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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE ..... PAGE 2
L.A. SUES TAX COMPANIES ..... PAGE 3
CURIOUS CITY ..... PAGE 4
LETTER TO THE EDITOR ..... PAGE 5
CRIME WATCH ..... PAGE 8

More than 200 apartments pass through Architectural Review Board



Courtesy image

APARTMENTS: A building on 7th is one of several proposed.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Four new proposed buildings will add 124 affordable apartments and 92 market-rate apartments to downtown and Ocean Park.

Three buildings restricted for low-income households will rise at 2120 Lincoln Blvd., 1514 7th St. and 1238 7th St. A market-rate building will be constructed at 1425 5th St., with its required affordable units included in the 1514 7th St. project. The buildings on 5th and 7th Streets will include stores or restaurants on their ground floors.

Prolific local developer WS Communities, a spinoff of NMS Properties, is behind both affordable buildings on 7th Street and the market-rate development on 5th Street. Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM), an affordable housing provider, is developing the Lincoln Boulevard project.

The largest affordable development at 1514 7th St.

SEE **ARB** PAGE 6

18th St Arts Center hosts Inaugural gala

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's premier arts center is raising funds in order to continue serving the community. The 18th Street Arts Center will hold their inaugural gala fundraiser event this Thursday, May 9. The event, to be held at La Residence de France in Beverly Hills (the home of the French Consulate General of Los Angeles), celebrates the art center's 30th anniversary and will look to hit a fundraising goal of $100,000 to support the center and its programs.

The gala will honor current and past 18th Street artists including current artist-in-residence Suzanne Lacy, alumnae Candice Lin and Rita Gonzalez, LACMA's current head of contemporary art and curator of 18th Street's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA exhibition. Additionally, the gala will house a musical performance.

"We are thrilled to

SEE **ARTS CENTER** PAGE 6



Matthew Hall

MOST LOVED: The City of Santa Monica hosted a celebration on Tuesday night for Santa Monica's Most Loved Businesses. Voters make their choices during the annual Most Loved competition in February and the winners are announced in partnership with several organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, local business districts, Buy Local and the Santa Monica Daily Press.


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

156 Fraser Avenue, Variance 19ENT-0036. The applicant requests approval of two Variances to allow for an addition of a technical third story to an existing single-unit dwelling and for a reduction of required parking from two spaces to zero. The subject property is located in the Low Density Residential (R2) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.42.020, Variances may be granted with respect to development standards upon the discretion of the Planning Commission. [Planner: Ross Fehrman] **Applicant: Chris Stage. Property Owner: Smith-Hantas Family Trust.**

1315 Lincoln Boulevard, Conditional Use Permit 19ENT-0081. The applicant (City National Bank) requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit (19ENT-0081) to allow for the retail branch banking use greater than 20 feet wide within the Lincoln Transition (LT) District. According to Section 9.10.040(4) of the Zoning Ordinance, no Bank and Credit Union ground floor tenant space shall exceed 20 linear feet of ground floor street frontage without a Conditional Use Permit. [Planner: Amy Miller, AICP] **Applicant: Mitchell Dresser c/o City National Bank. Property Owner: The Sunset Group Leasing, LLC.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the project planner at (310) 458-8341. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, #10R, and #18 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. 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 and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free). Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(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.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es un aviso para una audiencia pública donde se revisarán aplicaciones que proponen desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si usted desea más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, May 8

Mother's Day Crafts

Craft handmade cards and paint glass jars for the Moms in your life. Ages 4-11. Ocean Park Branch Library 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Field Sports Advisory Council Regular Meeting

Regular monthly meeting of the Field Sports Advisory Council (FSAC). FSAC is an advisory council to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Virginia Avenue Park 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library 7 - 8 p.m.

Montana Mystery Book Group: Gone to Dust

Investigating a murder complicated by the killer's strategic approaches to confounding all possible DNA evidence, private detective Nils Shapiro is forced by FBI interference to secretly uncover the potentially shattering identity of a mysterious woman. Montana Avenue Branch Library 7 - 8:30 p.m.

The Commission on the Status of Women Regular Meeting

The Commission on the Status of Women works to ensure that Santa Monica is a place where women and girls can fully realize their potential and have a strong voice in all aspects of the community. The Commission explores policy and issues relevant to women and girls, and supports leadership and career advancement opportunities. Ken Edwards Center 7 p.m.

Think Pink 2019

Think Pink for Women's Wellness, an Irene Dunne Guild annual event, focuses on health education and awareness for women and their families. Held close to Mother's Day, it is a celebration of mothers, sisters, daughters, and dear friends. This year's event is Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Upper Bel Air Bay Club. Tickets are $125 per person. For more information, contact Esther Espinoza at Esther.Espinoza@stjohns.org. www.irenedunneguild.org

Thursday, May 9

Chrysalis: Social Media and the Job Search

Learn how to maximize social media to enhance your marketability and obtain employment. Fairview Branch Library 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Pilates Class

Develop core strength and coordination, this class draws traditional Pilates exercises with breath and correct alignment. Including resistance to body weight training and core isolation. Helping the body to increase movement to joints and tone the abdominal muscles. Pico Branch Library 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall Council Chamber 7 p.m.

Friday, May 10

Mat Pilates

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

Saturday, May 11

MainStay Gallery: Grand Opening Party

MainStay Gallery is the newest addition to the Santa Monica and Venice Beach arts community. Join organizers for their grand opening and debut collection featuring the work of fine art photographer Michael Scott Adams, internationally featured muralist and painter Ivotopia, and the textile sculpture of Emmy nominated costume designer Swinda Reichelt. RSVP preferable (RSVP@MainStayGallery.com). 2443 Main Street, 7 – 10 p.m.

Landlord workshop, "Pet Policies-Know the Facts"

This workshop will be focusing on the latest pet policies, statistics, and pet-friendly practices. Landlords will also be provided an overview of LA's current rental trends, new construction and more on the Westside. Apartments.com Retail Store: 1020 Wilshire Blvd, 10 - 11 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

District Attorney Jackie Lacey Seeks the Public's Help in Combating Opioid Epidemic

In an effort to save lives and shut down the illegal distribution of narcotics, Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey today asked members of the public to report the illegal trafficking and over-prescription of opioids to her office for possible criminal prosecution.

"We must do everything in our power to stop the flow of these deadly drugs into our community, whether they are bought illegally on the streets or legally with a valid prescription," District Attorney Lacey said. "Reporting this crime will help us save lives."

District Attorney Lacey is asking anyone with non-emergency information about the illegal trafficking or over-prescription of opioids such as hydrocodone and oxycodone and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl to provide prosecutors with information and documentation of these alleged crimes.

Her office aggressively prosecutes both manufacturers and sellers of illegal narcotics and those who unlawfully prescribe controlled substances. Significant prosecutions include:

Dr. Hsiu Ying "Lisa" Tseng, who ran a storefront medical office in Rowland Heights, was convicted in 2015 of three felony counts of second-degree murder in the 2009 overdose deaths of three young men, ages 21, 24 and 28. She was sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison.

Dr. Gerard Goryl, who ran a diet clinic in Redondo Beach, pleaded no contest to 38 felony counts in connection with selling hydrocodone and Xanax to undercover officers without any physical examination or medical need. He was sentenced in 2017 to seven years in custody.

Dr. Yahya Hedvat, who sold prescriptions to undercover officers from his medical clinic in Encino, was convicted of unlawfully prescribing controlled substances in 2014 and sentenced to two years in county jail.

Dr. Richard Kim, a general practitioner in Rancho Palos Verdes, was found guilty of illegally prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical need to undercover officers. He was sentenced in 2016 to three years in county jail and two years of mandatory supervision.

In 2017, 447 people died in Los Angeles County due to opioid-related overdoses - a 61% increase from 2015, according to California Department of Public Health data.

To report this crime, members of the public may submit written non-emergency complaints with documentation to the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, 211 West Temple Street, Third Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Complaints must include details of the incident, including names, dates and copies of supporting evidence, such as photographs, prescriptions, statements and receipts.

For more information on the complaint process and to print a complaint form, please visit the District Attorney's website at http://da.lacounty.gov.

SUBMITTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Citywide

Los Angeles City Attorney Sues The Maker Of Turbotax And H&R Block

City Attorney Mike Feuer announced today that his office has filed lawsuits against Intuit Inc. (the maker of TurboTax), H&R Block, Inc. and HRB Digital LLC (collectively "H&R Block"), alleging unfair and deceptive practices in connection with their "free" online tax preparation services for low-income filers.

"Taxpayers should never be misled into needlessly spending their hard-earned money for services to which they're entitled for free. But that's what we allege happened here," said Feuer. "In short, we allege these companies intentionally took advantage of the low-income residents they pledged to help. The unfair and deceptive practices we allege must stop; consumers should receive restitution for fees we allege they never should have paid; and these companies should be held accountable for their alleged misconduct."

Since 2002, Intuit Inc., H&R Block, Inc., and a consortium of electronic tax filing companies have promised to provide a free version of their online tax preparation products to low-income Americans in exchange for the IRS's commitment to "not compete with the Consortium in providing free, online tax return preparation and filing services to taxpayers." As reported in their securities filing statements, Intuit Inc. and H&R Block see the IRS's entry into the market as a threat to their lucrative businesses. They are currently lobbying Congress to enshrine their agreement with the IRS into law.

But only a tiny fraction of eligible taxpayers actually benefit from the IRS and private industry's "Free File" agreement. While 70 percent of taxpayers are eligible to file for free through the Free File program (currently those making up to $66,000), in the 2018 fiscal year less than 2.5% of eligible taxpayers actually did so.

The City Attorney's lawsuits allege that this abysmal participation rate is attributable, at least in part, to Intuit Inc. and H&R Block's deliberate efforts to hide the availability of their Free File products. For example, the lawsuits allege that both companies added code to the websites on which their "Free File" programs are located that prevented the websites from appearing in online search results – even when consumers specifically searched for them.

At the same time, the City Attorney's lawsuits allege that Intuit Inc. and H&R Block, Inc. aggressively market inferior alternative "Free" tax preparation products on their websites, which are useless to all but those with the simplest of tax returns. For example, the complaints allege that low-income workers in the "gig economy" who are not classified as employees would not be eligible for the "free" programs Intuit Inc. and H&R Block heavily market on their main websites, but would be eligible for the free services these companies are required to provide under the IRS agreement.

The lawsuits allege that through deceptive marketing, Intuit Inc. and H&R Block use their inferior alternative "Free" products to lure consumers to their websites, only to then falsely inform these consumers that they are not eligible for free services, and must instead purchase expensive products they do not need, and can scarcely afford.

The lawsuits seek injunctive relief, restitution, and civil penalties.

Deputy City Attorneys Connie Chan and Adam Teitelbaum are handling the litigation.

SUBMITTED BY FRANK MATELJAN III



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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION
Grape Multimedia Productions
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Tale Of Two Cities

TED WINTERER LOVES SANTA MONICA

I'm pretty sure of that. Kevin McKeown does too, and Gleam Davis. Sue Himmelrich, Rick Cole, yup. Greg Morena, lived here most of his life, oh yes, he told me. Newest Council member Ana Jara devoted decades of volunteer service to the City so, she must. Hard to know much about the elusive Terry O'Day but, sure, one would imagine. And I love Santa Monica. If you've read even a few of my CURIOUS CITY columns over the past 7-½ years, you would know that.

I also love Albuquerque, an old Spanish soul of a desert-mountain settlement with tacky trappings, in physically gorgeous and spiritually inspiring NM, where I grew up, went to college, got drafted at the height of the Viet Nam War, came back, resumed college and a pursuit of journalism under the great Tony Hillerman, got married, had a kid, traveled Europe for a year, got divorced, fell in love, finally arranged custody and was able to escape the Land of Enchantment (no enchanting future for work) for the sunny shores of music-drenched Southern California, where I fell in love again, got married, had a kid and camped around Europe and North Africa for a year again. Mandeville Canyon, Studio City, Beverly Hills, all for the best schools for my son, and finally, the ultimate, the longed for destination, the part of LA that I first fell in love with, Santa Monica. "Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really."

BOTH CITIES HAVE GONE TO HELL

For most of my 30 years in Albuquerque it was provincial, it was off the beaten path, cultural opportunities were marginal, it was more small town than its population figures would indicate (not in a good way), it was great to look at, Old Town and the Sandia Mountains, the westsie volcanoes and the Rio Grande River, but wearing to live in sometimes. But… it was never dangerous. Oh sure, there were certain parts of town you wouldn't go to, especially at night, especially if you were a gringo. But that was true in almost any town of some size.

But now, Albuquerque has become hell. Gun violence is out of control, mostly because of the drug flow, methamphetamines, very bad stuff. The APD was always considered a killer loose canon, but now gang bangers and gun-toting citizens are taking their toll, to make living there a daily danger.

Here are some cold statistics: this year, 114 people shot in 112 days. 36 percent more this year than over the same period last year. 2018: 232 shootings, 65 fatal. The youngest victim this year: 8-year-old Diamond Williams. Per the Albuquerque Journal, "No arrests have been made, although police have said they are not looking for any suspects." Not looking for any suspects. Imagine you are Diamond's parents.

HERE'S WHERE I TAKE IT PERSONAL

There are lots more horrifying statistics,


Courtesy image
CRIME: Albuquerque and Santa Monica both have a problem.

but let me tell you what I experienced.

You can get away with murder in Albuquerque.

My adult son Chris, born there and moved back after college, was murdered in his home 9/20/17, on a quiet cul-de-sac in a respectable part of town. We called the detective assigned to his case faithfully every Tuesday, until after 18 months we gave up. APD had six detectives for all those homicides and they were all ridiculously overloaded, and bounced back and forth on priorities as the political winds shifted. Finally our detective told us the case was being assigned to another detective, as soon as he could complete checking the phone logs. We never heard back from anyone.

Checking the phone logs. The numbers taken from his cell phone. People he spoke to just before being murdered. I'm pretty sure that's almost the first thing you do in a murder investigation, but 18 months later the detective hadn't gotten around to it. What was he doing? But hey, it was only That Day's Murder, right?

On our family's last trip there, we made a request in advance, through channels, to speak with the Police Chief. We felt we had a right to some answers, or at least to speak our minds. 15 minutes, we asked for. His "community liaison" stonewalled and never returned a phone call or email. On the APD web page there is a list of 25 active homicide investigations; our son's name is not there, and hasn't been for a long time. That hurts.

YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH MURDER IN ALBUQUERQUE

Is SM that bad? Not yet. But more and more people I know are not waiting to find out — they're moving. I fully realize that both cities are fighting huge regional, national problems

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 7

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

3 LAPD officers infected with antibiotic-resistant MRSA

Three Los Angeles police officers who work at a station in the San Fernando Valley have been infected with the superbug known as MRSA.

CBS2 reports Tuesday the outbreak started a few days ago at the West Valley station in Reseda and possibly resulted from interacting with homeless people.

MRSA is an antibiotic-resistant Staph bacteria.

The Police Department says in a statement that the officers are being cared for and all work areas of the police station that may have been exposed have been disinfected.

The statement says emergency personnel constantly respond to incidents that may put them at risk of potential exposure to various diseases.

MRSA is short for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureas. MRSA can become dangerous if they enter the bloodstream, destroying heart valves or causing other damage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Google spinoff, Lyft team up to offer self-driving car rides

Google's self-driving car spinoff Waymo is teaming up with Lyft in Arizona to attempt to lure passengers away from ride-hailing market leader Uber.

The alliance announced Tuesday will allow anyone with the Lyft app in the Phoenix area to summon one of the 10 self-driving Waymo cars joining the ride-hailing service.

Waymo's robotic vehicles will still have a human behind the wheel to take control in case something goes awry with the technology. But their use in Lyft's service could make more people feel comfortable about riding in self-driving cars.

Both Lyft and Uber consider self-driving cars to be one of the keys to turning a profit, something neither company has done so far.

The new threat to Uber is emerging as the company prepares to go public this week.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS

Beverly Hills considering banning sale of tobacco products

Beverly Hills is considering outlawing the sale of tobacco products, a move that would make the glamorous California city the first in the nation to enact such a ban.

A draft ordinance scheduled to go before the Beverly Hills City Council on Tuesday evening would exempt only three existing high-end cigar lounges.

A staff report prepared for the council cited the city's advocacy of healthy living and outlined the extensive adverse effects of tobacco use.

"Given that no other city in the United States has adopted a comprehensive ban on all tobacco products, the city is likely to face legal challenges," the report said, adding that there could be "substantial litigation expenses with the tobacco industry."

Beverly Hills already forbids smoking in some locations and has banned sales of flavored tobacco.

In addition to the cigar lounges, there are 25 active city permits for sales of tobacco and electronic cigarettes in grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, convenience stores and pharmacies.

The report said there have been discussions on having small-business experts assist retailers in dealing with the impacts of a possible ban on revenue.

A joint letter from the chamber of commerce, the tourism bureau and a group representing the chic Rodeo Drive shopping district asserted that about 80 percent of visitors are from cities outside the U.S. where smoking remains popular.

"To staff's knowledge, there is no reliable data available to accurately measure the extent to which tourism in Beverly Hills could be affected," the city report noted.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Obstructing justice

Editor:

In Monday's SMDP "Crime Watch" feature, you wrote that a suspect named God was detained on Ocean Avenue for, "obstructing a police investigation." Wait. You mean, God can be arrested for obstruction, but our little idiot king can't?

HENRY ROSENFELD
Santa Monica

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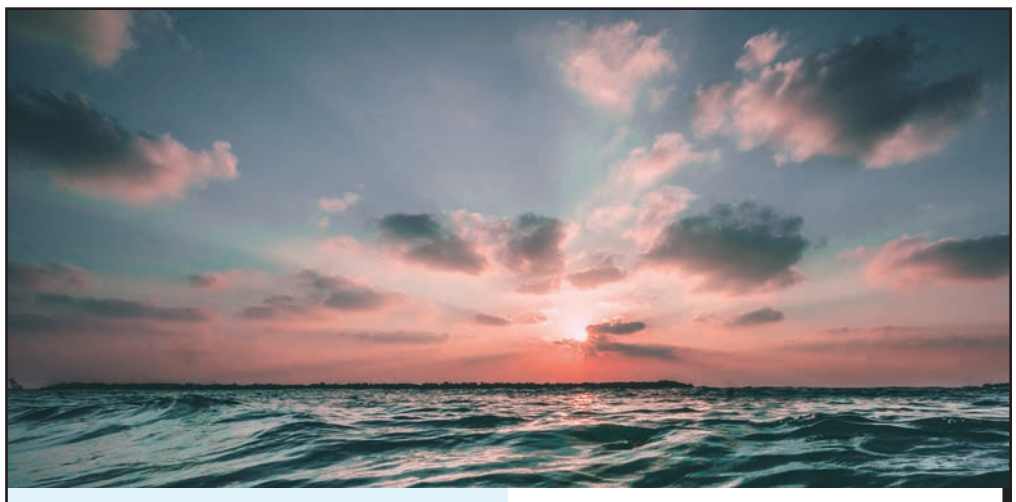
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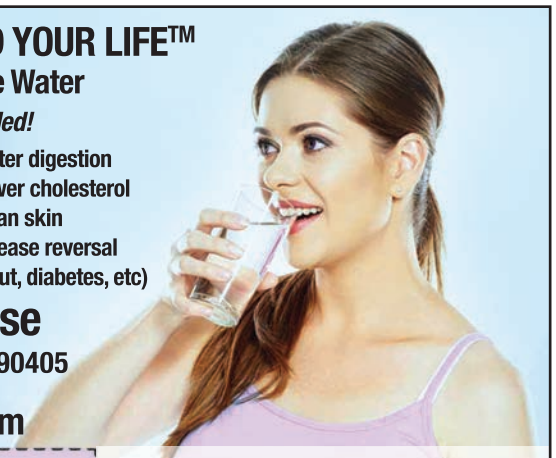
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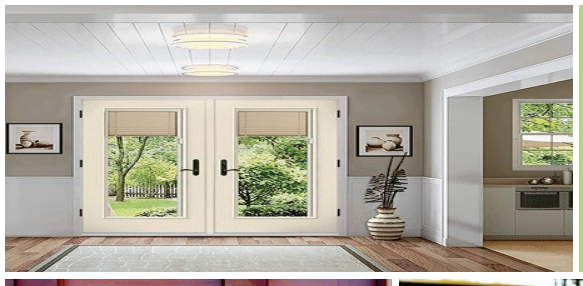


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ARTS CENTER

FROM PAGE 1

celebrate the artists and individuals who have made 18th Street Arts Center what it is today, 30 years after it was first started by a group of groundbreaking feminist artists who understood the value of creative time and space," Jan Williams, executive director of the 18th Street Arts Center said. "Their vision is more relevant than ever, and we want to expand and grow that philosophy to serve even more artists."

18th Street Arts Center's expansion will include the impending management of Santa Monica Airport art studios as well as an upcoming program dubbed Commons Lab: Place and Public Life, a series of events designed to question the role of cultural institutions in an ever-changing United States. Race and gentrification within Santa Monica will be topics covered.

Additional program expansions include Community programs and partnerships, including new programs with the Santa Monica Public Library, affordable housing organization Community Corp of Santa Monica, and educational arts workshops with Brentwood Arts Center.

Donors for the event will hail from across the world but the musical artist for the event is a homegrown talent.

Leven Kali and his band the Moon will play at the event. Williams says Kali, a Santa Monica native, is quite literally a child of the Arts Center; his parents, both artist/musicians, were in residence at 18th Street Arts Center when Kali was born. He was essentially raised at the Arts Center and across the street at Crossroads school.

"It's always been right there for me, whether I'm home or gone," Kali said about the Arts Center.

Since his 18th Street upbringing and Crossroads education, Kali has collaborated with the likes of Drake, Playboi Carti and Syd from The Internet. At the moment, a billboard of his face is erected right outside of Staples Center. He says coming back to the center to perform is an act of love and giving back, just like the gala fundraiser.

"If you wanna change the world, you have to start with your community," Kali said. "It's perfect for practicing serving the community within your community. [18th Street Arts Center] is something I love and [the gala] is a cause I believe in. Expect good energy."

Tickets for the gala start at $500. Email rsvp@18thstreet.org if interested.

angel@smdp.com

ARB

FROM PAGE 1

across the street from the downtown Vons will include 50 apartments in eight stories, as well as 963 square feet of commercial space on its ground floor. The gray and white building will contain 33 one-bedrooms, 10 two-bedrooms and seven three-bedrooms, with balconies and a roof deck. A subterranean level will house 89 bicycle parking spaces but no parking for cars.

The building will replace a vacant lot and sit between a three-story and a four-story building.

A few blocks to the north, a six-story, gray and white building with 37 apartments and 1,527 square feet of commercial space on its ground floor will be constructed at 1238 7th St. across the street from the Proper Hotel, replacing a vacant lot. The building will also include bicycle parking but not car parking.

"The upper stories facing 7th Street appear as alternating staggered frames incorporating balconies that break the building into two unequal portions and lead the eye upward," associate planner Michael Rocque wrote in a report to the Architectural Review Board, which reviewed the four projects Monday.

The Lincoln Boulevard project, dubbed Pacific Link, will replace a gas station with a four-story building containing 37 apartments and bicycle parking. Its facade will be clad in a sculptural shell of cement, plaster and steel in different shades of gray with orange and blue recesses for windows.

CCSM opened another affordable building on Lincoln last December. The Arroyo provides 64 apartments for low-income individuals and families.

The market-rate building on 5th Street will be eight stories tall and contain 92 apartments: 60 one-bedrooms, 18 two-bedrooms and 14 three-bedrooms. Its 4,512 square feet of ground-floor commercial space is designed for one large restaurant.

The infill development will replace a nail salon and tailor in a one-story office building constructed in 1953 with a light blue highrise with balconies and a roof deck.

madeleine@smdp.com



Democratic state lawmakers try to get Trump tax returns, too

BY MIKE CATALINI AND GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

Congress won't be seeing President Donald Trump's tax returns any time soon, but that request isn't the only way Democrats are trying to pry them loose.

So far this year, lawmakers in at least 20 states have introduced bills that would require presidential candidates to release their tax returns as a condition for appearing on the state ballot. Critics say such laws could run afoul of the U.S. Constitution and lead future legislatures to place all kinds of other restrictions on candidates.

But that hasn't stopped Democratic lawmakers from trying.

"I would like to see it passed and signed into law and send a very strong message as to how we believe candidates for office should behave," said New Jersey state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, a Democrat and sponsor of legislation passed by the state Senate in February.

Her measure would require presidential and vice presidential candidates to disclose five years' worth of returns at least 50 days before the general election. It hasn't received a hearing in the Assembly, which also is controlled by Democrats.

On Monday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he would not comply with a congressional deadline to hand over Trump's returns. In a letter, he said the House Ways and Means Committee "lacks a legitimate legislative purpose" for the records. The denial likely sets up a court battle between the administration and Democrats, who control the House.

In addition to New Jersey, at least four other states — California, Hawaii, Illinois and Rhode Island — have had one legislative chamber pass similar legislation this year. It's also in the Minnesota House's government finance bill.

The bills have been considered but spiked in Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Virginia and Washington. They'll face tough battles in Republican-controlled Arizona, North Carolina and Ohio. And they remain alive — if not necessarily a top priority — in Connecticut, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

In a separate but somewhat related maneuver, the New York state Senate is scheduled to vote Wednesday on a bill to release Trump's state tax returns to congressional investigators.

SEE **TAXES** PAGE 11

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 4

that defy easy or quick solutions. But in Albuquerque, my longtime friends there tell me, new mayor Tim Keller is storming ahead with new programs and technology, making it the top priority.

How do you feel our City leaders here are addressing the crime problem? Is it their top priority, or just on the agenda? Are they diverting needed attention and crime-fighting funds away to pride projects of sustainability? A City offices building costing tens of millions more than it needs to, some $30M to fight a court ruling that we discriminate in our voting practices, $8M wasted on bus benches everyone hates but they look pretty, $2.5M on a toilet? Tens of millions on an early childhood care center giveaway. And on and on and on. Where are their priorities?

In both cities, the buck stops with the City Council/Mayor, doesn't it?

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealm-rmusic@gmail.com

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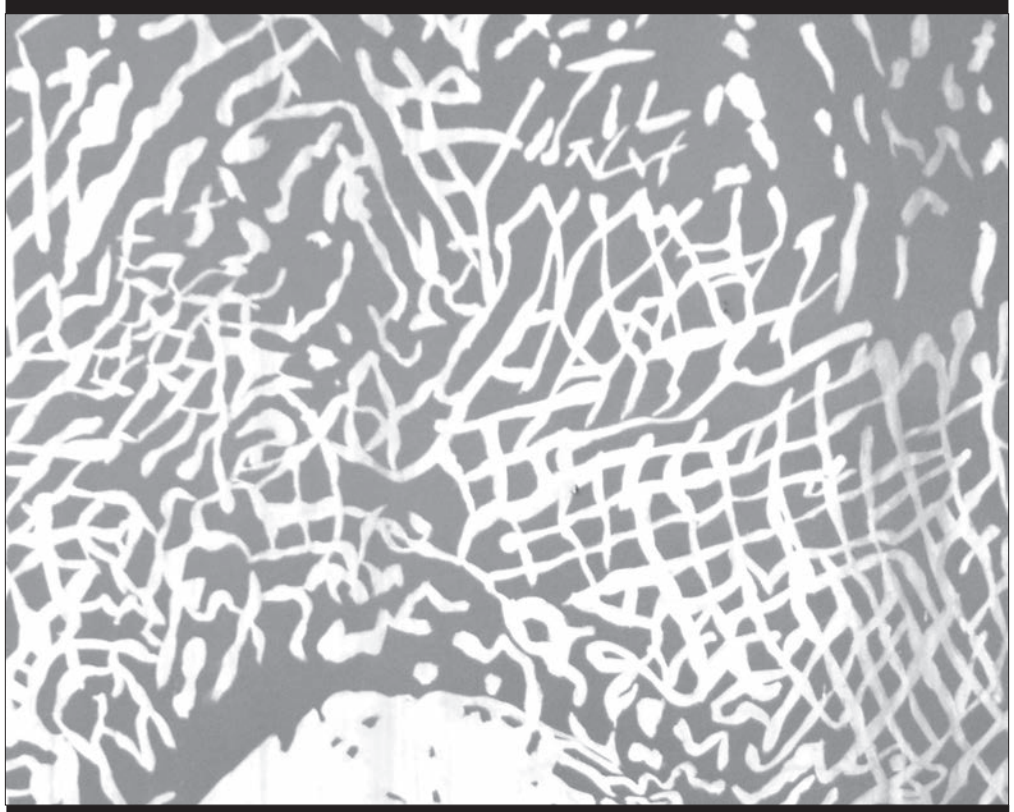
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MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

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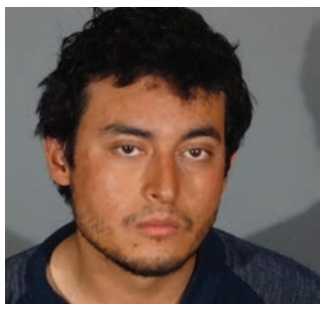
CRIME WATCH

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 24, AT 9:21 A.M.

Officers were conducting homeless livability and outreach in the 1100 block of Palisades Park. They made contact with one individual who admitted to them he was on parole. The individual was found to be in possession of a fixed blade knife and narcotics in violation of his parole conditions. Omar Eli Mendoza, 24, homeless, was arrested for being a parolee at large, a health & safety violation and being in possession of dagger.



File Photo

OMAR ELI MENDOZA

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 338 CALLS ON MAY 6

Fitness permit violation 900blk Franklin St 7:05 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 1400blk Franklin St 7:20 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1000blk 19th St 7:37 a.m.
Encampment 19th St / Olympic Blvd 8:02 a.m.
Violation of temporary no parking signs 900blk 9th St 8:03 a.m.
Violation of temporary no parking signs 2800blk 3rd St 8:24 a.m.
Battery 300blk Santa Monica Pier 8:25 a.m.
Petty theft 700blk Broadway 8:32 a.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 9 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 3100blk Highland Ave 9:04 a.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1400blk Franklin St 9:14 a.m.
Drunk driving investigation 1800blk 12th St 9:30 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1800blk 12th St 10:11 a.m.
Fraud 1700blk Ocean Ave 10:22 a.m.
Failure to pay parking fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:30 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk 9th St 10:38 a.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 2100blk Main St 10:59 a.m.
Petty theft 2600blk 25th St 11:15 a.m.
Battery 300blk Pico Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 300blk 22nd St 11:55 a.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Critical missing person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 12:07 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 700blk 18th St 12:08 p.m.
Elder abuse 1000blk 12th St 12:09 p.m.
Hit and run 2600blk Main St 12:35 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk 9th St 12:35 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk 9th St 12:40 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 2nd St 12:49 p.m.
Burglary 1900blk 18th St 1:06 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 1:20 p.m.
Attempt burglary 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:20 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper in progress 1300blk Ocean Ave 1:23 p.m.
Bike theft 200blk Santa Monica Pier 2:10 p.m.
Attempt burglary 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:11 p.m.
Grand theft 300blk Santa Monica Pl 2:31 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk 9th St 2:42 p.m.
Speeding 600blk Pico Blvd 3:24 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:28 p.m.
Missing person 300blk Olympic Dr 3:54 p.m.
Petty theft 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:55 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 14th St / Arizona Ave 3:59 p.m.
Fight 1700blk Ocean Ave 4 p.m.
Domestic violence Princeton St / Wilshire Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Indecent exposure Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 4:26 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive parking violations 1100blk Harvard St 4:38 p.m.
Failure to pay parking fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:41 p.m.
Exhibition of speed 7th St / Montana Ave 4:45 p.m.
Fraud 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:46 p.m.
Hit and run 1700blk Ocean Ave 5:26 p.m.
Elder abuse 1300blk 15th St 5:43 p.m.
Encampment 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:09 p.m.
Bike theft 700blk Marguerita Ave 6:40 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON MAY 6

Automatic alarm 200blk Santa Monica Pier 1:56 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service1400blk 16th St 2:20 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 3:57 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Ave 4:34 a.m.
EMS 17th St / Pico Blvd 7:02 a.m.
Miscellaneous outside fire 200blk Broadway 8:20 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Idaho Ave 10:20 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 10:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600blk Pico Blvd 10:43 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:55 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 4th St 11:25 a.m.
EMS 300blk Pico Blvd 11:31 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 12:03 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 12:06 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Pico Blvd 12:09 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Barnard Way 12:42 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 22nd St 12:45 p.m.
EMS 19th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:39 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:58 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Ocean Front Walk 3:52 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 05/04
6 16 23 30 61
Power#: 2
Jackpot: $215 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 05/03
8 16 22 66 68
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: $273 M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 05/04
4 5 33 38 43
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: $42 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 05/06
21 29 35 36 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 05/06
Midday: 1 5 7

Draw Date: 05/06
Evening: 8 6 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 05/06
1st: 07 - EUREKA
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
RACE TIME: 1:48.85

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com



SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.7°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft knee to waist high
SSW/S swell fades for exposures. Trace NW swell. Winds are on watch.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2 ft + ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
SSW/S swell fades for exposures. Trace NW swell. Winds are on watch.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

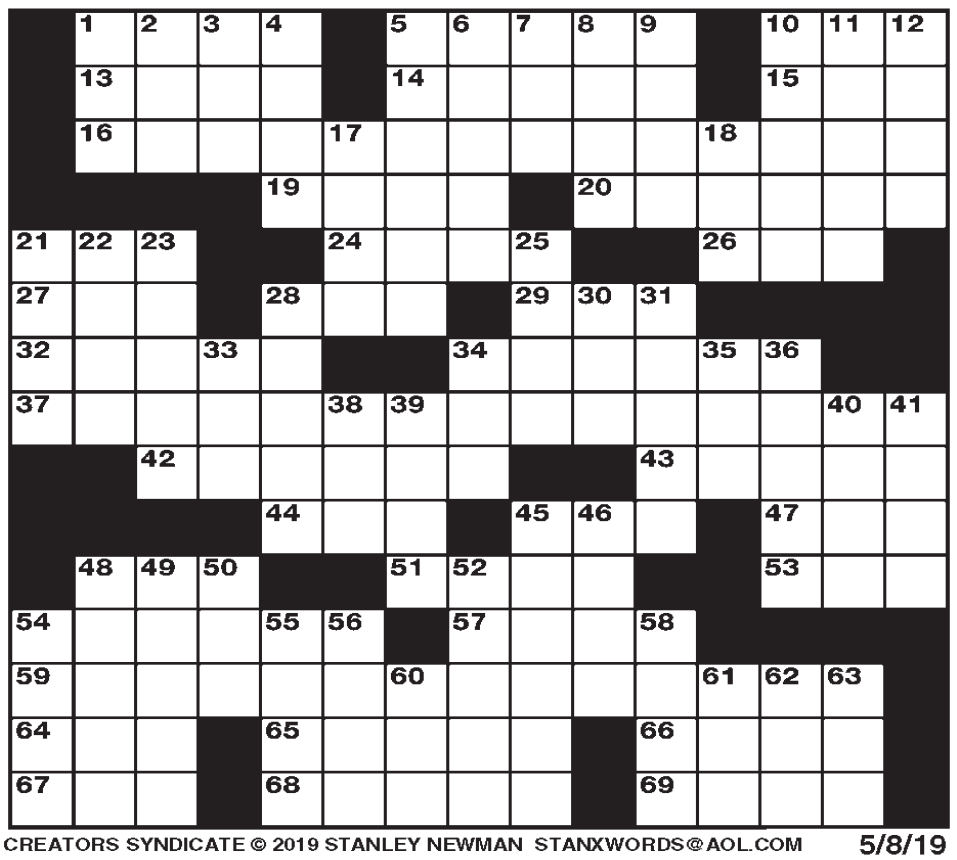
5	3		1					
2		6	8	9		5	3	
								8
		4		2		1	6	
				6				
	2	7		5		9		
7								
	8	9		1	6	4		7
					9		1	5

Newsday Crossword

TUXEDO TRIO by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Seep
5 Very inexpensive
10 Double-curve shape
13 Low-quality
14 Specialized language
15 "Mamma __!"
16 Diner grill worker
19 Horse's father
20 Sculpture in a park
21 Find a sum
24 Poetic daybreak
26 Tyrannosaurus __
27 Type of evergreen
28 Irk
29 Mo. with no holidays
32 Sports venue
34 __ de corps (morale)
37 87-octane fuel
42 Small apartment
43 Any song from the '60s
44 PC bailout key
45 S&L device
47 Completely
48 Fawn's mother
51 Farmland measure
53 __ *Misérables*
54 Thrifty
57 What snobs "put on"
59 *Treasure Island* pirate
64 Business name abbr.
65 Battery pole
66 Covered with grease
67 Golf starting point
68 Inert gas
69 Begin one's day

DOWN
1 Spy missions, for short
2 Aah partner
3 Menagerie
4 Makes a blunder
5 Bleach brand
6 Want-ad placer
7 Phase out
8 Quite a while
9 Left side, at sea
10 Ham it up
11 Sitting Bull, for one
12 Rice wine
17 Fourth dimension
18 Elevator compartment
21 Many miles away
22 In __ straits
23 Wine sediment
25 Rocket-launching letters
28 Financial worth
30 Increases
31 Horse handler
33 Bar-bowl morsel
34 Sense of self
35 Under the weather
36 Of ocean motion
38 Infomercials, for instance
39 Costa __
40 Long African waterway
41 Snakelike fish
45 Gone up
46 Actress Hatcher
48 Stingless bee
49 Post-office measure
50 Soft-boiled breakfast
52 "No problem"
54 Move like hummingbirds
55 Trojan War hero
56 Solitary
58 School zone sign
60 Sweetie pie
61 By way of
62 Lodge member
63 Something to toast, or toast with



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/8/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 8)

Though you don't make finding love, joy and fun your priority, these qualities will be abundantly present this trip around the sun. It's like a new part of your being is activated. You'll find yourself interested in things you wouldn't have suspected you would be. Different teachers show up in the form of friends and a boss. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 14, 44 and 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Successful move of the day: Give your energy to those who give back. And even though it's not always possible or advisable to love only those who love you, etc., today it's your ticket to heart-happiness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though you may feel clueless as to what is your next move, your intention to avoid trouble and steer yourself in a healthful and supportive direction will lead you into becoming who you want to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be put in a position today. Make it easy for present-you by saying yes. Make it easy for future-you by saying no. The second way is better, causing you less stress overall, but of course, it's harder.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're doing something for the first time, it seems to take a lot longer. The novelty changes your perception of time and makes moments stretch. Break the routine. Variety is a must for a memorable life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are a lot of things that mistakenly pass for gratitude. Manners, humility, deference – they're all fine and well, but they are not gratitude. Gratitude is a type of joy. If it doesn't feel joyful, then it's not really gratitude.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get into the kind of relationships you can handle. You know what you have time for and what you don't. You know what feels easy and what seems right but somehow isn't quite. Trust yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a problem. Other people have the same problem. If you can solve it for you, you can solve it for the others, too. Knowing it's bigger than you will give you motivation to dig in and try harder for the answer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Everyone judges. "No judgment but..." is one way judgy sentences can start. If you find yourself judging, even if it's only mentally, then add an "or not" to the end of what you were thinking. Because the opposite idea may be just as true.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). An unhelpful idea that's been engrained in you since you were small will be tricky to free yourself from, but that's exactly what you need to do to move to a lighter mode of being.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The different kinds of inspiration will compound. Intellectual inspiration will ignite physical exuberance; social inspiration will effervesce into spiritual joy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For a conflict to resolve, one person has to soften in the name of resolution. That person is automatically the bigger person, as it takes a great spirit to be humble.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your learning process can be very mysterious. Maybe it feels like nothing is clicking in, but keep exposing yourself to the material you want to absorb. When it does click in, it will be sudden and magical.

Cosmic Flow State

Goals are a solid thing to have, but they are not the end-all-be-all of a successful person, venture or experience. The conjunction of Mercury and Uranus increases the odds of achieving a state of flow. Such a state transcends the realm of goals (even though, paradoxically, that state is often entered along the journey to a goal).

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"This psychic came to a party at my dorm and read my cards. He went on and on about the main card I drew, an upside-down hermit. I'm not a hermit! I live with four other girls. He said I was 'too studious for my own good,' and I have no idea what that even means. How could anyone study (SET ITAL)too(END ITAL) much, especially anyone who is still a student? I'm a Virgo." The sign of Virgo is actually associated with the hermit card in Tarot so it's interesting that you should choose that card. The hermit is a wise old man who seeks truth and knowledge from a place of solitude and introspection. Some older versions of the hermit card actually depict him holding an hourglass, a nod to Virgo's love of schedules and structure. Beware, though, of the reversed (upside-down) hermit card: This is a signal that you are becoming too rigid and inflexible. It's good to have goals and a plan to get there, but the actual business of living occurs between the lines of your written agenda. Don't be such a perfectionist! Drawing a reversed hermit card should also make you pause to consider the current state of your social life, my dear Virgo. That's the universe's way of telling you to put the books aside for a night, go out and have some fun.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

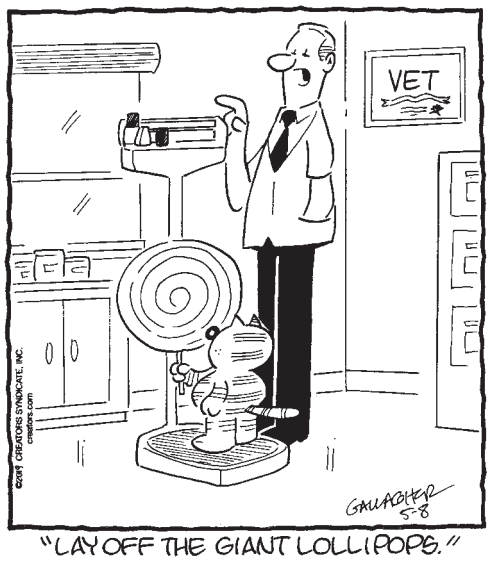
Stephen Amell, who plays the Green Arrow on the TV series "Arrow," will star in the upcoming sci-fi film, "Code 8," with his cousin Robbie Amell. Amell was born when the sun, Venus and Mars were all in Taurus, the Venus ruled realm that covers money, physical strength, stamina and beautiful voices. He uses his talent to promote causes and has raised more than a million dollars for charity. Write to Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

WORD UP!

Camp noun [kamp]
something that provides sophisticated, knowing amusement, as by virtue of its being artlessly mannered or stylized, or self-consciously artificial and extravagant.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



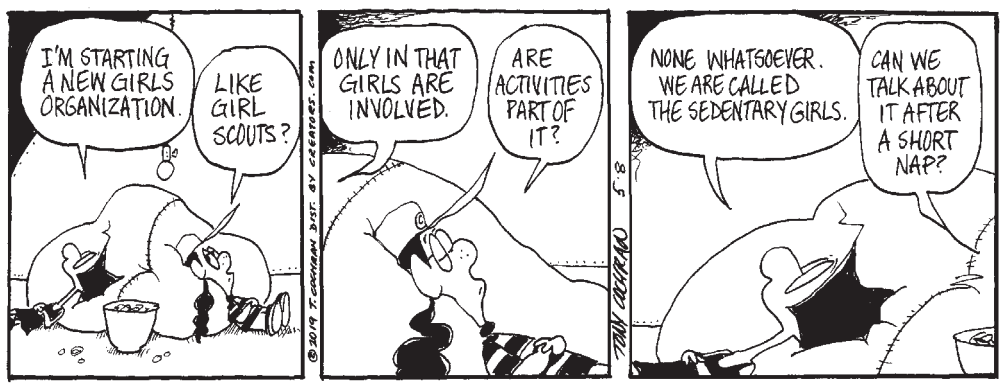
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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TAXES

FROM PAGE 7

There is no federal requirement for presidential candidates to disclose their private financial information, but it's a custom every other president since the Watergate era has followed.

Democrats have been pushing to see the documents since Trump was a candidate three years ago, but legal challenges are expected if any governors sign the legislation into law. In New Jersey, the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services concluded that the legislature does not have the authority to require tax returns from candidates.

Democrats "are so desperate to defeat President Trump that they have stooped to using the state legislature as an unconstitutional political weapon to block him from even appearing on the ballot," Doug Steinhardt, chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee, said in a statement.

He said his party would challenge the requirement in court if it becomes law.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat and former Goldman Sachs executive, has criticized Trump for failing to release his taxes. But Murphy himself has failed to make his taxes totally available to the public, instead allowing reporters a several-hours-long window to review them.

Murphy spokesman Mahen Gunaratna said the administration generally doesn't comment on pending legislation.

So far, the only state where both legislative chambers have passed a similar measure is California, where then-Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it in 2017 citing constitutional concerns. Brown, a Democrat, never released his own tax returns.

The state Senate last week passed a nearly identical bill, hoping its fate will be different under Gov. Gavin Newsom. The first-year governor has released his own tax returns and embraced his role as a national "resistance" leader to Trump and his policies.

"We believe that President Trump, if he truly doesn't have anything to hide, should step up and release his tax returns," said state Sen. Mike McGuire, a Democrat sponsoring the California bill.

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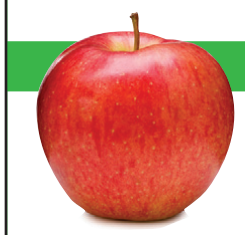
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