



Wilmont Sycamore trees become Santa Monica Landmark



Matthew Hall

LANDMARK: After several hearings, the trees near California and 12th have been landmarked.

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

Two intertwined Sycamore trees in the front yard of a home on California Avenue have become the sixth and seventh trees to receive landmark status in Santa Monica after the neighborhood rallied to protect the native trees from any future development. In a 3-2 decision, the Landmarks Commission found the trees have "noteworthy interest or value" and are a "familiar visual feature of a neighborhood," two of the six criteria needed to become a landmark here.

Over the past six months, debate over whether the trees deserved the distinction became a lightning rod, revealing a split between vocal residents and city staff over whether the trees met the standard (the official city report said they did not). A passionate group of three dozen environmentalists, arborists, neighbors and members of the family who purchased the

lot at 1122 California Avenue packed City Hall late into the night Monday to see where the Commission would stand.

"It was a good old-fashioned local political battle and the tree will be around another 100 or 200 years because of it," said Wilmont Board member and Parks Commissioner John C. Smith, who filed the application to landmark the trees. "Residents did this. People who care got involved and got busy."

When Smith got involved in October, the tree was under threat from development. A contractor for the owner told the Daily Press the 100-year-old home on the lot was a tear down and any new construction would likely damage the trees' extensive root system, which is likely as wide as the 80-foot canopy. The developer sold the property to a local family after a raucous Landmarks Commission meeting in

SEE SYCAMORES PAGE 7

Bird rider suffers head trauma in Wilmont car crash

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Bird rider was sent to the hospital with head trauma Monday after crashing with a car at the corner of

9th Street and Washington Avenue, according to Lt. Saul Rodriguez with the Santa Monica Police Department. Lt. Rodriguez did not have an update

SEE BIRD PAGE 6

SMMUSD to refine Master Plan for English Learners

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

The May 17 meeting of the Santa Monica Malibu School District will focus on curriculum

and instruction with several items directly related to classroom activities including plans for English Learners, updates on American

SEE ENGLISH PAGE 6

Lincoln Middle School celebrates new track and field



Angel Carreras

OPEN: The long-awaited field officially opened on Tuesday.

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

After months of delays, Lincoln Middle School's reconstructed track and field is finally up and running.



SEE FIELD PAGE 6

Isabel A. Ash Esq.

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Calendar

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, May 16

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown)

Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. Downtown. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

The Santa Monica Planning Commission normally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month in the City Council Chamber. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

The Commission for the Senior Community Regular Meeting

The Commission advises City Council on a wide range of issues relevant to older adults. The Commission also provides opportunities to educate seniors, their families and caregivers on these issues. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 4:30 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7:30 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 18

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.

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for \$15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 19

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.

Used Oil Filter Exchange

Need a filter? Exchange your used oil filter for a new one - Free! 2018 Lincoln Blvd. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ClimateFest

ClimateFest is a free community event that will celebrate and inspire climate action, co-produced by the City of Santa Monica, Beautify Earth and Climate Action Santa Monica. 725 California Ave. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide
L.A. Metro to provide free rides for bicyclists on May 17

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is celebrating Bike Month in May by offering bicyclists free rides on the Metro System on Thursday, May 17, offering discounted bike share passes and supporting several two-wheeled transportation events throughout the month.

Bike Month activities sponsored by Metro and other organizations include group rides, workshops and community-sponsored events. Below is a list of major upcoming Bike Month events:

May 12 - Bike Class - Rules of the Road, 9 a.m. in Gardena. This class covers bicycling basics and shows participants how to improve their bike control skills. See schedule for more information.

May 15 - Blessing of the Bicycles, 8-9:30 a.m. at Good Samaritan Hospital. Annual event to promote bicycling and safety. See website for more information.

May 17 - Bike to Work Day. Metro will offer free rides to people who board with a bicycle or bicycle helmet on all Metro buses and trains.

Metro's Bike Share Program is offering free walk-up rides on Metro Bikes. Walk-up to any station and use the promo code 5172018 for a free 30-minute ride. Additional 30-minute rides are only \$3.50 each. Find Metro Bike Share stations online. Metro will also co-sponsor more than 60 bicycle pit stops with refreshments and giveaways countywide.

May 18 - Bike Night at Union Station, 6-9 p.m. Fun-filled event with prizes, entertainment and food trucks. See website for more information.

May 20 - Bike Class - Rules of the Road, 3-5 p.m. in Long Beach. This class covers bicycling basics and shows participants how to improve their bike control skills. See schedule here.

May 26 - Metro Bike Share Ride to Venice Artists & Fleas, 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. in Venice. Bike ride to daylong local shopping event. See website for more information.

Residents of downtown Los Angeles, Pasadena, Venice and Port of Los Angeles can celebrate Bike Month without even owning a bicycle thanks to Metro's Bike Share Program. Metro is offering several specials during Bike Month designed to attract new monthly passholders. New bike sharing passholders pay only \$1 for the entire month of May. All trips 30 minutes or less are free, and \$1.75 per additional 30 minutes after that. Those who sign up will be automatically entered to win a Metro Bike Share prize pack.

Metro's Bike Share Program is also offering an ongoing 40 percent discount for new companies that sign up for its Bike Share for Business Program. All plans require a minimum monthly commitment of five employee passes a month for six months.

Combining a bicycle trip with Metro Bus and Rail is easy. Every Metro bus is equipped with front bike racks. Bikes may also be taken on Metro trains during all system hours. Bicyclists should follow the bicycle signs to the designated area of the train and stand with their bikes while in transit. In L.A. County, 80 percent of residents live within bicycling distance to trains.

For a full list of Bike Month activities or to learn more about bike share offers, visit <http://www.metro.net/bikemonth>.

SUBMITTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

LOS ANGELES
LA firefighters convince woman to come down from tree

A woman who spent the night in a tree in a Los Angeles park has finally come down.

The woman descended a ladder shortly before 7 a.m. Tuesday, more than 11 hours after the Fire Department was called to Lanark park in the San Fernando Valley.

Firefighters had set up an enormous air bag to prevent injury in case she fell, and firefighters on ladders tried to talk to her.

About an hour after sunrise, she slowly climbed down a ladder after a fire captain established a rapport with her.

Fire Department spokesman Erik Scott says she became unstable as she was being led to an ambulance and police restrained her.

She was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
LA River bridge will carry hikers, cyclists equestrians

Officials have broken ground on a project to build a bridge to carry pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians over the Los Angeles River between sprawling Griffith Park and a neighborhood on the eastern bank.

The \$16.1 million, cable-stayed bridge will span more than 300 feet. It will help connect equestrian stables in Atwater Village with horse trails in 4,210-acre (1,704-hectare) Griffith Park. Horses will cross on a deck separate from one used by hikers and cyclists.

Officials said during ceremonies Monday that it will also help people experience the river, which is the focus of extensive revitalization efforts.

Completion is expected in late 2019.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sanctuary cities could get boost from sports betting ruling

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

In President Donald Trump's former life as a casino owner, he might have cheered Monday's ruling from the Supreme Court that struck down a federal law that barred every state but Nevada from allowing betting on most sporting events.

But the Trump administration opposed the outcome reached by the high court at least in part because it could signal trouble in its legal fight against so-called sanctuary states and cities. Seven of the nine justices — five conservatives and two liberals — backed a robust reading of the Constitution's 10th Amendment and a limit on the federal government's power to force the states go along with Washington's wishes.

The federal anti-gambling law is unconstitutional because "it unequivocally dictates what a state legislature may and may not do,"

Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his majority opinion. "It's as if federal officers were installed in state legislative chambers and were armed with the authority to stop legislators from voting on any offending proposals."

There is a direct link between the court's decision in the sports betting case and the administration's effort to punish local governments that resist Trump's immigration enforcement policies, several legal commentators said.

"The court ruled definitively that the federal government can't force states to enforce federal law. In the immigration context, this means it can't require state or local officials to cooperate with federal immigration authorities," said Ilya Shapiro, a senior fellow in constitutional studies at the libertarian Cato Institute.

Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU's immigrants' rights project, said the ruling reinforced decisions from the 1990s, including one that struck down part of a federal gun control law that required local police to deter-

mine if buyers were fit to own handguns.

"It reiterates that the real thrust of the 10th Amendment and the principles of law in this area is that the fed government can't tell the states or cities how to legislate," Jadwat said. The amendment says that powers not specifically given to the federal government belong to the states.

The gun law decision split the court's conservatives and liberals in 1997, in keeping with conservatives' complaints about the federal government's overreach and the importance of states' rights. But on Monday, Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan joined their more conservative colleagues.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the decision, but it had called on the court to uphold the federal law at issue — the department's usual practice when federal laws are challenged — by arguing that there was no constitutional violation.

In the most recent ruling about sanctuary

cities, the federal appeals court in Chicago held last month that the federal government cannot withhold public safety grants from cities that won't go along with Trump's immigration enforcement policies.

In lawsuits challenging the administration, cities argue that turning local police authorities into immigration officers erodes trust with minority communities and discourages residents from reporting crime. The administration says sanctuary jurisdictions allow dangerous criminals back on the street.

The administration's efforts to crack down on places that don't comply with immigration authorities have taken several forms. Trump issued an executive order aimed at withholding federal money from recalcitrant jurisdictions. The administration also has sued California over three laws aimed at protecting immigrants in the country illegally.

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Local

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department improving motorcycle safety

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will be conducting a specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation on May 18, in the City of Malibu in an effort to lower deaths and injuries. Extra deputies will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle crashes occur. Deputies will be looking for violations made by drivers and riders alike that can lead to motorcycle crashes. They will be cracking down on both those operating regular vehicles and motorcycles who are violating traffic safety laws.

Motorcycle fatalities jumped dramatically in California by over 28 percent from a decade low of 352 in 2010. In 2013, 453 motorcyclists lost their lives, which is at a 5 year high. California collision data reveals that primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by both riders and drivers alike.

Operations like this are aimed at curbing any more rises in motorcycle deaths and sending the numbers back downward. Over the course of the past 3 years, motorcycle involved collisions have resulted in 1,332 fatal and injury crashes throughout the county.

Safety tips for riders - See and Be Seen:

Use your lane position to increase visibility; change lanes only when there is ample room, match your speed to surrounding traffic, always wear a DOT compliant helmet and brightly colored, protective clothing, ride with lights on during daylight hours.

Safety tips for drivers - Share the Road: Look twice for motorcyclists, especially when entering the roadway, turning or changing lanes, motorcyclist are allowed in HOV lanes unless prohibited by signage.

Riders are urged to get training through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at <http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com/> or 1-877 RIDE 411 (1-877-743-3411).

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The message to all drivers and motorcyclists is: share in the responsibility and do your part by safely "sharing the road."

SUBMITTED BY DEPUTY JUANITA NAVARRO-SUAREZ,

SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook opens up about efforts to scrub offensive content

Facebook believes its policing system is better at scrubbing graphic violence, gratuitous nudity and terrorist propaganda from its social network than it is at removing racist, sexist and other hateful remarks.

Tuesday's self-assessment - Facebook's first breakdown of how much material it removes - came three weeks after Facebook tried to give a clearer explanation of the kinds of posts that it won't tolerate. The statistics cover a relatively short period, from October 2017 through March of this year, and don't disclose how long, on average, it takes Facebook to remove material violating its standards.

The increased transparency comes as the Menlo Park, California, company tries to make amends for a privacy scandal triggered by loose policies that allowed a data-mining company with ties to President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign to harvest personal information on as many as 87 million users. The content screening has nothing to do with privacy protection, though, and is aimed at maintaining a family-friendly atmosphere for users and advertisers.

Facebook removed 2.5 million pieces of content tagged as unacceptable hate speech during the first three months of this year. It says 62 percent of the offending content was flagged by Facebook users, while the company's human reviewers and computer algorithms identified 38 percent. By contrast, Facebook's automated tools detected 86 percent to 99.5 percent of the violations in the categories of graphic violence, nudity, sexual activity and terrorist propaganda.

Facebook traced the disparity to the difficulty computer programs have understanding the nuances of human language, including the context and tone of the sentences being written.

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER



CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4356 CITYWIDE MICROFLEX GLOVES

Submission Deadline is May 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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Too Much Is Enough For Me

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— I think mine was reached Monday when the fourth day passed without White House press aide Kelly Sadler being fired for her “remark” that Sen. John McCain’s opposition to Gina Haspel to head the CIA didn’t matter because — “he’s dying anyway.” (Of brain cancer.)

Nor have they even issued any statement disavowing the incredibly cruel comment about an American hero who gave more for his country than Cadet Bonespurs can ever imagine. Nor will they. Because tRump never apologizes. For, or to, anybody. For anything.

(For those like me who have gotten unreservedly sick of hearing about his gross, treasonous, dangerous behavior and the complete corruption of our once-storied White House, bear with me, this will be my last shot.)

During the campaign tRump appeared on the Tonight Show and told host Jimmy Fallon, “apologizing is a great thing but you have to be wrong,” adding “I will apologize sometime in the hopefully distant future if I’m ever wrong.” We thought he was making a joke, but he was dead serious. He has so far been wrong on almost everything, and that doesn’t even count his verifiable more than 3,000 lies and misleading statements since taking office.

APOLOGY?

To be completely accurate, he did make an apology after the Hollywood Access tape surfaced, when he was caught on a hot microphone bragging about forcing himself on women. You remember: “I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab ‘em by the *****. You can do anything.” Your President.

Not to beat a dead horse but this one is still kicking hard, still in the Oval Office, still supported by the dastardly GOP leadership, still doing horrible damage to our nation, and we must not forget, we must not normalize.

He told us earlier that year he felt he could say or do anything — “I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn’t lose voters” — but I think he feared for a moment that tape might sink his chances for the White House, so he made an apology most considered insincere. Later, in private conversations, it was reported, he said he thought it was a fake tape, that it wasn’t his voice.

But it wasn’t just the “he’s dying anyway” debacle. It was that it ran simultaneously Monday with video of the smiling sycophants from D.C., in the Holy City celebrating with the notorious Netanyahu for having engineered moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, beaming so brightly over their great accomplishment that they could hardly contain themselves. If you don’t know the tangled history and politics, trust me, it was a completely provocative move criticized by almost every world leader.

“DADDY’S LITTLE GHOUL”

Ran the huge headline as the N.Y. Daily News slammed Ivanka on the cover “for smiling as Palestinians die.”

The split TV screen showed Palestinian protesters 50 miles away being gassed, shot and killed, 58 including 6 children and a medic, and 2,771 injured, 1,350 by gunfire. Since the Great March of Return protests

began March 30, the tally is 97 protesters killed including 12 children, 12,271 injured. Israel’s Monday used not only infantry with live ammo, but also fighter jets and a tank. There were no reports of Israeli troops coming under gunfire. One was wounded by shrapnel.

Certainly the Palestinian Problem is as complex as tRump’s brain is simple. The Hamas leaders are every bit as reprehensible as Netanyahu, if not more so. But two wrongs don’t make a right, and the American oligarch has been making so many major policy decisions based on no coherent policy except undoing everything Obama did, and whatever enriches the tRump family, that the world may take decades to recover.

NO SURPRISE

tRump tweeted Sunday that he wanted to bail out Chinese telecom giant ZTE after his own economic sanctions threatened to shut them down. Nevermind that ZTE’s technology, controlled by the Chinese government, has been declared a security risk if allowed into the U.S. 72 hours later a Chinese company offered a half a billion dollar loan to an Indonesia construction project associated with tRump’s company. And that’s why we expect presidents to disclose all their business ties and divest themselves, so we know if our supreme leader is acting on behalf of the American people or his own fortunes.

The emoluments clause, in the Constitution, bars members of government from receiving gifts, emoluments (“consideration, of value”) or offices from foreign countries without congressional approval. tRump started violating that the day after he was elected. But not a peep from the GOP. He’s their useful fool.

And I just can’t take it anymore. I will still advocate for people to vote, especially new and young voters, and to become informed and even run for office, to change this horrible clique we have now, but not “the new boss same as the old boss.” We need real reform. We need the brave and savvy Parkland students. But my battered soul cries to wait on the sidelines until the American conscience rises up to do the right thing. Carry on, Jack Neworth.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Wouldn’t you fly halfway around the globe to New Delhi if you could do it for under 200 bucks each way? Sure, you have to pay extra for everything on WOW, even a carry-on bag, but in all my years of bargain flying I have never seen this many miles for this few dollars. (My previous record for the last 20 years was Prague for \$150 each way, but I had to drive to San Diego to get it.) I’ve written about Iceland’s WOW Airlines before, and I have some quibbles but no one beats their prices. The dates from all WOW cities, including LAX, are Jan. 10 - March 31, 2019, but I’m betting available dates at those best prices will not last long. Don’t say I never done nuthin’ for ya.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK: “[India is] the One land that all men desire to see, and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for all the shows of all the rest of the globe combined.” — Mark Twain

CHARLES ANDREWS 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 therealrmusic@gmail.com

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RFP: # 174 LIBRARY SOCIAL WORKER

• Submission Deadline is June 8, 2018 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

RFP: # 175 BUS STOP LIGHTING & REAL-TIME DISPLAYS

• Submission Deadline is July 5, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

RFP: # 176 LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIALWORKER HOUSING

• Submission Deadline is May 29, 2018 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for the RFP package.



CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4302 FURNISH AND DELIVER TWELVE (12) NEW AND UNUSED, CURRENT MODEL YEAR OR NEWER, HEAVY DUTY MOBILE COLUMN LIFTS, DESIGNED FOR LIFTING VEHICLES WEIGHING UP TO 65,000LBS AND 12 JACK STANDS CAPABLE OF HOLDING A MINIMUM OF 18,000 LBS. EACH.

Submission Deadline is June 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4351 FURNISH AND DELIVER STREET LIGHT ELECTRICAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES.

Submission Deadline is June 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

BIRD

FROM PAGE 1

on the rider's condition when he confirmed the incident to the Daily Press Tuesday.

Lt. Rodriguez said the man was not wearing a helmet.

A witness called 9-1-1 shortly before 7 p.m. Monday to report a pedestrian had been hit by a car. First responders took the rider, who had been operating a Bird-branded motorized scooter, to a local hospital.

Investigators determined the driver of a Honda sedan was heading Westbound on Washington Avenue and had the right-of-way. Washington Avenue does not have a stop sign at the intersection. The Bird rider was heading north and did not come to a stop at the posted sign, according to Rodriguez.

The police department does not have exact numbers on how many crashes have involved motorized scooters since the Bird app launched last year. Rodriguez said SMPD is creating a specific code to better track traffic incidents involving electric scooters.

In January, a local woman was transported to the hospital with moderate head trauma after she allegedly rode a Bird into a vehicle. In that case, police said the woman did not stop at the stop sign on 6th Street and Idaho Avenue. Shortly after the incident, Bird began sending free helmets to riders who requested one within the app. The company

says it has distributed more than 22,000 helmets since launching the program.

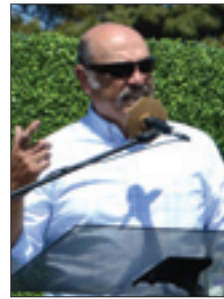
The number of electric vehicles in the city continued to expand in April, when competitor LimeBike launched a dockless bike and scooter operation here. The scooters are available via a smartphone app for an initial fee of \$1 and 15 cents per minute after that. Both companies allow riders to pick up a scooter wherever they find it and leave it at their destination.

Motorized scooters are covered by the California Vehicle Code and riders should follow the rules of the road by riding on the correct side of the street, staying off sidewalks and following traffic signs. Riding any motorized scooter without a helmet can result in a \$190 fine. Rodriguez did not have an exact number of how many tickets the department has issued since a January crackdown on riders who break the law.

"Hopefully it's a teaching moment for those who are operating illegally," Lt. Rodriguez said. "We're doing our best to continue to educate and enforce the law when it comes to the scooters."

Bird scooters are available to rent on a per minutes basis through an app. The company launched here in September and has continued to expand to other cities. Bird settled a lawsuit from the city of Santa Monica for \$300,000 earlier this year, promising to perform educational outreach.

kate@smdp.com



VAZQUEZ



DRATI



CULPEPPER



TAHVILDARAN-JESSWEIN

FIELD

FROM PAGE 1

In a ribbon cutting ceremony held at Lincoln Middle School (LMS) on Tuesday, May 15, the new track and field was unveiled. Features of the freshly-built track and field include synthetic turf with environmentally-friendly cork infill, a six-lane synthetic track, upgraded and enlarged ADA-compliant restrooms, and the return of lights for the field.

The field will be shared by students of LMS as well as City of Santa Monica due to a Joint Use Agreement the city and school have had since 2003. The agreement allows the city to use the field for various programs during non-school hours.

Construction of the revamped track and field began in the summer of 2017,

with a series of delays occurring throughout its completion due to what superintendent Dr. Ben Drati referred to in a letter to staff, parents, and community members as "several unforeseen challenges," including the contractor not adequately staffing the project and making errors in the track and field's layout.

The project cost a total of \$5.2 million dollars.

"No one knows more about how much work went into this more than our students and staff," Florence Culpepper, principal of Lincoln said during the ceremony. "We are very excited to see this project come to an end and eager to share with the community. Let's work together to make sure it remains an inviting space for all those that come to Lincoln to use it."

angel@smdp.com

ENGLISH

FROM PAGE 1

Cultures/Ethnic Studies requirements and new classes. The agenda also covers physical improvements to several campuses.

Seeking to further support English learners within the district, The Santa Monica Malibu School District will present a "clear and accessible roadmap" in their revision to their Master Plan for English Learners. The presented revisions will take place at a board meeting this Thursday, May 16.

According to the board meeting's agenda, the Master Plan for English Learners was last approved during the 2004-2005 school year. Within the last four years, educational services members and staff have refined the plan. The State Board of Education adopting the California Roadmap for English Learners policy in July, 2017 has prompted further refinement.

In the agenda report, SMMUSD says their goal with this refinement will be to "provide the highest level of support to our English Learners to ensure students are well-prepared for the 21st Century workforce."

An overview of the presentation in the agenda's report with shows there will be identification, placement, assessment, instruction and progress monitoring of English learners within the SMMUSD. Resources for families, students, and staff will be provided as well.

Dr. Amy Teplin, Literacy and Language Coordinator for the district, consulted school and district staff as well as the District English Learner Advisory Committee to in putting together the refinements to the plan.

Another topic of note on the agenda includes an update to the Social Justice Framework and Action plan approved in February. The presentation will present progress made and any adjustments staff will make moving forward. Next steps for the framework plan include expanding

training, developing workshops for families on social justice topics and standards, deepening work with Samohi, and eventually beginning implementation of the program with Malibu High.

At the Middle School level, John Adams Middle School is proposing a new journalism class and two courses are proposed for high school students (data science and senior seminars).

JAMS is also on the agenda for the proposed replacement of the school's auditorium. The current facility has been closed since 2014 and the board will be asked to approve a multi-phase project that would occur over several years.

"The Proposed Project would increase overall building square footage of performing arts uses by approximately 12,177 square feet, but, no additional uses would be added. While the Proposed Project will also not increase the number of students or faculty at JAMS, there may be an increase in the frequency of events held at the new auditorium, which is expected to occur on weekends and holidays," said the agenda.

The Board will also consider forming a School Facilities Improvement District for Santa Monica.

"The formation of the Santa Monica - SFID is necessary to allow the Santa Monica Schools communities greater independence in facility planning, projects and funding. If the SFID is formed and a bond measure is approved by SFID voters, proceeds of the Bonds may only be used for projects in that SFID," said the staff report.

The board previously approved forming a district for Malibu at its May 3 meeting.

Budget revisions and informational items on district residency policies are also on the agenda.

The Board will meet at the District Office, 1651 16th Street at 5:30 p.m. on May 17.

angel@smdp.com

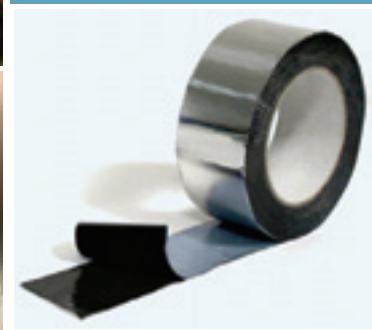
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Santa Monica Daily Press

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **62.6°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
Easing SSW swell. Small NW energy mixing in.

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
Old SSW swell trending down as new SW swell shows.

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310-395-4814

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 336 Calls For Service On May 14.

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

Recyclables theft 900 block 3rd 12:08 a.m.
Recyclables theft 3000 block Pico 12:34 a.m.
Burglary 1600 block 19th 6:52 a.m.
Battery 2800 block Lincoln 7:08 a.m.
Traffic collision 3rd street prom / Wilshire 7:34 a.m.
Burglary 1900 block Broadway 7:52 a.m.
Lewd activity 1700 block 19th 8:01 a.m.
Burglary 1000 block Montana 8:58 a.m.
Encampment 1000 block 4th 9:05 a.m.
Traffic collision Chelsea / Wilshire 9:20 a.m.
Fraud 800 block Santa Monica 10:08 a.m.
Lost property 300 block Olympic 10:27 a.m.
Burglary 1300 block 6th 10:30 a.m.
Battery 2400 block Beverley 10:38 a.m.
Petty theft 300 block Colorado 10:55 a.m.
Elder abuse 800 block 9th 11:18 a.m.
Bike theft 1600 block Cloverfield 11:43 a.m.
Bike theft 2200 block Colorado 11:44 a.m.
Theft suspect 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 12:06 p.m.
Traffic collision 3000 block Pacific 12:43 p.m.
Petty theft 2100 block Ocean Park 12:53 p.m.
Hit and run 1400 block Ocean 1:13 p.m.
Bike theft 3100 block Ocean Park 1:16 p.m.
Traffic collision 1100 block 2nd 1:16 p.m.
Fraud 400 block 26th 1:25 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block Broadway 1:27 p.m.
Petty theft 1700 block Ocean Front Walk 1:54 p.m.

Battery 600 block Santa Monica 1:58 p.m.
Runaway 1500 block California 2:42 p.m.
Grand theft 400 block Santa Monica 2:50 p.m.
Bomb threat 1400 block Wilshire 3:28 p.m.
Illegal weapon 1100 block Lincoln 4:12 p.m.
Assault w/deadly 700 block Broadway 4:27 p.m.
Grand theft 300 block Santa Monica Pier 4:44 p.m.
Encampment 1300 block Oak 4:47 p.m.
Lewd activity 2200 block Pico 5:04 p.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 5:24 p.m.
Elder abuse 1500 block Yale 5:30 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 5:55 p.m.
Petty theft 1500 block 6th 5:57 p.m.
Traffic collision 900 block Washington 6:49 p.m.
Burglary 1800 block 20th 7:13 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block Santa Monica 7:25 p.m.
Petty theft 800 block Montana 7:27 p.m.
Petty theft Lincoln / Montana 7:32 p.m.
Critical missing person 1600 block 18th 7:39 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block Pacific Coast Hwy 7:53 p.m.
Burglary 1200 block Pico 8:13 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1400 block Berkeley 8:24 p.m.
Petty theft 1700 block Cloverfield 8:25 p.m.
Critical missing 1000 block Stanford 8:26 p.m.
Fight 600 block the beach 8:57 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 1200 block Yale 9:09 p.m.
Person down 1300 block Wilshire 9:32 p.m.
Battery 5th / Broadway 9:51 p.m.
Bike theft 1600 block Cloverfield 10:11 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block 2nd 10:23 p.m.
Battery 1100 block Wilshire 11:51 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 29 Calls For Service On May 14.

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

EMS 1300 block PCH 2:41 a.m.
EMS Lincoln / Ocean Park 5:19:24
EMS 2800 block Lincoln 7:09 a.m.
EMS 300 block Wilshire 7:35 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Euclid 8:01 a.m.
EMS 2100 block Stewart 8:49 a.m.
Automatic alarm 700 block Ocean Park 10:14 a.m.
EMS 100 block Santa Monica 10:22 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Colorado 10:31 a.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 10:39 a.m.

Automatic alarm 2400 block 14th 10:40 a.m.
EMS 2800 block Lincoln 12:15 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 6th 1:33 p.m.
EMS 700 block Pico 1:47 p.m.
EMS 2700 block Colorado 3:04 p.m.
EMS 2700 block Neilson 3:08 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 3:45 p.m.
EMS 1900 block 20th 4:03 p.m.
EMS 2000 block 3rd 5:40 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 7:45 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 7:46 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Arizona 8:18 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Wilshire 9:32 p.m.
EMS 1600 block 7th 9:36 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Stewart 9:48 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1000 block Wilshire 9:59 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 2nd 10:47 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 2100 block Marine 10:49 p.m.
EMS 900 block 19th 11:11 p.m.



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DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 5/12
22 42 45 55 56
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 280M



Draw Date: 5/11
14 38 40 53 70
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 50M



Draw Date: 5/12
1 9 17 20 25
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 14M



Draw Date: 5/14
5 6 11 13 39



Draw Date: 5/14
MIDDAY: 2 5 2
Draw Date: 5/14
EVENING: 1 4 3



Draw Date: 5/14
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:45.04

WORD UP!

tempus fugit

1. Latin. time flies.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Get Me That, Stat!

■ Almost three-quarters of Americans think drug companies have too much sway on Capitol Hill, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll. That compares to 69 percent for Wall Street and 52 percent for the NRA.

■ Why the big differences? Both Republicans and Democrats see the drug industry's influence as a problem, while the other issues are more partisan.

Body of Knowledge

■ True black eyes are not known in humans. Human eye color is a complex trait. Different amounts of different pigments color the eye, from very light blue to very dark brown.

MYSTERY REVEALED

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2400 MAIN STREET



Alejandra Casas correctly identified the photo as part of the statue outside the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel. She wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

KIDDIE RHYME TIME by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Functions

5 Central Texas city

9 Parent's brother

14 Halifax, ___ Scotia

15 Loads and loads

16 "That's the truth!"

17 Comply with

18 Lion sound

19 Showy adornment

20 "Fall" guy of rhyme

23 ___ Bernard (big dog)

25 Omen interpreter

26 Rowing tool

27 Definite article

29 South-central New York city

34 Intermission follower

36 Rip

39 Iowa State's locale

40 Toe-counting rhyme

43 Part of a shoe or foot

44 Official stamp

45 Traditional saying

46 Emphasize

48 Kyoto cash

50 Yoga accessory

51 Depose

54 Big brawl

56 Rhyme about a jumper

61 Make amends

62 Creme-filled cookie

DOWN

1 Juan's "one"

2 Weep audibly

3 Abel's mother

4 Greet informally

5 Gentle heat

6 Perched on

7 Winter outerwear

8 How some order sandwiches

9 Roll out, as a flag

10 What's expected

11 Movie snippet

12 Cheerful tune

13 Hard to keep hold of

21 Up to

22 Tractor brand

23 Perfumed packet

24 More pretentious

26 Formal pledges

28 Suffix for luncheon

30 Hotel employee

31 "Count me in!"

32 Jamaican music

33 Thus far

35 Land in some lakes

37 Inflight announcement: Abbr.

38 Comrade

41 Magazine edition

42 Talk-show group

47 Becomes serious

49 Personify

52 Nighttime noise

53 Ready for a nap

55 Not prohibited

56 Pickle containers

57 Plugging away

58 Natural harbor

59 Was sure of

60 Patch up

64 Wish undone

65 Rage

66 Blacktop material

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
				20	21					22					
		23	24					25							
26					27		28			29		30	31	32	33
34				35			36	37	38			39			
40							41					42			
43							44					45			
46					47					48	49			50	
					51		52	53		54		55			
56	57	58	59						60						
61							62					63	64	65	66
67							68					69			
70							71					72			

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 16)

Much of your story is outside of your control, but when you take charge of what you can, you'll create an improved and truly customized future for yourself. Three key allies will help you. Recognize who's on your side and who's not. Mostly this is about feeling supported. June and September bring easy money. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 40, 33, 8 and 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The shortcut will be obvious – someone will point to it with a shiny sign. The long and viable path won't be obvious, but if you're internally quiet, then you'll probably sense it. You'll have to clear some brush to get started.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

In your mind, it's not enough for you to just show up. You want to show up and know that they feel you there. You want to show up in such a way as to make sure that people will miss you when you don't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Efficiency is partly about good planning and mostly about dealing well with people. When people feel part of the team, they'll place a high priority on what needs to be accomplished for the win.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You have someone powerful on your side, rooting for you to do whatever it takes for maximum vitality – and that someone is you. All success will spring from taking excellent care of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Should you knock yourself out to try and win over the very skeptical powers that be, or should you run the other direction from what's clearly a no-win situation? Choose the action that will make you feel the best about yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The magic and momentum will begin when your goals match up nicely with the goals of another. If this isn't happening, it's not you; it's the situation. Keep moving and looking for a match.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Your sensitivity to diet is turned up today, and you'll be more affected than usual by the foods you eat. Make a plan and stick to it no matter what. This will bring you peace and optimum results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Being able to control your state of mind will be huge. To determine the state that would be most suited to the job and then have the self-mastery to move your head there... well, that pretty much guarantees success today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The least powerful people are the ones who believe they are small. They'll show this by being nasty to underlings. Truly important people treat everyone with respect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The situation you're in today is not a zero-sum game. People need what you're offering just as much as they need what others are offering. You're in direct competition with no one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

There will be those who look at everything as a “you” problem or a “me” problem. Those are the hardest ones to deal with. If you can create a team mentality, then everything will turn into “we,” and you'll all get a lot accomplished.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

People don't want to be told what to do. They don't even want to be told what other people did to create success. People just want acknowledgement today. That's all. Share a kind word, and they'll be all ears.

Cosmic Cacophony

The cosmic changes are happening quickly and boldly. Yesterday was the Taurus new moon and Uranus broke into the Taurus realm, too. Considering Uranus moves signs every seven years or so, this passage represents an important change, though one we'll have a while to get used to. Mars made a sign change as well, into Aquarius.

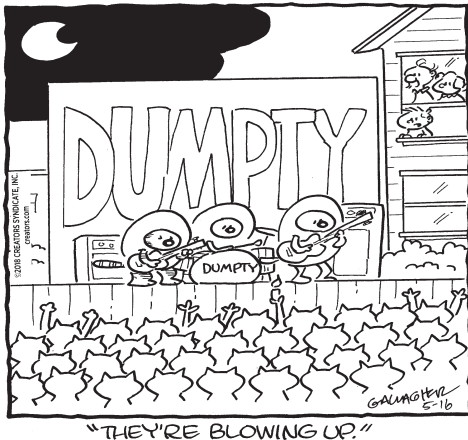
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Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



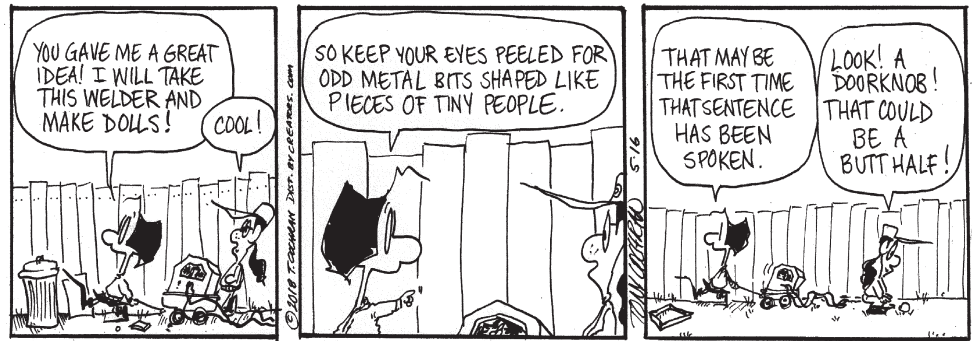
Strange Brew

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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Parking lot operator agrees to plead guilty in scheme to pay bribes and defraud the Department Of Veteran's Affairs out of \$13+ million

The owner of a business that operated parking lots has agreed to plead guilty in a 15-year bribery scheme that allowed him to defraud the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs out of more than \$13 million that should have been paid in relation to the operation of parking facilities on the VA's Los Angeles medical campuses.

In a plea agreement filed Monday in United States District Court, David Richard Scott, 58, the owner of Westside Services LLC (WSS), agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy and wire fraud. Scott, who has been in custody since his arrest in November, is expected to appear in court on Thursday to formally enter his guilty pleas.

The scheme, which resulted in the payment of nearly \$300,000 in bribes to VA contracting officer Ralph Tillman, cost the VA more than \$13 million it should have received under a contract with WSS to operate parking lots on the campuses of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VA GLAHS). The vast majority of the activity authorized under the contract took place at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center near Westwood and included parking for UCLA baseball games, the Wadsworth and Brentwood theaters, and the PGA golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club.

For approximately 18 years, Scott had a contract to operate parking lots at VA GLAHS that required him to pay 60 percent of the gross revenues from the parking lots. Scott was required to submit annual reports detailing revenue generated by parking fees, as well as improvements and services his company provided that could be used to offset payments due to the VA.

Scott maintained at least two sets of financial books, according to the plea agreement filed today. The numbers reported to the VA contained false revenue and expense statements, while a second set of books maintained by Scott's bookkeeper/tax preparer contained the actual revenues and expenditures, except for unreported cash.

Scott "intentionally failed to satisfy obligations and services placed upon him by the contract, and intentionally underreported revenue and inflated expenses so that it would appear that the VA owed WSS significant payment," according to the plea agreement. Scott's "goal was to pay the VA as little as possible."

As part of the scheme to defraud the VA, Scott began bribing Tillman in 2003 and continued to bribe him on a regular basis until Tillman abruptly retired in 2014 after he was confronted by federal agents. Scott continued making "hush money" payments to Tillman after his retirement to continue the scheme and attempt to avoid termination of his parking contract. Scott used cash collected at the parking lots - cash revenue he rarely reported to the VA - to pay Tillman at least \$286,000 in bribes.

"This bribery and fraud scheme directly harmed our nation's veterans by depriving them of revenues that could have been used to provide important services and medical care to the brave men and women who served in our armed forces," said United States Attorney Nicola T. Hanna. "The bribery payments to a public official are disturbing because they compromised

our trust in government, allowed the scheme to operate for years and led to this defendant pocketing millions of dollars that should have gone to the Department of Veteran's Affairs."

Over the course of the scheme, Scott underreported at least \$4.6 million in revenues and failed to report an unknown amount of cash collected at the parking lots, according to the plea agreement. Additionally, Scott avoided making payments to the VA by marking up expenses associated with the parking lots - in some cases, up to 600 percent - and claiming to have spent \$11.6 million to improve and maintain the facilities. For example, Scott told the VA he spent nearly \$5.97 million on repairs and maintenance, while his bookkeeper's records showed he spent only \$1.4 million for paving, fencing and other services associated with the parking lots.

"Between 2003 and 2016, defendant Scott utilized WSS business bank accounts to pay for approximately \$740,000 in travel, \$413,000 in meals and entertainment, defendant Scott's salary of \$3.1 million, and countless personal expenses and owner's draws totaling at least \$13.9 million," according to the plea agreement. While Scott installed signs at one parking lot claiming that "proceeds go toward helping veterans in need," Scott admitted in the plea agreement that the money generated at this lot funded his lavish lifestyle and the bribe payments.

As a result of the long-running scheme to defraud the VA, Scott amassed considerable wealth, including three condominiums in Santa Monica, with a cumulative estimated value of \$7 million; numerous high-end collectible cars, including several classic Corvettes and three Ferrari automobiles; a Cigarette "Top Gun" racing boat; and bank and brokerage accounts contained more than \$1 million. When he was arrested, authorities seized more than \$213,000 from Scott's residence - cash that had been skimmed from the VA parking lots.

As part of his plea agreement, Scott and his wife have agreed to forfeit all of these assets. Scott has agreed to pay approximately \$12,619,693 in restitution, a figure that takes into account some money already repaid to the VA.

The plea agreement calls for Scott to serve a sentence of 70 months in federal prison. The final decision on the appropriate sentence will rest with United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner. If Judge Klausner decides to impose another sentence, either party has the option of withdrawing from the plea agreement.

Tillman, who cooperated in the federal investigation, pleaded guilty in February to charges of making false statements to VA criminal investigators and subscribing to a false tax return. Tillman is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Klausner on August 27.

"Veterans Affairs employees who engage in collusive relationships with contractors will be aggressively pursued by the Office of Inspector General and prosecuted to the full extent of the law," said Special Agent in Charge A.E. Pleasant, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division, Western Field Office.

The cases against Scott and Tillman are the result of an investigation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and IRS Criminal Investigation.

The prosecution of these cases is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Ruth C. Pinkel of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section.

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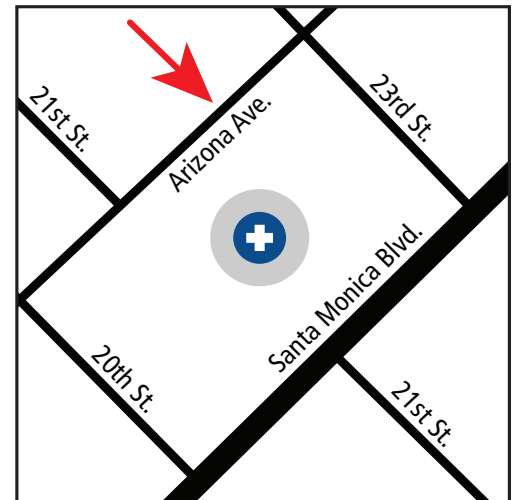
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