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THURSDAY
05.10.18
Volume 17 Issue 148

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SMC students' film makes it to Cannes



Courtesy image

LIFE IN COLOR: The student film will screen at Cannes.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

"We are freaking out, but also so, so exhausted," filmmaker Bishal Dutta says with a low and raspy voice about him and his producer, Olivia Shapiro.

SEE **FILM** PAGE 11

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Won't Get Fooled Again

REMEMBER LICORICE PIZZA?

It was a SoCal record store chain, using a term for LPs that was first used in an Abbott and Costello routine. I'm trying desperately to

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 5

SMC Trustee Members Nancy Greenstein, Louise Jaffe, and Chair Barry Snell Plan on Running for Re-election



NANCY GREENSTEIN



LOUISE JAFFE



BARRY SNELL



ANDREW WALZER

ETHAN LAUREN
SMC Corsair / Daily Press Staff Writer

Several members of the Santa Monica College board of trustees will be looking to secure their position once more in the November elections. Though the elections are months away, the incumbents running for re-election say upcoming issues at the college will require people with experience to handle them.

For trustee Dr. Nancy Greenstein, who has been on the board since 2002, one of the biggest issues will be the budget. With a change in the funding formula proposed in January by the Governor's office, the school could potentially face up to a $12 million loss for the 2018-2019 school year.

SEE **RE-ELECTION** PAGE 11

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Little Moon, Big Orbit

LITTLE MOON, BIG ORBIT

Rafael Lunetta is a Santa Monica native who grew up surfing. It's still his passion—that is, when he can find time to get out on the waves. These days he's busy running his popular eponymously-named upscale restaurant, Lunetta, and its casual next-door diner, Lunetta All Day.

To give you an idea of his schedule, last Saturday Rafael did a cooking demo in the morning at Santa Monica Farmers Market,

SEE **CULTURE** PAGE 7

Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

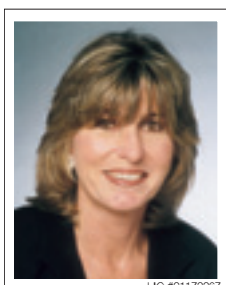
Marlo and Drew and Baby Makes Five

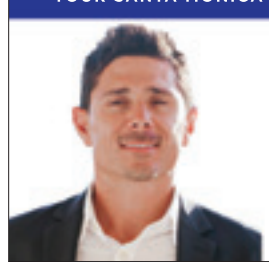
SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN

Cinderella finally marries the Prince? Well, sometimes it isn't all glass slippers and carriages made from pumpkins. Sometimes she winds up on the other side of wedded bliss.

As introduced in screenwriter Cody Diablo's new film, "Tully", a harried housewife and mother, a woman named Marlo, begins to tell her story. Marlo, impeccably portrayed by Charlize Theron, has two children: a bossy little 8-year-old girl (Lia Frankland) and an angry, disturbed younger boy

SEE **PLAY** PAGE 6


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down town santa monica

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This spring, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. invites you to our Third Street Promenade 3.0 Community Workshops. These fun, interactive meetings are designed to spark conversation as we embark on a capital improvement project that will update promenade infrastructure and design features to reinvigorate the beloved destination. Each workshop will feature guest speakers who are experts in urban design and placemaking. Understand the importance of creating and maintaining vibrant public spaces and learn about new trends in retail and customer engagement. Share your thoughts and help craft what Third Street Promenade will look like and how it will serve residents and visitors for generations to come.

Community Workshops

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
1212 Restaurant
1212 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 1
The Gallery, Third Floor
1315 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 15
1231 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

PLEASE RSVP TO
http://promenadeworkshops.eventbrite.com

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PAL Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, May 10

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, 1685 Main St. 7 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.

Mother's Day Crafts

Craft handmade cards and rolled paper flowers for the Moms in your life. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now

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 p.m.

Friday, May 11

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.

Hurray for Mommies!

Join us for a mommy and me story time and craft! Make a special pop-up card for Mother's Day. Limited space, tickets available 15 minutes before. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Vegan Food Tasting at Santa Monica Beach

Let your taste buds explore everything the Vegan world has to offer: food tasting, wine tasting, vegan clothing, vegan shoes, vegan makeup, and a vegan car company. 1550 PCH. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. $20

Unnecessary Evil – Stand Up Comedy

An award winning stand up comedy show (CBS Los Angeles & LA Weekly's top 10 Stand Up Shows in Los Angeles) featuring 5 of the country's top comedians and special guests. Past special guests include: Howie Mandel, Ali Wong, Kevin Nealon, Hannibal Buress, Hasan Minhaj, Demetri Martin, Mary Lynn Rajskub, Damon Wayans, Tone Bell, Ron Funches, and Laura Kightlinger. 1323-A 3rd Street. 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. $14

Saturday, May 12

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (downtown)

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

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market (Virginia Ave. Park)

A family market in the heart of the Pico/Cloverfield neighborhood, and offers a variety of organic and conventionally-grown produce, in addition to several prepared food options and coffee. It is also currently the only Santa Monica Farmers Market offering Market Match incentives for WIC and EBT customers. Virginia Avenue Park. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SM Reads: An Afternoon with Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston opens the 16th year of Santa Monica Reads with a discussion of Farewell to Manzanar and her connections to Santa Monica, and shares her thoughts on how the book and her family's story resonate in today's world. A book signing follows. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

10th Annual Sustainable Santa Monica Student Poster Contest Awards Ceremony and Celebration

The City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment along with Sustainable Works congratulates the winners and participants of the 10th Annual Sustainable Santa Monica Student Poster Contest. This year's theme Be Fantastic, Cut the Plastic, educated students on society's over reliance on plastics, on how these plastics are polluting our environment and what they can do to be part of the solution. The contest was open to all kindergarten through 12th grade students who live and/or attend school in Santa Monica. This year, due to the high number of exceptional submissions, the contest was expanded to include two additional honorable mention winners in each of the four grade categories. Bringing the total number of winners to 24.

"The Poster Contest is a great way to engage with students through art and address important issues that are impacting their environment like plastic pollution. Now when they see a plastic straw or water bottle, they can be reminded of their artwork and the impacts of their behaviors. The majority of the students incorporated the beach, the ocean or marine life even though that was not a requirement. But these kids already have connection to the beach because it is their backyard. "Protect what you love"" said Amanda Grossman with the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

This year's outreach efforts educated over 1,060 students in 50 different classrooms at public schools and after school programs in Santa Monica and at Community Corporation of Santa Monica, resulting in over 730 poster submissions. The judges included representatives from the City of Santa Monica, Sustainable Works, along with other nonprofit leaders. The City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment and Sustainable Works are pleased to announce the winners.

The winning posters will be on display at the Santa Monica Main Library from until May 18, then at ClimateFest Santa Monica on May 19.

All Poster Contest winners and participants will be honored at an awards ceremony and celebration at the Annenberg Community Beach House on May 22 at 3:45 p.m. To RSVP to the event, email Gina Garcia at gina.garcia@sustainableworks.org.

A full photo gallery of the Awards Ceremony will be available at Sustainableworks.org after the Awards Ceremony and Celebration.

2018 SUSTAINABLE SANTA MONICA STUDENT POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

K-2nd grade

Grand Prize, Mailan Mai, Will Rogers Learning Community
2nd Place, Maddy Forrer, Grant Elementary
3rd Place, Samantha Mendez Ruiz, Community Corp of SM
Honorable Mention, Ella Ko, Grant Elementary
Honorable Mention, Charlie (Charlotte) Sloca, Grant Elementary
Honorable Mention, Dawit Yebalih, Community Corp of SM

3-5th grade

Grand Prize, Tyson Clark, Crossroads Elementary
2nd Place, Sofia Piturro, John Muir Elementary
3rd Place, Irene Beltran, Grant Elementary
Honorable Mention, Vivian Mardesich, Grant Elementary
Honorable Mention, Poppy Carr, Grant Elementary
Honorable Mention, Larissa Galan, Grant Elementary

6- 8th grade

Grand Prize, Helleney Avila Lincoln Middle School
2nd Place, Isabella Miele-Okada, Lincoln Middle School
3rd Place, Summer Bennett Stein, John Adams Middle School
Honorable Mention, Olivia Overfield, John Adams Middle School
Honorable Mention, Ming-Yen Johnson, John Adams Middle School
Honorable Mention, Reine S. Bissember, Lincoln Middle School

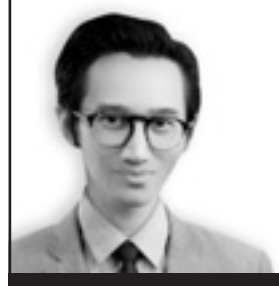
9-12th grade

Grand Prize, Esmé Ison, Santa Monica High School
2nd Place, Sabrina Miller, Santa Monica High School
3rd Place, Alisa Boardman, Santa Monica High School
Honorable Mention, Harper Smith, Santa Monica High School
Honorable Mention, Brianna Tenhouten, Santa Monica High School
Honorable Mention, Ashlynd Trendel, Santa Monica High School

SUBMITTED BY GINA GARCIA, SUSTAINABLE WORKS CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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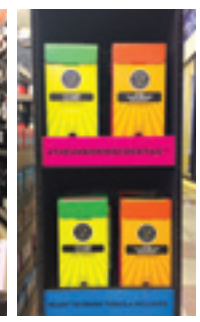
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Tourism Talks

Misti Kerns
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Hosts 9th Annual Travel & Tourism Summit

AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SANTA Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT), it was my pleasure to welcome more than 300 members of the community to the Jonathan Beach Club yesterday for our 9th annual Travel & Tourism Summit. At the Summit, we Celebrated vitality and showed our gratitude for the people of Santa Monica and this place many of us call home.

This past year represented a record-breaking year for tourism in Santa Monica. During the event, we released the 2017 Tourism Economic and Fiscal Impact summary report, which demonstrated the vitality of our local tourism industry. We conduct this report annually to track the economic impact of tourism on the destination, and this past year found that tourism spending injected $1.96 billion into Santa Monica's local economy, representing a 5.1% increase, with more than $54 million going directly into the City's general fund from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT).

The contribution of the TOT to the City's general fund is supported entirely by overnight hotel guests. These taxes play a vital role in funding essential city services such as the exceptional police and fire departments, school systems, homeless services as well as the maintenance of the parks and beaches that make our beachside city a world-class place to live, work and play. Were it not for the TOT, each Santa Monica household would have to pay an estimated additional $1,379 in taxes to maintain the current level of city services. Tourism also generated 13,345 jobs that cannot be exported outside of Santa Monica. As a local resident, I am happy to share 83% of this overnight customer base report that they do not drive once they arrive in Santa Monica due to our many choices of public and private transportation options.

Visit California President/CEO Caroline Beteta was on hand to confirm that the growth within Santa Monica's tourism industry and its impact on the local economy are reflective of the state-wide travel industry, pacing ahead of other states. California's robust tourism economy expanded in 2017, fueling more than $132 million in travel spending, $10.9 billion in tax revenue and 1.1 million jobs in communities across the Golden State. Additional speeches celebrated the vitality of Santa Monica with speakers including Ted Winterer, Santa Monica Mayor and Rick Cole, Santa Monica City Manager.

We were also grateful for the opportunity to recognize members of our local community with several awards during the Summit. First, Heal the Bay and the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium received SMTT's newly renamed Jeff King Santa Monica Tourism Champion of the Year Award in recognition of their unique partnership and dedication to making the coastal watersheds of Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy and clean over the past 33 years. Heal the Bay has pushed the envelope of sustainability with an impressive list of environmental victories and the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium places education at its forefront, having welcomed more than one million visitors.

Fernando Ceron from Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel was awarded the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award with a 1k scholarship and a staycation for his exceptional service in the hospitality industry. A true ambassador for the hotel and our destination, Fernando has worked at the hotel since 1989 and has won nearly all Loews recognition during his career.

We also honored Raphael Lunetta, outgoing Chair, SMTT Board of Directors and Chef/Restauranteur of two popular neighborhood restaurants, Lunetta and Lunetta All Day. During his tenure with our Board of Directors, he provided steadfast leadership and helped share the soul of Santa Monica around the world. At the Summit, Raphael spoke to the importance of nurturing small businesses within the community to keep it successful. We thank him for his passion and commitment.

"It has been an honor to provide input to our beachside city's tourism goals from a small business viewpoint," said Lunetta. "Small businesses must be nurtured in this community to keep it successful and as a local business owner myself, I know how important it is to have a steady stream of residents and visitors from around the world to thrive."

Our true vitality as a community comes from the power of our people, and yesterday's Travel & Tourism Summit made me proud as ever to call Santa Monica home.

To learn more about SMTT and how you can be a tourist in your own back yard, visit www.santamonica.com

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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

make a link here, to music and NOTEWORTHY, to let you know you should probably ignore the Jetblue promotion I touted in yesterday's CURIOUS CITY column.

Sounded great — for three days they were flying in gen-you-wine New York pizza, to finish it and deliver it warm to the first 350 people within the delivery zone to order it from their website.

Problem is, they weren't ready and the site crashed (actually, I got the message that it was not a "trusted" site, so I sure wasn't going to put all my info in including my credit card number). Okay, that can happen. But they then told you to come back at 9 a.m., and they would start from there. Fair enough. This was just a lark, anyway.

I was ready, several minutes early, but when the countdown hit exactly 00, up popped a message saying, sorry, we're out of pies, come back tomorrow night.

I wouldn't if I were you, unless you have no life and enjoy staring at a screen to play a bet with enormous adds against and a pretty small, 16-inch cheesy payoff.

I wrote Jetblue and they responded, but they tried to tell me that at 9 a.m. they had 1,500 orders, for their 350 pizzas. I'm supposed to believe 1500 people could input all their info, make choices, to place their order, all in a nanosecond?

Sorry if I wasted your time and got your hopes up. Go order a great local pizza for tonight, you probably can't tell the difference, except it will be fresher.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! and Fri, KENDRICK LAMAR — The Championship Tour with SZA, ScHoolboy Q, others (more Grammy nominations than wins, never album or song of the year except in rap, but just won a Pulitzer Prize, first ever non-jazz or -classical artist, did you see his stunning Grammy performance this year? he's not only musically risky and excellent he's one of our leading social commentators through his daring performances, and you're going to spend one second listening to a narcissist blowhard like Kanye?), Thurs-Fri 7:30 p.m., the Forum, Inglewood, $49.50-$204.50.

TONIGHT! "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC (Downey-born, architecture student at Cal Poly and the only guy outside of Louisiana to make the accordion cool, Dr. Demento discovered and aired his demented song parodies and a unique career was born, and he will surely entertain you), Thurs 8 p.m., The Theatre at Ace Hotel, downtown LA, $59.50-$79.50.

S*** GIVER (young LA trio to watch, getting better all the time, deep, a grabbag of influences from '80s to now, nicely stewed and delivered, shimmering but rocking guitar, distinctive vocals, dipping into psychedelia, prog rock, and tomorrow night you can have Fake News too), Fri 9 p.m., the Monty Bar, downtown LA, no cover.

GUITAR SHORTY (one of the last of the old-style bluesmen, joined Ray Charles' band at 16, at 17 Willie Dixon produced his single on Cobra, moved to New Orleans and led the house band at the famous Dew Drop Inn, at 19 with Sam Cooke moved to the West Coast, went to Seattle and married Jimi's sister and now you only have to roll down to 4th Street to catch him), Sat 9 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

THE ENGLISH BEAT (if you look on stage and Dave Wakeling seems to be the only original member, don't be concerned, he's all you need and is often leading different bands with that name through the catalog and you'll swear they sound just like the records and you'll probably say to yourself or your friends, it's a common remark overheard at their shows — I never realized they had that many great songs!), Sat 9 p.m., the Canyon, Santa Clarita, $24-$38.

U2 (they have their haters, seems any band that reaches the pinnacle in rock and roll does, and Bono personally has his non-fan club, but for Pete's sake this is a legendary outfit, same four guys for 42 years now, making great music and staging legendary shows — 360 Tour was largest grossing tour of all time — and they put themselves out there for important social issues), Tues-Wed 8 p.m., the Forum, Inglewood, $46-$330.

STEPHEN STILLS, JUDY COLLINS (the last time I heard Stills, a couple years ago, he could not come very close to those old high notes he used to love but he has some great songs, solo and CS&N/Y, and the man was always one of the best pickers around, and his former squeeze Judy Blue Eyes is still enchanting for her voice and classic songs), Wed 8 p.m., the Rose, Pasadena, $68-$12.

JOHN PRINE (one of our most treasured songwriters, whose voice could transport you and still does but at a lower gravelly gravitas due to his battle, successful, with squamous cell cancer, if you don't know him this show, any show of his, will make you a fan), Wed 8 p.m., Grammy Museum, downtown LA, $30.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Rainbow Kitten Surprise, Sure Sure, Trapped Within Burning Machinery, Miguel Mendez & the Lords of the Apocalypse.

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: "Bunk beds, shaved heads, Saturday night, a warehouse of strangers with sixty watt lights. staring through the ceiling, just wanting to be lay one of too many, a young PFC: Donald.

There were spaces between Donald and whatever he said, strangers had forced him to live in his head, he envisioned the details of romantic scenes after midnight in the stillness of the barracks latrine.

Hot love, cold love, no love at all, a portrait of guilt is hung on the wall, nothing is wrong, nothing is right,Donald and Lydia made love that night. Love.

They made love in the mountains, they made love in the streams, they made love in the valleys, they made love in their dreams, but when they were finished there was nothing to say,'cause mostly they made love from ten miles away." — John Prine ("Donald and Lydia")

CHARLES ANDREWS has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING URGENCY ORDINANCE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF DANCE PAVILIONS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the matter referenced above on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. , in Room 381B of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West TempleStreet, Los Angeles, California 90012. Interested persons will be given an opportunity to testify. Location: The proposed ordinance applies to all properties in the County located in the area regulated by the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and Community Standards District. General Description of Proposal: At the September 19, 2017 public hearing, the Board of Supervisors extended an urgency ordinance to temporarily prohibit the establishment or expansion of dance pavilions, either as a primary or accessory use, on all properties located in the area mentioned above, which expires June 24, 2018. The purpose of this hearing is to consider whether it is necessary to extend the urgency ordinance for an additional 12 months and to hear public testimony. Regional Planning staff anticipates having preliminary recommendations available at the hearing for the Board to consider. Contact the Department of Regional Planning, Anita Gutierrez at (213) 974-6422 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday (office is closed Fridays) or agutierrez@planning.lacounty.gov directly for questions or additional information. Project materials are available at http://planning.lacounty.gov/scvap_maintenance. Callers from North County areas may dial (661) 272-0964 or (661) 253-0111 toll free and ask to be connected to (213) 974-6422. Si necesita más información en Español, por favor llame al (213) 974-6466. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written documents in favor or opposed to the project may be submitted to the Public Hearing/Zoning Section, Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Room 383, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or at PublicHearing@bos.lacounty.gov. Project status and information can be obtained online at: http://bos.lacounty.gov/Board-Meeting/Public-Hearings or you may also call (213) 974-1426. If you need reasonable accommodations, such as assistive listening devices, agenda in Braille, interpreters, disability-related accommodations or other auxiliary aids, please contact the Executive Office of the Board at (213) 974-1411 or (213) 974-1707 (TTY), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at least three business days prior to the Board meeting. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible. Máquinas de traducción estan disponibles o si necesita intérprete para las juntas del Condado de Los Angeles, por favor llame al (213) 974 1426, de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., con tres días de anticipación. Si no entiende este aviso o necesita más información, por favor llame al (213) 974-1426.

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18

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PLAY

FROM PAGE 1

(Asher Miles Fallica) who appears to have some form of autism. Further, Marlo is about ten months pregnant with an unplanned and not happily anticipated third child. And judging by the size of her stomach, this baby must weigh at least 50 pounds.

Her husband Drew (Ron Livingston) is a good man, but inconsistently attentive to his wife and children. His work involves a great deal of traveling, which leaves Marlo alone with the housework, the cooking, the laundry, and their addled son, who persists in non-stop screaming and ferociously kicking the back of her seat as she drives the two kids to school. Is it any wonder that she is not looking forward to this new baby?

The new baby, whom they name Mia, is born cranky and with a jagged cry that would wake a vampire. She cries when her diaper is full, and when she is hungry, and any other time she feels like it. And Marlo quickly becomes exhausted as well as unapologetically indifferent to her...

It's a full-fledged case of post-partum depression compounded by guilt, because any mother who doesn't want to hold or play with her new baby has to feel guilty about this "unnatural rejection" of motherhood. Moreover, anyone who has ever suffered this kind of depression will feel it acutely as Theron grapples with it and falls deeper and deeper into self-recrimination and despair.

But help is on the way. Marlo's brother Craig (Mark Duplass),whose successful career has provided him with money to spare, hires a "night nanny" to see to Mia's needs and give Marlo a chance to get some sleep.

This nanny, named Tully, (Mackenzie Davis) is a magical creature with a gift for happiness



Courtesy image

TULLY: Charlize Theron stars in the new film.

and, in addition to taking care of the baby, she cleans the house, bakes fancifully decorated cupcakes, and becomes the friend that Marlo needs to talk and share adventures with. So, in effect, Tully becomes, to continue the Cinderella analogy, Marlo's very own Fairy Godmother.

And finally, as Marlo begins to thrive again under Tully's wise ministrations, Drew finds other things to do at night besides lying in bed listening to TV movies through his earphones. He pays attention to his wife, plays with his kids, and cuddles the baby. And they all live happily ever after.

"Tully" is lovingly directed by Jason Reitman. It is described as a "comedy/drama" but the emphasis is on the drama because there is so much angst that you could only empathize as Charlize Theron lived through it.

"Tully" was released in Los Angeles on May 4 and is now showing at theaters around the city.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

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Courtesy photo

RESTAURANTS: **Rafael Lunetta operates Lunetta and Lunetta All Day in Santa Monica.**

CULTURE

FROM PAGE 1

came back to his restaurant for an hour during lunch, rushed to a fundraiser at St. Monica's in the afternoon, then returned to the restaurant for dinner. And the next morning after setting up his kitchen, he was heading out to do another fundraiser for Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District.

Lunetta and Lunetta All Day are big hits with neighborhood locals, fans of his previous restaurant JiRaffe, as well savvy foodies who regularly pack the place to experience the fresh, simple, seasonal ingredients that star on his menus.

In Italian, Lunetta means "Little Moon," and as Executive Chef/Partner Rafael orbits the dining room, greeting each of the guests personally, making sure everyone feels at home. His charm is authentic, warm and high energy; he's enthusiastic and articulate. No wonder he's been such a frequent guest on many national TV food shows, including "Top Chef."

Occupying the former Maryland Crab House on Pico at 25th, which morphed into Josie LeBalch's self-titled restaurant Josie, the "formal" and "informal" dining rooms at Lunetta share a kitchen, an unusual arrangement but one that works like a well-oiled machine under the leadership of this highly experienced restaurateur.

Cooking was a big part of Rafael's family life, with summers in the South of France at his aunt's 18th-century farmhouse; family dinners were cooked over open fires with fish caught fresh from the ocean and vegetables picked from the garden. These influences continue in his restaurants today, from the choice of ingredients to the wood-fired grill.

Working his way through kitchens around the world while surfing professionally, and after training in some of the leading restaurants in Paris, he came up through a few of L.A.'s most pioneering and adventurous kitchens (remember Broadway Deli?). When he and Josiah Citrin (Mélisse, Charcoal) opened JiRaffe in 1997, it quickly became one of the area's most acclaimed restaurants and remained so until it closed almost 20 years later.

At Lunetta, you enter through the back door. Lunetta All Day has a lovely and inviting patio, perfect for summer evening happy hours or an impressive first date. To get to the "formal" dining room at Lunetta, you first pass through a cozy, clubhouse-style space with a fireplace, tables, plush armchairs and a beautifully decked out bar.

In the dining room, you'll notice the absence of tablecloths (there are cloth napkins!); that's deliberate. Rafael wanted to create a comfortable room where the dishes would be the focus of attention, great food without the stuffiness. Clean lines, an open kitchen with a counter to watch all the action; and if you're lucky enough to arrive when the sun is still out, Rafael opened up the formerly darkened front window to let the evening light cast its glow.

Although I'm not an octopus eater, it's a dish the chef is especially proud of. While my dining guest Liz and I enjoyed the two starters we ordered—roasted pear salad with hazelnuts, greens and sherry walnut vinaigrette, and the ahi tuna tartare (which is amazing)—our waiter Kevin insisted on bringing us the Wood-Fired Spanish octopus. We're glad he did and yes, I ate and enjoyed it!

We also asked Kevin to recommend our wines: I was persuaded to try the Domaine Francois LeClerc Pinot Noir from Burgundy and found myself drinking two glasses (by the way, they pour well, no skimping here!).

I chose the Wood-Grilled BBQ Salmon entrée (loved the smashed fingerlings), while my friend Liz took the chef's recommendation and ordered the Loop de Mer, a butterflied branzino, wood-grilled with a blend of spices Rafael has specially made for him, reminiscent of a dish he tried in Indonesia, 25-30 years ago. This is a plate easily big enough for two.

Don't skip desserts: they're all worthy—the staff favorite, Sticky Toffee Pudding with ice cream (swoon), the Chocolate Bourbon Truffle Cake (OMG) and the affogato, with espresso coffee, pistachio ice cream, and lemon pistachio biscotti (it's a great "pick me up").

But the bonus prize has to be Rafael's wonderfully rich, thick and delicious chocolate triple berry bread pudding, which each of got a slice of to go home with. I had it for breakfast the next day; it kept me full past noon.

Clean, simple, seasonally fresh, and local as possible—these ingredients for success result in a dining room that's filled, hopping and happy by 7 p.m. May it ever be so.

Lunetta and Lunetta All Day has it all: fine dining in a comfortable atmosphere, a casual diner where you can order breakfast or lunch all day, free parking, friendly service, all in a neighborhood setting. Who could ask for more?

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW – Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.







SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **61.0°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
More WNW swell filters in. Conditions likely best in the morning but high tide slows down some at dawn. Stay tuned.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Lingering WNW swell.



DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 383 Calls For Service On May 8.

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

Burglar alarm 300 block San Vicente 12:18 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1300 block 3rd St Prom 12:30 a.m.
Trespassing 2000 block 21st 12:54 a.m.
Fight 2100 block Santa Monica 3:42 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block 19th 4:19 a.m.
Trespassing 1300 block 2nd 5:07 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block Olympic 7:15 a.m.
Battery Lincoln/ Michigan 8:20 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block Princeton 8:26 a.m.
Child abuse 800 block Montana 8:52 a.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 9:04 a.m.
Auto burglary 400 block Ashland 9:49 a.m.
Traffic collision 2700 block Colorado 10:07 a.m.
Auto burglary 400 block Ashland 10:08 a.m.
Audible burglar 1200 block 3rd St Prom 10:08 a.m.
Battery 2400 block Lincoln 10:32 a.m.
Person down 1400 block Ocean 10:34 a.m.
Identity theft 2500 block 29th 10:35 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block PCH 11:34 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2700 block Main 11:37 a.m.
Traffic collision 2500 block Wilshire 11:53 a.m.
Burglary 900 block 11th 1:33 p.m.
Traffic collision 3100 block Wilshire 1:42 p.m.
Fraud 800 block Santa Monica 2:13 p.m.
Petty theft 2500 block Pico 2:18 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th / Wilshire 2:51 p.m.
Burglary investigation 400 block 22nd 3:08 p.m.
Expired registration 1600 block Arizona 3:47 p.m.
Public intoxication 200 block Broadway 4:04 p.m.
Traffic collision 1400 block Broadway 4:11 p.m.
Battery 1600 block Cloverfield 4:16 p.m.
Hit and run 200 block Pacific 4:17 p.m.
Drinking in public 1500 block Ocean 4:55 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln/ Cedar 5:35 p.m.
Fight 600 block Santa Monica 5:36 p.m.
Drunk driving 200 block Santa Monica Pier 5:49 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 2900 block Pico 5:50 p.m.
Battery 1000 block Palisades Park 6:12 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 800 block Grant 6:47 p.m.
Petty theft 400 block Santa Monica 6:51 p.m.
Public intoxication 1800 block 9th 6:57 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Colorado 8:03 p.m.
Traffic collision 300 block Pico 8:15 p.m.
Burglary 400 block Montana 8:37 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Cedar 8:51 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1200 block Lincoln 8:54 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 9:07 p.m.
Person down 1800 block Lincoln 9:55 p.m.
Traffic hazard Lincoln/ I-10 10:50 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 26 Calls For Service On May 8.

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

Automatic alarm 1300 block 3rd St Prom 12:17 a.m.
Emergency medical Service 2600 block Main 1:49 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 1:49 a.m.
EMS 800 block 20th 1:54 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2000 block Idaho 3:37 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 7th 7:07 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 17th 9:30 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1200 block 15th 11:54 a.m.
Bee emergency 7th / Michigan 1:08 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 21st 1:29 p.m.
EMS 3100 block Wilshire 1:41 p.m.
EMS 2nd / Wilshire 2:01 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Pico 2:19 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Virginia 2:37 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 2:37 p.m.
Haz mat 1400 block 9th 2:55 p.m.
EMS 2500 block Wilshire 4:49 p.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 4:06 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Arizona 7:10 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 7:21 p.m.
EMS 1200 block Ocean Park 7:36 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 7:38 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Colorado 8:03 p.m.
Traffic collision 300 block Pico 8:16 p.m.



DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 5/5
14 29 36 57 61
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 233M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 5/8
8 15 39 64 67
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 45M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/5
1 15 36 38 43
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 12M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/8
4 14 17 19 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/8
MIDDAY: 1 0 1
Draw Date: 5/8
EVENING: 1 3 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/8
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:40.55

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!

suborn
1. to bribe or induce (someone) unlawfully or secretly to perform some misdeed or to commit a crime.
2. Law. a. to induce (a person, especially a witness) to give false testimony. b. to obtain (false testimony) from a witness.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Best Medicine

■ A patient became quite anxious after a prolonged bedside discussion with a group of hospital doctors. Later, the chief of surgery returned.

■ "There must be a lot of doubt about what's wrong with me," said the patient.

■ "Where did you get that idea?" asked the surgeon.

■ "Well, all those doctors – and they all seemed to disagree with you."

■ "Perhaps, but not to worry," replied the surgeon. "In a similar case, I stood firm in my diagnosis – and the autopsy proved me right."

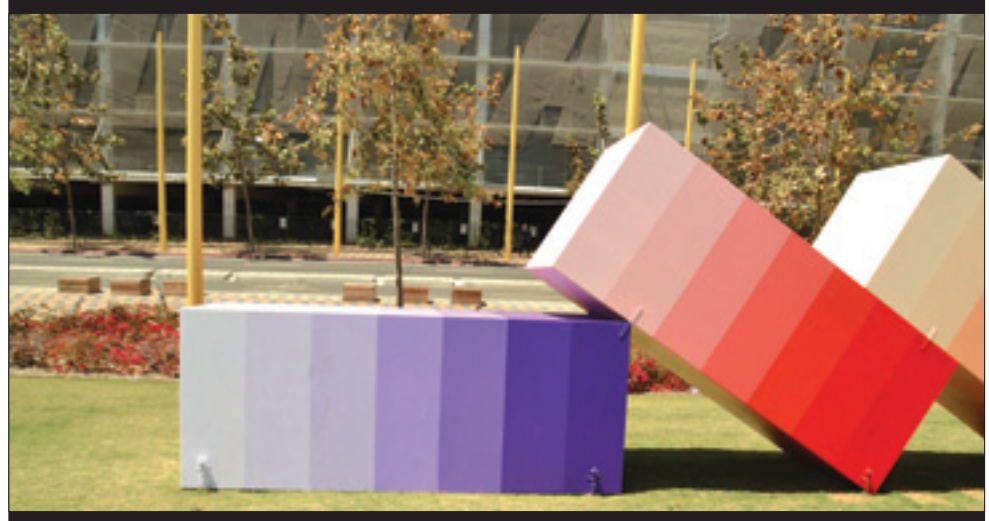
Observation

■ "He who laughs, lasts."

–AMERICAN AUTHOR MARY PETTIBONE POOLE

MYSTERY REVEALED

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Rosemary Miklitsch correctly identified the image as part of the latest sculpture installation next to the Sear's Building. She wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

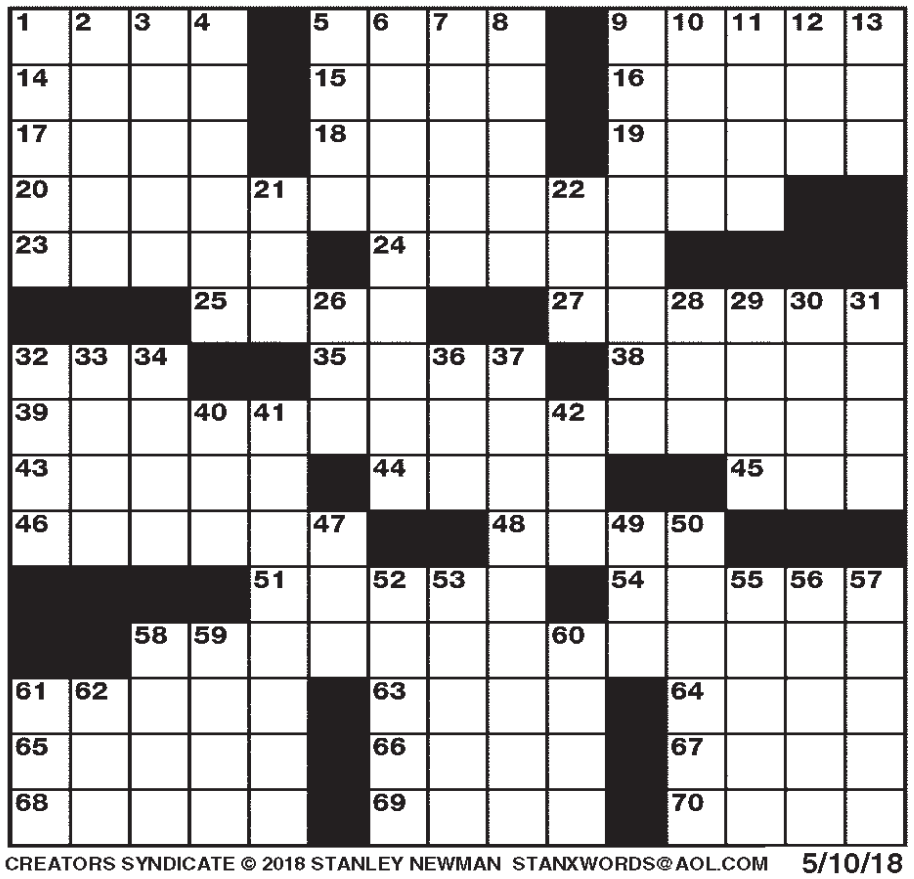
1	9							8
		4		9	5	2	7	
6		2	8		1			3
4			5			3	1	
				1				
	1	3			2			4
7			2		9	8		5
	5	6	1	3		7		
2							3	6

Newsday Crossword

INTERIOR REDESIGN by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Poolside amenities
5 Graceless ones
9 Oscar Night interviewee
14 Keep a low profile
15 Lose crispness
16 Michelle's predecessor
17 "Flat-out fun" tablet
18 It borders Toledo
19 Densely populated
20 Alternative to 39 Across
23 Many a venue called "Center"
24 Burdened Titan
25 Cross over
27 More than a few
32 Starchy side dish
35 Starchy side dish
38 __ Chicks (country music trio)
39 Pennsylvania Dutch breakfast
43 Tote with trout, perhaps
44 Unique mystique
45 Anthem contraction
46 Pay off
48 Hymn closer
51 Great effort, so to speak
54 Be a mentor
58 200-tile game
61 Certain Arabian
63 "Didn't expect to see you!"
64 Lyft rival
65 Lose composure
66 Chasmic
67 Shortening of a sort
68 Discernment
69 Winds down
70 Does something about wondering

DOWN
1 One of the Hindu Trinity
2 Hero from Hamelin
3 Instructive saying
4 Typical cabs
5 Hasn't paid
6 Operator of Maple Leaf Lounges
7 Toy (with)
8 Purloin
9 Gin fizz ingredient
10 One level below marquess
11 Garage service
12 Slice of history
13 Proscribe
21 Carpet fuzz
22 Fuming
26 Writer Rand
28 Not a thing
29 Showcase for suppliers
30 Luxor's river
31 Oracle
32 What bench presses build
33 Big brute
34 "__ the picture"
36 East Lansing sch.
37 Removed, at a racetrack
40 Harden
41 Seasoning in Caribbean cuisine
42 Plow into
47 Meadow mom
49 Frat letter
50 Interstellar cloud
52 Wear away
53 Pallid
55 Palestinian leader
56 Cratchit's occupation
57 Groups driven on trails
58 __ serif typeface
59 Blood-bank measure
60 Lambastes
61 Withdraw, with "out"
62 Goat's call



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/10/18

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

City of Santa Monica Prepares for the Next Decade of Environmental Leadership at ClimateFest

As one of the most progressive cities in the world, the City of Santa Monica, along with Climate Action Santa Monica and Beautify Earth, will host ClimateFest on Saturday, May 19 to celebrate and inspire local climate action, through activities and workshops, to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for climate change.

The day-long event will blend family-friendly activities with notable speakers and workshops addressing vital topics, starting with a morning keynote by Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Resources Board. The event takes place at St. Monica's Catholic Community beginning at 9 a.m. and is for the Santa Monica community, and anyone in the region eager to get involved.

This is the second such community gathering, following the Community Climate Action Summit (October 2016). The ClimateFest partners hope to share progress and gain community insight and ideas as the City progresses its Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. The City is seeking to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner, as well as adapt to climate change impacts.

"Santa Monica has been at the forefront of the sustainability movement for over two decades and we have more aggressive goals than ever to reduce our carbon footprint," said Mayor Ted Winterer. "The Santa Monica community has been on the front lines of this movement and we want everyone to come out as we create the next blueprint for success."

The event, co-produced with community partners Climate Action Santa Monica and SustainableWorks, will feature expert speakers, group workshops, a family bike hub, clean vehicle ride-and-drive, a green living expo, photobooth, live music and a social hour. The event will also include a Pecha Kucha slam, which offers attendees the opportunity to share their ideas and actions through a presentation format limited to 20 slides or images at 20 seconds each.

"Climate action is about people and it is a crowd-sourced movement," says Dean Kubani, Chief Sustainability Officer and Assistant Director of Public Works, "We really want the community to see that carbon neutrality is possible and getting there will can be fun and exciting."

A bike ride with the Mayor at 9 a.m. will start the day, with the opening ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m. Throughout the day, attendees will learn about the future of energy, water and mobility, and practical resources to go solar, compost and explore plant-based diets. Attendees must register to receive free lunch and participate in the social hour, hosted by Climate Action Santa Monica.

SPEAKER SESSIONS INCLUDE:

Save Food & Money. Shop Your Fridge: A 4-person family loses $1,500 a year on wasted food. Learn how to save money by shopping your fridge.

Future of Energy: Local experts discuss the changing landscape and technologies associated with local community choice energy, electrification, energy storage and microgrids.

Future of Water: Managing water sustainably is more important than ever as California is expected to see more wide swings between drought and downpour. State and local water officials will discuss projects and programs to increase local water self-sufficiency.

Water Efficiency: Drip Irrigation 101: Introduction to drip irrigation to learn how to make your landscape irrigation system more efficient.

Solar for Apartments and Condos: This workshop will provide you with the need-to-know information to engage your residents & neighbors and launch your solar project.

California Climate Policy Update from Sacramento: California is burnishing its role as the global leader in the fight against climate change. Hear from your local representatives – Sen. Ben Allen (invited); Assemblymember Richard Bloom – on the State's successes and path to a low-carbon future.

For more information and to register, visit climatefestsm.eventbrite.com.

SUBMITTED BY JULIE DU BROW

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 10)

You're the best kind of impressionable this year. Being around people with different lifestyles will make you appreciate certain things about your own. It will also inspire you to change a few things. You'll benefit from the sale of valuables in July. A new chapter will begin with an October alliance. Your talent will open doors in 2019. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 16, 14, 25 and 33.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It's all going to go great, largely because of your social brilliance. What's your secret? You know how to relax and listen. You'll catch on to the ghostliest wisp of feeling in others and respond in kind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Others see the magic trick; you'll look for the secret. Others see the risk; you'll look for the possibility. Others see the action; you'll look for the motivation. Curiosity will land you in the honey.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Glitches will occur, yet if you don't give them too much attention — quickly file them away in the "well, that happened" category and move on — all will unfold beautifully.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You'll change your mind. Something you once had time for now seems like a waste. Well, you had to try to know. A Virgo or Libra can help you set up your personal business for a smoother flow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

There are those who will turn absolutely anything into a competition. As for you, you don't think of yourself as a particularly competitive person until someone encroaches on your turf.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're pretty clear about the boundaries of what you're willing to do. Threats and ultimatums won't be necessary, because you either do things or don't. This speaks volumes. People get you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The complaint is covering up something else. Maybe it's a brag posing as a complaint, or maybe it's a cry for attention and love. Listen deeper and see whether you can hear what the underlying need might be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're brave. No question about that. So you don't have to take unnecessary risks to prove anything. All the excitement you need will be had by way of intelligent, thoughtful process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You'll be direct and honest, with a lightness that others find charming. You'll get right to the point. You'll explain what you need and why and find out pretty quickly who's a good fit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The answer today will involve putting people to work. This is more effective than any other way of starting a relationship, creating bonds or fostering loyalty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're not the only one engaged in an internal battle. There are thousands of others. Just knowing this may be enough to give you the strength to sort it out, but if not, reach out and ask for help.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

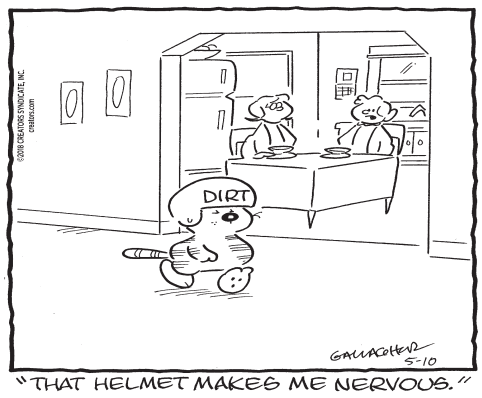
Everyone needs attention. Some days, you need a little more of it, and this is one of those days. Good news: You'll have an audience for as long as you're willing to work for people's focus.

Value Projections and the Pisces Moon

People's values are apparent in everything they present to the world. So people can't help but share their values unwittingly, whether or not they are asked to. Not all can articulate the values they are observing, but most people get a sense of them on an unconscious level. Awareness is certainly turned up this Pisces moon.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



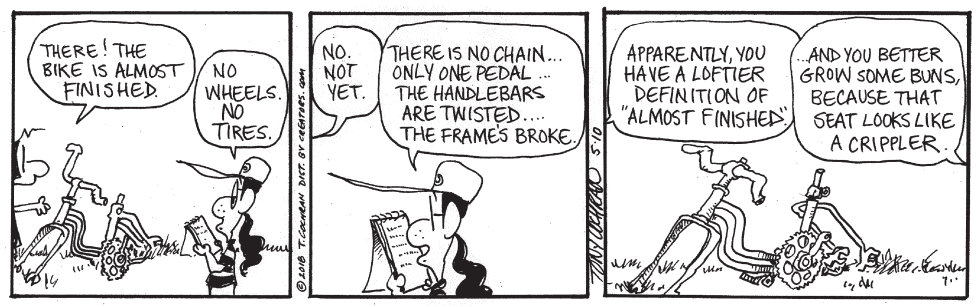
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



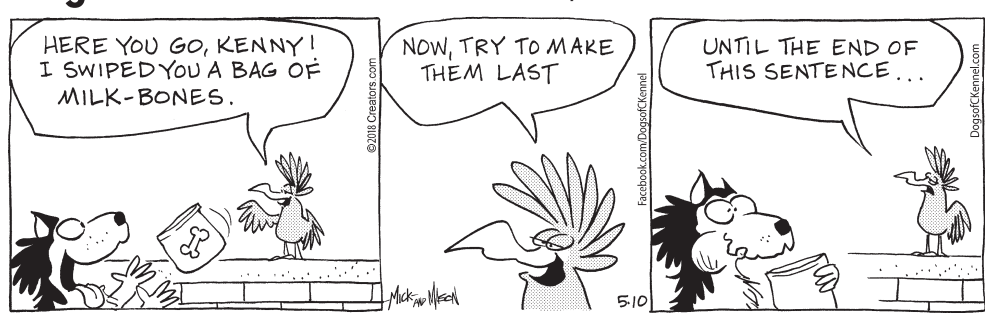
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



RE-ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

The proposed change will potentially affect how much money the state gives colleges based on the number of full-time students.

"We're going to have to really try to look at approaches to bring in more students and do that by offering courses, classes, certificates, that might be more attractive to people out there who haven't thought about coming to community college," Greenstein said.

Greenstein's view on adding more courses is shared by the other board members. At the latest board meeting on Tuesday, May 1 the board passed a request by the Academic Affairs department to add several new courses. Over 15 nursing classes, new math classes, a Cultural Resource Management Department certificate and an Administration of Justice Associate in Science for transfer are planned to be included for the 2018 fall semester.

Another incumbent trustee, Dr. Louise Jaffe, has been on the board since 2006 and echoed Greenstein's concern over the budget. Looking forward to the upcoming election, Jaffe said a lot can be done for the school.

"I've had leadership positions in the state, and I've just felt that those relationships and that access and that knowledge continue to be beneficial to the college," Jaffe said.

Both Jaffe and Greenstein said they will run a serious campaign, not letting their incumbency make them complacent.

"For both of us, we don't take running lightly, we think about what our contribution as board members is," Greenstein said. "If we are still valuable, we talk to members of the community, and that's part of what made our decision [to run again]."

The current Chair, Barry Snell, has served since 2014 and also plans to run again. Snell said keeping enrollment high, watching the cost of current projects and maintenance of buildings will be important.

"You're going to see me again, I'm going to run hard and hopefully win," Snell said. "One of my personal items I'd like to start talking about is possible housing for students, I think it's something we need to start taking a look at."

Dr. Andrew Walzer, was first elected in 2006 and will also be up for re-election, but was unavailable for comment.

In addition to the SMC election, there will be three seats up for election on City Council, four seats on School Board and three on the Rent Control Board. Activists are gathering signatures to establish term limits for City Council and if successful, residents will vote on the proposal in the November election.

The nomination period for all candidates this year will be July 16 through August 10 with a possible five-day extension for each race if an incumbent does not file.

The SMC board is made up of seven city-elected members and an eighth student trustee voted in by other students. After Chase Matthews, the current student trustee, attended his final board of trustees meeting this past Tuesday, student trustee-elect Charlene Alex Boyd will join the board for the 2018-2019 school year.

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FILM

FROM PAGE 1

The two Santa Monica College (SMC) students (Shapiro is in her last year, Dutta is a recent alum, currently at UC Berkeley) just finished up work on their short film "Life in Color" and recently received their freaking-out-worthy news — their short film is heading to Cannes.

"We found out through a phone call ... it was surreal," Dutta said. "I couldn't even qualify it. Incredibly surreal. I called Olivia right after, I had a text message ready to go for the crew saying, 'Does anyone have a spare ticket to France?'"

This is the fourth time an SMC student-made film has been accepted into the 21st American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase of this year's Cannes Film Festival, with SMC being the only U.S. community college represented in the showcase. Dutta and Shapiro join students at the showcase hailing from filmmaker-factory universities such as USC and the Art Center of Design, even contending with the Ivy Leaguers of Yale.

The duo, inspired by classics such as Jaws and modern-day masterpieces like Moonlight, met when Dutta was looking for a producer for the film. A professor eventually led him to Shapiro. She read the script and the two clicked creatively, an emotional transparency immediately born between the two. "Making a film is tough," Dutta said. "We became a family on this."

Salvador Carrasco, faculty lead of film production at SMC, says he's not surprised by the duo's cohesion and the film's success.

Carrasco says the duo both have "great instincts for surrounding themselves with great collaborators," crediting Dutta's "endlessly curious" cinematic mind, as well as Shapiro's creative producing which consistently leads to moving, powerful storytelling, a hallmark of "Life in Color"; the film centers around an elderly, closeted gay man and his battle with Alzheimer's as he recalls a past lover, his daughter dealing with the fallout.

Creating something genuine in regards to the subject matter was important and personal for the duo, with both Dutta and Shapiro having lost loved ones to Alzheimer's and dementia.

The idea to make an impactful story about Alzheimer's that doesn't relegate the disease "as a prop" came from experiencing the repercussions memory-loss can have on families; a story the duo felt could help heal if shared.

"A lot of people can relate to it," Shapiro said. "Whether it's the loss, the repression … I showed a rough cut to my mom, it brought her to tears. [The film] has a strong message, that's what brought me to it."

Dutta, ever the cinematic mind, found catharsis through his creativity while bearing witness to what his family endured throughout his grandfather's dementia. "I thought that there was a lot to explore from that point of view," he said. "How do you explore, tell a story that way? In life you're defined by memories; who are you without the things you remember?"

After nearly a year of writing, two months of pre-production, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it shooting schedule of five days, gruelling hours worked at a summer job to add additional funding, and five-and-a-half months of post-production, the film was completed.

While Cannes was never the finish line for the film, it's a milestone the duo are grateful for as they look forward to their futures.

"Everyone believed in this and wanted to do it right," Shapiro said. "This crew had so much talent. I'm happy everyone's passion is being recognized."

"I've made things nobody watches, and films are supposed to connect with people," Dutta said with a laugh. "When people watch your work and feel something, it brings you out of any kind of cynicism. Just the fact that if you love cinema and you're being recognized by Cannes, even for something small, it makes you think, how can you stop after this?" The Cannes Film Festival runs May 8 - May 19. "Life in Color" will debut at Cannes Sunday, May 13.

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'This Is America' seals Glover's rep as protest artist

JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

It's been called a moving testament to modern times and an unflinching exploration of the wretched past experienced by African-Americans.

Donald Glover's "This Is America," a music video that depicts gun violence amid a mélange of racism, Negro minstrel shows, police brutality and mass killing, not only touched off a national debate, it affirmed Glover's place in the pantheon of artists who reveal uncomfortable truths about race through their work.

"The themes ain't new but this brings it into fresh (but dark) light," author and pop critic Luvvie Ajayi said Sunday in her online column. "It turned the mirror on this country and said 'see your life.' It is a read, an indictment and a challenge."

This terrain is not new for Glover either. Through his award-winning FX show "Atlanta," which has gotten critical acclaim for its portrayal of black Southern life, Glover has delved into topics ranging from single parenthood to crime, the pitfalls of fame and recently, youth suicide. As his musical alter-ego Childish Gambino, Glover performed "This Is America" last weekend while serving as guest host of "Saturday Night Live." He released the video around the same time.

Glover also has been outspoken about his career arc. As "Saturday Night Live" host, he joked about being turned down for the SNL cast in the past despite his many talents.

After his "Deadpool" TV project was scrapped earlier this year, Glover took executives at FX and Marvel to task by releasing a fake Deadpool script in which the main character wonders whether racism was why the project was killed. He later deleted the tweets with his complaints, including the script.

Still, Glover's star is rising. He's set to appear in two upcoming Disney properties — the live-action Lion King remake and as Lando Calrissian in "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

Lester Spence, co-director of the Center for Africana Studies at John Hopkins University, called Glover's "This Is America" an heir to "Strange Fruit," recorded by Billie Holiday in 1939 to protest lynchings of African-Americans in the South.

There have been others: Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam," N.W.A.'s "F—- Tha Police," Marvin Gaye's "Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)," Public Enemy's "Fight the Power." But what sets "This is America" apart, Spence said, is that it "functions as an R&B song but also functions as a really, really powerful 'Black' with a capital 'B' commentary."

"I can't think of any other video that deals with American violence in the way that 'This Is America' does," Spence said.

The video's imagery is jarring: Police chases, a black guitar player shot point-blank in the head then dragged away unceremoniously, a black choir being gunned down mid-song — both times with the weapon treated with kid gloves — all while a shirtless Gambino sings, dances and raps with a smile on his face.

He sings: "Yeah, this is America/ Guns in my area/ I got the strap/ I gotta carry 'em." At the video's end, he appears to be chased by a white mob.

The reactions on social media were swift.

"Donald Glover is a Genius," tweeted singer Erykah Badu, who explored poverty, violence and African-American identity in her 2008 album, "New Amerykah Part One."

Calvin C. Winbush II, who played the murdered guitar player in the video, told REVOLT TV in an interview Monday that he feels the video shows how desensitized America has become to violence against people of color.

"In a matter of seconds, (my character) being shot and taken away was shocking," Winbush said. "We can say that's rude to show that, but this happens for real. 'He shot up the choir? That's crazy.' This happens for real. This is America."

The general consensus was that "This Is America" was a condemnation of gun violence, which disproportionately affects African Americans. Gun violence is the top killer of African Americans aged 15 to 34, according to the NAACP, and blacks are nearly half of all gun homicide victims, while making up only 13 percent of the population.

"There is a direct commentary on the commonness of gun violence and the rush to protect the gun and not necessarily the rush to understand, to mourn, to really engage with the loss of life, particularly in the area of black life," Treva Lindsey, an Ohio State University women's study professor told the AP in an interview. "That is something that is significant here, his drilling down the gun violence conversation distinctly to the loss of black life."

Glover's use of violence, and the reactions to it from mainstream America, bothered some.

Terron Moore, senior director of social media at MTV, said he considered it "traumatizing" to use images of fellow African Americans being killed as entertainment. Many of those who texted him to praise Glover's video as "'amazing' and 'groundbreaking,'" were white, he said.

"I really like the song, I don't hate the video, and I can respect the importance of art reflecting the world we live in," Moore said. "But that ... is REALLY happening without anyone putting it in a music video."

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