

City opens investigation into Shekhter development

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

Code Enforcement has opened an investigation into a property owned by the city's largest and most notorious developer after real estate websites showed the number of units in a rent controlled building mysteriously increased.

Documents confirm Neil Shekhter, the owner of NMS Properties, is the owner of the 1238 and 1242 Tenth Street apartment complex. The complex has been the subject of a multitude of complaints and audits in multiple City departments since renovations began in early 2016.

Amid the sound of jackham-

mers from an ever-present construction crew, more than a dozen tenants took buyout offers to leave the 20-unit property over the last two years, according to city records. The property manager has paid four remaining tenants to live elsewhere during the massive remodel. Some tenants have been out of their homes since

September 2016.

NMS Properties does not manage or own the building. Instead, the manager is My Suite, LLC, a company formed earlier this year by Shekhter's son, Adam. It is estimated Shekhter's family controls more than 2,000 apartments on the West Side.

On Monday, the first of the four

long-term tenants, Rick Strom, was told he could move back home. He will soon have neighbors. Just how many is now the subject of the investigation.

Between reconfigured walls and sleek modern furnishings, a leasing agent is showing apartments at the

SEE INVESTIGATION PAGE 11



INSTALLATION

Photo courtesy of The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hosted its 93rd Annual Installation Dinner with the induction of new boardmembers, a presentation of awards, and a showcase of local businesses on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows in Santa Monica, Calif. The Dinner signaled the installation of the new 2018 - 2019 Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Board, as shown, and led by the incoming Board Chair Jeff Klocke, Vice President and General Manager at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, sitting front row third from the left. The Installation theme is "Taking Business To New Heights" and featured extended networking time for local businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as a silent auction featuring items from dozens of local businesses. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce advocates and represents business' interests and issues facing the community.

Firefighters preparing to seize illegal fireworks

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

All fireworks are illegal in Santa Monica and local officials are reminding residents to enjoy the upcoming 4th of July holiday at one

SEE FIREWORKS PAGE 7

Hidden gem The Clayhouse to have weekend sale

ANGEL CARRERAS

Daily Press Staff Writer

Tucked between an electronics repair shop and a dental office on Santa Monica Boulevard is The Clayhouse a subtle, quiet, nearly hidden pottery store and studio.

Along the strip mall street are businesses screaming their services

SEE THE CLAYHOUSE PAGE 6

Isabel A. Ash Esq.

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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, June 27

A Lego Building Afternoon

Kids are invited to join organizers for fun with LEGO building. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Not Your Grandma's Cross Stitch

Teens can learn cross stitch basics and work on an easy project. Grades 6-12. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4 p.m.

Summer Activity Program: Bubblemania

Learn about the science of bubbles with this interactive show and maybe even get inside one! Space is limited. Free tickets available 30 minutes before the show. Ages 4-11. [45 min] Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Santa Monica Democratic Club meeting

The next Santa Monica Democratic Club meeting is on June 27. Senatorial candidate Kevin de Leon will be joining us, along with Congressional candidate Josh Harder. Doors open @ 6:30 p.m, program starts @ 7 p.m. at Santa Monica Main Library - MLK Auditorium. 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica. For first time and new members, the Executive Board of the club will be available from 6:30-7 p.m. for an informal meet and greet. The main program will start at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Parking available. Handicap accessible.

Thursday, June 28

Beach Eats

Beach Eats is a weekly food truck gathering at Marina "Mother's" Beach on summer Thursdays through September 27, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. New this year, enjoy live music

from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. while you picnic by the sea! Bring your own beach chair and enjoy the free show. Visitmarinadelrey.com/beacheats; 424-526-7900.

Wearable Circuit Workshop with Brittany Ransom

Make custom wearable electronics using a basic LED light circuit. Using conductive thread, felt, a watch battery, and an LED, you'll come away with a light up bracelet. Basic sewing is helpful, though not required. Palisades Park, 1450 Ocean Ave., 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/65734

Bubblemania

Get ready to explore the science and fun of bubbles with a certified Bublologist. Tickets are free and available the day of the program. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Soundwaves Concert: Elliott Levin/Don Preston

New music concert. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Ooze and Gooze Lab: Slime

Mix, measure, stir, and learn chemistry basics and make your own slime. Limited space; registration starts 6/7. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3 - 4 p.m.

Decorative Miniature Plant World

Create a miniature planted succulent world in a container you uniquely design. Instructor Amy Muscoplat teaches how to blend the natural world of succulents with the decorative craft world in order to fashion your own living plant work of art to care for and enjoy. All supplies provided. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 5 - 7 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Tycoon 's son who wrote graphic novel sentenced for murder

A Canadian real estate tycoon's son who wrote a graphic novel that features gruesome killings was sentenced Tuesday in California to life in prison for the torture and mutilation of a live-in girlfriend who had given birth to their child weeks earlier.

A Los Angeles jury found Blake Leibel, 37, guilty last week of first-degree murder, torture and aggravated mayhem in the slaying of 30-year-old Lana Kasian.

Deputies discovered Kasian's naked body in a blood-spattered bedroom of the couple's West Hollywood apartment in May 2016.

Judge Mark E. Windham cited the defendant's "profound brutality" in handing down the life term without the possibility of parole.

"This monster ruined our life, ruined the life of his family," Olga Kasian, mother of the victim, said in court through a translator before the sentencing.

Leibel used a knife in a "prolonged attack" in which Kasian was "alive for the better part of the mutilation and mayhem," prosecutor Tannaz Mokayef told jurors. She said the crime "followed a script" from his graphic novel.

Leibel is the son of Lorne Leibel, a sailor on Canada's 1976 Olympics team who built a fortune building homes in the Toronto area.

Blake Leibel moved to California and lived on an allowance of about \$18,000 a month over a seven-year period until inheriting the majority of his mother's estate.

He worked in a variety of creative roles, including as a director and creative consultant in 2008 on an animated series based on Mel Brooks' 1987 film "Spaceballs," according to his profile on IMDb. He wrote and directed his own film comedy, "Bald," that same year.

He's credited as creator and executive editor of the graphic novel "Syndrome," published in 2010. The book's plot follows a mad doctor's quest to test his theory that he can isolate the root of evil in the brain and fix it. He tests his theory on a serial killer.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

California governor, lawmakers get 3 percent pay boost

California elected officials are getting a 3 percent pay increase for the sixth straight year, pushing Gov. Jerry Brown's salary above \$200,000 just before he leaves offices.

A citizen board approved the pay hikes Tuesday, bumping Brown's salary from \$196,000 to \$202,000 starting in December.

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom will be paid \$151,000. Rank-and-file members of the Legislature will get a \$3,500 raise to about \$110,000, while leaders make more. California's lawmakers already are the highest paid in the nation.

Lawmakers also earn a tax-free per diem while the Legislature is in session, currently \$192 per day, which was not affected by Tuesday's action.

The attorney general, controller, treasurer, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction and insurance commissioner will also get raises, as will members of a state tax panel, the Board of Equalization.

Brown's pay is up \$36,000 since 2013, while lawmakers are taking home \$20,000 more. However, their pay still hasn't returned to the level it was at before the Great Recession, when the governor's salary peaked at \$212,179 and lawmakers' at \$116,208.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Terry Crews says 'Expendables' producer threatened 'trouble'

Terry Crews says a film producer said he could only return to the "Expendables" franchise if he dropped his sexual assault lawsuit against a Hollywood agent. The actor said it was an example of how "abusers protect abusers."

Crews made the allegation Tuesday at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Crews last year accused a William Morris Endeavor talent agent of groping him at a party.

At the hearing, he was asked if there had been any retaliation for making the sexual assault allegation.

He said "Expendables" producer Avi Lerner asked that the actor drop his case in order to appear in the fourth installment of the action film and warned of "troubles" if it wasn't dropped. He has been in each of the previous films.

An email seeking comment from Lerner's Millennium Films was not immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL SEGUNDO

Magic: I'll step down if I don't land free agents for Lakers

Magic Johnson is betting his job on his free-agent recruiting skills for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Johnson says he will step down as the Lakers' president of basketball operations if he can't persuade an elite free agent to sign with his club within the next two summers.

Johnson took over the Lakers' front office in February 2017. The former superstar point guard immediately announced his plans to revive the struggling 16-time NBA champion franchise by enticing the game's best players to join as free agents.

With Paul George and potentially LeBron James headlining the market this summer, Johnson is leading the Lakers' efforts to land both players. If those efforts don't work, Johnson will pursue the large crop of 2019 free agents.

GREG BEACHAM, AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES

Former Trump press secretary Sean Spicer developing TV show

Former White House press secretary Sean Spicer is working on a television interview show in which he banters with guests about a variety of topics.

A spokesman for TV syndication company Debmar-Mercury said Monday that a pilot episode of the series, titled "Sean Spicer's Common Ground," is in the works.

No other details about the episode were released. The plans were first reported by The New York Times.

The Times reported the show would feature Spicer interviewing public figures and have respectful conversations on topics ranging from the media to sports to marriage.

Attorney Michael Avenatti, who represents porn star Stormy Daniels in lawsuits about an alleged affair with President Donald Trump, says he was approached to be a guest on the inaugural episode. Avenatti wrote on Twitter he declined.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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RFP: #178 PENSION PAYDOWN ANALYSIS

• Submission Deadline is July 16, 2018, at 3:00 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/bid-search4.cfm>. There is no charge for the RFP package.



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Consultants to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

On Call Structural & Geotechnical Engineering
SP2565

Bids shall be emailed to the City of Santa Monica Civil Engineering Division at Curtis.Castle@smgov.net and Margaret.Talamantes@smgov.net not later than **5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2018**. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Qualifications.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/>. Consultants wishing to be considered must submit Statements containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Qualifications.



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On Call Marine & Coastal Engineering
SP2566

Bids shall be emailed to the City of Santa Monica Civil Engineering Division at Curtis.Castle@smgov.net and Margaret.Talamantes@smgov.net not later than **5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2018**. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Qualifications.

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AWARD WINNER



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The Snide World of Sports

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will LeBron Become L.A. Bron?

GIVEN OUR BELOVED LAKERS HAVE JUST experienced the worst five years in their history, I have great affection for the New York Knicks who last won a title in 1973 when Nixon was saying the Watergate investigation should finally end. The Knicks give me comfort that things could be worse. (Biting my tongue as I type.)

Actually, I'm stunned Knick fans haven't rioted in the streets. (Spike Lee is a devoted Knicks season ticket holder and I was imagining a Knick uprising much like the ending of Spike's "Do the Right Thing.")

The truth is, I think New Yorkers love to have something to grouse about whereas Laker fans, myself included, tend to whine. They say if you want to look thinner hang out with fat people, that's kind of how I feel about the Knicks.

Meanwhile, by June 29 LeBron James will make a decision that could be a seminal moment in Laker history. (Or, a seminal moment when I slit my wrists.) Las Vegas odds makers have the Lakers favored among the teams LeBron might choose. (If you bet \$100 and he becomes a Laker you win get \$200, your original \$100 and the house's \$100, which sounds so dull I don't know why I included it.)

Preparing for the worst, some of my Laker fan friends are saying even if LeBron doesn't come to L.A., "we're definitely heading in the right direction." That's like when the girl you love says "Let's just be friends." (To which I've never said, "Well, at least were headed in the right direction.")

Desperate, I follow every LeBron coming to L.A. rumor like a paparazzi chasing Miley Cyrus. Reportedly, LeBron has two homes here, one of which is being renovated. Again, reportedly, Lebron's son has enrolled to go to high school in the fall at a prestigious private school in the valley.

The info about LeBron's son came from retired NBA All-Star Gary Payton who told "Black Sports Online," 13-year-old LeBron 'Bronny' James Jr. has already committed to Sierra Canyon. (If LeBron doesn't come to L.A., I may be committed.)

Other hopeful signs involve Paul George of OKC and Kawhi Leonard of the Spurs. George, who went to high school in Palmdale, is a free agent and has said on numerous occasions he wants to be a Laker. But George's enthusiasm lately seems slightly dampened.

Leonard went to high school in the Riverside area and has been adamant he wants to be a Laker in 2019 when he's a free agent. It would seem if either George or Leonard

became Lakers that would help entice LeBron. (Certainly more than my begging.)

Last season, LeBron's 15th was perhaps his best. He averaged 27.2 points per game in the regular season with 8.6 assists and 9.1 rebounds, the latter two stats career marks. His post-season was also spectacular, averaging 34 points per game, with nine assists and nine rebounds.

Few if any expected the Cavs to reach their fourth straight NBA Finals, but James' dominance led them there. Some suggest LeBron's arrival could make almost any roster a finals contender. Most agree if LeBron became L.A. Bron (sorry about that) it would instantly take the Lakers from "rebuilding" to "relevant." Without LeBron, it might be another 3-5 years before the Lakers return to glory. (Ouch!)

If Vegas rates the Lakers as the most likely LeBron destination, following in order are: Cleveland, Philadelphia, Houston, San Antonio, Boston and the Clippers. Though the Knicks aren't even a remote possibility, Vegas does list the Warriors as having a slight chance to acquire LeBron though it would take major contract juggling to stay under the salary cap. (Talk about an excess of riches, it would also be absurd competition wise, meaning we could give the Warriors the Championship without having to bother playing the season.)

Under the NBA's Collective Bargaining Agreement, since James is opting out of his contract with Cleveland, the Cavs are the only team that can offer him a new five-year deal worth 35% of the entire salary cap, with 8% annual raises. The total would come to well over \$200,000,000! Opposing clubs are confined to offering a four-year max deal with 5% annual raises.

As the countdown to June 29 approaches, LeBron coming to L.A. just makes so much sense. (If not for him, for ME!) Kareem came here; Wilt came here; Shaq came here! The city would go crazy, or to be technical, crazier.

Think of it, the Rams seemingly possible Super Bowl contenders (fingers crossed) the Dodgers in the World Series last year (who knows now, but work with me) and the Lakers with LeBron. To steal from FDR's campaign song, "Happy Days are Here Again."

God forbid, if LeBron doesn't become a Laker, I suppose one way to look at it, we'd still be better off than the Knicks. (Sigh.)

JACK also writes "Laughing Matters," which appears every Friday. He can be reached at jack-dailypress@aol.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hard on pedestrians

Rhonda Newman is right to bemoan the loss of pedestrian friendly Santa Monica, it's even difficult to just walk through the center now because of the stupid diagonal crossings. Previously, if stopped at a red light one only had to wait for one change sequence, and could even take the cross street if it suited, but now we have to wait for a minimum of two, and occasionally three, sequences!

What bright spark thought of this ?

George Philip
Santa Monica

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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who's benefiting from all this?

IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS ALL ABOUT THE \$\$\$

Oh, occasionally you have high ideals that steer a piece of history. A saint here, an aesthete there, a righteous crusader, a philosopher or poet, a selfless patriot waving the right flag. But let's face it: in the history of the human race, greed rules. And when I say greed, I mean also greed for power.

So much of what happens politically seems mysterious. Why would they do that? But if you could know what they know, the veil would be lifted. Oh — no wonder, now it makes sense.

Why is the City allowing a four-story early childhood learning center on our civic center property? A pre-school, basically, on the edge of downtown, across from a parking garage, a Hilton hotel, the courthouse, our Civic Auditorium, a high school, maybe an athletic field for big kids, and oh yes the Rand Corporation? Doesn't that seem odd? Would you pick that location, to gather toddlers? Wonder why that location was chosen? ("A done deal," we've been told for at least a decade, when we questioned it.) Why are we charging this Santa Monica College enterprise only \$1 a year rent on the land instead of market rate, a \$25,000,000 giveaway? Why are we also kicking in millions from our coffers to build it? Haven't we Santa Monicans already given SMC, in recent years, more than a billion (that's with a B) in bond money? Why did we have to fight to get just 30 percent of the admissions allocated to Santa Monica kids? And only 15 percent for low income. (The 15 could be included in the 30.) Who's benefiting from this?

JUST GROW'D (LIKE TOPSY?)

Why are we allowing its presence and size to infringe upon the building of a simple athletic field next to it, so needed by our kids and Samohi? It has grown considerably from first projections (because it is part of a college, could have gone to 20 stories or more if they wanted), creating such a contentious, drawn-out process (15 years — that means kids at Samo when it was promised by City Council, could now have their own kids at Samo, still waiting), with many still wondering if it will ever get built? "This is nuts. This is absolutely crazy" asserted one advocate. Why was it the last item placed before the Coastal Commission, after everything else went in, leaving the possibility of no go; with all those other things there, approved, now we don't know if the field will fit? Why did the estimates at one point skyrocket to more than \$80,000,000? For a playing field. One of the bids just for design was more than half a million. A sorely-needed playing field, for our kids, for our high school — why all the delay, resistance and ridiculous expense? Who's benefiting from this?

\$2,300,000 for a pair of outdoor toilets in Clover Park? Are you serious? Last Council meeting that was on their consent calendar — meaning, these items are so clear cut we don't even need to discuss them, just give them all a pass at once. But Councilmember Tony Vazquez pulled the toilet for some discussion, of the design history and the cost estimate. Fellow Councilmember Sue Himmelrich said she hoped the City would consider ways to save money, including buying prefabricated buildings, "in view of our looming and threatening possible deficit." Hear, hear! And then — she voted for it, making it, for

the record, for history, unanimous. Himmelrich's willingness to question projects and agenda are admirable, but go for nothing when she then makes the politically expedient vote to vote with the majority, as she almost always does after raising questions (and not really getting good answers). Toilets made to withstand tsunamis and earthquakes — who's benefiting from this?

EXTRA CHEESE ON THAT WEBSITE?

On that same consent calendar was a cool million for a new City website. The current one is pretty bad. (Wonder what we paid for that?) Every tech-savvy person I've asked about it has been taken aback, and offered, I'll do it for .9M! I think there's probably a smart kid at Samohi who would do a great job for a stack of pizzas, a few subs and a designer credit. Who's benefiting from this?

How about those skyscrapers on Ocean Avenue, and the 12-story behemoth hotel development proposed for smack dab in the middle of our downtown, on our property bought years ago with our taxpayer money. Shouldn't we have some public park area at our core? And why do we need 20-story buildings anywhere in Santa Monica, let alone blocking our view of the ocean? The Miramar gave up fighting for its tall tower and now proposes to spread those multi-\$M luxury condos all over the block. Gigantic. Out of place here. And it's all against current zoning, you know. But we make exceptions. Often. Who's benefiting from this?

The lawsuit fighting our switch to district voting for City Council instead of at large — the state of California asks for it. Every California city (except us), of 24 recently, when challenged, decided to go district. There are arguments both ways but not iron-clad or even that compelling. What would be the great harm of electing our City representatives by neighborhoods? But our City Council thinks it would be terrible enough that they have hired an extremely pricey international law firm to fight it, we've already spent millions and the price tag could easily hit \$8,000,000. (Why, that's as much as we spent on our glorious new bus benches.) Who's benefiting from this?

There's more. So much more. I know I've written of these things before and many of you know about them, but many don't, and hopefully will be shocked and motivated to become informed and VOTE. This time I'm asking all to ask that question: if it doesn't seem to make sense, who is benefiting? Individuals? Special interests? In many cases I don't know the answer.

But I do know this: the answer is usually, clearly, NOT — the residents of Santa Monica.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Who's benefiting from this? (I learned from years in advertising: repetition is imperative.)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You [demagogues] are like the fishers for eels; in still waters they catch nothing, but if they thoroughly stir up the slime, their fishing is good; in the same way it's only in troublous times that you line your pockets." — Aristophanes

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 therealmmusic@gmail.com

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ORIGINAL NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF IOWA
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY

CVCCV055699

IN RE: LUCHYSUN, L.L.C.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, Jack Joseph Perry

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition against the Defendant has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court naming you as Defendant in this action requesting the court grant specific relief by dissolution of Luchysun, L.L.C. and any and all other damages as allowed under the law. The Plaintiff's attorney is Jeffrey M. Lipman of Lipman Law Firm, P.C. 1454 30 th Street, Suite 205, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, whose telephone number is 515-276-3411.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that unless you appear thereto and defend in the Iowa District Court for Polk County, at the Polk County Courthouse in Des Moines, Iowa, on or before the **29th** day of **July**, 2018, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

CLERK OF THE ABOVE COURT
POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
500 MULBERRY STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309

NOTE: Person named as Defendant is told to "appear hereto and defend". These words are not always understood. The required appearance may be made either by the Defendant or Defendant's attorney. IT IS NECESSARY TO SERVE AND FILE A MOTION OR PLEADING TO PREVENT A DEFAULT (Rule 87). The attorney who is expected to appear for the Defendant should be promptly advised by Defendant of the service of this Notice.

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Local

6

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Angel Carreras

POTTERY: The Clayhouse sale is a chance to own hand made items from skilled artists.



THE CLAYHOUSE

FROM PAGE 1

in big, bold fonts: iPHONE REPAIR! TABITHA'S PSYCHIC BOUTIQUE! CALL! And then there's The Clayhouse, it's minimalist storefront nearly deceitful once you walk into it's doors.

"People don't know about this place, and I've been here nearly 40 years," Amy Kivnick, public relations spokesperson and artist for Clayhouse said. "I think because we don't have the big colorful signage, people walk by it. To find this place is a gem."

After greeting the museum-like sales floor, head towards the back of the building and a pottery studio reveals itself— bodies moving past each other swiftly, voices raised to speak over whirring machinery, weathered hands stained with clay forging future pottery, and people of all ages, color, and lifestyles working side by side or together, working on passion projects. And yes, in an act of self-awareness, there's a poster of 'Ghost' inside.

Wares and more by the artists will be on sale this weekend for the Clayhouse's summer sale, June 29 and June 30. The studio is having a sale to "share art and appreciate the work of pottery," tapping into a time where the studio says they've seen a resurgence in the craft, making this season a busy one for artists.

"People are spending more and more time in front of screens, tablets, and smartphones,

so I think people want an alternative, a release," Diana Ungerleider, teacher at the studio, said. Ungerleider has been with the studio since 1978, teaching and helping others find peace through creation. "Pottery — whether you're making it or just appreciating it — its responsive to your touch. It's therapeutic."

Kivnick echoed Ungerleider's words, adding that what makes Clayhouse stand out from other ceramics stores and a deluge of hipster, "millennial... no offense" pottery stores is their methods and combined experience the studio has.

"We collectively have over 100-plus years of experience. The owner, Tawny, has been doing it for decades, I've been at it for 30, Diana 40. It takes thousands of hours to get good at anything, and that mastery shows through the work. It's not factory made from something like a Pier One that's mass-produced. Every piece is lovingly made by hand."

Clayhouse is located at 2909 Santa Monica Boulevard. Their Summer Sale takes place Sunday, June 29 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Monday, June 30 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The sale will feature sculptures, hand-crafted bowls, mugs, platters, and teapots among other items. Aside from the sale, the over 50 person studio has classes and memberships (all wait-listed at the moment).

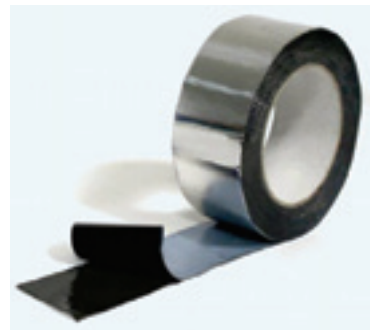
Visit www.theclayhousesantamonica.com for more information.

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FIREWORKS

FROM PAGE 1

of the many nearby official shows.

According to the Santa Monica Fire Department, anyone in possession of any fireworks, including "Safe and Sane" items could face a fine of up to \$1,000 and fire-fighters will seize all illegal fireworks they encounter within the city.

Fire Marshal Eric Binder said the department finds illegal fireworks every year, mostly from visitors who bring fireworks into the city.

"Luckily our seizures have been going down in the years so people are getting the message," he said.

Binder said the department also expects an increase in non-firework emergencies during the summer holiday.

"Any warm weather here in Santa Monica and we always see an increase in fire-related calls mostly related to medical aid on the beach," he said.

Binder said the department is increasing the number of paramedics on beach carts that will be patrolling the sand during July 4 and the staffing increase will continue on weekends throughout the season.

"We do have people on the beach so we will bump up our resources just to handle the crowds," he said.

Binder said locals should take advantage of one of the local official shows if they want to see fireworks. Santa Monica's main show, "Celebrate America," is presented by Santa Monica College (SMC) on Saturday, June 30.

The show will feature fireworks, live music and dancing. Held on Corsair Field, the free festivities will include a food drive sponsored by the Associated Students of SMC. Guests are encouraged to bring donations of unopened, nonperishable food items to one of the multiple drop-off locations that will be available.

The event also includes community service booths, food trucks, and food booths operated by Kettle Corn and Stuff, What the Funnel, and the Boy Scouts. Officials said picnicking is welcome, but alcoholic beverages, glass containers, barbecues, fireworks (including sparklers), and chairs with pointed legs are prohibited. SMC is a smoke free campus and all smoking is prohibited.

The SMC parking lots open at 4 p.m. (enter at Pico Blvd. and 17th St.), with Corsair Field gates opening at 5 p.m. Entertainment begins at 6 p.m. The fireworks are scheduled at 9 p.m.

Parking is \$5 and donations are welcome but the event is free. Visit www.smc.edu/CelebrateAmerica for more information.

July 4 fireworks

Pacific Palisades 4th of July Parade

Pacific Palisades Charter High School
15777 Bowdoin St.
Los Angeles, CA 90272
Cost: \$10 (free for children under six years)

Marina Del Rey Fireworks Celebration

Burton Chace Park
13650 Mindanao Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Cost: Free

Culver City July 4th Fireworks

West LA College
9000 Overland Ave
Culver City, CA 90230
Cost: \$5 (free for children under five years)

Westchester Fourth of July Parade

Loyola Boulevard from
Westchester Park to LMU
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Cost: Free

The Hollywood Bowl July 4th Fireworks Spectacular

2301 N Highland Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90068
Cost: Price depending on seat selection

4th of July Block Party at Grand Park

200 N Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Cost: Free

On July 4 Santa Monicans can partake in the annual parade produced by the Ocean Park Association. The parade begins at Pico and Main at 9:30 a.m. Visit <https://www.santamonicaparade.com> for more information about the parade.

Neighboring communities also have fireworks shows on July 4.

editor@smdp.com

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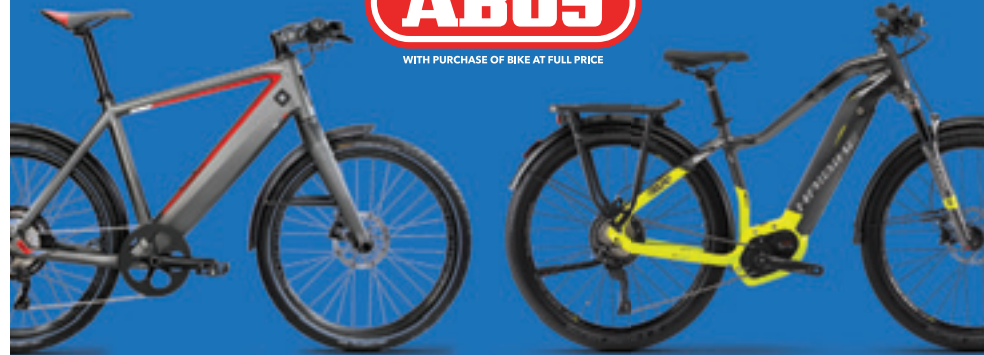
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Santa Monica Daily Press

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **65.3°**

WEDNESDAY – FAIR – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
S swell-mix continues. New SW/SSW swell creeping up. Small NW windswell.

THURSDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Lingering S swell. New SW/SSW swell continues to trend up. Small NW windswell.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department.
These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JUNE 14, 2018 AT ABOUT 4:44 P.M.

While patrolling the 700 block of Santa Monica Blvd, officers saw a vehicle with no front license plate in violation of the vehicle code. Officers stopped the vehicle. Officers determined the driver was unlicensed and had an outstanding domestic violence warrant for his arrest. The front passenger was evasive and provided several different names and age variations. The driver and passenger were placed under arrest. A search of the passenger led to the recovery of cocaine found in his wallet. Bonifacio Leonardo Raymundo, 48, was arrested for providing false information, possession of cocaine and a warrant. Bail was set at \$75,000. Porfirio Torres-Lopez, 56, from Palmdale, was arrested for driving without a license and a warrant. Bail was set at \$90,100.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 344 Calls For Service On June 25.

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

Auto burglary 1700 block Main 12:31 a.m.
Vandalism 1300 block 3rd 1:01 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1600 block Ocean 1:05 a.m.
Trespassing 1300 block 4th 1:31 a.m.
Fight 2700 block Neilson 2:39 a.m.
Domestic violence 300 block Santa Monica 2:43 a.m.
Encampment 300 block Santa Monica Pier 4:50 a.m.
Encampment 400 block Santa Monica Pier 5:07 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 900 block 2nd 5:37 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block 4th 6:40 a.m.
Prowler 1500 block Michigan 7:43 a.m.
Vandalism 800 block Michigan 8:26 a.m.
Drinking in public 300 block Pico 9:05 a.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 9:23 a.m.
Civil dispute 2000 block Santa Monica 9:29 a.m.
Encampment 1400 block Olympic 9:44 a.m.
Auto burglary 2800 block 2nd 9:53 a.m.
Disturbance of the Peace 800 block 20th 9:57 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block Franklin 10:25 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 6th 10:36 a.m.
Grand theft 3000 block Wilshire 10:39 a.m.
Vandalism 1500 block 14th 10:39 a.m.
Drinking in public 1800 block Lincoln 10:56 a.m.
Auto burglary 600 block Hollister 11:17 a.m.

Strongarm robbery 1700 block Ocean Front 11:40 a.m.
Person w/a gun 100 block Wadsworth 11:48 a.m.
Animal related incident 25th/Broadway 12:01 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injuries 4th/Santa Monica 12:08 p.m.
Person down 100 block Broadway 12:43 p.m.
Trespassing 3000 block Santa Monica 1:25 p.m.
Vandalism 2000 block 20th 2:13 p.m.
Vandalism 2000 block Santa Monica 2:54 p.m.
Grand theft 600 block Lincoln 3:28 p.m.
Identity theft 800 block 6th 3:52 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block Ocean 3:54 p.m.
Burglary 2100 block Delaware 4:10 p.m.
Person down 1400 block 16th 5:26 p.m.
Auto burglary 3100 block 3rd 5:27 p.m.
Child endangerment 800 block 4th 5:43 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Pacific Coast 5:44 p.m.
Grand theft 2400 block Lincoln 5:45 p.m.
Fraud 900 block 2nd 6:50 p.m.
Animal related incident 2400 block 28th 7:18 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 7:46 p.m.
Drinking in public 800 block Grant 7:51 p.m.
Grand theft 800 block 26th 8:05 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 2200 block Ocean Front 8:13 p.m.
Battery 1600 block Ocean Front 8:19 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 800 block 7th 8:22 p.m.
Battery 6th/Broadway 8:32 p.m.
Vandalism 2500 block 5th 8:33 p.m.
Elder abuse 500 block Olympic 8:41 p.m.
Shots fired 1700 block Delaware 9:16 p.m.
Person down 800 block Wilshire 10:15 p.m.
Indecent exposure 700 block Broadway 11:04 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 35 Calls For Service On June 25.

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

Broken water main 100 block Wadsworth 12:15 a.m.
Emergency Medical Service 1700 block Cloverfield 1:05 a.m.
EMS 0 block Village 2:56 a.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 3:03 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 3:06 a.m.
EMS 2100 block Navy 9:26 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 10:43 a.m.
Lock in/out 2600 block Virginia 11:05 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block 2nd 11:10 a.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 4th/Santa Monica 12:08 p.m.
EMS 100 block Broadway 12:43 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury Main/Marine

12:44 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 18th/Oak 12:51 p.m.
EMS 16th/Arizona 2:05 p.m.
Lock in/out 1100 block Ocean 2:29 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block Arizona 4:01 p.m.
EMS 600 block Pico 4:21 p.m.
EMS 2500 block 4th 4:53 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1300 block 2nd 5:14 p.m.
Structure fire 800 block 16th 5:20 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 5:24 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 16th 5:26 p.m.
Haz mat 1800 block 20th 6:08 p.m.
Wires down 1800 block 20th 6:39 p.m.
EMS Lincoln/Michigan 8:04 p.m.
EMS 900 block Ozone 8:24 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 9:32 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block Ocean 9:38 p.m.
EMS 200 block Santa Monica 9:54 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Cloverfield 9:59 p.m.
EMS 800 block Wilshire 10:16 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 10:47 p.m.
EMS 300 block 21st 11:06 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2000 block Idaho 11:43 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 11:53 p.m.

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Power#: 25
Jackpot: 50M



Draw Date: 6/22
2 6 11 27 44
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 212M



Draw Date: 6/23
2 6 9 13 23
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 9M



Draw Date: 6/25
6 10 12 15 35



Draw Date: 6/25
MIDDAY: 5 1 7
Draw Date: 6/25
EVENING: 6 1 7



Draw Date: 6/25
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:46.26

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

WORD UP!

benedict

1. a newly married man, especially one who has been long a bachelor.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Number Cruncher
■ A single fruit crepe with strawberry topping from the International House of Pancakes contains 460 calories, 189 from fat. It has 21 grams of total fat or 32 percent of the recommended total fat intake for a 2,000-calorie daily diet. ■ It also contains 90 milligrams of cholesterol (30 percent); 250 mg of sodium (10 percent); 65 grams of total carbohydrates (22 percent); 3 grams of sugar and 6 g of protein.

Never Say Diet
■ The Major League Eating record for pizza is 83 slices of 10-inch pizza in 10 minutes, held by Geoffrey Esper. It's not clear if the pizzas were cheese topping only or with all of the fixins'. Esper won easily, beating his nearest opponent by a whopping 21 slices. It was a pizza cake.

MYSTERY REVEALED!





Benjamin Steers correctly identified the photo as part of a mural on the Downtown Expo station. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

DECAL		ALDA		SPOT
CARNE		COAL		CLAW
CREDO		TART		EURO
	SWING	OFT	THINGS	
	AIR		OLE	
RETORT		SOUL		DAB
AMEND		RING		DOSE
SCHOOL	OFT	THOUGHT		
PEER		AUTO		UNMET
SEE		ANTS		ATEASE
	NBC		OLD	
	SLICES	SOFT	TOAST	
FLAG		LIMA		ONION
BATH		OLEG		RETRO
IBET		STONE		SWEET

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hearth residue
6 Choreographer Twyla
11 Illinois city, for short
14 First Lady before Michelle
15 Sound from a broadcast
16 Solo of *Star Wars*
17 White heron
18 In ___ and drabs (sporadically)
19 Also
20 Desktop devices that do sums
22 Fish eggs
23 Prefix for pod
24 Package of ramen noodles, e.g.
26 Leather-piercing tool
29 Smartphone downloads
32 Parisian pal
33 Piece of paper
35 Cockpit announcements: Abbr.
37 On the summit of
41 Five-year-olds who do sums
44 Urban air pollution
45 Maui or Oahu
46 Misplaces
47 Part of a circle
49 Past the deadline
51 Small child
52 Two-speaker sound systems
56 How Germans say "I"
58 Overburden

- 59 IRS experts who do sums
65 Slugger's stat, for short
66 Chew noisily
67 It's east of Oregon
68 Letters after keys
69 Moral principle
70 Mink's cousin
71 Moisten
72 Shorthand pro
73 Nary a soul
- DOWN**
- 1 Actor Baldwin
2 Lengthy story
3 Throw forcefully
4 Standing tall
5 Soak thoroughly
6 "And here it is!"

- 7 Cause damage to
8 "So long, amigo"
9 Beefy entrée
10 American marsupial
11 Bracelet ornament
12 Capital of Vietnam
13 Back-of-book directory
21 Backtalk
25 "Grand" instrument
26 Invites
27 Impulsive notion
28 Former *Tonight Show* host
30 Wooden pins
31 Play for time
34 Poe's first name

- SUMMERS HERE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- 36 Neighborhood
38 Try out
39 Creme-filled cookie
40 Attention-getting sound
42 Carom
43 Voting process
48 Gives feedback
50 Metal in pewter
52 Scatter about
53 Dining room furniture
54 Live and breathe
55 Teatime treat
57 Couldn't help it
60 Warning sign
61 No later than
62 Brussels-based alliance
63 Subsequently
64 Carrying a grudge

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						73				

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 27)

You say, “Yes!” and the excitement commences. You'll become part of an inspiring group. In August, answering hard questions will make life easier. You'll streamline your personal business in order to be flexible and spontaneous. You'll cut out non-essentials once you figure out what really essential. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 21, 35 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
What good is knowing better unless you also do better? The trouble is, you can't be sure. You have to take a risk in order to find out. Pursue the promising fix; act on your hunch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Though you can't make another person see what they don't see, you can point out what you see, and those who have the capacity at that moment will have a good chance of sharing in your vision.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
The beginning of a project is light in the actual work that must be done, but it's heavy in the amount of change that must tolerated. This is about adjusting, settling in and figuring out your commitment level.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You often tend to define yourself through a role, which is essentially defining yourself through a set of responsibilities. Just don't forget that you're the one who takes it on. If it's thrust on you, and you don't want it, throw it back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Regarding your project: You don't have to make up the route. The explorers before you did a pretty good job, and you can refer to their notes to save yourself needless trouble, or, if possible, take one with you on the journey.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Like duct tape engineering, something you solve today may involve an inelegant fix, but if it works, it works. Don't look back. You're resourceful, and it's something you should be proud of.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Brain scans can tell us which part of the brain is firing off neurons, but they can't show us the thoughts and visions that light up the ultimate privacy of the mind. Your private thoughts will be most amusing today!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Share your ideas. They are what make you fascinating and maybe even irresistible to someone. Tonight, there will be interesting and yet inappropriate choices available to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
All kinds of feelings get entwined in the excitement mounting around a project. Some of them will die down when the project stabilizes and becomes a working entity. Some won't. Romance may be a part of this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If you were chosen for the job, you can safely assume that you are the best person for it. Don't worry about anything but giving this your very best shot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Whatever is going on now, more of the same is to be expected today. You can see the potential in others. It's something to nurture and believe in, but potential is not something to date or do business with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
There's a lot you are capable of doing, but the thing you really want to do is taking a back seat. Just because you can fit yourself into a situation doesn't mean you belong there.

Swollen Moon

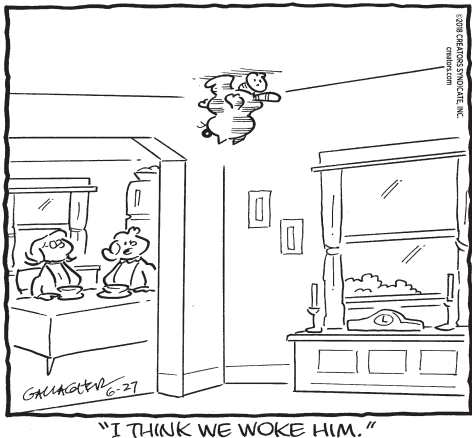
The swollen moon moves into the realm of power and authority. There's always someone higher up to report to. The boss has a boss. Pleasing the highest-up person could mean displeasing the one two steps down. But if you concentrate only on the next level up, you could miss the bigger picture. There will be a judgment call to make.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

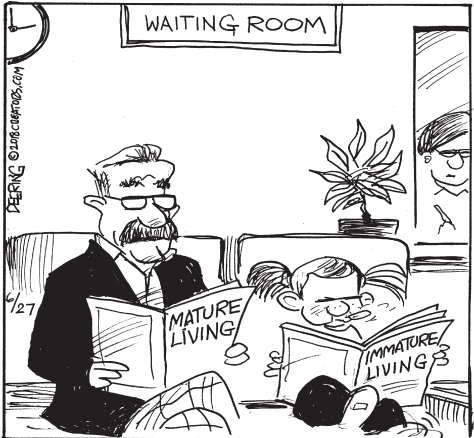
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

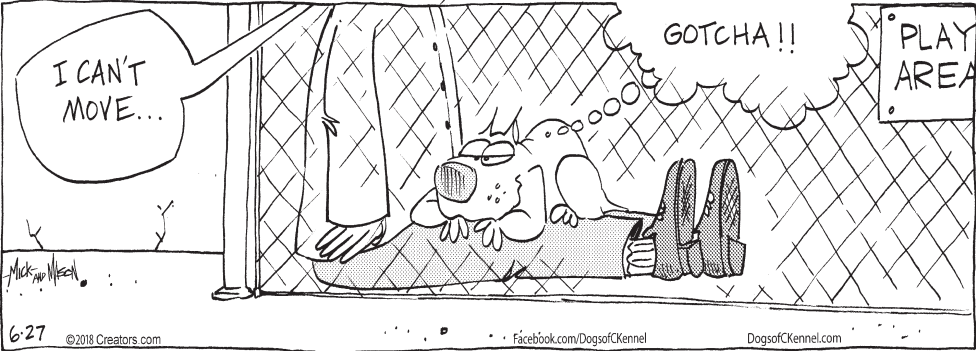


Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

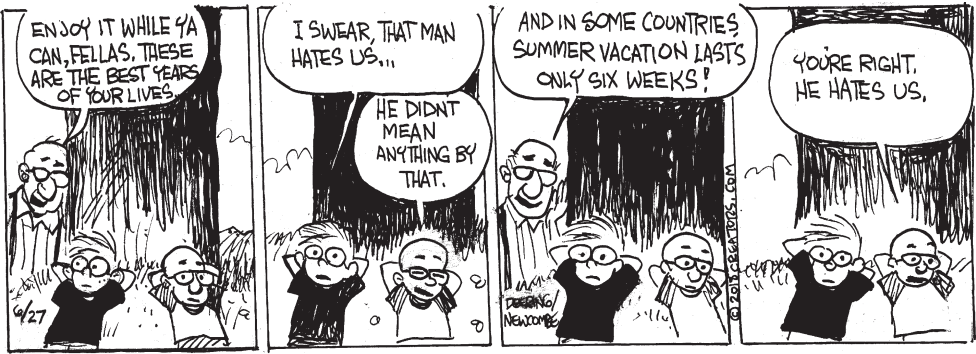


By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Santa Monica Daily Press

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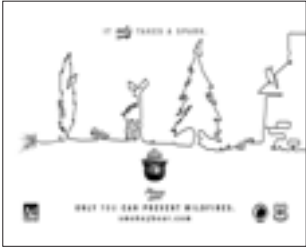
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INVESTIGATION
FROM PAGE 1

newly-branded “My Suite at Swell” apartments. Historical records show the property had 14 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom apartments. But the website for the complex, swellapartments.com, also lists “junior suite” units, which do not contain a kitchen, according to floor plans.

“If a unit without a kitchen is being listed, that would not be a legally permissible unit,” said Constance Farrell, Public Information Officer for the city. “The code enforcement case is open and active.”

A spokesman for NMS Properties and My Suite told the Daily Press there are still only 20 units in the building, even though website move.com listed floor plans for 34 available apartments, some of which are as small as 206 square feet.

“We have no control over move.com or any other website,” Eric Rose said. “Some sites put information out without even asking us.”

Rose told the Daily Press to ask the city for building plans and refused to give a tour to the Daily Press. A leasing agent on the property said tours were by appointment only and there was no availability this week.

Plans for the building changed significantly during construction, according to an August 2017 Rent Control Board Report that awarded the four long-term tenants a total of \$100,000 in combined rent decreases after finding “the owner’s failure to adequately test for asbestos and to consistently use safe work practices put the tenants at risk of significant health conditions.”

“Documents from City officials establish that the owner has not complied with required procedures or cooperated with the City and other governing agencies,” the report said, citing conduct that led to “unprecedented action by the city.”

At the time of the report, Interim Building Official Jack Leonard said building plans added a bathroom to each unit and a wall would be added to separate the bedroom into “two little compartment areas.”

Just months before the tenants were awarded their reduction, the city completed a four-month multi-departmental review of NMS Properties and found NMS and its affiliates were in full compliance with all contracts, agreements and affordable housing requirements set by the City. Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Sue Himmelrich asked for the audit after a judge found Shekhter

engaged in “coordinated, intentional, widespread destruction of evidence” in a separate legal dispute with a private hedge fund. An appeals court recently affirmed the judge’s finding.

A My Suite leasing document obtained by the Daily Press Monday offered an addendum to the rental agreement for “rental by the suite.” In the document, a resident would have exclusive use of an area as well as “shared use space” that could include hallways, common area doors, a mailbox, washer and dryer, kitchen and bathroom.

“Shared Use Space that will be shared with the occupants (“Suitemates”) of the other Suites(s) in the Residence. Resident’s Suitemates will have exclusive use of their own Suites in the unit. Owner complies with all fair housing laws in the leasing of Suites,” the document said.

The Rent Control Board is not currently investigating the apartment complex, but its executive director said the addendum sounded problematic.

“It would be a problem for an owner to lease a unit to a tenant and then tell them they have restricted access to the unit,” Tracy Condon said. She said the building’s management is not allowed to break up rent-controlled units into multiple apartments,

however, they can add bathrooms and bedrooms to a unit. “It is concerning, what’s happened, but we do not approve the plans. The plans are submitted to the Planning Department.”

My Suite’s leasing packet also includes a “corporate application for rental form” and apartments are available fully furnished. Pictures advertising the apartments on Trulia.com show models rolling in with suitcases and hanging suits in a closet. Condon said there is nothing illegal about leasing a rent-controlled apartment to a corporation. Tenants are also allowed to sublease their units, as long as it is not prohibited in their lease and the rent does not exceed rent control caps.

“Once a sub-tenant moves in, they have all the same protections as a rent-controlled tenant,” Condon said.

The NMS Properties website includes a blog post citing Shekhter as a proponent of micro-units as a solution to the region’s housing shortage.

“While micro-units are not for everyone they are the perfect solution for demanding jobs where the tenant simply needs a place to sleep, shower and store their belongings,” the blog post said.

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Route 66, Larimer Square on National Trust's endangered list

By The Associated Press

Route 66, Denver's Larimer Square and school buildings in Los Angeles are on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2018 list of America's 11 most endangered historic places.

The annual list highlights architectural and cultural sites that the National Trust deems at risk from development or neglect.

The list can mobilize support and funding for preservation. But listings can also be controversial. Saving neglected historic properties is expensive. And when the National Trust advocates halting proposals to develop a site, local residents and officials may disagree, citing a need for modernization or economic growth.

Still, of the nearly 300 places that the National Trust has identified since the list was launched 31 years ago, the private non-profit organization says fewer than 5 percent have been lost.

ZONING, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOLITION

The National Trust's concerns about local proposals for development range from Denver's Larimer Square to a site across from Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Larimer Square is a thriving retail center. But the National Trust says its history as Denver's oldest commercial block and first historic district is threatened by proposals to build two towers and partly demolish several buildings.

The National Trust also highlighted a proposal to build a gas compressor station across from Mount Vernon, adjacent to Piscataway National Park in Accokeek, Maryland.

Elsewhere in Maryland, the National Trust says a proposal to rezone parts of the Colonial Annapolis Historic District threatens the City Dock area's views, heritage tourism and more.

In South Carolina, the National Trust says an annexation proposal could lead to zoning changes and development that might damage the landscape of the Ashley River Historic District outside Charleston.

In Los Angeles, the National Trust is calling attention to proposals to modernize schools that would include demolishing

"almost all historically and culturally significant buildings" on the Roosevelt High School campus. The school was a central setting for activities related to the 1968 East L.A. Chicano Student Walkouts, which helped catalyze the national Chicano Civil Rights Movement and symbolized the era's student activism.

THE MOTHER ROAD

Route 66 is up for designation as a National Historic Trail, which the National Trust says would bring "recognition and economic development" to historic sites along the storied road. The U.S. Senate would have to pass legislation for the designation to take effect and the president would have to sign it before the end of 2018. Route 66 opened in 1926, connecting eight states between Chicago and California.

HISTORIC SITES, NEGLECTED

The Trust included three historic sites on its list that are in urgent need of rehabilitation: an early Modernist house called Ship on the Desert in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Salt Flat, Texas; the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses in Bridgeport, Connecticut, which were part of a unique pre-Civil War community of free African-Americans; and the Isaiah T. Montgomery House in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, built by a former slave who established one of the first all-black municipalities after the Civil War.

In Nebraska, the Trust noted that the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Memorial Hospital in Walthill is "unoccupied and facing an uncertain future." The site is named after the first Native American licensed to practice medicine in the U.S.

And in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the National Trust said last year's hurricanes damaged thousands of historic and cultural properties.

WATCH STATUS

In addition to the 11 endangered places, the National Trust put four towns in rural Vermont's Upper Valley — Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge — on "watch status" because of a development proposal calling for a "planned community."

High court rules against Calif. crisis pregnancy center law

MARK SHERMAN & JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

The Supreme Court effectively put an end Tuesday to a California law that forces anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers to provide information about abortion.

The 5-4 ruling also casts doubts on similar laws in Hawaii and Illinois.

The California law took effect in 2016. It requires centers that are licensed by the state to tell clients about the availability of contraception, abortion and pre-natal care, at little or no cost. Centers that are unlicensed were required to post a sign that said so. The court struck down that portion of the law.

The centers said they were singled out and forced to deliver a message with which they disagreed. California said the law was needed to let poor women know all their options.

Justice Clarence Thomas in his majority opinion said the centers "are likely to succeed" in their constitutional challenge to the portion of the law involving licensed centers. That means that while the law is currently in effect, its challengers can go back to court to get an order halting its enforcement. An attorney for the challengers said Tuesday that they expect to be able to do that quickly.

"California cannot co-opt the licensed facilities to deliver its message for it," Thomas wrote for himself and his conservative colleagues, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch. He called the requirement for unlicensed centers "unjustified and unduly burdensome."

Justice Stephen Breyer said among the reasons the law should be upheld is that the high court has previously upheld state laws requiring doctors to tell women seeking abortions about adoption services. "After all, the law must be evenhanded," Breyer said in a dissenting opinion joined by his liberal colleagues, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions and anti-abortion groups were among those cheering the decision. The Trump administration had argued that California's law violates the rights of licensed centers but had no objection to the requirement for the unlicensed centers.

"Speakers should not be forced by their government to promote a message with which they disagree, and pro-life pregnancy centers in California should not be forced to advertise abortion and undermine the very reason they exist," Sessions said in a statement Tuesday.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra called the decision "unfortunate" but said "our work to ensure that Californians receive accurate information about their healthcare options will continue."

The abortion-rights group NARAL Pro-Choice California was a prime sponsor of the California law. NARAL contends that the centers mislead women about their options and tried to pressure them to forgo abortion. Estimates of the number of crisis pregnancy centers in the U.S. run from 2,500 to more than 4,000, compared with fewer than 1,500 abortion providers, women's rights groups said in a Supreme Court filing.

NARAL president Ilyse Hogue said in a statement after Tuesday's decision that the Supreme Court had "turned its back on women and condoned the deceptive tactics used by fake women's health centers."

California's law was challenged by the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, an organization with ties to 1,500 pregnancy centers nationwide and 140 in California. The group was represented at the Supreme Court by Alliance Defending Freedom, a Christian law firm. NIFLA president Thomas Glessner applauded the court's decision Tuesday. He called the decision "monumental" and said it was a "great day for pro-life pregnancy centers" and for free speech.

Other cities and states have also passed laws related to crisis pregnancy centers. In 2014, A federal appeals court in New York struck down parts of a New York City ordinance, although it upheld the requirement for unlicensed centers to say that they lack a license.

Other states have laws that regulate doctors' speech in the abortion context. In Louisiana, Texas and Wisconsin, doctors must display a sonogram and describe the fetus to most pregnant women considering an abortion, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights. Similar laws have been blocked in Kentucky, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

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