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Volume 17 Issue 155
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New development measure hinges on Mayor's vote

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's elected leaders are split over whether the City should place a development-related measure on the November ballot. The proposed measure would require a supermajority vote from the City Council to amend established rules for new construction in Santa Monica. The city's elected representatives disagree whether a measure would lead to "development peace" or another war.

Mayor Ted Winterer has become the swing vote on whether a measure will move forward and has asked staff to do more research on the matter. At this point, Councilmembers Kevin McKeown, Sue Himmelrich and Tony Vazquez support a measure to limit the Council's flexibility.

"I still get the sense of unease that people need to know for a fact that we will stick to our plan," McKeown said. "There have been some pretty bitter moments and I think we need to take a positive action to put that behind us."

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gleam Davis and Councilmembers Pam O'Connor and Terry O'Day are against it.

The debate comes after decades of controversy surrounding large projects in the city, especially projects that included more hotel rooms and offices. For years, those projects and large scale apartment buildings required Development Agreements, specific contracts that

SEE VOTE PAGE 6

ClimateFest hopes to steer towards a sustainable future

LAUREN LABEL
SMC Corsair / Daily Press Staff Writer

In honor of May being Bike Month, the city of Santa Monica and Climate Action Santa Monica are co-hosting an interactive event called ClimateFest this Saturday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside St. Monica's Catholic Church (725 California Ave.)

Before the day kicks off, there will be a bike ride with the Mayor of Santa Monica, Ted Winterer. The ride starts at 8:30 a.m. from outside City Hall to the St. Monica Catholic Church, where the festival officially begins.

"The city of Santa Monica is about to launch a new road for climate action called the Climate Adaptation Plan," said Constance Farrell, the Public Information Officer for Santa Monica. "Climate Fest is a part of building that plan in a way to bring people together and talk about the foundational areas of energy and water conservation, and the small things you can do in your everyday life to really make a big impact."

Local students will showcase the annual sustainable student poster contest and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's sustainability plan. "We were the first city in 1992 to have a sustainability city plan," Farrell said, "by saving water during a drought time, by doing drought tolerated landscaping."

Climate Fest will have live music, food, and a speaker panel about water, energy, and mobility of the future. There will also be several hands-on workshops and activities about home energy audits, intro to drip irrigation, solar for apartments and condos, and plant-based cooking. Family Bike Hub will be there to offer bike repairs, oversee bike swaps, and sell cargo bikes.

Limited parking is available onsite, but free bike valet is available. Breeze bikes can be parked at the bike valet without having to pay the $2 out of hub fee. The Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 9, and 13 are a short walk from the venue too.

Visit https://climateactionsantamonica.org/ for more information.



Courtesy photo

BIKES: A bike ride with the Mayor will be part of ClimateFest, held at St. Monica's on Saturday, May 19.

Rent Control Board caps surcharges

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

About thirty percent of rent control tenants will see a reduction in surcharges this September when the next general adjustment goes into effect. After months of debate, the Rent Control Board has limited the amount of taxes landlords can pass along to tenants to $35 or four percent of their rent, whichever is lower.

"I'm so glad we've finally arrived at the night we do something about this. We're all singing the same tune up here," said Chair Anastasia Foster at the May 10 meeting where the RCB enacted the cap.

The new limit will provide the most relief for tenants in buildings that have been sold and reassessed during Santa Monica's recent real estate boom. Many of those tenants saw their fees skyrocket as property values soared. Ninety percent of tenants whose properties have been sold since 2012 will see relief.

Surcharges for about 70 percent of rent controlled tenants are already less than $35, according to a city report. The median surcharge amount is $24.41. The highest monthly surcharge paid by

SEE RCB PAGE 7

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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City of Santa Monica

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 #4353 PROVIDE MOTOR COACH OPERATOR UNIFORMS AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

Submission Deadline is May 31, 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.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: **2019 14th Street and 1530 Pico Blvd. Demolition Projects**. The Project encompasses the following Scope of Work:

- At 1530 Pico Blvd., demolish the existing 1-story, approximately 1,750 sf, including slab on grade and concrete block wall. Phase 1 Report indicates asbestos tile flooring and hot water piping insulation. All utilities shall be terminated and capped. Existing parking lot to remain. Connect utilities (water, electric) to 24' x 60' construction trailer to be installed by others, under Contractor agreement. Stripe parking lot for 9 spaces per plan. Total site area is approximately 11,250 sf.

- At 2019 14th Street, demolish 2 separate buildings, including slabs on grade (foundations to remain) at 1-story, 26' high, 1,300 sf single family home, and 2-story, 26' high, 12,114 sf building. Phase 2 Report indicated asbestos throughout flooring, ceiling, etc. The existing parking lot on site shall remain. All utilities shall be terminated and capped, coordinate with utility companies, as needed. This property is approximately 43,520 sf or 1 acre. Install new fencing, walls and/or trellis to 6' height, surrounding property, as needed. Install 33" high Solar Bollard Light, ten (10) total, per plan, approximately 30' apart.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018, at which time said bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN. FAX OR EMAIL PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

1. Contractors License Classification. Contractor is required to have a Class A or B license at the time of bid submission.

2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code §1771.5. The Contractor awarded the Contract for the Work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. The Contractor and its subcontractors must be registered with the **Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)** pursuant to Labor Code §1725.5 to be qualified. Bids submitted by contractors not registered with the DIR will be rejected as non-responsive.

4. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **sixty (60)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

5. Job-Walk. The District will conduct a **Mandatory Job Walk on Friday, May 25, 2018, beginning at 11:00 am. Bidder's attendance at the Job Walk is mandatory**. Bidders are to meet at the DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 for conduct of the Job Walk. The Bid Proposal submitted by a Bidder whose representative(s) did not attend the entirety of the Mandatory Job Walk will be rejected by the District as being non-responsive.

6. Substitute Security. Pursuant to California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this Contract.

7. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 3rd, 2018 to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest priced responsive Bid Proposal.

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A program of WISE & Healthy Aging, a nonprofit social services organization.

What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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

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.

Sunday, May 20

Main St. Farmers Market
The Main Street market hosts a variety activities including bands, a biweekly cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, a face painter, a balloon animal designer as well as seasonal California grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, meats and cheeses. 2640 Main St. @ Ocean Park. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Poetry Loves Art: reading and prompts with Dinah Berland
Stop by to listen to poetry by the Camera Obscura poets (members of Dinah Berland's ekphrastic poetry class,) and get inspired to pen some of your own lines inspired by visual art. Palisades Park. 1450 Ocean Ave. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, May 21

ESL Classes at SMPL
Santa Monica Public Library hosts a series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222 ext. 76203 to enroll. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Arts Commission Meeting
Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Arts Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board
The Santa Monica Architectural Review Board normally meets on the first and third Monday of every month in the City Council Chamber. City Hall, 1685 Main St.

Tuesday, May 22

SM Reads: Life After Manzanar
Authors Naomi Hirahara and Heather C. Lindquist weave together oral histo-

SEE **LIST** PAGE 9

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

18th Street Celebrates Youth Art and Activism

JDA GAYLE
Special to the Daily Press

This Saturday afternoon, gather your friends and family to celebrate the richness and diversity of the Pico neighborhood at their semi-annual Pico Block Party under the theme: Empowering Youth Voices at the 18th Street Arts Center.

The Pico Block Party series began last year to celebrate the launch of the organization's online cultural asset map, "CultureMapping90404.org," which uses oral histories to map the cultural assets of the city's Pico neighborhood. The first block party in April 2017 celebrated the English-language version of the website, and second party in October celebrated the Spanish-language version.

Wanting to further connect its public programming to the local community, 18th Street formed a Neighborhood Advisory Council made up of a number of community leaders they had built relationships with through the oral history initiative. This year's theme, according to director Sue Bell Yank, results from the combined interests of some the Center's artists-in-residence and the Advisory Council: "What we wanted to do was really focus in some of our public programming on particular issues or concerns that the community itself felt very strongly about. A lot of those Advisory Council members had been interested in a focus on youth, and we had some artists who were interested in working on that focus as well."

Local organizations including, Pico Youth and Family Center, Santa Monica Library Teen Council, Cabeza de Vaca Cultural Dance School, and Brighter Futures Charity will have staff tables at the event to talk to visitors about their role in the community.

The event takes place outside the expansive campus amidst its brightly colored buildings. But instead of cars on asphalt, you'll find vendors selling food as diverse as vegan soul food and Oaxacan ice-cream, as well as traditional artisanal craft items. On the stage, guests can enjoy live performances from local DJs from the Pico Youth and Family Center, among others. If you've ever wondered about the world-class art that inside those technicolor buildings, Saturday's festival is an opportunity to see the studios of professional artists like local artist Yvette Gellis or Daniel Canogar from Spain. The current exhibitions will also be accessible for event patrons.

But the party isn't just for spectators (and foodies). The Pico Block Party presents myriad opportunities for art-making and community-building. Shannon Daut, of the City's Cultural Affairs Office, which provided grant funding for the event, wants you to know the Pico Block Party is "a place to see artists and art-making in action and actually make things for yourself".

For example, exhibiting artist Mariángeles Soto-Díaz will partner with local youth artists in a screenprinting workshop where you can make fabric protest banners with personalized slogans. Or if publishing is your preferred form of protest, make your own zine. This decades-old tradition of counter-cultural self-publishing will be mostly collage-oriented and led Santa Monica High School student artist, Isabelle D'Amico. For D'Amico, she has found her community through art, and hopes art can build community for others. She says, "people find different ways to have their own Community, whether it's through religion or school or sports or anything like that and I've definitely found it through art. It's important for people to feel connected and supported by that.

While the theme for the event took root before youth activists of Parkland, Florida forced the nation to take notice of youth voices, empowering youth voices isn't just the goal of the event, it's one means of a larger effort of the 18th Street Art Center to build bridges with the Pico neighborhood and Santa Monica at large. For Yank, the event is "a way for new audiences that are coming into the community to recognize the history of this neighborhood, to [embrace] this idea of not treating the neighborhood that you walk into as a blank slate but as something with a long history." According to citydata.com, the 90404 zip code is the city's most ethnically, socioeconomically, and age-diverse neighborhood.

For those who want to go beyond the festivities of this weekend to dig deeper into issues facing youth, the 18th Street Art Center is hosting its first Community Dinner Dialog on Friday, June 1. Again focusing on youth, youth and adult member of the community as well as community leaders, including members of the Neighborhood Advisory Network, will discuss the youth achievement gap as it manifests in Santa Monica Schools. As the main city liaison to the organization, Daut is well-aware of the importance of events like this and the festival in building community-wide support for maintain Pico's identity: "it's a community that is facing challenges in terms of displacement and things like that. And I think really shining a light on this community is really important."

As for the youth, high school junior Isabelle D'Amico describes community-building like this: "We say 'Santa Monica' and 'Pico youth' but it's really about everybody that wants to be part of this community. And it's the idea of 'what does community mean to you?' It's about people being supported and feeling like there's people that you can connect with and share your thoughts with and I think I anybody [is] deserving of that. That's a big reason that you should come and support all these cool people doing different things and talking about how they all connect and how we all come together and that shouldn't be limited to any certain group of people."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No helmet from Bird

Editor:

Your story says: "Shortly after the [January] incident, Bird began sending free helmets to riders who requested one within the app."

I made such a request, as soon as I joined my fellow Birds flying down the avenues, bike paths, and sidewalks of Santa Monica. As of yet, I have not received such a brain bucket.

Dear Brains Behind Birds, Please, at least give me a note so the next time I'm ticketed for unhelmetly breaking our local ordnance, I can just have the SMPD forward it?

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Venice

Venice Art Walk & Auctions

Taking place on May 20 from noon to 6 p.m. at Google's Venice Headquarters, Venice Art Walk & Auctions is the largest art walk in SoCal and the biggest public event held by the tech giant, which turns into a gallery space for the event.

Free and open to all (family-friendly), guests at the auction can access the work of 250 contemporary artists, including such luminaries as John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha and Alison Saar as well as LA's emerging talent — all with the goal of exceeding the $800,000 raised last year. This year's event honors signature artist Alexis Smith along with honorees Sam Durant and long-time supporter Ed Moses, posthumously.

Sam has even created a limited-edition piece for the event appropriately titled "Everyone Deserves Healthcare," which he describes as embodying the spirit of everything VFC does. In honor of VFC, Hotel Erwin is offering an art-caytion package - Walk the (Venice) Art Walk for those who want to ditch their cars for the weekend.

The fundraiser features exhibitions as well as a silent auction along with engaging community activations from live art exhibits curated by artist Bert Rodriguez to guided art workshops taught by local artisans, live music and craft beer & wine garden along with a bevy of food trucks, dog daycare and bike valet.

For a $50 donation, guests enjoy special access to dozens of artists' studios.

The musical lineup includes Parker Ainsworth, Dervish, Lacey Cowden, Jonny Boy, DANKE and Foxtrails, all playing 45-minute sets beginning at noon.

Artist studio tours will be available from noon to 4 p.m. for a $50 donation. Meet local artists and get a behind-the-scenes look at their creative process. The $50 donation also includes a 2018 Venice Art Walk t-shirt by signature artist Alexis Smith.

New this year will be interactive workshops from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are required for each workshop and range in price from $50 per person to $150. Tickets can be purchased in advance at https://theveniceartwalk.org/

Workshops include Jewelry Making with Amanda Diaz, Family Crafts with Art Camp LA, Floral Design with Art Fleur, Succulent Arrangements with Big Red Sun, Art with Claudia Concha, Macrame Wall Hanging with Faithful Artisans, Candle Making with Flores Lane and Calligraphy with HighPulp.

View a select number of works and bid early on paddle8.com/auction/venice-family-clinic.

SUBMITTED BY EMMA HABER

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Tyree Beavers
tyree@smdp.com

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Royal Wedding There, Royally Bad Joke Here



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

WEDDING: The Royal Wedding will be the big media event over the weekend.

AS WILL BE SEEN BY 350,000 IN PERSON and on TV by more than a hundred million, tomorrow Prince Harry and L.A. native, Meghan Markle will be married. The last American to marry an English royal was in 1937 when socialite Wallis Simpson exchanged vows with King Edward VIII. The public furor, however, over the twice-divorced Simpson becoming queen forced Edward to abdicate the throne after a mere eleven-month reign.

Fortunately, attitudes in England have evolved. Meghan is bi-racial and, thankfully, it's almost a non-issue. We had a bi-racial president which fueled bigots, including Donald Trump's racist birther movement. (Trump's business bankruptcies pale compared to his moral bankruptcy.)

Trump was specifically asked NOT to attend the royal wedding. Brits remember that Trump mocked the Muslim Mayor of London after a terrorist attack and retweeted two fake anti-Muslim videos. He also, three years after young Harry lost his mother in a tragic traffic accident, callously insulted her memory.

On The Howard Stern Show, Trump talked about his "almost romance" with Diana years earlier. "She was crazy" he observed flippantly but added "I wouldn't have hesitated to sleep with her." (How tasteful.) Apparently Trump actively pursued Di, sending her lavish floral arrangements. (I wonder if Michael Cohen paid for them out of a slush fund?)

Trump confided to friends he "had a real shot" at Diana. She confided to friends that Trump gave her "the creeps." Diana was prescient. For example,Trump reportedly told porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy Playmate, Karen McDougal, how much each reminded him of his daughter. (#Gross.)

These two alleged affairs (and how many others?) occurred when Melania was pregnant and continued after Barron's birth. Melania had surgery on Monday and hopefully will be home this weekend. Is Trump guilty about not getting her a birthday gift? Or, having forgotten to mention her in his Mother's Day speech? No! The man is clearly without a conscience. (@Sociopath.)

Frankly, Melania always seems more like a hostage than a First Lady. And, with all due respect, her "Be Best" anti-cyber bullying campaign is ludicrous given her husband is the #1 cyber bully!

That Trump calls anyone "crazy" "loser," or a "pig," is classic projection. Especially, "crazy." (Google "Trump meltdown Fox and Friends.") . Diana was an elegant woman who devoted her life to the poor and needy. Trump is a boor and greedy. (Spike Lee calls him "Agent Orange.)

Trump's lack of decency has spread to his staff. Kelly Sadler, a mid-level White House communications aide, allegedly mocked John McCain's battle with brain cancer. She later said she was joking. (We all know brain cancer is such a gold mine for laughs.)

SEE **JOKE** PAGE 5

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

JOKE

FROM PAGE 4

After McCain expressed his opposition to Gina Haspel's CIA director nomination. Kelly reportedly saw fit to say, "It doesn't matter, he's dying anyway." McCain's wife, Cindy, took to Twitter, "May I remind you my husband has a family, 7 children and 5 grandchildren."

Over a week later and still no apology from the White House. Ironically, if Sadler had done so publicly, the story would have ended. Instead, it's being condemned on both sides of the political aisle. GOP Senator Lindsey Graham said bitterly, "No one's laughing in the Senate."

Sadler probably took her cue from her boss, In 2015 Trump claimed "Nobody loves the military like I do." And yet, he said of McCain, "I prefer my heroes not captured." (Suggesting a soldier who gets captured is a "loser?")

During Vietnam, Trump received five deferments, four student and one medical. (Though he couldn't remember which foot had the "bone spur.") Given that Dr. Bornstein's "If elected he'd be the healthiest president in history" letter was dictated by Trump, odds are the "bone spur" letter was probably also dictated by Trump. (Insulting those who served in the military, Trump bragged that his "personal Vietnam was avoiding sexually transmitted diseases.")

Meanwhile, Trump who campaigned on "draining the swamp," has been bottling and selling the stuff like a carnival barker. (Google: "Trump China $500 million.") After getting the ? billion infusion, suddenly Trump wants more jobs for China. What's next, new hats? "MCGA, Make China Great Again."

As N. Korea threatens to withdraw from the summit, there goes Trump's precious and self-promoted Nobel Peace Prize. In the past, other U.S. presidents have won the Nobel Prize (Teddy Roosevelt, Wilson and Obama) but, as far as I can tell, none have been pu**y grabbers.

Prince Harry and Meghan vow to follow in Diana's humanitarian footsteps. Ivanka and Jared vow to hustle her handbags and loans to bail out his 666 Fifth Avenue. (666, isn't that the devil's address?) I suppose "Jarvanka" are just emulating Trump who uses the Presidency as his personal ATM machine.

As for Kelly Sadler, if it can't be Trump until after the mid-terms, I hope she gets canned.

Coverage of the royal wedding begins Saturday at 1 a.m. PDT. Coverage of Trump's pathological lying is on 24/7. Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

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VOTE

FROM PAGE 1

went before the Council for approval. The process resulted in controversy after controversy as residents fought projects that would increase traffic, alter the skyline, or develop the beachfront.

"I've seen some ugly, ugly wars over 4-3 votes where it didn't have to be that way," Himmelrich said. "We're the only democratic force in the city that's the line between projects and their realization."

"We need a little rest from that kind of process," said former Mayor Denny Zane at the meeting in support of a measure. "We need to have the development community made clear that whether Rick Cole is here or (Planning Director) Dave Martin is here, these rules are going to be reliable."

Those unelected leaders do not support a measure. City Manager Rick Cole encouraged the Council to move on to other issues now that they have finished the Downtown Community Plan (DCP) and the LUCE, which established guidelines for height and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) throughout the city. In his view, those city documents put the development debate to rest.

"Let's be clear...developers are not welcome to come in here and propose twenty-story buildings when the zoning code says they can't. We will not process it. We will not allow it," Cole said.

The DCP allows three large sites to build up to 130 feet, or about twelve stories, including the city-owned property at 4th and Arizona, the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and the Frank Gehry project at 101 Santa Monica Boulevard. Those projects will need a Development Agreement from the City Council.

Davis and O'Connor both agreed with staff, saying a measure would create more controversy in an election that will likely concern other hot-button issues. Himmelrich and McKeown are both running for reelection. O'Connor's term is also expiring in 2018 but she has not confirmed whether or not she is running. Himmelrich is supporting a grassroots initiative to place term limits on the City Council. Potential challengers have promised to make crime a central issue as they drum up support for new faces on the Council.

"There are plenty of issues, I don't think we need to add development to make the election more spicy," Davis said.

Rather than address individual projects that exceed established limits, the potential measure would require five out of seven votes to change the rules by amending the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) or DCP to increase height or FAR.

"I would hate to see something like this get in the way of actually making significant changes that would allow us to develop more housing including more affordable housing," Davis said.

Winterer asked staff to come back with a thorough analysis on how a measure would impact the Council's ability to encourage more housing development in certain areas of the city. He also expressed concern it may restrict the city's ability to quickly rebuilt in the event of a major earthquake.

A measure proposed by Council would not require signatures to qualify for the ballot. The City Clerk estimates a ballot measure would cost the City about $513,981.

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RCB

FROM PAGE 1

a tenant is $137.03.

Santa Monica allows rent controlled property owners to pass through certain taxes approved by voters to their tenants. Tens of thousands of renters pay surcharges on Measures X, S, BB, and AA. Landlords can also pass along a stormwater management user fee, the clean beaches and ocean parcel tax and a 2008 school district special tax.

The surcharges were intended to equitably distribute voter-approved tax increases by spreading out the costs among tenants. However, the board became concerned about an unintended consequence of Proposition 13 - skyrocketing surcharges when buildings are sold and their taxes reassessed to match the multi-million dollar price tag.

In response to complaints from long term tenants who said the surcharges outgrew their income, the RCB abolished the pass-throughs for new tenants and new property owners. The move was not retroactive, however, and the cap is intended to address the issue for tenants who's surcharges had already ballooned.

Several members of the influential group Santa Monicans for Renters Rights addressed the RCB at their May 10 meeting in support of the 4 percent cap.

"I think in doing so we will deal with the most egregious cases of excessive surcharges that (happen) with the purchase of the building and the inflation of the property value," said SMRR founder Denny Zane.

The board had considered placing a measure on the November ballot to clarify the Board's authority to allow new surcharges for future bonds. The RCB ultimately decided to reject a staff proposal for a measure, arguing the board already has the authority to regulate surcharges and a ballot measure would be unnecessary.

kate@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Watt Family sponsors L.A. Homelessness Challenge

The Watt Family is awarding a total of $350,000 to implement two winning ideas selected through the LA Homelessness Challenge, a competition to reward scalable service models and game-changing solutions to serve those experiencing homelessness in L.A. County.

Los Angeles currently has the largest population of chronically homeless residents in the nation, a distinction that has become an identifying mark for the city and a rallying point for people fighting against this growing crisis.

"For 70 years, our family has been building homes for Angelenos. We understand the importance of having a safe and welcoming place to live," said Nadine Watt, President of Watt Companies. "By funding awards through the LA Homelessness Challenge, we are optimistic that we will be able to find groundbreaking and scalable solutions that will provide tremendous relief to the thousands of homeless people in our City, and ultimately, ease us out of this crisis once and for all."

The LA Homelessness Challenge is a partnership between United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the Home for Good Funders Collaborative, and the Watt Family. To select the winners, the LA Homelessness Challenge brings together a panel of foundations and other private and public organizations committed to alleviating the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. Through this competition, we aim to deliver a pipeline of solutions that can easily expand with more support. Each proposal will be read by a panel of judges, and all applicants will be provided with comments and feedback to further develop each solution, regardless of whether the idea is selected as a winner.

At a time when the voters of Los Angeles have agreed to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to tackle homelessness through Measures H and HHH, we must ask those serving our homeless population to consider how to scale. Many have struggled on the front lines of this cause with limited support for too long, and as the wave of new public funding approaches, now is the time to consider how expansion brings its own set of unique challenges. Applicants must have at least one or more team members with experience working with homelessness in Los Angeles County.

To learn more or register to apply, please visit www.lahomelessnesschallenge.org.

Watt Companies offers comprehensive and diversified real estate services across the United States to investors and partners, homebuyers and commercial customers. These services include commercial development, homebuilding, asset management, and the realization of capital investments. In its 70-year history, Watt Companies has developed homes for over 100,000 families, built over eight million square feet of industrial and professional office space, developed more than 50 shopping centers, three major first-class hotels, and six major master-planned communities.

SUBMITTED BY MOLLY HOGIN, SUGERMAN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARDMEETING

DATE/TIME: May 21, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 16ARB-0231: 1437 5th Street: Multi-Family Residential
- 18ARB-0101: 1450 Cloverfield Boulevard: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0102: 2225 Broadway: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0131: 1345 Third Street Promenade: Retail
- 18ARB-0164: 2929 Pico Boulevard: Commercial Building
- 18ARB-0206: 1820 14th Street: Multi-Family Residential

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

• 3030 Nebraska Avenue (Development Review Application No. 16ENT-0117). Preliminary review of a proposed three- and four-story mixed used building comprised of approximately 8,085 SF of ground floor retail, two basement levels of creative office space, and 190 residential dwelling units above a three-level of subterranean parking garage located within the MUC (Mixed Use Creative) District of the Bergamot Plan Area.

More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail rathar.duong@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).





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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **62.6°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** Waist to shoulder high
SW swell holds. Possible NW windswell. Tide is drained early.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** Waist to chest high
SW swell fades as new SSW swell moves in. Possible NW windswell. Tide is drained early.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 000 Calls For Service On May 00.

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

364 calls on May 16

Drunk driving Stanford / Santa Monica 1:02 a.m.
Battery Ocean / Bay 6:10 a.m.
Fraud 2400 block 7th 6:42 a.m.
Hit and run 21st / Oak 7:12 a.m.
Threats 1600 block Ocean 7:13 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block 2nd 7:17 a.m.
Traffic hazard 1700 block Santa Monica 7:57 a.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Hill 8:26 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 12th 9:28 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1500 block 15th 9:35 a.m.
Petty theft 1700 block Lincoln 10 a.m.
Traffic hazard 1400 block Wilshire 10:05 a.m.
Grand theft 1800 block Santa Monica 10:31 a.m.
Identity theft 300 block Olympic 10:35 a.m.
Vehicle with 900 block 16th 10:41 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 15th 10:41 a.m.
Assault 1700 block Expo Line 10:59 a.m.
Fight 700 block Broadway 11:23 a.m.
Petty theft 2200 block Oak 11:32 a.m.
Traffic collision Cloverfield / Pico 12:02 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 15th 12:07 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 400 block 7th 12:08 p.m.
Failure to pay tickets 800 block Pacific Coast Hwy 12:16 p.m.
Vehicle blocking 1100 block Harvard 12:26 p.m.
Burglary 1100 block Maple 12:55 p.m.
Identity theft 1900 block 20th 12:58 p.m.
Grand theft 1800 block Santa Monica 1:43 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 19th 1:49 p.m.
Fitness permit 700 block Palisades Park 1:51 p.m.
Hit and run 3100 block Lincoln 1:57 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block Cloverfield 2:01 p.m.
Hit and run 300 block Olympic 2:48 p.m.
Traffic collision 1300 block Pico 2:48 p.m.
Hit and run 2500 block Santa Monica 2:54 p.m.
Identity theft 400 block 24th 2:58 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 1900 block Idaho 2:58 p.m.
Vehicle blocking 1100 block Harvard 3 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 700 block Adelaide 3:01 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2300 block Schader 3:06 p.m.
Battery 1500 block 26th 3:11 p.m.
Loud music 2400 block 5th 3:13 p.m.
Petty theft 1200 block Franklin 3:15 p.m.
Battery 2200 block Colorado 3:41 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block 11th 3:52 p.m.
Elder abuse 1400 block Ocean 3:57 p.m.
Theft suspect 300 block Colorado 4:05 p.m.
Panhandling 800 block Montana 4:44 p.m.
Traffic collision 19th / San Vicente 4:57 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block 3rd Street Prom 5:14 p.m.
Petty theft 5th / Broadway 5:26 p.m.
Battery 2000 block 20th 5:39 p.m.
Burglary 2600 block Highland 6:08 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 6:49 p.m.
Battery 700 block Broadway 7:07 p.m.
Bike theft 2100 block 3rd 7:16 p.m.
Battery 2200 block Virginia 7:17 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block 2nd 7:31 p.m.
Hit and run Cloverfield / Pico 8:01 p.m.
Battery 1400 block Lincoln 8:24 p.m.
Hit and run 14th / Olympic 8:42 p.m.
Fight 1300 block Palisades Park 8:55 p.m.
Hit and run 100 block Wilshire 9:03 p.m.
Death 1600 block Appian 9:06 p.m.
Fight Lincoln / Broadway 9:14 p.m.
Living in a vehicle 600 block 4th 9:21 p.m.
Petty theft 1100 block 2nd 9:39 p.m.
Person with a gun Lincoln / Broadway 11:29 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 18 Calls For Service On May 16.

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

Emergency 500 block Colorado 12:19 a.m.
Emergency 600 block Santa Monica 12:25 a.m.
Emergency 1200 block 25th 12:29 a.m.
Emergency 900 block 2nd 1:02 a.m.
Flooded condition 1500 block 12th 1:23 a.m.
Emergency 2500 block Virginia 6:19 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1100 block Centinela 8:37 a.m.
Emergency 1300 block 15th 8:43 a.m.
Emergency 700 block 24th 9:25 a.m.
Emergency Cloverfield / Kansas 12:02 p.m.
Emergency 1500 block 11th 2:05 p.m.
Emergency 1300 block 26th 2:12 p.m.
Emergency 500 block Colorado 9:00 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block Ocean 9:05 p.m.
Emergency 1600 block Appian 9:06 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block Ocean Front Walk 9:27 p.m.
Emergency 500 block Colorado 11:14 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block Broadway 11:35 p.m.



LIST
FROM PAGE 2

ries of the settlement, the period following their unjust imprisonment, when Japanese Americans were thrust back into society with little more than twenty-five dollars and a one-way bus ticket. A book sale and signing follows. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 – 8:30 p.m.

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

10th Annual Student Poster Contest - Be Fantastic, Cut the Plastic
At the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. Parking is $3 an hour or $12 for the day. Bike riding and carpooling are encouraged. 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

SM Reads: Japanese & English Storytime
This special Japanese and English story time includes a craft activity. For ages 5-7. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Mania of the Week
■ Hippomania: An obsession with horses

Never Say Diet
■ The Major League Eating record for haggis is three pounds in eight minutes, held by Eric Livingston. Haggis is a savory pudding containing sheep's heart, liver and lungs, minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices and salt, traditionally encased in the animal's stomach. Livingston's record, set in 2008, is not likely to be broken anytime soon.

Best Medicine
■ Patient: Nurse, I keep seeing spots in front of my eyes.
■ Nurse: Have you seen a doctor?
■ Patient: No, just spots.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

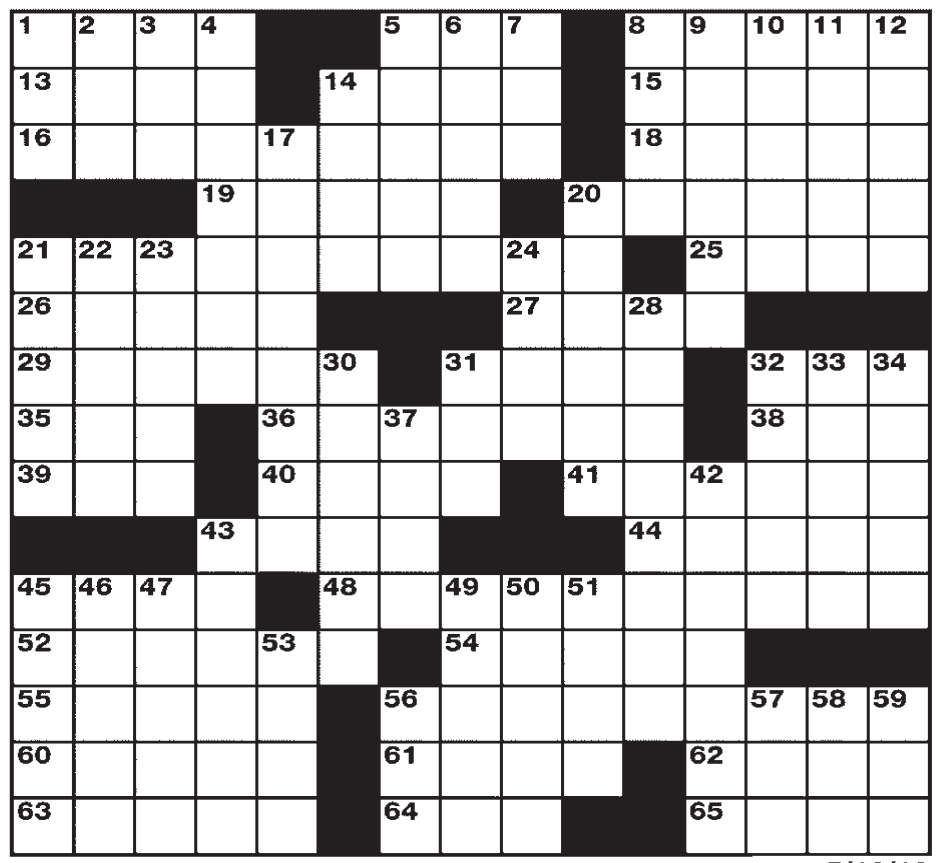
3				4		6	7	
	7		2	9	6	5		4
	2				1	4	9	
7								8
	8	3	7				6	
2		9	6	5	8		1	
	3	8		1				6

Newsday Crossword

RELOCATION by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Shangri-la
5 Call for
8 Cobbles together
13 Yokozuna's sport
14 Air passage of a sort
15 Put into practice
16 High-end designer
18 Prepare peas, perhaps
19 "__ a break!"
20 Far from alert
21 Piety
25 Moscow-based agency
26 Conclusions at a service
27 Seats at a service
29 Many a new car driver
31 *Avatar* race
32 Lose intensity
35 Sugar bowl invader
36 Scoffed at
38 Royal flush card
39 TSA's frequent viewings
40 Show __ (attend)
41 Public standing
43 Unexciting
44 Hassles
45 *Hook* villain
48 Programmer's reusable code
52 Essence of some pastes
54 Port of Iraq
55 Lone Star landmark
56 Alternate puzzle title
60 Farm structures
61 What some upraised hands represent
62 Move cautiously
63 Contains, or can contain
64 16 Across initials
65 Asian nation suffix

DOWN
1 Corner PC key
2 Small team
3 Symbol of Australia
4 Fanciful thoughts
5 Strange
6 Napped material
7 Plop forerunner
8 Google service
9 They're absent from *Peanuts*
10 Recent Olympics venue
11 Foil relatives
12 Action taken
14 Feel discontent
17 Pointless
20 Letter closing
21 __ Lama
22 Tweak, as text
23 Kevlar products
24 Small scrap
28 Big truck's maneuver
30 Rio Grande city
31 __ butter (bread spread)
32 Person from Mecca
33 Follow, as a tip
34 Waterfowl
37 Island with a state capital
42 Thick soups
43 Evinced delight
45 Salt away
46 Very, in music
47 Google service
49 Hip-hop fellas
50 "Bolero" composer
51 Medical suffix
53 Discard
56 When Derby Day is
57 __ butter (skin cream)
58 NAFTA signatory
59 Royal flush card



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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 18)

Success is now. It's not something that's hanging from the trophies of the future; it's a satisfaction that comes at the end of today's mile marker. Remember this and the solar return will bring you abundance beyond your childhood fantasies. The luckiest months financially will be September and November. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 4, 41, 7 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Preferences don't automatically make a thing superior or inferior. A better fit doesn't mean a thing is objectively a better item; it's just a better item for the person it fits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Stories have big power, but only if they are believed. If they are told well, they often are believed whether or not they are true. That's why it's important to ask, "Who stands to gain from this?" about every story you hear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
This is the kind of day when "just do it" applies best. If you're reasonably sure the action will benefit all (or at least that it will harm none) go ahead. If you waste time explaining or asking permission, you'll miss your chance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Would you rather learn from experience or gain from experience? It's a trick question. To learn is to gain. And when you apply the learning, you'll find it's worth more than gold.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Because you expect more of yourself than most people do, it sometimes feels like you're failing on a larger scale. But you're much further along than you would be had you not taken on such a big challenge. Cut yourself some slack.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
In theory, you can work on your inner life through meditation, reading, selfless service and education. Would it surprise you if enjoyment, pleasure and self-interest also lead to mental improvement?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The helium of emotion is so weightless you're not even aware you're carrying it around with you. And yet, when you encounter those who need your compassion, you have plenty to give.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
There have been times in your life when you were unhappy but couldn't pinpoint the source. Today will bring the opposite experience. Where is this happiness coming from? Don't ask. Just go with it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The company you keep will not only affect the outcome of your projects today, it will also change you at your core. Happy, supportive people will remind you to smile and accept yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A change of venue can make a big difference to your productivity. Maybe you can't cut out distractions, but being around a different set of them will work, too. Test this theory. Take your work on the road, or take it home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You want to be welcoming and open, but then again, there's something to be said for making people work for it. Your attention is worth working for, after all, and they will today.

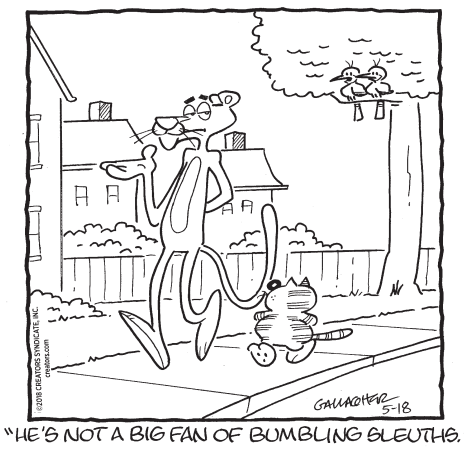
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You're not driven by other people's opinions. It's your own story that drives you. You want that narrative to be great, and its greatness doesn't depend on the completion, only on your own ability to rise.

Mercury and Saturn Signal Good Fortune

Anyone can get lucky once, but when happiness is the result of very specific circumstances and very personal hard work, the spoils are evermore satisfying. Today's good fortune will be augmented by communicative Mercury and Saturn, the planet of hard lessons, forming a lucky trine while the day is just starting to come together.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

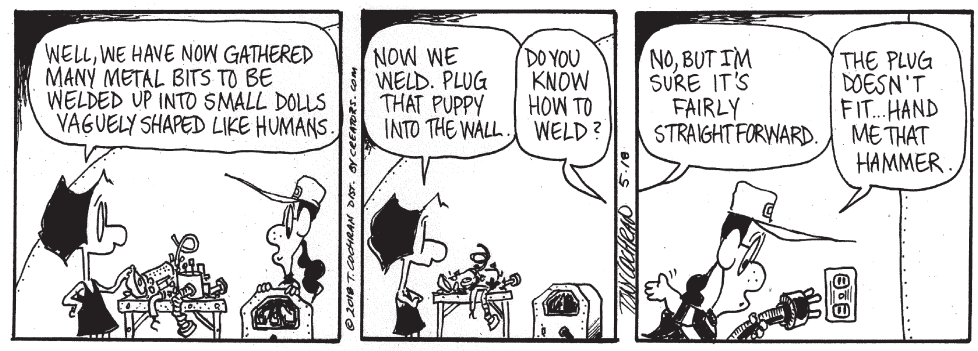


"HE'S NOT A BIG FAN OF BUMBLING SLEUTHS."

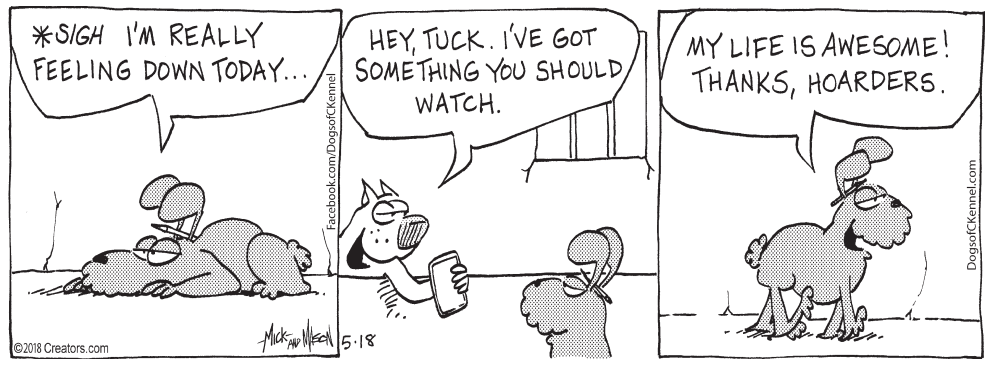
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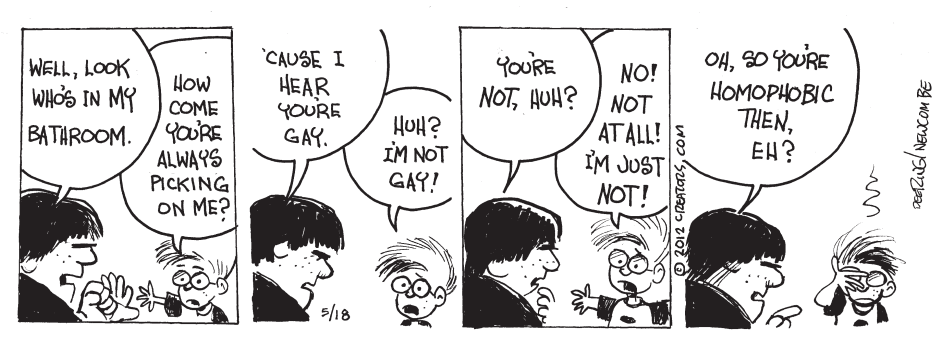
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In 'Solo,' a battle for the soul, and tone, of 'Star Wars'

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

When J.J. Abrams was a "Star Wars" novice, Lawrence Kasdan, the writer of "The Empire Strikes Back" and "The Return of the Jedi," had some advice for him: "Star Wars" is not important.

"But what is important is the way people feel about it," said Kasdan. "And they are very committed to it. What they're committed to is a certain kind of film."

The question of what constitutes a "Star Wars" film — how it should feel and what it should sound like — was at the center of the battle over the Han Solo spinoff "Solo: A Star Wars Story" and the dispute that resulted in directors Chris Miller and Phil Lord being replaced in mid-production with Ron Howard. Though the pace and improvisational manner of Lord and Miller's direction was part of the clash, the main issue was, simply, tone.

Lord and Miller, the filmmaking duo of irreverent, highly meta comedies like "21 Jump Street" and "The Lego Movie," wanted to push "Solo" into "Guardians of the Galaxy" territory. Kasdan did not.

"You can have fun with the tone but you never make fun of the tone, in my world," Kasdan said in an interview alongside his son and co-writer John Kasdan, the morning after the "Solo" premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. "We live in a very meta culture and there's a tendency to make fun of these things before they're even anything."

The pains of finding the balance between recapturing the feel of Lucas' original trilogy and allowing a new generation of filmmakers to put their own stamp on "Star Wars" may be the most pressing creative issue before Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy. Beneath the billions of dollars in box office and merchandise, there are hints of a growing existential crisis in the far, far away galaxy as it gets further and further removed from George Lucas' original vision.

The first spinoff, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," saw Gareth Edwards booted for Tony Gilroy. Colin Trevorrow ("Jurassic World") was to helm 2019's Episode IX before "Force Awakens" director J.J. Abrams was brought back in the fold. And even Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi," which according to critics succeeded the most in freshening up "Star Wars" with a distinct filmmaking sensibility, was very divisive among fans.

Some applauded Johnson's changes and some reviled them — and the split hurt business. "The Last Jedi" grossed $1.3 billion worldwide, but ticket sales fell sharply after the first two weeks of release and it made only $42.6 million in China. "Solo" came to Cannes — the world's largest film festival — with an eye toward boosting global awareness.

Much of the conversation leading up to the release of "Solo" has been estimating how much of the film is Lord and Miller's and how much is Howard's. But the highest percent might belong to Kasdan, who initiated the film's premise years ago, and who — when the comic tenor started shifting — felt some ownership of the film.

"There is that, no question. I got excited because I wanted it to sound like a certain thing. It's all about sound and tone and voice," Kasdan said. "We were very excited to get Phil and Chris onto the movie. It was a very difficult movie and they shot a lot of it. And it was a struggle to maintain that voice and hear that tone."

When George Lucas exited any active role in the science-fiction soap opera he created, that left Kasdan as the primary — and most widely respected — connective tissue between the past and present of "Star Wars." The 69-year-old Kasdan, who also co-wrote "The Force Awakens," has emerged as something of a guardian of the soul of "Star Wars."

"Larry, having had written 'Empire' and 'Jedi,' just figures into this equation differently than any writer could," said John Kasdan. "He's in a very funny and challenging position, to be kind of the keeper of the flame and to help usher it into a new era with new filmmakers."

Lord and Miller, who have taken executive producer credits, have only spoken publicly once about the fallout. In November, Lord said there was simply a "really big gap to bridge and it proved to be too big. Sometimes people break up and it's really sad and it's really disappointing, but it happens and we learned a lot from our collaborators."

Reviews for "Solo" have been a little tepid (70 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes as of Thursday) but critics have been impressed by how little evidence there is of the film's schizophrenic production. John Kasdan believes the finished product is actually aided by "the tension between Larry's sensibility and Chris and Phil's sensibility."

"It was brutal and painful but what also came out of it are moments like the Han and Chewbacca meeting," says the 38-year-old writer.

Advance tracking has estimated a possible weekend opening of around $170 million, suggesting fans remain excited for the film starring Alden Ehrenreich in Harrison Ford's iconic role — and perhaps more crucially, Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian. (Kennedy, sensing the clamor for Glover, has naturally suggested a Lando spinoff could happen.)

The popular Howard also helped stabilize "Solo." He shares some continuity with Lucas, too, having worked with him on 1973's "American Graffiti" and 1998's "Willow." A longtime friend of Howard's, Lucas even stopped by the set on the director's first day.

"George has a real understanding of what the medium can do in terms of really transporting audiences — which I discovered in great detail when I came onto 'Solo.' I began to see how dimensionalized the tone is," said Howard. "It's playful but it's also thematically centered and serious. It's visual and imaginative and yet there's something connected to our past experience, in a way."

Ultimately, the elder Kasdan doesn't think the soul of "Star Wars" is anything too deep — nothing about the Force or political metaphor, anyway.

"What drew me to it was there was this guy who walked into the cantina," says Kasdan. "A gunslinger with a great sidekick."

Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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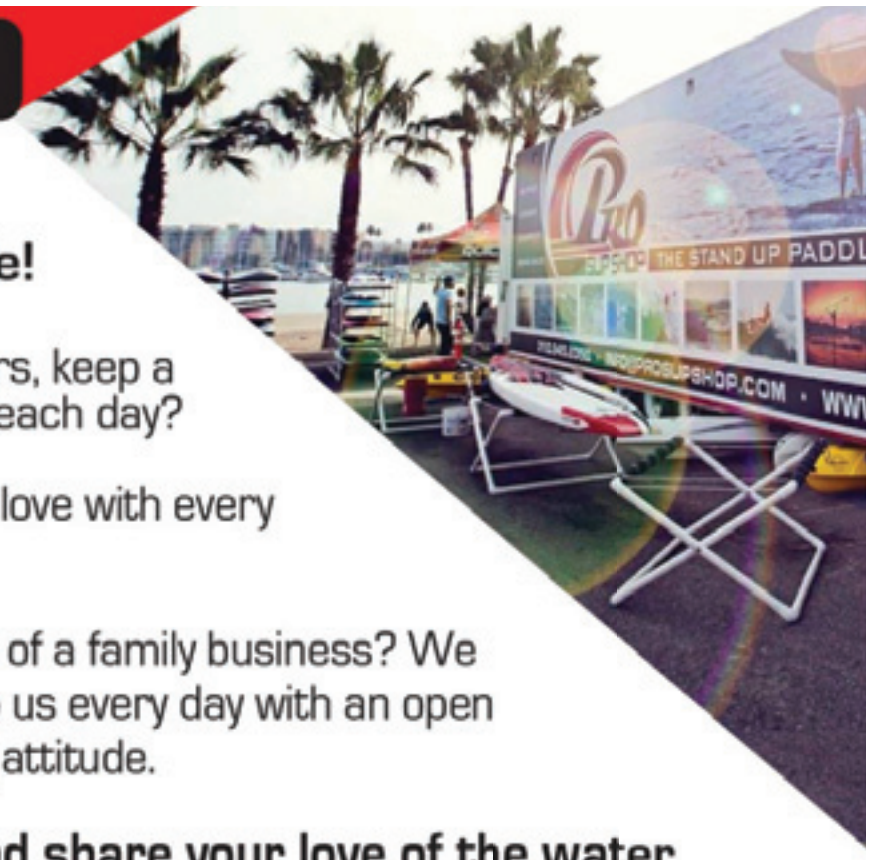
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