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TUESDAY
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Volume 17 Issue 134

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State law keeps elected out of the fray on Facebook, Nextdoor



Kate Cagle

CITY COUNCIL: City Manager Rick Cole adds notes to an idea board at a City Council retreat Saturday.

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Mayor Ted Winterer never expected to receive an angry email about closing the often congested Interstate 10 Fourth Street off-ramp. There were a number of reasons public outcry seemed unlikely: he didn't intend to do it, he had no authority to do it, and he had no idea why he would want to.

Nonetheless, there it was on Nextdoor: an impassioned warning from a resident that the City Council was imminently poised to close the off-ramp that connects the Sunset Freeway with downtown Santa Monica.

"We might do a lot of dumb things on City Council but that's not even our freeway off-ramp. It's Caltrans," Winterer recalled Saturday during a wide-ranging discussion on city policy and government in the 21st Century. The crowd laughed at the story, but multiple Councilmembers lamented they are often frustrated by inaccurate posts and comments on social media.

"Somehow, we have to get through the noise out there that breeds the distrust that we have to overcome," Winterer said. "The idea that we...don't have the public's best interest at heart."

Without uttering the phrase with all its current political baggage, the discussion turned to the problem of fake news. Several Councilmembers said some misinformation online has been carefully crafted to cause public outrage in the city by the sea.

"Public mistrust is all too easy to create with false information," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "One of the externalities we face going forward is the fragmentation of the pub-

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 6

Rent Control reform gets signatures for November ballot

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Rent control reformers submitted over half-a-million signatures Monday to put the Affordable Housing Act on the November ballot, a voter initiative that would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Act. If it passes, cities would regain the ability to expand rent control in their jurisdictions and limit how much property owners can charge tenants.

"Local government should have control over their own city," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti at a press conference where he announced his support for the controversial initiative. Costa-Hawkins prohibits cities from extending rent control to new construction and mandates rents can be reset to market rate when tenants move out (vacancy decontrol). The 1995 law upended Santa Monica's City Charter, which dictated a rent ceiling in any unit built before 1978.

Councilmember Mike Bonin, who represents the area of Los Angeles encircling Santa Monica, also threw his weight behind the initiative Monday. Bonin called the homeless problem an "economic refugee crisis," citing rising rents as a major contributor to the number of people sleeping on the streets in LA's 11th District.

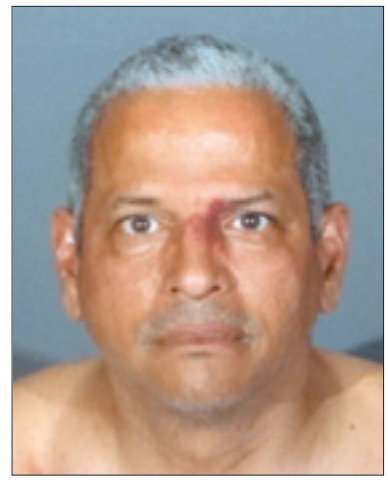
"Put this damn thing on the ballot," Bonin said to cheers from supporters outside LA's City Hall.

In Santa Monica, the local Rent Control Board (RCB) has discussed the possibility of a companion initiative to expand rent control here if the statewide initiative passes. Earlier this month, the RCB's top lawyer warned the initiative could have immediate implications if it passes in November because of the way the City Charter was rewritten after Costa-Hawkins. If the law suddenly disappeared, J. Stephen Lewis says new tenants could conceivably argue for 1970's rent.

SEE **REFORM** PAGE 11

Police arrest man who allegedly hit Expo train

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer



BELTRAN

Police say a Connecticut man was driving drunk with his two teenage sons when he ran a red light and plowed into a Metro Expo Line Train crossing Lincoln Boulevard early last Wednesday morning. Anthony Manuel Beltran Sr. is charged with driving under the influence, child endangerment and furnishing alcohol to a minor.

The 54-year-old man is in jail on a $410,000 bail pending future

SEE **ARREST** PAGE 5


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, April 24

City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting of the Santa Monica City Council. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 5:30 p.m.

Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory
Dr. Andrew Budson, professor of neurology at Boston University, uses clear language and short patient stories to teach seven simple steps for improving memory. Budson will answer many questions on topics such as changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging, memory loss and medications, and tests and evaluations. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown)
Wednesday Farmers Market is widely recognized as one of the largest and most diverse grower-only CFM's in the nation. Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. Downtown. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Appy Hour Device Workshop for Seniors
Bring your smartphone or tablet and receive small group help to get you started with using your device. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Art @ Tongva: Dance Commission
An evening of newly choreographed dance work created especially for the the park by a local choreographer. Tongva Park, 1615 Ocean Ave. 7:30p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 26

Sustainable Quality Awards Event
The Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) inspire local businesses to adopt sustainable practices and support Santa Monica as a sustainable community. The event includes a lively networking power hour reception featuring delicious sustainable bites, followed by an awards ceremony and sit down lunch. Le Meridien Delfina Santa Monica Hotel, 530 Pico Blvd. 11 a.m. - 2 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.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now at Pico
One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Bilingual volunteers available. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 27

Crafty Kids: Earth Day
Find out ways to take care for our planet. Start your own garden. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

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 12, 2018 AT ABOUT 3:10 P.M.

While patrolling the area of 1200 block of 4th Street, officers saw a subject that was lying across the sidewalk and not moving. Officers contacted the subject to check on his well-being. Officers determined the subject displayed symptoms of being under the influence of heroin. A computer check of the subject revealed he had a NO BAIL warrant for his arrest from Los Angeles Police Department. A search of the subject led to the recovery of a syringe needle containing heroin and other narcotics paraphernalia. The subject was placed under arrest. Cedric Marcellis Vandeweghe, 30, was booked for possession of heroin and possession of narcotics paraphernalia. No bail was set.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 335 Calls For Service On Apr. 22.

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

Party complaint 1000 block 12th 12:01 a.m.
Loud music 16th / Oak 12:04 a.m.
Disturbing the peace 1400 block 17th 12:13 a.m.
Disturbing the peace 2600 block 26th 12:31 a.m.
Fight 2700 block Main 12:44 a.m.
Party complaint 1200 block 24th 2:19 a.m.
Public intoxication 400 block Montana 2:37 a.m.
Strongarm robbery 00 block Pico 2:49 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1500 block 4th 3:11 a.m.
Auto burglary 2300 block 6th 3:12 a.m.
Loud music 1400 block 6th 3:49 a.m.
Petty theft 1500 block 2nd 5:23 a.m.
Battery 500 block Olympic 5:43 a.m.
Trespassing 200 block Santa Monica 6:57 a.m.
Trespassing 2800 block Lincoln 8:15 a.m.
Battery 1700 block Ocean Ave 8:58 a.m.
Burglary 100 block Pacific 9:30 a.m.
Rape 23rd / Wilshire 10:09 a.m.
Petty theft 2400 block 14th 10:56 a.m.
Burglar alarm 900 block 7th 11:03 a.m.
Drunk driving Neilson / Strand 11:51 a.m.
Petty theft 1000 block Wilson 11:55 a.m.
Hit and run 14th / Washington 12:07 p.m.
Petty theft 1700 block 4th 12:35 p.m.
Person down 1500 block 7th 12:51 p.m.
Burglary 1300 block Harvard 1:02 p.m.
Trespassing 1800 block Franklin 1:26 p.m.
Petty theft 1200 block 4th 1:33 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1000 block Stanford 2:02 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th / Pico 2:05 p.m.
Armed robbery 1600 block Ocean Front 3:10 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block Palisades PArk 3:14 p.m.
Hit and run 400 block PCH 4:41
Hit and run Lincoln / Marine 4:45 p.m.
Burglar alarm 2400 block Lincoln 5:50 p.m.
Traffic collision Stewart / Olympic 6:13 p.m.
Identity theft 900 block 4th 6:22 p.m.
Traffic collision 300 block Olympic 6:29 p.m.
Battery 2nd / Broadway 7:14 p.m.
Drunk driving 1200 block PCH 7:19 p.m.
Hit and run 200 block Broadway 7:50 p.m.
Petty theft 700 block Broadway 8:12 p.m.
Family disturbance 2500 block Kansas 8:34 p.m.
Burglar alarm 2400 block Main 8:34 p.m.
Public intoxication 3rd / Strand 8:51 p.m.
Lewd activity 2000 block Yorkshire 9:27 p.m.
Trespassing 900 block 2nd 9:48 p.m.
Trespassing 2600 block Main 10:12 p.m.
Petty theft 6th / Broadway 10:36 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 21 Calls For Service On Apr. 22.

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

Emergency medical service 2700 block Neilson 3:05 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Euclid 8:02 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean 8:20 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 16th 8:47 a.m.
EMS 2400 block Wilshire 9:16 a.m.
Dumpster fire 1300 block 7th 9:48 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean Front 10:22 a.m.
Automatic alarm 400 block Santa Monica 10:52 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Arizona 10:54 a.m.
EMS 500 block Marine 11:42 a.m.
EMS 5th / Colorado 2:24 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 2:29 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Washington 2:48 p.m.
EMS 900 block PCH 3:16 p.m.
EMS 3rd St Prom / Santa Monica 3:54 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean 4:42 p.m.
EMS 1500 block Santa Monica 5:28 p.m.
EMS 2400 block Chelsea 7:06 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 7:15 p.m.
EMS Main / Pacific 8:25 p.m.
EMS 300 block Pico 9:04 p.m.

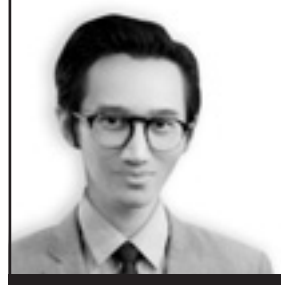




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After brief relief, forecasts indicate drought will continue

KELLY P. KISSEL
Associated Press

Dry weather will prolong the wildfire threat through summer in the southwestern United States, even though weekend showers temporarily relieved drought conditions in parts of the area, forecasters said Monday.

The drought is rooted in a dry spell that began in October and is considered "extreme" from southern California to central Kansas. Conditions are even worse in the Four Corners region and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles, warranting their description as "exceptional."

"The proverbial spigot shut off," said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. "Drought isn't necessarily a signal for wildfires, but it can exacerbate the conditions that do take place."

Climatologists consider the months from October to April to be a "recharge" period, with showers and snow replenishing water supplies in the Southern Plains. However, the most recent significant rain in the area came in early October.

"The memory of that precipitation has long went out the back door," Fuchs said. Temperatures have largely been above normal over the same period, triggering evaporation that can carry a lot of moisture away before it has a chance to soak into the ground. There is very little snowpack remaining except on the highest peaks.

A map Fuchs presented during a conference call with reporters showed a sharp distinction on either side of a line from near Fort Worth, Texas, to near Chicago. Moist areas of Arkansas and Missouri were within 100 miles of arid conditions in Kansas and Oklahoma.

"Even normal precipitation ... would be helpful," Fuchs said.

The dry air has likely contributed to some weather anomalies: Several towns in western Oklahoma have seen wild temperature swings, and Oklahoma hasn't had a tornado yet this year, though a later start to the tornado season doesn't mean it could be any less troublesome.

"It just takes one tornado to have a disastrous year," said Todd Lindley, the science and operations officer at the National Weather Service office in Norman, Oklahoma.

Gary McManus, Oklahoma's state climatologist, said the low temperature recorded at a station at Alva on April 17 was 33 degrees — with frost in the area. Hours later, the same station recorded a high of 101. Similar temperature swings were recorded in the Oklahoma Panhandle and could be attributed to the dry air, not any of the station's proximity to wildfires.

"We are very desert-like," he said.

Wildfires have scarred many areas of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Oklahoma forestry officials said Monday that the Rhea fire, which had burned 448 square miles (1,160 square kilometers) was 74 percent contained but not expected to spread beyond existing fire lines because of higher humidity and lighter winds.

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ARREST

FROM PAGE 1

court dates. Beltran could not be reached for comment.

Officers responded to the crash at 12:23 a.m. on April 18 on Colorado Avenue. Paramedics rushed all three people in the car to the hospital with significant injuries. Lt. Saul Rodriguez with the Santa Monica Police Department told the Daily Press one of the teens suffered major head trauma and is still in critical condition but is expected to survive.

"He is able to talk but we haven't interviewed him yet," Lt. Rodriguez said, explaining detectives are still gathering evidence to know more about what led up to the crash. The other teen was released from the hospital and reunited with his mother Friday.

Rodriguez said the teens had also been drinking the night of the accident and that both are under the age of 18.

"Everyone in the car was intoxicated," Rodriguez said.

SMPD's Major Accident Response Team said the train was traveling west through the intersection when Beltran ran a red light heading north, hitting the train. Rodriguez said none of the train passengers had significant injuries.

Police revealed few details about why they think Beltran, who lives in Waterford, Connecticut, was in the area.

"I don't know why he was here in Santa Monica," Lt. Rodriguez said. "I'm not sure the purpose of his visit."

The case is still open. Anyone with information should contact Investigators Pace or Olson at (310) 458-8954.

kate@smdp.com

Trump likes coal, but that doesn't mean he's hostile to wind

STEVE LEBLANC
Associated Press

President Donald Trump has courted coal miners and cast doubt on whether fossils fuel contribute to climate change, but that hasn't translated into hostility for renewable energy — particularly offshore wind.

Using federal offshore leases, wind power projects along the East Coast, including off the shores of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia and New York, are pressing ahead with the goal of transforming the electric grid and providing energy to power millions of homes.

The administration is looking to renewable energy sources to help create "energy dominance" that will guarantee America is a leading global energy exporter and can't be held hostage by foreign energy-producing powers, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says — even as Trump's plan to expand offshore drilling has drawn harsh criticism from environmentalists and coastal state governors of both parties.

"On designated federal lands and offshore, this means an equal opportunity for all sources of responsible energy development, from fossil fuels to the full range of renewables," Zinke said in a recent op-ed in The Boston Globe. "As we look to the future, wind energy — particularly offshore wind — will play a greater role in sustaining American energy dominance."

To help streamline the effort, Zinke wrote, he wants to give developers more flexibility by letting them postpone detailed design decisions until later in the planning process to let them take advantage of the latest technology.

West Coast states are also hoping to turn their offshore winds into energy. One planned project along the Northern California coast would create a 100-150 megawatt floating wind farm more than 20 miles offshore. Projects have also been eyed off Hawaii, in the Gulf of Mexico and even in the Great Lakes.

Renewable energy supporters are backing the development of offshore wind power — with a few caveats.

Offshore wind can help reduce carbon emissions, but it's critical to ensure they don't harm underwater ecosystems, especially the endangered North Atlantic right whale, said Sean Mahoney, executive vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation.

Long in the planning and discussion phase, the push for offshore wind power is picking up steam.

In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for more projects and said the state will solicit in 2018 and in 2019 a combined total of at least 800 megawatts — with a long-term goal of developing 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, enough to power up to 1.2 million homes.

In New Jersey, the Danish offshore wind company Orsted, which is also working on projects in Massachusetts and Virginia, has set a goal of supplying enough energy for 1.5 million homes. Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy has said he wants New Jersey to generate 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.

And in Massachusetts, Republican Gov. Charlie Baker is hoping to generate 800 megawatts of offshore wind power as a first step toward a goal of 1,600 megawatts. Three projects — Vineyard Wind, Bay State Wind and Deepwater Wind — are all vying to produce some or all of the 800 megawatts.

Vineyard Wind wants to build its wind farm on a 160,000-acre area south of the island of Martha's Vineyard and 14 miles from the nearest shore. The project — partly owned by Portland, Oregon, renewable energy developer Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners of Denmark — would consist of turbines spaced at least eight-tenths of a mile apart.

Bay State Wind, an initiative of Orsted and the utility Eversource, would be about 20 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and could power 500,000 homes. Orsted and Eversource are also hoping to build a 200-megawatt wind farm 65 miles off New London, Connecticut. In Virginia, Orsted is partnering with Dominion Energy on a wind project off Virginia Beach.

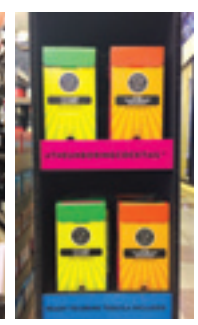
Deepwater Wind is also looking to build in federal waters southwest of Martha's Vineyard. The company, which also hope to provide 200 megawatts of wind power to Connecticut, can already claim bragging rights to having opened the nation's first offshore wind farm off Rhode Island's Block Island last year — a five-turbine project generating about 30 megawatts.

Even as the various projects and others move ahead, Zinke has announced that two additional areas off Massachusetts totaling nearly 390,000 acres are now available to be leased for commercial wind energy development.

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

lic dialogue."

As the 2018 race for City Council gains steam, most elected leaders have tried to stay away from impassioned threads on Facebook and Nextdoor. While some Councilmembers including Mayor Pro-Tempore Gleam Davis and Sue Himmelrich share stories and "like" posts on Facebook, others are completely removed from the conversation.

"Quite frankly I have a tough enough time just answering emails," Councilmember Tony Vazquez said. "I don't need to be on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram."

Elected officials in California are restricted by outdated laws like the 1953 Brown Act, which governs public meetings. In the electronic age, the Act effectively bans email chains, group texts and Facebook comments that involve more than one City Councilmember. The public must be notified in advance anytime a quorum of members discuss policy.

"This Council is very good and very well trained on the Brown Act," City Attorney Lane Dilg told the Daily Press. "They are right that on Nextdoor and Facebook there are complications with the Brown Act because of the potential for it to be called a 'serial meeting' if it looks like they are somehow making a decision."

Ten years after the launch of Facebook, the Act has not been updated to address online communication on public social media websites. City Manager Rick Cole — who has a public blog and a weekly electronic newsletter — admits elected leaders have been slow to adapt old laws to new technology.

"I think people are really skittish about venturing into an area that's so fraught with inherent challenges," Cole told the Daily Press. "We haven't figured out how to make democracy work online."

At Saturday's meeting, Cole said communication between the Council, city staff and the public is often hostile, antagonistic and obsolete. He said the city should seek new ways to "lower the temperature" of public discourse.

"I have a thick skin after 36 years in public service but when residents are overtly hostile toward (city) staff on a continuing basis it's just human nature some of that is going to seep back...when they're routinely castigated as corrupt and evil they begin to write people off and I think that's a loss for all of us," Cole said.

In an interview Monday, Winterer said there was some discussion to whether someone from the City's communication's department should fact check claims on social media. He says at the moment, they simply don't have the time.

Winterer, who says he rarely logs onto Facebook anymore because of the vitriol and privacy concerns, said there may not be much benefit to a city fact checker anyway.

"We live in an era where people don't let facts get in the way of their opinions," Winterer said. "It could be potentially futile to correct some of this information out there. Tough call."

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
1212 Restaurant
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TUESDAY, MAY 1
The Gallery, Third Floor
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Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

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California bills seek to ease hiring of ex-convicts

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

More ex-convicts could become emergency services workers and caregivers under legislation proposed in California Monday that advocates say could help millions of former felons get jobs.

The three-bill package would generally bar state agencies from denying or revoking professional licenses solely because the applicant has an arrest or conviction for a nonviolent offense more than five years old, unless it is directly related to the duties of that specific business or profession.

California narrowly defines violent offenses, and advocates said at a news conference that the measures could help nearly eight million Californians get jobs such as barbers, cosmetologists, or caregivers for the elderly, sick or disabled.

Advocates estimate that about 30 percent of jobs — nearly 1,800 occupations — require professional licenses. However, the bills exempt licenses related to foster care or issued by the Bureau of Cannabis Control.

Opponents fear the bills could jeopardize public safety and endanger vulnerable populations.

"We can't say we want to rehabilitate people and then block them from the jobs that they need when they're released," said Democratic Assemblyman David Chiu of San Francisco. He noted the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation trains inmates in automotive repairs, construction, cosmetology and firefighting, but they are then denied licenses after they get out of prison.

The legislation is part of a national "fair chance" effort. The National Conference of State Legislatures says at least a dozen states are considering bills to reduce licensing barriers for people with criminal records.

The measures follow existing laws in California and elsewhere requiring most public- and private-sector employers to delay background checks and inquiries about job applicants' conviction records until they have made a conditional job offer.

All three California bills are set for their first committee hearings Tuesday.

AB2138 is opposed by building and contractors associations which say the number of applicants rejected because of criminal convictions already is low.

AB2293 is opposed by emergency medical services associations that say it could endanger public health and safety. Existing state law already allow ex-convicts to be hired if their convictions are unrelated to their duties, the groups note.

There is no recorded opposition to AB3039, which would streamline consideration of caregiver licenses for applicants with criminal histories.

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Santa Monica City Attorney | Consumer Protection Division | 310.458.8336 | www.smconsumer.org

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 4/21
40 50 54 62 69
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 158M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 4/20
1 15 18 32 45
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 96M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 4/21
12 14 19 30 34
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 8M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/22
2 7 10 36 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/22
MIDDAY: 1 2 1
Draw Date: 4/22
EVENING: 4 4 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/22
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:45.59

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!

Falstaffian
1. of, relating to, or having the qualities of Falstaff, especially his robust, bawdy humor, good-natured rascality, and brazen braggadocio: Falstaffian wit.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Medical History

■ This week in 1822, Charles M. Graham of New York was issued the first U.S. patent for artificial teeth. The record and its details were lost in an 1836 Patent Office fire, as was an earlier related patent by William R. Eagleson for setting natural and artificial teeth. False teeth had, in fact, been around for decades. George Washington had at least four sets of false teeth, though none were wooden despite mythology. Washington's first dentures were comprised of human teeth set into carved hippopotamus ivory, with a hole precisely placed to accommodate Washington's single remaining natural molar.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

F	L	E	E	■	F	E	A	S	T	■	B	O	W	S
O	P	A	L	■	A	A	H	E	D	■	A	R	I	A
O	G	R	E	■	S	T	E	W	S	■	L	E	S	S
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F	A	D	E	■	A	G	E	N	T	■	U	S	N	A
S	L	A	W	■	R	E	D	Y	E	■	P	E	S	T

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

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

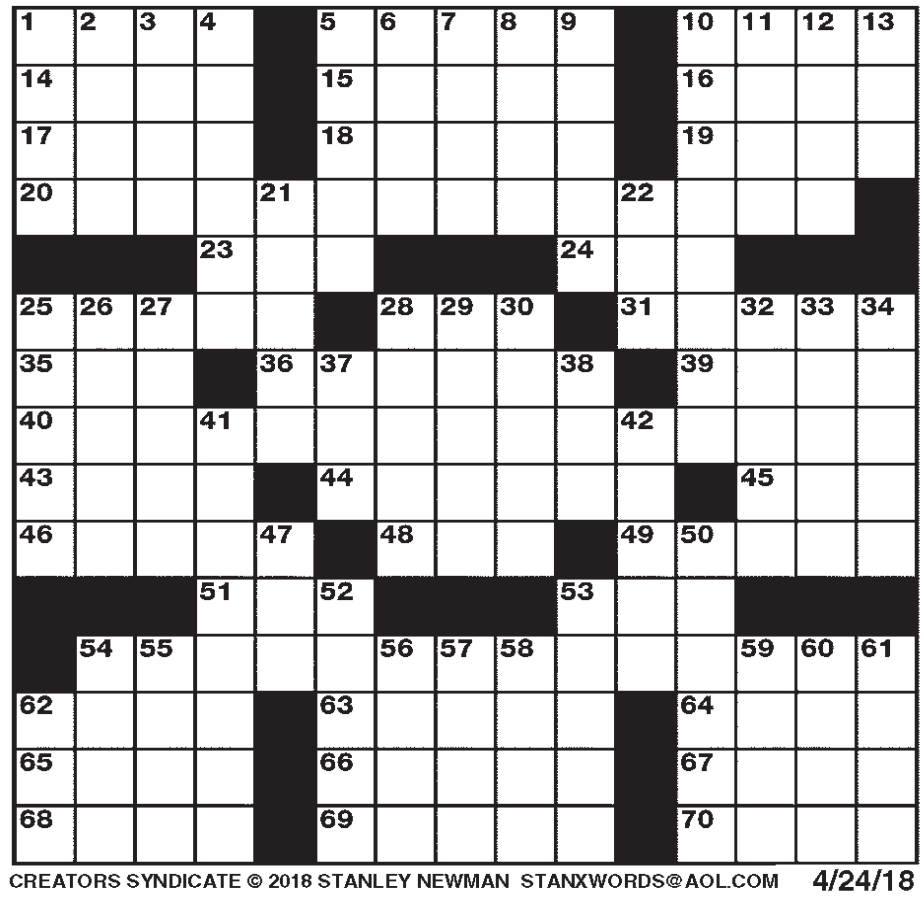
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		5	1			7		
				5			3	
2	9						8	6
	3			9				
		2			3	1		
	7						6	
9		8	5		1		4	2

Newsday Crossword

BATTER UP by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Competent
5 Engaged in battle
10 Not firm, as a wet noodle
14 Vegan's no-no
15 Plain writing
16 Notion
17 Squish, as potatoes
18 Heart's beat
19 Typeface
20 Far off the mark
23 Middling grade
24 Students soon to graduate: Abbr.
25 Entertain
28 Trio after Q
31 Construction locations
35 Friend
36 Closer to the ocean floor
39 None
40 Achieving great success
43 Memo starter
44 Movie theater
45 Fuel economy letters
46 Hands out the cards
48 Point opposite NNW
49 Relaxes
51 __ Angeles
53 Throw in
54 Rough estimate
62 Prefix for circle
63 Score 100% on a test
64 Heroic saga
65 Make less complicated
66 Iowa or Ohio
67 "Suffice __ say . . ."
68 Some boxing wins, for short
69 Long-distance runner
70 Christmas song

DOWN
1 Bullets and such
2 Boyfriend
3 Be durable
4 Moral standards
5 Cider fruit
6 Factual
7 Red Riding Hood's adversary
8 Aide: Abbr.
9 Coral ridges
10 As big as the real thing
11 Object of worship
12 Repair
13 Butter serving
21 "__ say more?"
22 Tax agcy.
25 Rosebush pest
26 It's east of New Hampshire
27 Prefix for violet
28 Philbin of TV
29 Stretches across
30 Giggling sound
32 Semesters
33 Spew lava
34 Tunes
37 Envelope insert: Abbr.
38 CD-__
41 Be deceitful
42 __ Gras
47 Note between fa and la
50 Enter stealthily
52 Muscle twitch
53 Later on
54 Bird's nose
55 "Are not!" reply
56 Play opener
57 Genuine
58 Windy day toy
59 __ now (so far)
60 Formal ceremony
61 Environmental sci.
62 Stage backdrop



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/24/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 24)

It's been a while since you saw truly serene circumstances, but this year brings several moments of profound peace and beauty. You'll appreciate them, too, because of all the bustle and hard work represented in other moments. There will be five significant gatherings, meaningful to your group and your legacy. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 39, 6 and 12.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Curiosity is among your most useful talents, as it will lead you to experience wonder, triumph, satisfaction and dissatisfaction. (Those last two will be equally important to a fulfilling life.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You're good at uncovering the facts, hearing the facts through the fiction and giving the facts in an unbiased way. Today's talent for truth will make you an invaluable part of a quest for justice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
You have developed some mental tricks to help you get around obstacles, avoid conflict and rise above trouble. You may not even be fully aware of exactly how you do this, but someone will notice and follow your lead today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
None of the saints were canonized for counting other people's sins. It just doesn't work that way. Those who focus on the sins of others are still making sin their focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It is possible to train your mind to be stronger than your emotions. You'll seek this kind of mastery. Clearly, emotions run amok do not contribute in a positive way to what you're trying to build in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
The temptation to share prematurely will be there. Exciting things are coming together, for sure, but it's still early. Work quietly and later your success will speak for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Some people are easier to be around than others, but that doesn't make a relationship any more or less correct. An uncomfortable relationship can be the greatest teacher on earth, inspiring your highest and quickest evolution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
From a distance, the rolling fog is mysterious, beautiful, mystical... but when you're in the thick of it, it can be maddeningly disorienting. Seek higher mental ground. Avoid states of perplexity by rising above them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Seeing the problems that really do exist isn't pessimism — far from it. This is actually a form of optimism. If you didn't think there might be something to be done about it, you wouldn't have the guts to see it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The creative process is your joy. The products that come of it can bring some fleeting satisfaction as well, but it's almost unmentionable in comparison with the great feeling that comes from being in the flow of your work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You may not have all the skills you need to make something happen yet, but you're getting them. Try again. Also, keep a record of your efforts so you can avoid making the same mistake twice.

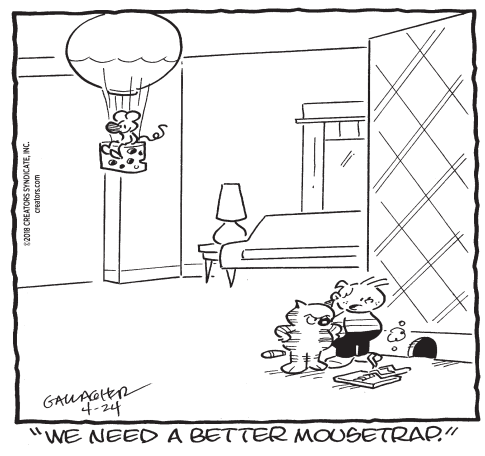
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
While joy feels better, sadness can be beautiful, too. It can wash over you like a wave in a moment of connection that makes you appreciate and value your life.

Venus Shift to Gemini

Happy people tend to make promises they won't want to keep when the happiness has worn off. And sad people make decisions that make absolutely no sense in a better mood. Therefore, the happy shouldn't promise, and the sad should not decide. If you can keep this from happening, it will be a successful first day of Venus in social Gemini.

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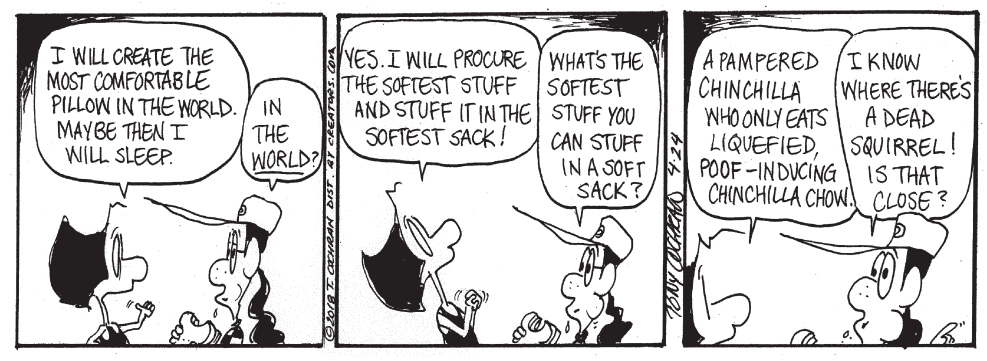
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



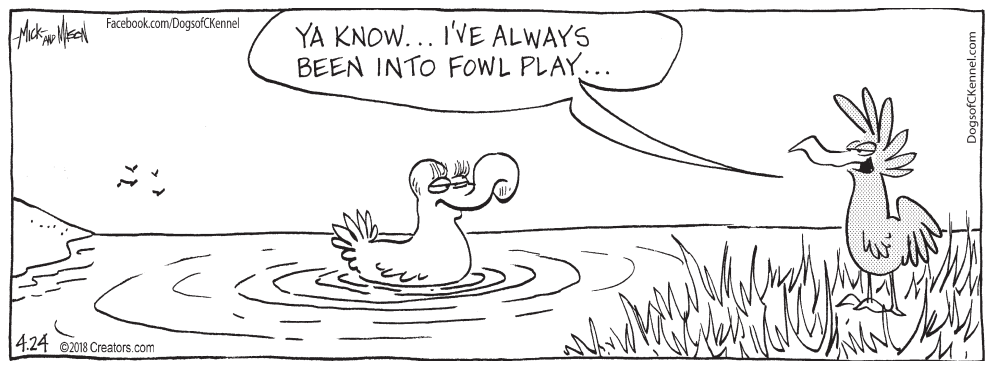
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



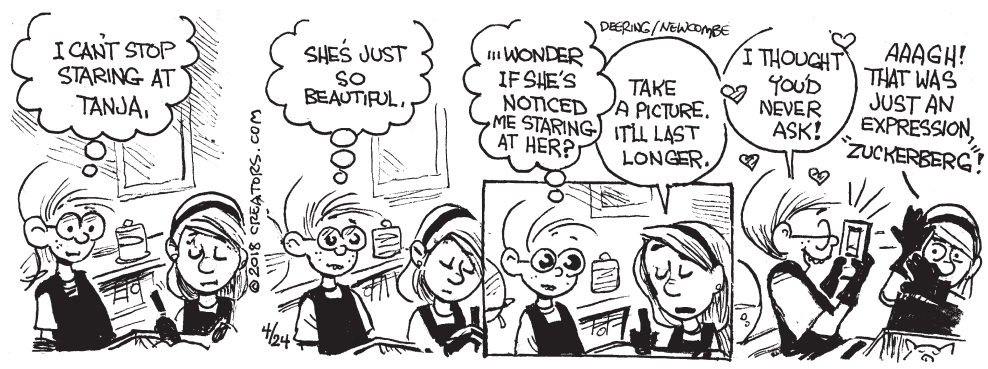
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REFORM

FROM PAGE 1

Lewis warned the RCB rollbacks could "cause significant economic dislocation."

Despite the warning from Lewis, the RCB said there was too little time to draft a companion ballot measure to amend the City Charter and expressed doubt the Affordable Housing Act will pass. On April 12, they voted unanimously to table the discussion indefinitely.

"They seem to have an incorrect political assessment because poll after poll shows a significant number of voters in this state support rent control and support repealing Costa-Hawkins," said Amy Schur, the campaign director for the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, the group behind the initiative.

Schur says Garcetti's support is a major boon for the grassroots initiative. The group will now focus on training hundreds of volunteers throughout the state to advocate for the initiative. She says California has 17 million renters, many of whom would like to see rent control in their local communities.

"It's not a surprise that the mayor of the largest city in the state recognizes that enough is enough," Schur said in an interview with the Daily Press. "Skyrocketing rents are not sustainable and the only way cities are going to have the tools they need to address the situation is by repealing Costa-Hawkins."

The City Council has the ultimate say in whether to put a companion initiative on the ballot.

Local and state landlord groups such as the California Apartment Associate (CAA) argue rent control forces mom-and-pop landlords out of business and reduces the financial incentive to build new housing, worsening the current crisis.

"It's a high stakes battle," said Steven Maviglio, with Californians for Responsible Housing, a group opposing the initiative. "We think this will pour gasoline on the fire that is California's affordable housing crisis. It will result in a housing freeze that will hurt the people it's intended to help."

Instead, his group supports the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act which would set aside $3 billion for affordable housing and $1 billion for home loans for veterans and other measures that allow housing development throughout the state.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ON APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

TIME: **10:30 a.m., May 8, 2018**

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION, 17ENT-0304, 2536 5th Street. The applicant requests approval of a hedge height modification to allow for a 15' foot high hedge along the front property line parallel to Ocean Park Boulevard and a 7.5' foot high fence along the east side property line within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Ocean Park Low Density Residential (OP2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [PLANNER: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT/OWNER**: Gilena Simons.

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Zoning Administrator public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Zoning Administrator at the meeting.

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar applicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.



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