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Volume 16 Issue 195

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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Governor signs $125 billion budget boosting education funds

BY JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

Gov. Jerry Brown signed a $125 billion California budget Tuesday that gives doctors and dentists a raise while increasing funding for education and social services.

For the second consecutive year, Brown did not use his line-item veto authority to cancel spending approved by lawmakers.

The budget boosts money for K-12 schools and community col-

SEE BUDGET PAGE 7

Peace activists celebrate Santa Monica bomb blast statue

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Chain Reaction's biggest problem may have been it's simply not pretty.

The 26-foot mushroom cloud of copper and steel chains perpetually exploding outside the Civic Center is meant as a warning to save the world. Instead, for the past six years local peace activists have dedicated themselves to saving the statue itself.

"It's not beautiful when you look at it," admitted the artist's son, David Conrad, in an interview with the Daily Press. "It kind of hits you in the gut a little bit. That's the point."

When the three-story nuclear blast was originally offered to the City in 1988, citizens were invited to weigh in on a model displayed inside the lobby of City Hall. Out of 1,122 people surveyed, 730, or 65 percent, said the City should decline the statue. The Arts Commission eventually voted to take the gift.

Even activist Jerry Rubin, who has led the charge to save the statue since 2011, says his own wife's initial reaction to the sculpture was not exactly one of love.

"Even she had the initial shock you feel when you first realize it's not a tree," Rubin said. Not only has she warmed up to the statue, Rubin says they both feel it's a valuable spark that leads to conversation about nuclear disarmament.

"Of course, there were people who wanted this piece melted down into scrap metal," Rubin said. "Some people hate it. That's the way art is. There are a number of art piece around town that aren't my favorite but I still urge the Council to maintain them."

Designed and sculpted by Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Paul Conrad, the sculpture is meant as a jarring reminder of the threat of nuclear war. The artist was known to court controversy while working as the chief editorial cartoonist for the Los Angeles Times for three decades. So much so, his depictions of the president's ultimate downfall during the Watergate scandal infamously got him added to Nixon's Enemies List.

In 2012, about two years after the artist's death, the Arts Commission recommended to remove the statue. Official criticism of the statue has always been structural rather than superficial. Staff reports from the time assert the statue was supposed to be made out of bronze instead of fiberglass, that the artist never obtained a building permit and that the final structure deviated from the engineered design – raising questions about the blast's integrity. The City estimated fixing the statue could cost up to $423,000.

"I always knew from the beginning it wasn't unsafe," Conrad said who is a mechanical engineer. "I know it was overbuilt. I can't say whether that was their true problem with it or not."

Conrad sees the statue as an important part to his father's legacy. While his cartoons addressing social justice depicted history, the concern over nuclear arms endures. President Donald Trump once tweeted "The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes

SEE STATUE PAGE 6







BASKETBALL AWARDS

Morgan Genser

The Santa Monica YMCA held its annual end of the year youth basketball banquet on this month, celebrating athletes who played all three seasons of ball (Fall, Winter and Spring) in their co-rec leagues serving children from ages 5-14. Andrew Daouda was named the player of the year and Charles Ellinwood the coach of the year. Jacob Ronn took home honors as the most improved player from September through June, and the Levi children, Eli, Sophia and Sammy were named Most Inspirational. The Fall Minor League Roadrunners wee given the title of "Best Team" of the year, and Mathias James was given the Best Referee award. Rachel Kim was inducted into the Santa Monica YMCA Youth Basketball Hall of Fame by League Director Pete Arbogast.


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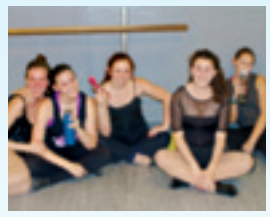
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SUMMER DANCE CAMPS


Teen Intensive Camp - Ages 13-up

Tues., Wed., Thurs., 3:30-5:30pm

WK1: June 27,28,29

WK2: July 5,6, (no camp July 4)

WK3: July 11,12,13

WK4: July 18,19,20,21

(Friday July 21st is a Bonus Beach Day! 10-3pm)

Teen Intensive Tuition
$500 for 4 weeks or $165 /week

Teen Intensive is designed to give dancers the opportunity to hone their technique through a variety of dance styles and to keep up their hard earned strength, stamina and skill over the Summer to stay in shape for the upcoming fall session of dance. Prior dance experience is recommended. Space is limited!

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(310) 394-1438 | www.thepretendersstudio.com

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WISE & Healthy Aging

1527 4th St., 2rd Floor • Santa Monica
www.wiseandhealthyaging.org

WISE & Healthy Aging is a nonprofit social services organization.

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, June 28

Comics meetup
Join Hi De Ho Comic's weekly meetup group where the discussion begins around the week's comic book and then ultimately leads to all things comics and pop culture. This week's book is Hellboy Vol 1: Seeds of Destruction. Hi De Ho Comics, 1431 Lincoln Blvd, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Summer Activity Program: Raspberry Pi - An Introduction @ Pico Branch
Learn basic coding skills using Raspberry Pi. Limited space; registration starts 6/7. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Samba Reggae Dance with Slleyk da Bahia
Come and workout with a Brazilian flair! This dynamic, energetic Latin dance incorporates the authentic and original Samba Reggae born in Bahia, the first capital of Brazil, as well as Afro-Brazilian dance. You will get a great workout as a result of low and high impact movements that will increase your blood flow, strengthening your cardiovascular system and burning lots of calories. Cost: $99 SM Res/ $114 Non-Res (8-week session) Drop-in cash registration is available for $20 per class (please bring exact change) Register at the link (http://ow.ly/lehoU) or call (310) 458-2239. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Recital: The Artisan Guitar Ensemble
This classical guitar trio, aka Max Mendoza, Daniel Ramirez,and Andre Giraldo, brings a high quality chamber music experience into the lives of others, performing works by Alexander Borodin, Isaac Albeniz, Enrique Granados, Paulo Bellinati, and Theirry Tisserand as well as some Balkan pieces arranged by Max and Atanas Ourkouzounov. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd, 7 - 8 p.m.

Movies @ The Park Series: Sing! (2016)
Bring your chair, blankets and snacks and watch a movie under the stars! Presented by Pico Branch Library, Virginia Avenue Park, and Santa Monica Police Department (107 min.) Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 8 - 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 29

Current Events Discussion Group
Join us for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Make It! Your Own Chat Bot!
Using drag-and-drop motion, learn how code can be used to create unique projects! Create a program that gives computers the ability to talk with people. Ages 8-12. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Tween & Teens Zine Workshop
Aspiring artists and writers: Learn how to make DIY, self-published Zines (short for magazines). No previous experience required, materials will be provided. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

The Reset Plan Program
Shanna Ferrigno, author of The Reset Plan: Lose the Secrets, Lose the Excuses, Lose the Weight, shows you how to build a better you! She examines the what, why, and how of eating and exercise, and focuses on transitioning to conscious, beneficial practices. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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



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The Main house is a tastefully upgraded, bright & airy, 2-bed 2 bath with hardwood floors, French doors and an abundance of windows throughout. This flexible open floor plan home includes a chef's kitchen with commercial Imperial stove, dining and living room that opens out to a magical front patio deck with panoramic views of Ocean Park. A versatile den area buffers the space between the living room and master suite, perfect as a media room. The first floor master suite includes stylish maple closets doors, master bath with shower and make-up vanity adjacent to an office area, laundry, and lush outdoor patio. The main bath has a large spa tub, and separate shower. The upstairs loft bedroom with its skylights, platform dormer windows and large walk in closet is a very meditative space.

The Guest Cottage perched higher at the back of the property is quaint and comfortable with hardwood floors throughout. This cottage features a vintage O'Keefe & Merritt stove, separate laundry, an open living room/dining area with vintage built-ins, and a wonderful sitting porch with superb westerly views. This charming house is perfect as a home office, guest quarters, or source of rental income. Close to the surf, Main Street cafes, boutiques, and the Sunday Farmer's Market. Park your car, breathe the ocean air, and enjoy life at the beach. This rare and superb 3rd Street property with peek-a-boo ocean views is a California dream come true. Will be delivered vacant.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAN DIEGO

State: 111 terminally ill end lives under new California law

California health officials say 111 terminally ill people took drugs to end their lives in the first six months after a 2016 law made the option legal.

The California Department of Public Health issued its first report Tuesday on the law that went into effect June 9, 2016.

The report says 191 people received life-ending drugs after being diagnosed with having less than six months to live and that 111 people took them and died.

The data was generated from forms doctors were required to submit between June 9 and Dec. 31, 2016.

Of those who died, 87 percent were 60 years old or older.

Doctor-assisted deaths are also legal in Colorado, Montana, Vermont, Washington state and Washington D.C.

BY JULIE WATSON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Lawyers prepare to defend travelers to US at airports

When the Trump administration's travel ban takes partial effect later this week, immigrant-rights lawyers plan to head to the nation's major airports to make sure eligible foreigners are able to get into the country.

But attorneys say few people are likely to be affected, and they don't expect a repeat of the mass confusion that resulted earlier this year when President Donald Trump rolled out his original ban on travel from a group of mostly Muslim countries.

The Department of Homeland Security hasn't offered any guidance on how this week's Supreme Court ruling on the ban will be interpreted, so attorneys are preparing for anything and will monitor airports from Los Angeles to New York in case they are needed to assist foreigners held for questioning or denied entry.

BY COLLEEN LONG AND AMY TAXIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

LA City Council oks plans for George Lucas museum

With the speed and force of a Jedi Starfighter, Los Angeles officials have cleared the way for "Star Wars" creator George Lucas to build a $1.5 billion Museum of Narrative Art just down the road from his alma mater.

The City Council voted 14-0 Tuesday to approve various requirements, including an environmental study, allowing for the museum's construction to begin.

Officials hope to break ground as early as this year and open the doors in 2021.

The museum will be located in Exposition Park, near the University of Southern California, where Lucas earned a degree in film in the 1960s.

He says the museum will focus on the art of storytelling from the time of cave paintings to digital film.

And, yes, exhibits will include some classic "Star Wars" stuff.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

Feinstein: Bill would cut care for 4 million Californians

Up to 4 million people in California would lose health coverage over the next decade under the Republican health care bill being proposed in the Senate, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein said Tuesday.

About 1.6 million people would lose coverage next year, and by 2026 the state would lose $24 billion in federal money for Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid health care plan for the poor, Feinstein told reporters in a conference call with fellow Democrats Gov. Jerry Brown and Sen. Kamala Harris.

"It's the most indefensible bill I've actually seen in 24 years in the Senate," Feinstein said.

The numbers came from the liberal think tank Center for American Progress, Congress' Joint Economic Committee and the state of California, according to Feinstein's office.

Republican leaders had hoped for a vote on this bill this week but said Tuesday they'll delay it until after the July 4 recess.

The GOP bill would roll back much of President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law, ending a tax penalty for people who don't buy insurance and allowing states to opt out of requirements that insurers cover certain services.

It would phase out extra federal money that California and 30 other states get to expand Medicaid and put annual caps on federal funding for the program.

Taxes on the wealthy and medical companies, which funded Obama's law, would be eliminated.

Brown said the bill would eliminate funding for drug treatment, exacerbating homelessness and crime.

"This thing is bad for people," Brown said. "Millions and millions of people are going to suffer. That's a crazy thing for elected representatives to inflict on people."

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

MENLO PARK

Number of people using Facebook reaches 2 billion

Facebook is reaching another milestone, announcing that it now has more than 2 billion users.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg says the new marker was reached early Tuesday and in a Facebook post said that he's proud of the role his company is playing in connecting people around the world.

Facebook says more than 175 million people declare they "love" something on the site daily and an average of more than 800 million people hit Facebook's like button.

Facebook users will likely see a personalized video celebrating the milestone in the next few days.

The Menlo Park, California, company is putting more emphasis on creating virtual communities within the site while it also works to reduce violent, hateful and misleading content on the service.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **letters@smdp.com**

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Public Hearings will be held concurrently by the City Council for the following:

Amend the Land Use and Circulation Element
The City Council will consider adoption of a resolution to amend the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) of the General Plan of the City of Santa Monica to modify the height and floor area ratio standards for Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects within the Mixed Use Boulevard land use designation within the Downtown District and ensure consistency with the proposed Downtown Community Plan.

Amend the Civic Center Specific Plan
The City Council will consider adoption of a resolution to amend the Civic Center Specific Plan (CCSP) to remove the Colorado Avenue Special Use District in order to eliminate conflicts with the Downtown Community Plan boundaries.

Amend the Zoning Ordinance
The City Council will consider adoption of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (Divisions 1-5 of SMMC Article 9) related to the Downtown Community Plan (DCP), including but not limited to clarifying the relationship between the DCP and Zoning Ordinance regulations; land use regulations; height limits for fences, walls, and hedges; demolition review procedures; parking, loading, and circulation; and outdoor dining in the community plan area. The City Council will also consider adoption of amendments to Land Use and Related Provisions in the City's Zoning Ordinance (Division 6 of SMMC Article 9) related to the Downtown Community Plan and additional transportation demand management requirements in the community plan area.

Amend Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Article 8
The City Council will consider adoption of an amendment SMMC Article 8 related to the Downtown Community Plan to extend the expiration time limits for demolition permit applications to accommodate new demolition review procedures proposed for buildings over 40 years old in the community plan area.

Downtown Community Plan Final Public Hearing Draft
The City Council will review the Final Public Hearing Draft of the Downtown Community Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2013091056). The Council will consider adoption of a resolution to adopt the Final Downtown Community Plan. The Council will also consider adoption of resolutions certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the DCP and adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations and mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR.

Opportunity for public input on the above amendments, the draft Downtown Community Plan, and Final Environmental Impact Report will be provided at the Monday, July 10, 2017 hearing. Following public testimony, the Council will close the public hearings and begin deliberations on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 and conclude deliberations on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. The Council staff report will be available online: https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx

WHEN AND WHERE: Below is the anticipated schedule and the location of the public hearings for the draft Downtown Community Plan and associated amendments the LUCE, CCSP, Zoning Ordinance, and Municipal Code.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, July 10, 2017 Tuesday, July 11, 2017 Tuesday, July 25, 2017	Each meeting will begin at 6:30PM	City Council Chamber, 2nd floor Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to:
City Clerk
Re: Downtown Community Plan
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact Peter James, Principal Planner at (310) 458-8341 or by e-mail at peter.james@smgov.net. The Draft Downtown Community Plan is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available www.downtownsmplan.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, Rapid 10, and 18 serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is 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). Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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Your column here

By Kathryn W. Boole
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica's Carol Ann Emmitt – A Lion For The New Century

"WHERE THERE'S A NEED, THERE'S A Lion!" Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. With 1.4 million members in 210 countries and geographic areas, Lions are everywhere – families, friends and neighbors who reach out to help wherever needed. They share a core belief: "community is what we make it." With community, the good work that they do is magnified and becomes more powerful.

The Lions Clubs mantra is nowhere better characterized than in Santa Monica's Carol Ann Emmitt, who has risen step by step through her 30 years in the Lions organization to reach the lofty position of District Governor for District 4-L3. Her installation in that post took place at the Lions Clubs International Convention in Fukuoka Japan in July 2016. Emmitt has proven to be one of the most dynamic leaders in the club's history. It is interesting to note that she was one of the first women members ever to be inducted. She joined the Santa Monica Lions Club in July 1987, the same month that the LCI voted to amend their then 70-year-old constitution to admit women to this formerly "men only" organization.

The events of Emmitt's life seem to draw full circles. She grew up in Easton CT, and traveled to California each summer to visit her grandparents, Anna and Joe Ruseski, in Santa Monica Canyon. She often accompanied her uncle to his job at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. She was fascinated with the scientific advancements they were developing to help the blind. She eventually moved to Southern California and has been an active member of the Santa Monica community since 1981. Becoming a Lion was a natural fit for Emmitt, as Helen Keller had challenged the Lions Clubs in 1925 to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness," so the organization often focuses their support efforts on vision.

In her District Governor's Message in March 2017, Emmitt states "Lions across the globe have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service in their own communities for 100 years. It began with a narrow focus, vision, in response to Helen Keller's challenge. We have evolved over the years and now provide many services that were neither identified nor understood a century ago."

"Legacy and Leadership for the next Century" has been Emmitt's motto for her term as District Governor. To accomplish this goal, Emmitt used her extraordinary power of communication and her talent for management to grow the Lions Club's presence exponentially in her 4-L3 district. This district comprises 53 clubs in Southern California, including the Santa Monica Club. She recruited new members. She used her strength in public speaking to inspire current members to become more active. She visited businesses in areas where the organization was under-represented and established new clubs. She now has six new clubs in development, embracing 120 to 130 new Lions. And, she helped the current clubs in her district boost their collective membership by 80 to 100 members.

Emmitt developed a style that was approachable for each geographical area that she identified for a new club, bringing people together based on their culture and common interests. Then she spotted the movers and shakers in each group and encouraged them to lead. Her new clubs include the Inglewood City of Champions Lions Club (with a sports focus), the Los Angeles Dagachi (Korean word for Togetherness) Lions Club, the Los Angeles Empowering Lions Club, the West Hollywood Pride Lions Club and the Beverly Hills Lions Club. Emmitt identified talent and challenged people she knew would rise to the occasion. She believes the "the best leader is the one who inspires others to get the job done."

Emmitt's position as District Governor has spanned the year leading up to the Centennial Anniversary of Lions Clubs International. Her term as District Governor will end on June 30th of this year. LCI turns 100 years old the next day, July 1st. That's the same day Emmitt celebrates her 30th Anniversary as a Lion! As her term as Lions Clubs International District Governor for District 4-L3 draws to a close, this inspirational and dynamic leader is just getting started. She will continue to spread her influence to all the clubs in her district and beyond, as she lives and breathes the compassionate spirit of "Lionism." This concept of benevolence is a model the world needs desperately right now.

KATHRYN W. BOOLE is a Santa Monica Lion and writes a weekly movie review for the Santa Monica Daily Press

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Main St: Where to be

A SLOW EXPLOSION

On Main Street. But it would appear the nuclear cloud is here to stay.

"Chain Reaction" is that big, honkin' 26' tall, 5.5 ton pile of chain links anti-nuke, anti-war construct by three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and sculptor Paul Conrad, that rests on a narrow strip of green between Main and the parking lot, twixt the Civic and our Courthouse. It was paid for by philanthropist and peace activist Joan Kroc (McDonald's) and donated to the City of Santa Monica in 1991. Beverly Hills rejected it but we were an appropriate home, given our long reputation as a progressive community, and also, ironically, as the world headquarters of the RAND Corporation, a very influential think tank best known for its "defense" strategy of MAD, Mutually Assured Destruction (love that "Dr. Strangelove"), dependent on having lots and lots and lots of nuclear weapons, on land, at sea and in the air, ready to rip.

There was a remarkable gathering at the refurbished sculpture Monday evening, to celebrate its fiercely fought-for survival, its restoration, its new "peace garden" planting encircling the base, its message, and what would have been the 93rd birthday the next day of artist Paul Conrad. (He died in 2010, perhaps a blessing, because less than a year later began the concerted, bogus effort to remove and even scrap the world-famous art piece.)

The program was led of course by our own Professional Peacenik (and I say that with affection), the redoubtable Jerry Rubin, and it was quite the assemblage of local leftie luminaries, most of whom were actively involved in the fight to preserve it, right there on that spot.

WHY, WHY, WHY?

Many echoed the sentiment, now that the City's planned destruction of the art piece was defeated — why was this fight even necessary? (I find myself muttering that ALL the time, about too many fights.) Why did we citizens have to raise more than $100,000 to help restore it? How can a city accept something as a gift, not maintain it, and then want to toss it? Why is this sculpture considered controversial by some? It's a plea for world peace, for goodness sakes, a stark, graphic reminder of the ominous nuclear mushroom cloud. One person even noted that she's had people condemn it as glorifying and promoting the atomic bomb. Huh?

But art is like that. Even the most obvious works can be interpreted as many ways as there are observers, and many never get that art stands on its own and must be measured by an aesthetic yardstick that doesn't always include the usual ideas of beauty or likability. Does it make some stop and think and perhaps reconsider their world? Then it's probably art.

There were more mayors there than you could shake a referendum at, many members of the Conrad family (including Paul's widow Kay, smiling sweetly from her wheelchair), a lot of commission members, artists, writers, activists, a City Manager, and they even allowed a few of those distasteful creatures, journalists, to hang out there in broad daylight. One was the final speaker, and longtime columnist/activist Robert Scheer (Ramparts magazine, LA Times, Truthdig), who was instrumental in the effort and gave a rousing final speech about why that sculpture is still so important. (I'll never forget reading about President-elect Trump, in a security briefing — twice — "... but if we have nuclear weapons, why can't we use them?")

There was also a fight over the location, some saying move it from there, perhaps even to an indoor site. More out of the public eye, you know. But several speakers made the link with RAND, one asserting he always responded to the "where?" question with, "it is no accident that 'Chain Reaction' is here, in their faces, and must remain."

I saw so many people I disagree strongly with on many local development issues, yet they were all on the right side of "Chain Reaction." Jerry Rubin and I are a classic example. As I ended my brief speech, I looked over at him and said, "OK Jerry, now that 'Chain Reaction' is taken care of, we've got to save that Muir Woods mural (at Lincoln and Ocean Park)!"

MO' MAIN STREET – PARADE!

Mo' music. Barely had the notes faded from Make Music Day last Wednesday, when Main Street was humming all day Saturday with another annual Summer Soulstice music celebration. Mostly it's tribute bands performing, sounding very much like The Pretenders or AC/DC or Neil Young or Dylan, and that's fun, but I've seen them all several times over the years, so I went looking for more original bands, but it was slim pickin's, for both quantity and quality. Why can't it be more of a mix?

And now, you'll be headed for Main Street again on Tuesday, for our famous 4th of July Main Street Parade, the 11th annual! We are still a small town — well, a small city — and this fits us perfectly. It's a parade of locals, in convertibles, on flatbed trucks, bicycles, unicycles, skates and skateboards, on foot, from the schools, churches, Kiwanis and Lions, newspapers, businesses. You might see Carmen Miranda or a WWII WAC or a sexy spaceship captain. Look! There's the mayor, looking silly! There's a big time property manager in a goofy tall Uncle Sam hat, why, there's the Daily Press publisher on stilts! (C'mon, Rob…)

Unlike Summer Soulstice, I never get tired of this one. Call me corny. And thanks, OPA (Ocean Park neighborhood Association).

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Make Music Day was so great, why can't we do that all year 'round? We have so much talent here and so few places where they can play before an audience. We have the weather for it year 'round. What if Santa Monica became world-famous as an arts destination, and particularly for music, music, everywhere? Instead of for high rises Downtown, absolute gridlock, concerts on the Pier that few can hear that cost us a million bucks a shot, and tiny box apartments near the sea for five Gs a month, for, you know, a year or so til you get bored because there aren't enough all night dance clubs?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have some kind of a football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer." — Frank Zappa

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 31 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
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If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
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*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
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STATUE

FROM PAGE 1

to its senses regarding nukes."

"The threat of nuclear war is just as present if not more present now than it was 25 years ago when my dad put up the sculpture," Conrad said.

The threat to the statue ignited a movement in itself. A "Chain Gang" was created. Petitions were circulated, social media campaigns launched, donors called. In the end, activists succeeded in raising $100,000 to restore the statue and got even it landmarked.

"I also really love art that has some teeth to it," said Robert Berman, the gallery owner at Bergamot Station who was instrumental in raising the money. "So here with Chain Reaction you have a piece of art that has been made by someone who has been beaten up for not being a fine art artist but for being an illustrator. And that's not the reality – Paul Conrad really was an amazing artist and to call him an illustrator is a misnomer."

"I feel like we out lasted the City," Conrad said. "At first it was very difficult to get progress but at one point I realized there was no stopping it."

A "Peace Garden" and solar lights now surround the recently refurbished mushroom cloud outside the Civic Center. A half-decade of activism culminated in a rededication ceremony Monday night. Current and former City leaders, the Conrad family, art enthusiasts, environmentalists and historians gathered to speak about the statue, give out sunflowers and make a peace circle around the art.

Now with their statue safe, activists hope to use the grounds as a gathering place for demonstrations in the future.

"As they say, all's well that ends well," Rubin said

kate@smdp.com

WESTSIDE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Safe at Home

Home Accessibility Program

Santa Monica residents can apply for a grant to modify their home under the Home Accessibility Program (HAP). Modifications at home help to reduce the risk of falls and eliminate barriers that limit mobility in the community. Grants have been used to purchase grab bars, hand held shower heads, handrails, entry ramps and much more!

Eligibility for the HAP:

-You must be a resident of Santa Monica,
-50 years or older OR a person with disabilities, and,
-Qualify under the HAP income guidelines:

Household Size	Maximum Income
1 Individual	$47,850
2 Individuals	$54,650
3 Individuals	$61,500
4 Individuals	$68,300

How to Apply:

Contact the HAP program at **(310) 390-3611**.
A trained specialist will work with you on completing an application and collecting supporting documentation needed to qualify.

City of Santa Monica

For more information about other WCIL programs, services and groups, please call us at (310) 390-3611.

Westside Center for Independent Living (WCIL) is a nonprofit social services agency. WCIL assists people with disabilities and older adults achieve and maintain self-directed and community-based independent lives.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW YORK

Facebook now deleting 66K posts a week in anti-hate campaign

Facebook said Tuesday that it deleted about 66,000 posts a week in the last two months as the social media giant cracks down on what it deems to be hate speech.

The company said in a blog post that deleting posts can "feel like censorship," but that it is working on explaining its process better and improving its enforcement of hate speech.

Facebook defines hate speech as attacks on people based on their race, sexual orientation and other "protected characteristics." The Menlo Park, California, company said it mostly relies on its 2 billion users to report any hateful posts they see. Workers then review the posts and decide whether to delete it.

Facebook Inc. said it plans to hire an additional 3,000 people in the next year to review posts. That's on top of the 4,500 people it currently has reviewing posts.

It has made mistakes, the company said. Last year it deleted the post of a black activist, who had posted hate mail he received that included slurs. Facebook said it restored the post and apologized.

"We know that these kinds of mistakes are deeply upsetting for the people involved and cut against the grain of everything we are trying to achieve at Facebook," said Facebook Vice President Richard Allan, in the blog post.

Almost all tech companies with a social media side are wrestling to find the balance between allowing for free speech, and tamping down on extremism.

Last week, Google said it was cracking down on terrorist propaganda and other extremist videos on its YouTube site amid intensifying criticism about the internet's role in mass violence. It also said it was hiring more people to monitor hate and extremism online, and to prevent its dissemination through YouTube.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS



BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

leges by $3.1 billion and makes a series of reforms to the University of California and California State University systems, including giving lawmakers more oversight of the UC president's budget.

It also directs the UC system to add 1,500 more slots for in-state undergraduate students and 500 more spaces for graduate students.

Low-income Californians on Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, will get improved dental and eyeglass coverage, and a tax credit for the working poor will be significantly expanded.

"This budget provides money to repair our roads and bridges, pay down debt, invest in schools, fund the earned income tax credit and provide Medi-Cal health care for millions of Californians," Brown said.

The governor negotiated the spending plan with Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, both Los Angeles-area Democrats.

Lawmakers slipped in unrelated provisions, including rules for the state's budding marijuana industry and an attempt to quash the growth of federal immigration detention. The budget also changes the rules for removing lawmakers from office to help Sen. Josh Newman, a Fullerton Democrat facing a recall.

During the legislative debate, Republicans said the budget fails to adequately prepare for a recession and reneges on promises to voters, who approved a tobacco tax increase last year intended to improve access to health care. At Brown's insistence, much of that money will instead pay for normal growth in the Medi-Cal program.

Brown's signature allows state agencies to keep operating for another year after June 30.

The $125 billion figure reflects general fund spending and is up 2 percent from the budget Brown signed a year ago. Including spending from bonds and special funds, over which lawmakers have less control, the budget is $183 billion, up 7 percent from a year ago.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Request for Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit bids for the:

FY 16-17 Bike Striping Contract
SP2504

Bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk's Office, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **July 11, 2017**. Each bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

The Request for Bids may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit a Bid containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.







SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **66.3°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SSW swell mix. New, long period SSW swell forerunners trickle in. Minor NW swell.

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
More long period SSW swell builds in.

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To be awarded to a Santa Monica High School student planning to pursue a career in journalism.*

*SCHOLAR MUST BE INVOLVED IN PAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER REQUIREMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGH PAL.

To donate -- go to the PAL page (smpal.org), hit the "Donate Here" button, then the yellow "donate" button, and be sure to write in "for the Bill Bauer Journalism Scholarship" under "add special instructions to the seller"

You can also send a check made out to "PAL,"with a memo note "Bill Bauer Journalism Scholarship," to SMDP, PO Box 1380, Santa Monica CA 90406
ATTN: Charles Andrews

KEEP JOURNALISM ALIVE!
INVEST IN OUR YOUTH!
BILL WOULD WANT THAT!

PAL SANTA MONICA

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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 17, AT ABOUT 5:27 P.M.

Officers responded to Sephora – 1244 3rd Street Promenade regarding a theft that just occurred. The subject exited the store without paying for any merchandise and Loss prevention staff followed the suspect. Loss Prevention pointed out the suspect as officers arrived to the location. Officers determined the suspect selected various items from the sales floor and placed them in a shopping bag. The suspect exited the store without paying for them. The store was desirous of prosecution. The suspect was taken into custody. Lanae Ejuan Rodriguez, 28, from Los Angeles, was arrested for shoplifting and possession of burglary tools. Bail was set at $5,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 378 calls for service on June 26.

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

Silent robbery alarm 500 block of Santa Monica 12:02 a.m.
Drunk driving investigation 17th/Olympic 12:05 a.m.
Arson 1700 block of Delaware 1:36 a.m.
Traffic collision 900 block of 3rd 3:41 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 400 block of 10th 5:52 a.m.
Trespassing 600 block of Montana 6:02 a.m.
Person with a gun 2200 block of Colorado 6:39 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of 10th 7:05 a.m.
Domestic violence 1500 block of The Beach 7:09 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block of Grant 7:47 a.m.
Burglary 500 block of Arizona 8:01 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block of 26th 8:09 a.m.
Burglary report 2000 block of Santa Monica 8:25 a.m.
Traffic collision 20th/Pearl 8:28 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 200 block of 16th 8:44 a.m.
Traffic collision 16th/Pearl 8:54 a.m.
Battery Lincoln/Wilshire 9:16 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block of Franklin 9:17 a.m.
Trespassing 300 block of Marine 9:36 a.m.
Auto burglary 3rd/Mills 9:52 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block of Cloverfield 10:10 a.m.
Auto burglary 400 block of Marine 10:33 a.m.
Trespassing 1600 block of 19th 10:45 a.m.
Grand theft 1500 block of 7th 10:53 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1700 block of Wilshire 11:35 a.m.
Indecent exposure 200 block of Santa Monica Pier 11:50 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of Lincoln 12:21 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block of PCH 12:25 p.m.
Trespassing 400 block of Washington 12:30 p.m.
Mark and tag abandoned vehicle 2200 block of 27th 1:11 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2400 block of California 1:18 p.m.
Assault with deadly weapon 300 block of Olympic 2:16 p.m.
Lewd activity 1600 block of Lincoln 2:17 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2200 block of 20th 2:25 p.m.
Auto burglary 1000 block of 3rd 2:55 p.m.
Person down 600 block of Santa Monica 3:23 p.m.
Encampment 2100 block of Expo Line 3:43 p.m.
Fight 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk 3:45 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block of PCH 3:53 p.m.
Grand theft 2400 block of Ashland 4:11 p.m.
Drunk driving 800 block of 17th 4:38 p.m.
Fight 2000 block of Cloverfield 6:23 p.m.
Identity theft 1400 block of Stanford 6:30 p.m.
Hit and run 4th/Santa Monica 7:32 p.m.
Traffic collision 1500 block of PCH 7:35 p.m.
Battery 32nd/Pico 9:59 p.m.
Report shots fired 1000 block of 4th 11:02 p.m.
Indecent exposure 17th/Wilshire 11:14 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 47 calls for service on June 26.

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

Automatic alarm 300 block of Olympic 12:29 a.m.
Miscellaneous outside fire 1700 block of Delaware 1:34 a.m.
EMS 400 block of Ocean 1:54 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of Franklin 2:46 a.m.
Haz Mat – Level 1 4th/Colorado 2:58 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Santa Monica 3:28 a.m.
EMS 900 block of 3rd 3:39 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block of 2nd 3:57 a.m.
EMS 1500 block of Pacific Coast 4:21 a.m.
EMS 1500 block of 5th 4:51 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of 4th 6:56 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300 block of Olympic 7:10 a.m.
EMS 2700 block of Neilson 8:13 a.m.
EMS 1900 block of Pico 8:25 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of 7th 8:37 a.m.
EMS 2400 block of Wilshire 8:49 a.m.
EMS 1200 block of 15th 8:52 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block of 23rd 10:13 a.m.
Wires down 16000 block of Centinela 10:53 a.m.
EMS 700 block of Santa Monica 11:20 a.m.
EMS 1800 block of 16th 1:42 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 4th 2:18 p.m.
EMS 00 block of Pico 2:34 p.m.
EMS 600 block of Santa Monica 3:25 p.m.
EMS 9th/Pico 3:37 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 3:58 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of Ocean Front Walk 4:10 p.m.
EMS 2000 block of Hill 4:14 p.m.
EMS 2400 block of Virginia 2:24 p.m.
EMS 2400 block of 25th 5:02 p.m.
Public Assist 1300 block of 3rd St Prom 5:04 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of Wilshire 5:11 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Franklin 5:28 p.m.
EMS 31st/Ocean Park 6:08 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica 6:23 p.m.
EMS 900 block of Ozone 6:48 p.m.
EMS 500 block of Lincoln 7:00 p.m.
EMS 4th/Pico 7:03 p.m.
EMS 400 block of Wilshire 7:04 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of Pico 7:06 p.m.
EMS 1600 block of Ocean 7:14 p.m.
EMS 14th/Pico 7:52 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 6/24
10 22 32 36 58
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 92M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 6/23
12 20 53 66 74
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 145M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 6/24
1 12 25 35 38
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 50M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/26
3 17 21 26 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/26
MIDDAY: 5 8 6
Draw Date: 6/26
EVENING: 8 7 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/26
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:47.05

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!

parallax

1. the apparent displacement of an observed object due to a change in the position of the observer.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Sum Body

■ The average wait time in a doctor's office last year was 19 minutes and 16 seconds. That's down a full minute from 2014, but still a measurable chunk of time to waste on perusing outdated copies of National Geographic or Sports Illustrated.

HERE ARE FIVE USEFUL THINGS YOU CAN DO INSTEAD:

—Write down questions you want to ask the doctor. (So you won't forget)
—Make a list of all of your medications. (In case you're asked)
—Confirm your insurance information with office staff.
—Make sure all of your test results have arrived.
—Read those brochures and pamphlets lying around. (You might learn something)

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

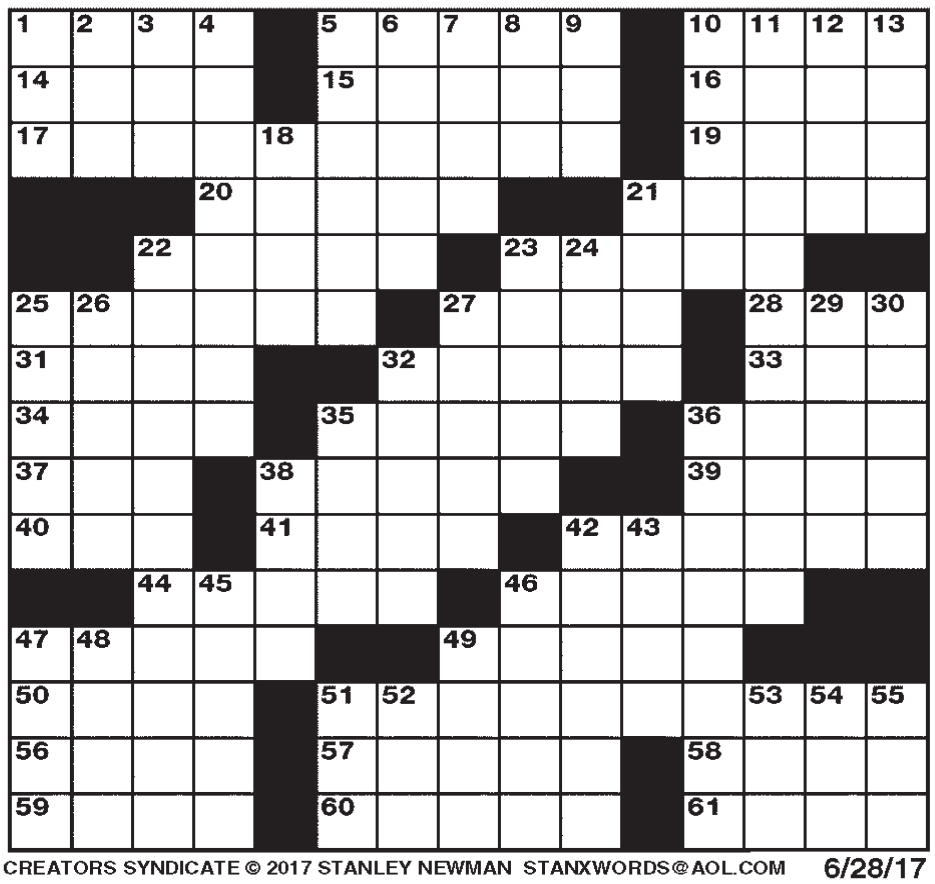
OUTTA HERE by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Norse thunder god
5 Long-winded
10 Spherical hairdo
14 Entice
15 Join forces
16 Hoof sound
17 Left a hotel
19 Tableland
20 Slopes upward
21 Precious stone
22 Campsite shelters
23 Great time
25 Behind-the-back garments
27 Homeowner's document
28 Chop down
31 Very often
32 Put an end to
33 Actress Longoria
34 Gardener's tool
35 Conversations
36 Topped with frosting
37 Doctors' org.
38 Authorizations in passports
39 __ of the above
40 Water faucet
41 Very dark
42 Broad neckties
44 Does as told
46 Advance slowly
47 Weeps loudly
49 Consumed
50 Food regulatory org.
51 Left an organization
56 Invented facts
57 Later on
58 Money in Madrid
59 Undecorated
60 Overly assertive
61 Profound

DOWN

1 Gentle handling, for short
2 "Say again?"
3 Raw mineral
4 Produce anew
5 Party attendees
6 Peruvian peaks
7 Life stories, briefly
8 A/C measure
9 Even so
10 Summits
11 Left one's parents' home
12 Ascended
13 Iridescent stone
18 Garden-hose twist
21 Green gem
22 Left to avoid trouble
23 Bird bills
24 Not so much
25 Diamond weight
26 Camel kin of the 6 Down
27 Procrastinate
29 Significant happening
30 Walks in shallow water
32 Wine barrels
35 Pint-sized
36 Very angry
38 Competes
42 Major highway
43 Bird food
45 Cutting edge
46 Behind-the-back garments
47 Light-fixture insert
48 Most populous continent
49 CPR pros
51 Boxer's punch
52 ET's vehicle
53 Tint
54 Angry feeling
55 Cork removal sound



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/28/17

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Official: Los Angeles officer had dozens of illegal guns

A Los Angeles police officer who was arrested last week and suspected of having sex with a teenage cadet had dozens of illegal guns in his home, a law enforcement official said Monday.

More than 100 weapons were found Thursday when investigators searched Officer Robert Cain's home, including several assault rifles, a non-functioning grenade launcher, and inert grenades, according to the official.

The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

At least 30 of the weapons that were seized during the raid at Cain's Rancho Cucamonga home have been found to be illegal to possess under California law, the official said. Los Angeles police are still analyzing the other weapons they seized to determine if those weapons are legal, according to the official.

The official said investigators suspect Cain was an avid gun collector, and there is no indication at this point in the investigation that Cain was planning to sell any of the weapons.

Cain is accused of having sex with a 15-year-old cadet who volunteered at his police station. Investigators said the teen had been a police cadet for about three months. They were led to Cain by messages on the teenage girl's cellphone.

Cain's arrest came amid a widening probe into a program for those who may want to become officers, which started earlier this month. They're accused of taking police cruisers, going on patrol and pulling over at least one driver. Four other cadets were later arrested for allegedly riding along.

Cain, a 10-year veteran officer, worked as an equipment room operator, and investigators believe he knew about and was involved in the unlawful use of the police cars and other equipment. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Police: Uber driver sexually assaulted sleeping passenger

Police have arrested an Uber driver they say sexually assaulted a female passenger after she fell asleep during a ride in Los Angeles.

Police Capt. William Hayes says Monday that Alaric Spence picked up the victim in downtown on Friday.

Hayes says the woman, who was intoxicated, fell asleep during the ride and instead of taking her to her destination, Spence drove to a motel. He says Spence rented a room and carried the unconscious woman inside before sexually assaulting her. The woman called police when she woke up.

Police say Spence had five prior felony convictions in California for narcotics-related crimes.

It wasn't immediately clear if Spence had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

Uber says it is cooperating with the investigation and has permanently banned Spence.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 28)

It may seem like the consequences of one direction or the other will alter life drastically. Don't let this paralyze you. The reality is that you'll come out smiling either way. Lighten up and choose. Companionship is rich, though September calls for a solo mission. Professional breakthroughs happen in January and June. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 4, 44 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

This week features the cosmic equivalent of an invitation to a fancy dinner in which you'll be around new people you'd be keen to impress. Your choice of attire will be equally important to the topics you pull out of your conversational hat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

It's hard to "hate the sin and love the sinner," when both the "sin" and the "sinner" happen to be forwarding your interests. Take a look at what you might be complicit in by simply wanting what you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The reckoning your soul longs for may be with someone from long ago. That moment has passed, and it will be impossible to get back to it, but there's still a way to make things right going forward.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

While the welfare of others is a worthy investment, don't give your resources out of a sense of guilt or obligation. Anyone who makes you feel like you're indebted is incorrect and possibly conning you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It may feel as though you are toning down something about yourself to avoid challenging, upsetting or offending people around you. It's true that what you really want will cause waves, but it's nothing you can't handle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The universe will be persistent with you. What starts out as a suggestion, if not taken, will later be presented to you as a challenge. If you still do not take on the idea, it will present as more of a demand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

If your leisure time doesn't provide the stress release you need and your work keeps ramping up the tension, perhaps both need a serious look. Don't passively live out the default version of your life. Go for the juice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

The words that help you reason your way through a problem will mean nothing to your emotional brain, which speaks a different language. To get your whole mind on board, engage through your senses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

People will often go to greater lengths to avoid boredom than they will to avoid pain. You can use this fact to your advantage and get good results by applying your knack for entertaining.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It will take more than hard work to win at this game. Momentum will help. It's a matter of reducing friction and aligning yourself with maximum congruence; get all the elements aligned in the same direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

More than any other time in history, people have come to expect to be entertained at every juncture. Finding reasons to be engaged (instead of waiting for the obvious captivation cues) is a sign of special intelligence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

In those times when your life feels completely filled up and yet oddly unfulfilling, identify the activities that are the equivalent of eating junk food – i.e., quantity rich and nutrient poor.

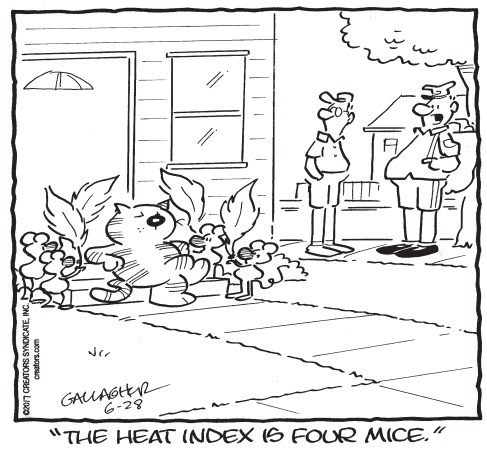
Mercury Calls for Levity

If everything is sacred then nothing is. Similarly, all the choices available cannot be your favorite. Furthermore, if you try and make too many things extremely important, life becomes cumbersome and you become immobile. The mantra "No biggie" will apply to much as Mercury harmonizes with Neptune and aligns with Mars. Lighten it up.

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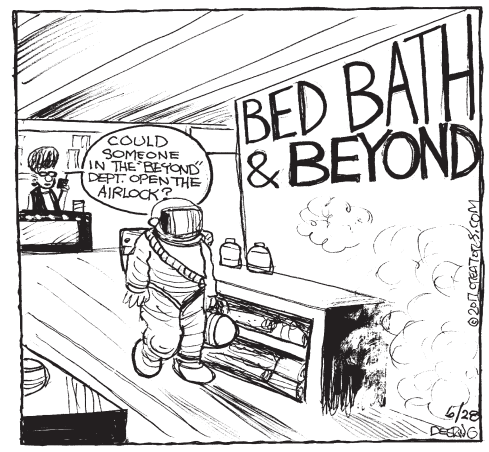
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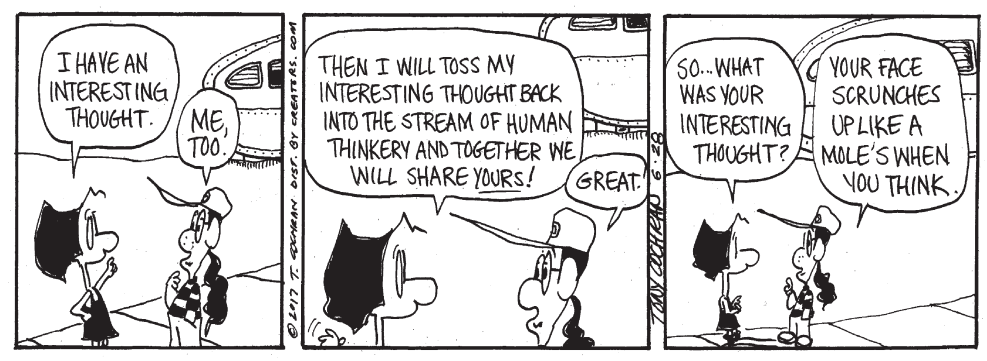
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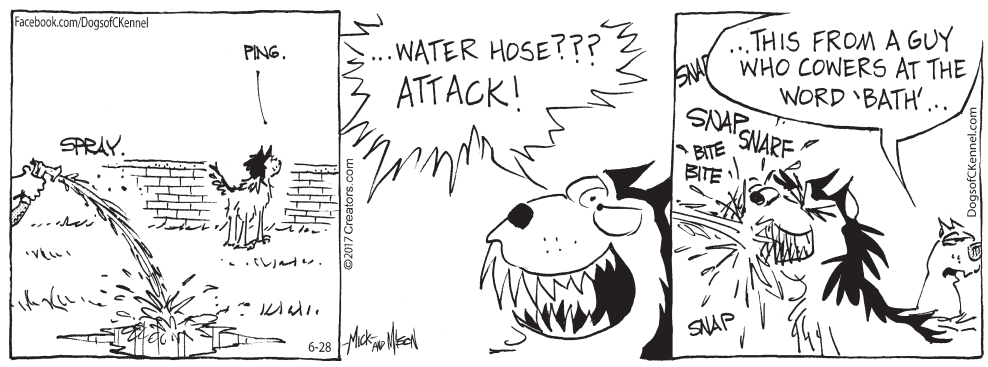
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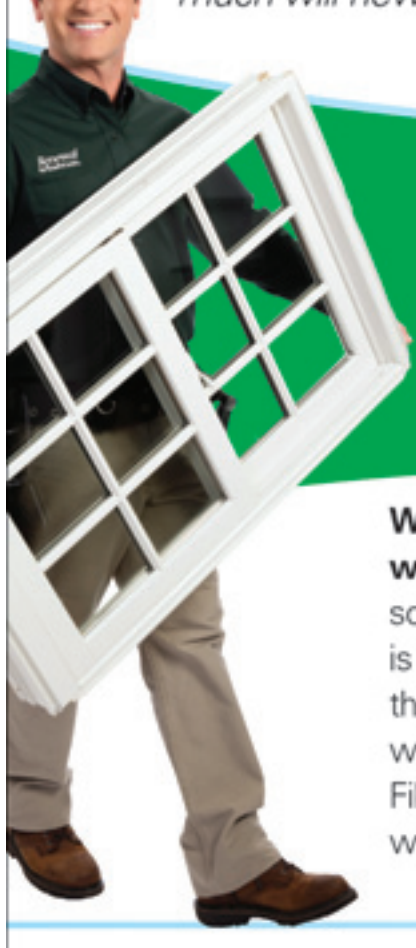
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