
Miracles From Heaven 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM	No Green or Red Tickets, REAL D, 3D 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM
AMC 7 Santa Monica 1310 Third St.	

For more information, e-mail editor@smdp.com

In the first scene of the film, Gen walks in the pouring rain covered by a colorful cloak. He goes into a gift store and discovers a chessboard. This scene sets the tone and mirrors Gen’s mental state. It’s one of the finest film openings I’ve seen. “The Dark Horse” will have you questioning pre-conceived ideas of what sanity is. It will open your eyes to a world you most likely have never set foot in and will reassure you there is hope no matter where you are on Earth.

KATHRYN WHITNEY BOOLE has spent most of her life in the entertainment industry, which is the backdrop for remarkable adventures with extraordinary people. She is a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. kboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews see <https://kwboole.wordpress.com/>

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A BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE



NKLA.ORG

Local

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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

Santa Monica Daily Press

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PLANNING

FROM PAGE 1

32 feet tall, three-story building. The existing building is a recognized landmark built in 1938. Its historic interior has been protected by a preservation covenant that is attached to the land.

The project was before the Commission on March 16, but discussion was continued to allow for Commission input to be incorporated into the proposal. The Commission's initial response was positive.

"Commission generally expressed strong conceptual support for the adaptive reuse project, citing its potential as a representative example of adaptive reuse and its import for maintaining the historic character of Downtown. There seemed to be consensus about the sensitivity of the proposed building addition's scale and massing relative to the existing symmetry and its consistency within the surrounding context," said the staff report.

However, there were questions over the installation of a five-foot high security fence on the site. At the continued meeting, staff will present action on additional historic documentation for the site, specific design changes discussed by the Commission, details on securing enough parking for the project, installation of electric charging stations and an environmental impact report.

New business includes a pair of float-up proposals by NMS Properties Inc.

The first is a proposed development agreement for 1325 Sixth St. NMS wants to build a 46,693 square foot residential mixed-use project between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue replacing a private parking lot. According to the staff report, the proposal consists of a 6-story, 60-foot high, building totaling 65 residential units, 4,987 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, and four levels of subterranean parking with 136 parking spaces.

According to the staff report, the Commission will focus its discussion on the appropriateness of the project as a Development Agreement, compatibility with the neighborhood context, consistency with the 1984 Land Use and Circulation

Element, consistency with the draft Downtown Community Plan, consideration of alternatives, identification of negotiating points and discussion of desirable community benefits.

NMS is proposing 11 units of affordable housing at an offsite location.

The offsite housing is a joint offer covering a second NMS proposal that will also be before the Commission on Wednesday.

NMS is seeking a Development Agreement for a 67,447 square foot mixed-use project at 1430-1444 Lincoln Boulevard. The site is located between Broadway and Santa Monica. The project is a 5-story 50-foot high, building totaling 100 residential units, 5,878 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, and four levels of subterranean parking with 292 parking spaces. The project does not require a Development Agreement but NMS is requesting one to cover a land swap and parking mitigation plan incorporated into this project that will facilitate the City's construction of a new fire station at 1337 7th St.

According to the staff report, the Commission will focus its discussion on the appropriateness of the project as a Development Agreement, compatibility with the neighborhood context, consistency with the Land Use and Circulation Element, consistency with the draft Downtown Community Plan, consideration of alternatives, identification of negotiating points and discussion of desirable community benefits.

The project includes six affordable units at the offsite location. NMS is proposing an additional 11 units, bringing the total for both projects to 28.

Additional business Wednesday night includes a proposal to create three residential condominium air parcels on a single parcel as part of a two-story, multifamily development with a subterranean garage in the OP2 Ocean Park Low Density Residential zoning district. Staff recommends approval of the action for the project at 2102 5th St.

Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 20 at 6 p.m. in City Hall, 1685 Main St.

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BASEBALL
FROM PAGE 1

baseball coach for the Mariners.
“I was really excited to come back,” he said. “Everyone’s been really enthusiastic.”
Alcala is guiding St. Monica Catholic as it enters the bulk of its conference slate, which continues Tuesday afternoon with a game at San Pedro-Mary Star of the Sea. The team’s next home game is scheduled for Friday.
Alcala has replaced longtime coach Jack White, who remains at the school as a health teacher. With Alcala at the helm, the Mariners (8-9, 1-4 in the Camino Real League) have already won more games than they did all of last season (five).
“We’re working towards establishing the program,” he said. “It’s work in progress. We’re trying to build it up and prove that you don’t have to be a big, power school to be successful in baseball.”

It’s the first varsity head coaching gig for Alcala, a Venice native who attended St. Monica in the early 1980s. Alcala later transferred to Venice High School, from which he graduated in 1986, and played baseball at Santa Monica College under then-coach Marty Berson.

Alcala’s area connections, which likely helped him land the coaching position, become immediately apparent.

During Alcala’s time at Venice High, Jeff Shimizu was the baseball coach. Shimizu recently served as SMC’s interim president.

Frank Cruz, meanwhile, was the baseball coach at rival Los Angeles-University. Cruz, who went on to coach at USC, is now St. Monica’s athletic director.

Add in the fact that Alcala already knew current St. Monica principal Michele Rice when the job opened up, and it comes as little surprise that he ended up with the gig.

“I knew the administration was really going to want the athletic program to succeed and still keep the small-school mentality,” Alcala said.

Alcala arrives at St. Monica with ample



ALCALA

coaching experience, including in the youth and club travel ranks as well as at camps and clinics in the region. He was an assistant at Venice High in the early 1990s and has been involved in a variety of baseball organizations over the last three decades.

Now an insurance agent, Alcala said his East Coast work schedule allows him to run practices and coach games in the afternoons.

Alcala acknowledged that coaching at a relatively small high school comes with a share of challenges, but he said his familiarity with the campus and its culture has made the transition easier. He also said he sympathizes with the struggle of not having a baseball diamond on campus. The Mariners play home games at Marine Park near Penmar Golf Course, the same site of his SMC baseball games in the late ‘80s.

“It all came together,” he said. “I’m lucky.”

jeff@smdp.com

Courtesy
photo

CUTS AND
SLICES

John Adams Middle School student Ben Lee won the inaugural Santa Monica Pony Baseball home run derby Sunday at Los Amigos Park in Santa Monica. The 12-year-old won a year’s worth of free pizza from Rosti Tuscan Kitchen. Fellow finalist Jaden Labrie, also a JAMS student, won Dodgers tickets.



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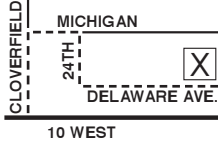


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PLANE

FROM PAGE 1

headed for Santa Monica Airport.

Providing they make good time, “Bioplane” should be landing at SMO on Tuesday, April 19.

But that won’t be the end of the trip for the crew, who plans to make the flight back to Rhode Island the same way, completing a 5,000 nautical mile coast to coast trek and the first transcontinental flight using aviation biofuel in a certified light aircraft.

McCurdy stated the goals of the project are threefold: 1) to demonstrate the potential of aviation biofuels and all renewable energy 2) to demonstrate high efficiency aviation diesel engine technology and 3) to promote aviation and real-world science education.

And McCurdy is all about real-world science education, as the chemistry and alternative energy teacher can list “hydrogen-fueled rock band” and “coast to coast biodiesel pickup” under projects he’s attempted with students prior to Bioplane.

“Our goal [with the pickup] was to make it with just the fuel we had in the pick up truck,” McCurdy said. “We made the trip to California with 40 gallons to spare. The kids all helped to get that project ready, just like they all helped to get this ready.”

McCurdy has his private pilot’s license and in 2013 he and his students worked on a project where they flew from Rhode Island to Kittyhawk, N.C. with fuel made from used cooking oil.

Bioplane’s fuel is made from Camelina plant seed oil and blended 50-50 with petroleum Jet A. The aviation biofuel blend was

provided to the team by the US Air Force and the team will provide performance information on the use of biofuel in an aviation diesel engine over the 5,000 nautical mile flight.

“Diesel engines are very rare for planes,” McCurdy said. “And they are so efficient and so reliable.”

McCurdy, whose rock band and pickup truck projects both involved stops in California, said he picked SMO as Bioplane’s landing location, as it was the closest they could get to Santa Monica Beach as one thing he always makes sure to do in California is reach the beach.

McCurdy will be accompanied by four team members throughout different legs of the flight: Tomoharu Nishino, Thierry Saint Loup, Alex Schenck and McCurdy’s son Aedan.

Nishino will fly from KSFZ in Rhode Island to KUNV in Pennsylvania. Saint Loup, vice president for SMA aviation diesel engines, “the most advanced and most fuel efficient aviation engine available,” will be flying from Dallas area KGPM to KSMO and back to Dallas. And Schenck, McCurdy’s former student, will be flying with him and 12 year old Aedan on the home stretch back to Rhode Island.

McCurdy set Tuesday as the tentative arrival date in Santa Monica, and April 22, Earth Day, as the set departure back to Rhode Island.

“I want to extend my thanks to all the people who supported this and made this possible,” McCurdy said April 15. “Just as far as we’ve gotten now, I’m so grateful.”

For more information on the project visit, www.bioplane.us.

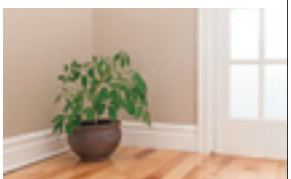
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LOS ANGELES

22 charged with illegally collecting Social Security

Federal grand juries in Los Angeles have indicted 22 people, including a sheriff's deputy, on charges of illegally obtaining Social Security cash benefits, the U.S. attorney's office announced Monday.

The indictments were returned last week and announced after the arrest of a defendant who is an employee of the Social Security Administration.

The defendants caused a cumulative loss of \$2.6 million, the U.S. attorney's office said, with most of the schemes involving taking Social Security benefits intended for a family member who had died.

"This series of cases illustrates our commitment to ... protect the integrity of an important program aimed at helping

senior citizens and the most vulnerable in our society," U.S. Attorney Eileen M. Decker said in a statement.

The defendants include a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy and a person accused of illegally receiving more than \$400,000.

Each defendant is charged with theft of government property, which is punishable by up to five years in federal prison. Some defendants face additional charges such as aggravated identity theft.

One scheme involved diverting benefits while making it appear funds were going to actual beneficiaries. One of those beneficiaries was deceased.

Another case alleges theft of retirement insurance benefits from a deceased father, theft of spousal benefits intended for a former stepmother, use of the late father's debit card and the signature of the ex-stepmother.

Most of the defendants are from

Southern California. One is a Utah resident and another currently lives in Mexico, the U.S. attorney's office said. Most will be sent a summons to appear for arraignments in May.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Southern California's spring heat wave continues

Southern California simmered in a spring heat wave again Monday.

Temperatures across the region rose into the 80s and even reached the 90s at some locations due to continuing high pressure over the West Coast and weak offshore winds.

The same conditions set heat records on Sunday.

"Another warm day for pretty much anywhere more than a mile or so inland

from the coast," the National Weather Service said.

Temperatures are expected to gradually cool down Tuesday through Thursday before increasing clouds bring a chance of showers Friday and Saturday. Each day will see more onshore push and cooler marine air extending farther inland, the weather service said.

Southern California can use all the rain it can get. The downtown Los Angeles rain gauge has recorded only 6.83 inches since Oct. 1, less than half the normal 13.98 inches.

The best chance for rain, however, would be north of Point Conception, forecasters said.

Sunday's records included 92 degrees at the Camarillo airport, 90 degrees at Long Beach airport and Oxnard, and 86 at the Santa Barbara airport. Downtown Los Angeles hit 89, one degree shy of tying the date's record but 16 degrees above normal.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

ETHICS

FROM PAGE 1

on both topics.

The report rehashes the facts behind the Riel case. Riel was offered a position with the city and that offer was rescinded under pressure from Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. Riel sued the city resulting in a \$710,000 settlement.

"In our opinion, there were several lapses in judgment in connection with the events described above, and those lapses had cascading consequences," said Hueston's report.

The report does not accuse O'Connor of making overt efforts to violate city law, but it does state that her actions had an inappropriate influence over the situation.

In the report, Hueston said councilmembers should be mindful of restrictions in the City Charter that limit their ability to influence staffing decisions. The report said O'Connor was not mindful of those restrictions in her conversations with then City Manager Rod Gould, and that her actions moved beyond an ethical expression of concern into clearly threatening behavior.

"At best, Ms. O'Connor showed bad judgment in wording her e-mails in a way that had the foreseeable potential of influencing the City Manager's hiring decision. At worst, Ms. O'Connor consciously and intentionally

attempted to influence the City Manager's hiring decision. In either case, Ms. O'Connor showed a failure to understand the limitations of her role as a councilmember in Santa Monica city government," said the report.

During the discussion of Riel's termination, staff utilized private email accounts and Hueston's second recommendation was to instruct all city officials and employees to keep communications on city systems.

"Almost all employees we interviewed had no understanding of the existing city e-mail policy. We specifically recommend that the city manager instruct and train city employees to use the city e-mail system for all city business," said the report.

The report said the potential for wrongdoing is high when communications are taken to private systems but in this case, staff was willing to provide copies of all communications to investigators. The disclosure, combined with the tone of the conversation, suggest the behavior is a symptom of poor training/enforcement and not a deliberate attempt at concealing wrongdoing.

Hueston also recommends adopting a standard hiring practice for open at-will positions, such as department heads, that utilizes an interview process for determining successful candidates. Civil service positions already utilize an interview system but department head positions are exempt from

the Civil Service standards.

Debbie Lee was first offered the position without a panel interview, but declined. It was subsequently offered to Riel after a panel interview. Following Riel's termination, Lee was again offered the position without an interview and she accepted the second offer.

"This recommendation is based on the finding during our review that failure to solicit applications from the public for open positions or failure to use an interview panel to select the best candidate has created doubt in Santa Monica about the merits and qualifications of city employees and about the fairness of the process used to recruit them," said the report.

In the report, Hueston said Gould provided differing levels of information to councilmembers and Hueston said best practices requires equal communication between the manager and the councilmembers.

Hueston said political neutrality could be considered a desirable characteristic for some at will positions. He said the City's Human Resources Department should proactively determine which positions require neutrality and that requirement should be written into the job descriptions.

"Unfortunately, that prerequisite was not communicated to applicants who wished to be considered for the Communications Position in 2014," the report said.

Santa Monica has chosen not to pursue complaints filed against former and current city officials via the Oaks Initiative. Private citizens have pursued civil action under the law resulting in a settlement Gould.

Hueston's team concluded the law is enforceable at the local level. The report states Council should take action to revise, refine and update the law to improve clarity but based on other cases nationwide, the rule is viable. The report said the Criminal Division of the City Attorney's office is insulated from potential conflict of interest and can therefore prosecute Oaks complaints. Or, the city could hire a special prosecutor.

"The Hueston Report validates Santa Monica's commitment to open government and transparency," City Manager Rick Cole said in a statement. "In addition to constructive recommendations for enforcing the Oaks Initiative, it exhaustively documents the facts of Elizabeth Riel's dismissal, identifying unfortunate lapses in judgment and pointing the way to improve our processes going forward. It demonstrates yet again that we accept responsibility for holding ourselves to the highest standards of public service."

The full report is available online at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/CMO/IndependentReview.aspx>.

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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 APRIL 6, 2016 AT APPROXIMATELY 4:20 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to the front lobby of the Public Safety Facility on the 300 block of Olympic Drive in regards to a disturbance. Upon arriving, officers confronted a male, later identified as Nyquon Green, 30-year-old transient, as the subject was making statements about guns and attempting to enter the traffic services department. Green was becoming very confrontational and would place his hands towards his waist as he was speaking to officers. Green was handcuffed and searched. A records check revealed Green was a prior convicted felon. A search of Green produced a pocketknife and pepper spray. Green was arrested for felon in possession of pepper spray. Bail was set at \$500.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 316 calls for service on April 17.

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

Disturbance of the peace, 800 block of Montana, 12:13 a.m.
Party complaint, 400 block of 21st, 12:15 a.m.
Party complaint, 2000 block of 20th, 12:24 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 6th/Colorado, 12:48 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 900 block of Franklin, 12:53 a.m.
Traffic collision, 1500 block of PCH, 1:10 a.m.
DUI, 21st/Wilshire, 1:20 a.m.
Fight, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 1:37 a.m.
Fight, Main/Ashland, 1:48 a.m.
Hit and run, 14th/Santa Monica, 2:20 a.m.
Traffic collision, Euclid/Arizona, 2:35 a.m.
Domestic violence, 1500 block of Harvard, 3:34 a.m.
Family disturbance, 2800 block of Broadway, 3:36 a.m.
Report of shots fired, 15th/Michigan, 6:44 a.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of 16th, 8:34 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 7th/Wilshire, 9:41 a.m.
Overdose, 100 block of Bay, 10:28 a.m.
Suspicious person, 600 block of Wilshire, 11:04 a.m.
Battery, 1400 block of Wilshire, 11:13 a.m.
Hit and run, 500 block of 23rd, 11:53 a.m.
Traffic collision, 22nd/Pico, 12:01 p.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of 17th, 12:08 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold, 3rd Street Prom/Broadway, 12:44 p.m.
Burglary, 2000 block of Ocean, 1:27 p.m.
Medical emergency, 400 block of Santa Monica Pier, 1:32 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1600 block of Lincoln, 2:32 p.m.
Traffic collision, 4th/Wilshire, 2:35 p.m.
Vandalism, 900 block of 11th, 2:58 p.m.
Hit and run, Lincoln/Pico, 3:39 p.m.
Indecent exposure, 2300 block of Pico, 5:53 p.m.
Critical missing person, 1500 block of the beach, 6:18 p.m.
Burglary, 2000 block of Ocean, 6:19 p.m.
Hit and run, 1400 block of 4th, 6:41 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1400 block of Broadway, 6:55 p.m.
Traffic collision, 2400 block of Ocean Front, 8:31 p.m.
Vandalism, Ocean/Colorado, 8:46 p.m.
Bomb threat, 100 block of Wilshire, 8:47 p.m.
Vandalism, 2000 block of Cloverfield, 9:36 p.m.
Stalking, 1400 block of Ocean, 9:40 p.m.
Hit and run, 4th/Olympic, 9:52 p.m.
Person with a gun, Ocean/Colorado, 10:52 p.m.
Vandalism, 1200 block of Olympic, 11:00 p.m.
DUI, Lincoln/I-10, 11:40 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 45 calls for service on April 17.

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

EMS, 200 block of Hollister, 12:14 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block of PCH, 1:05 a.m.
EMS, 1800 block of 12th, 1:44 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of Marine, 1:47 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of 9th, 2:40 a.m.
EMS, 100 block of Broadway, 3:04 a.m.
Lock in/out, 2900 block of Wilshire, 3:24 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of Palisades Beach, 4:02 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1900 block of Broadway, 5:06 a.m.
EMS, 3000 block of Main, 6:09 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 2nd, 7:04 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 9:09 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 26th, 9:44 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Bryn Mawr, 10:21 a.m.
EMS, 100 block of Bay, 10:25 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of Wilshire, 11:41 a.m.
EMS, 800 block of Wilshire, 11:51 a.m.
EMS, 2200 block of 27th, 12:39 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 12:42 p.m.
EMS, 700 block of Adelaide, 12:54 p.m.
EMS, Yale/Santa Monica, 12:59 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of PCH, 12:59 p.m.
EMS, 3100 block of 3rd, 1:07 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of 11th, 1:22 p.m.
EMS, 400 block of Santa Monica, 1:28 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of 2nd, 1:31 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Colorado, 1:43 p.m.
EMS, 1000 block of Wilshire, 1:57 p.m.
EMS, 400 block of Wilshire, 2:36 p.m.
EMS, 100 block of Ocean Park, 3:44 p.m.
EMS, 2600 block of Pico, 3:56 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Ocean Front, 4:56 p.m.
EMS, 4th/I-10, 5:05 p.m.
EMS, 700 block of Broadway, 5:12 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 1200 block of 2nd, 5:23 p.m.
EMS, 0 block of Bay, 5:24 p.m.
EMS, 2100 block of Ocean, 5:54 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Arizona, 7:40 p.m.
EMS, 4th/Santa Monica, 8:55 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 23rd, 8:55 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block of Ocean Park, 9:26 p.m.
EMS, 2600 block of Pico, 9:49 p.m.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • editor@smdp.com

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Marry again

6 Succeed

11 “Hello” singer

12 Put on a pedestal

13 “The Big Lebowski” star

15 Tiny worker

16 Finger count

17 Was inactive

18 Ring combatant

20 Nymph chaser

23 Seedy bars

27 Wide-eyed

28 Smoke source

29 Costume

31 Golf shoe feature

32 Syrup source

34 Gardner of movies

37 Social page word

38 Caffeine source

41 “The News-room” star

44 Skylit lobbies

45 Muscle woe

46 Alex Haley book

47 Circular glows

- DOWN
- 1 Indian prince

2 Perfect place

3 Tapestry thread

4 Middle Earth resident

5 One in the red

6 Made headway

7 Bizarre

8 Thick mists

9 Open space

10 Take a breather

14 Writer Stout

18 Old exclamation

19 Biathlon need

20 Decline

21 Maturity

22 Stroller user

24 Be a contender

25 Historic time

26 Determined

30 Bamboo eaters

31 Hold tightly

33 Pod item

34 Not quite closed

35 White House power

36 Bushy hairdo

38 Blue hue

39 Sailors’ saint

40 Nile serpents

42 In shape

43 Writer Levin

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

Yesterday’s answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/ m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13					14					
15				16				17		
			18				19			
20	21	22				23		24	25	26
27						28				
29				30		31				
			32		33					
34	35	36		37				38	39	40
41			42				43			
44						45				
46						47				

4-19

MYSTERY REVEALED!

Matthew Hall matt@smdp.com



Gerald Williams correctly identified the photo as part of the mural at the corner of Second and Colorado. He wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press.

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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. The difficulty level ranges from (easiest) to (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 4/16
3 18 25 32 51
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 227M



Draw Date: 4/15
9 10 34 37 73
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 89M



Draw Date: 4/16
22 29 32 36 43
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 16M



Draw Date: 4/17
13 14 15 23 35



Draw Date: 4/17
MIDDAY: 8 8 5
Draw Date: 4/17
EVENING: 4 5 4



Draw Date: 4/17
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:40.67

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!

pecuniary
1. of or relating to money: pecuniary difficulties. 2. consisting of or given or exacted in money or monetary payments: pecuniary tributes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1975 - India’s first satellite, Aryabhata, is launched.
- 1984 - Advance Australia Fair is proclaimed as Australia’s national anthem, and green and gold as the national colors.
- 1985 - U.S.S.R performs nuclear tests at Eastern Kazakhstan/Semipalatinsk.
- 1985 - Two hundred ATF and FBI agents lay siege to the compound of the neo-Nazi survivalist group The Covenant, The Sword, and the Arm of the Lord in Arkansas. The CSA surrenders two days later.
- 1987 - The Simpsons premieres as a short cartoon on The Tracey Ullman Show.

- 1989 - A gun turret explodes on the USS Iowa, killing 47 sailors.
- 1993 - The 51-day FBI siege of the Branch Davidian building outside Waco, Texas, USA, ends when a fire breaks out. Eighty-one people die.
- 1993 - South Dakota governor George Mickelson and seven others are killed when a state-owned aircraft crashes in Iowa.
- 1995 - Oklahoma City bombing: The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, USA, is bombed, killing 168.
- 1999 - The German Bundestag returns to Berlin.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

- The Pentagon admitted recently that it has no way to know how many parts or devices are in its equipment inventory -- except by going through its estimated 30 million contracts (on the text-unsearchable electronic database) one by one. For a recent Freedom of Information request from a software developer (for the Pentagon’s number of “HotPlug” power-extenders for computers), it quoted a retrieval price of \$660 million to cover 15 million hours of work.
- Wait, What? (1) The most recent problem with the Defense Department’s prospective, ultra-modern F-35 fighter jet, revealed in March, is that its “radar control” sometimes malfunctions and that system updates will not be ready until 2020. In the interim, an Air Force official advised that, as a workaround, the radar could be turned off and then back on again (similar to restarting a glitchy computer). (2) Michael Ford, 36, a U.S. Embassy staff member in London, was sentenced in March to 57 months in prison for having run a “sextortion” email scheme preying on young girls -- from his heavily monitored embassy computer workstation, operating undetected for two years. (One workday last April, for example, he sent 800 emails from his desk “phishing” for gullible social media users.)

GET TO THE BOTTOM OF A PROBLEM, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You have been more assertive than usual, but for a brief moment today you'll mellow out and decide to indulge a loved one. Your sense of luxury and indulgence makes quite a difference. Tonight: Get to the bottom of a problem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You feel a difference in your energy and in how you feel. Perhaps you have pushed beyond your prior limits. You might want to familiarize yourself with a key person. Your smile goes a long way. Tonight: Be easygoing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will sense that something or someone is working against you behind the scenes. That feeling might not be totally justified, but there are facts that are being left out. You will want to shake up the status quo in order to find out the gossip. Don't. Tonight: Do only what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay close to home, and understand your limits. Prioritize your goals for the near future and tackle them as quickly as you can. A loved one might feel manipulated by life, and unfortunately his or her response could be to try to manipulate you. Choose not to respond. Tonight: Out late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a special someone who often has helpful insights. This person's ideas will prove to be more worthwhile than you originally had thought. After having a conversation, you'll become more upbeat. You might need to slow down some. Tonight: Chat the night away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Curb a tendency to be possessive. You know when you have had enough of someone's chatter. You need not say anything; just don't participate or react. Your lack of action will say it all and is likely to help end this power play. Tonight: Pay bills first, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You beam, and others respond. You have a natural preference to relate on a one-on-one level. Get to the bottom of an issue in a conversation with a partner. You might have a series of "tell it like it is" talks before you get to a resolution. Tonight: Take a break from your usual pace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ The words you choose will make all the difference in how your thoughts are received by others. What appears to be a problematic matter might, with a little softness, resolve itself. Someone could be taking a stand because he or she can. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize the whole today. Others will appreciate your concern and dedication. A financial offer could be difficult to bypass, but you will stay strong. Don't allow others to pressure you into doing something that you would prefer not to. Tonight: Respond to a call.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You could be a lot harder to deal with than you realize. Your desire for control often morphs into a power play. You might have a difficult time even recognizing this behavior. Tonight: Indulge a child or a special friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your way of handling a personal matter changes others' perspective about you, as you don't express any trepidation. You might play out different scenarios in your mind before you approach a difficult situation. Tonight: Feed your mind. Do a puzzle or play a game.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could find that a friend is so pushy that you need to pull away from him or her before you explode. Your sense of humor emerges when discussing a loved one's attempt to be noticed by a key person. Remain sensitive. Remember when you felt the same way. Tonight: All smiles.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

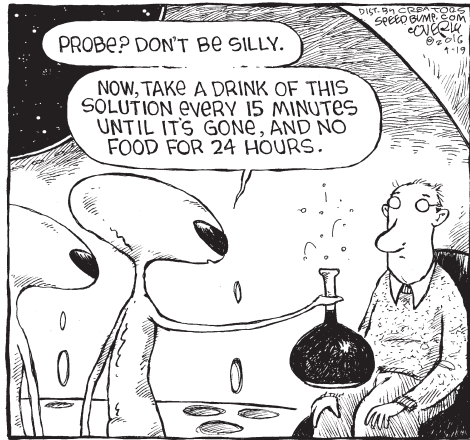
This year you open up to a new perspective. You might be tenuous as to how you use this new vision. If you decide to maintain the status quo, you will often reflect on the fact that you could create more. Many of you could opt to travel or go back to school as you want to understand and know more. If single, you might meet someone offbeat if you haven't already. This encounter could occur any time through September. If attached, the two of you find the more you grow, the better your relationship becomes. Your ability to embrace your significant other's negative and positive traits highlights your relationship. You will see this type of acceptance and love returned perhaps not immediately but eventually. LIBRA reflects many of your traits.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

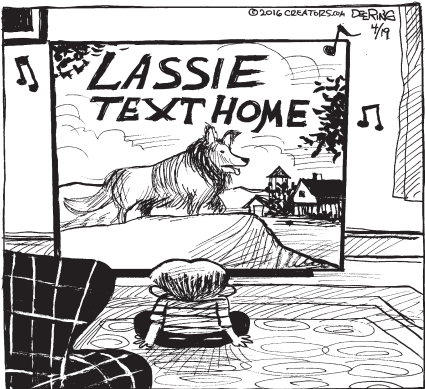
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic	★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive	★ Difficult
★★★ Average	

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew By John Deering



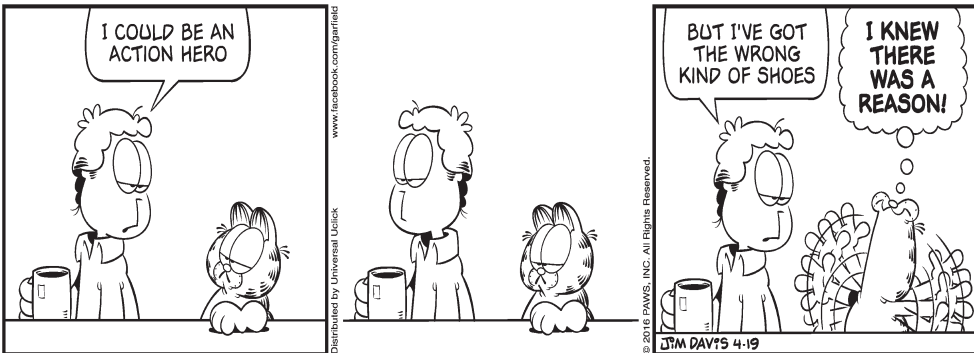
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



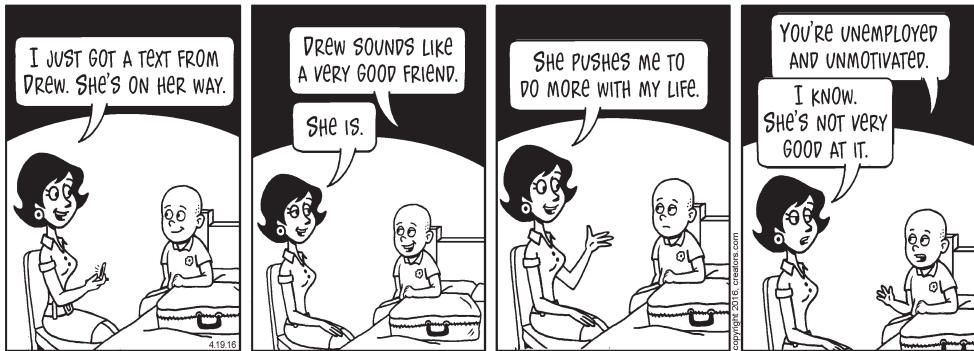
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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