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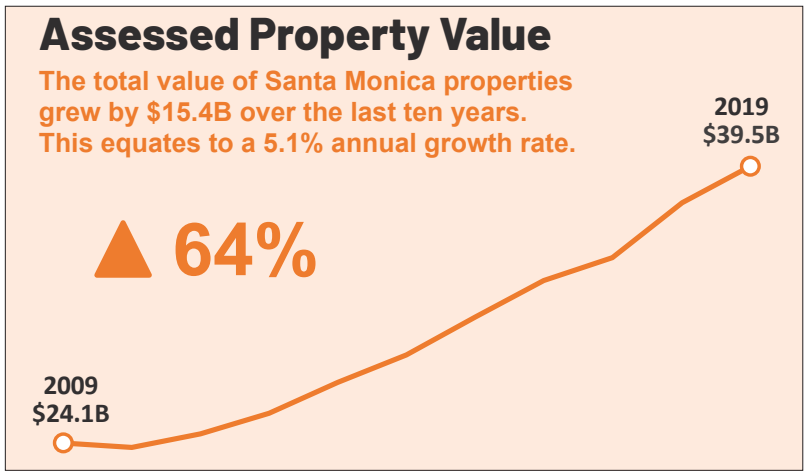
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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Volume 18 Issue 211

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Property values spike



SMDP image

INCREASE: The total assessed value of Santa Monica property has risen.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica property values are the third-highest in Los Angeles County, according to data the county assessor released Monday.

The combined assessed value of the city's properties has soared 27% over the past five years to $39.5 billion and is now second only to Los Angeles and Long Beach. While the growth in local property values mirrors the rest of the Westside, Santa Monica's proximity to the coast and high-quality public services and schools sets it apart in the real estate market, spurring sales and new development, said county assessor Jeffrey Prang.

"It's a double-edged sword because it means Santa Monica continues to be a desirable place to live and work, but as property values go up it becomes more and more unaffordable," he said.

Inflated property values put middle- and low-income renters and potential buyers at a disadvantage, but add equity for homeowners and provide more property tax revenue for the city of Santa Monica, Prang

SEE **PROPERTY** PAGE 10

Lead paint suppliers settle California lawsuit for $305M

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

The nation's major suppliers of lead paint have agreed to pay California's largest cities and counties $305 million to settle a nearly 20-year-old lawsuit, attorneys said Wednesday.

The settlement comes after years

SEE **PAINT** PAGE 2

Taco Bell and T-Mobile to give away tacos, freezes and merch



Courtesy photo

T-MOBELL: Two large corporations will temporarily fuse to host a pop-up event featuring phones and tacos.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Visitors to T-Mobile's Third Street Promenade can get free Taco Bell tacos and merchandise from July 23 to 25.

T-Mobile and Taco Bell are creating their first co-branded T-MoBell stores in Santa Monica, New York and Chicago. T-MoBell stores will serve a limited edition T-MoBell Freeze, free tacos and co-branded merch, according to a T-Mobile press release. Each location will also host celebrity meet-and-greets.

T-Mobile Un-carriers already get free Taco Bell every Tuesday and the company extended the same giveaway to any T-Mobile customer during this year's Super Bowl.

T-Mobile CEO John Legere said the T-Mobile Tuesdays app was number one in the App Store while Un-Carriers snagged more than 14 million free tacos through the app. Tacobell.com also recorded its highest online order day to date when the giveaway launched.

"People love tacos. And they love their phones. T-MoBell is the ultimate fusion of those two loves, and we can't wait to show everyone what we've cooked up," Legere said.

T-Mobile's location at 1210 Third Street Promenade will offer the deal between 2 and 5 p.m. on July 23, 24 and 25 while supplies last. A celebrity guest will appear on opening day. Freebies will include Taco Bell socks and a stick-on phone wallet.

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PAINT

FROM PAGE 1

of legal and legislative battling in California and other states. Lead paint suppliers tried to change California law last year with a ballot initiative that they later withdrew.

A judge initially required Sherwin-Williams Co., ConAgra Grocery Products Co. and NL Industries Inc. to pay $1.15 billion to clean up lead paint. An appeals court in 2017 affirmed that lead paint is a public nuisance but ruled that the companies only would have to pay for cleaning up homes built before 1951, leading to the settlement.

"We're very pleased that we have hundreds of millions of dollars to dedicate to cleaning up this hazard in our communities," Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams said. "The real beneficiaries of this case will be the current and future children of California who will now have far less chance of being poisoned by lead."

It's unclear if the settlement will spark other lead paint lawsuits, he said, citing legal conditions unique to California. The money will go to Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Ventura counties, as well as Oakland, San Diego and San Francisco.

Sherwin-Williams said the court ruling that prompted the settlement "remains an aberration at odds with other judicial decisions across the country, where all other appellate courts have found that companies should not be held retroactively liable for lawful conduct and truthful commercial speech decades after they took place."

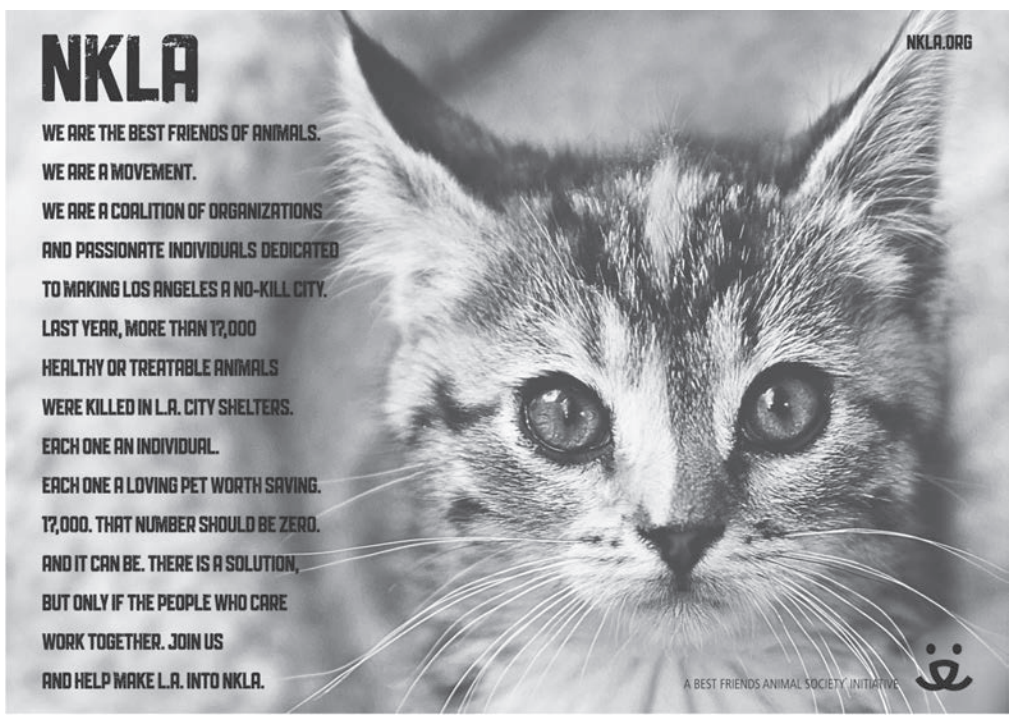
Lawsuits in Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Wisconsin all were rejected or voluntarily dismissed, the company said in a statement, warning that it will "continue to vigorously and aggressively defend against any similar current or future litigation."

Sherwin-Williams said it advertised the paints when they were the "gold standard" required by federal, state and local governments nationwide.

Paint suppliers financed a ballot initiative that would have wiped out the court rulings and shifted $2 billion in cleanup costs to California taxpayers. The companies ended the effort last year when state lawmakers agreed to drop pending legislation targeting the paint companies.

California lawmakers last year said they would have to consider how to pay for cleaning up homes in locations that are not part of the settlement, though there is no legislation now addressing that issue.





What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, July 18

Adult Summer Reading: Space Weather
Seth Dorfman, a researcher at UCLA & The Space Science Institute, discusses space weather, what it is and why it is important. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Movies @ The Park Series: Black Panther
Bring a chair, blankets and snacks for a screening of Black Panther under the stars! (134 min.) Presented by Pico Branch Library, Virginia Avenue Park, and Santa Monica Police Department. T'Challa, heir to the hidden but advanced kingdom of Wakanda, must step forward to lead his people into the new future and must confront a challenger from his country's past. Pico Branch Library, 8 - 10:15 p.m.

The Recreation & Parks Commission Regular Meeting
The Recreation & Parks Commission advises City Council and City staff on matters related to recreation and use of public open space. City Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Life Lessons: Don't Be Broke+ Managing Your Money + Avoiding Credit Card Debit
Take the fear and uncertainty out of "adulting." Attend these workshop before you go off to college or live on your own. Included in this session are lessons on managing your money and avoiding credit card debit. For Recent High School Grads and College Students Registration required at the library. Presented by financial expert and author Natalie Torres. Main Library, 2 - 4 p.m.

Planet Pillows
Learn basic sewing terms, techniques and discover more about the solar system as you make your own planet pillow! Limited space; registration requires at the library. For ages 8-12. Pico Branch Library, 2 - 3 p.m.

Friday, July 19

Georgette Baker's Silly Songs and Goofy Stories
Silly stories and songs from a seasoned entertainer that will put you in stitches. For ages 4-11. (45 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2:30 - 3:15 p.m

Searching for Asteroids
Spacecraft engineer Eric Rice will talk about how Jet Propulsion Laboratory builds space telescopes to discover asteroids. For grades 6-12. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2 - 3 p.m.

Main Library Docent Tours
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Docents are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

Pet Adoption Luau
Apartments.com Retail Store located at: 1020 Wilshire Blvd. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Toy Maker Workshop: Star Glider
Design and build your own toy. Test out your star glider to see if it will fly! For grades K-5. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 3 - 4 p.m.

Meet Me at Reed
Outdoor performance series in Christine Emerson Reed Park. 3 - 7 p.m.

Movie: First Man (2018)
Join organizers on the fiftieth anniversary to the day of the Apollo 11 moon landing for a screening of this exciting film biography of astronaut Neil Armstrong, the "first man" to step foot on the moon. Starring Ryan Gosling, directed by Damien Chazelle. (141 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

From the Moon to Mars
Celebrate 50 years since humans landed on the moon! Join speakers from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the Planetary Society and the SETI Institute for a multimedia presentation and panel discussion on this historic event. Main Library, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

SM Reads: Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group
This book group reads and discusses prize-winning fiction. The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library. 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas

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

Dems pan 'Zuck buck,' want Facebook to rein in currency plan

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

Facebook endured a second day of criticism from Congress over its plan to create a digital currency as senior House Democrats asked Facebook to scale back the project and threatened legislation that would block big tech companies from getting into banking.

Facebook's massive market power and its record of scandals, fines and privacy breaches were on trial at a hearing Wednesday of the House Financial Services Committee. Lawmakers from both parties insisted they cannot trust the social network giant.

"I think you're pretty low on the trust spectrum right now, and understandably," Rep. Vicente Gonzalez, D-Texas, told David Marcus, the Facebook executive leading the project. It was Marcus' second straight day of tough questioning by lawmakers.

Among their concerns is the risk that the new currency, to be called Libra, could be used for illicit activity such as money laundering or drug trafficking. Lawmakers also worry that the massive reserve created with money used to buy Libra could supplant the Federal Reserve and destabilize the financial system, and that consumers could be hurt by Libra losses.

The committee's leader, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., has asked Facebook to suspend its plan for the new currency until regulators and lawmakers have a chance to fully review it. She renewed that demand to Marcus.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., asked that Facebook commit to starting with a pilot project with no more than a million users, overseen by the Federal Reserve.

If Facebook cannot meet that request, Maloney said, "then Congress should seriously consider stopping this project from moving forward."

Waters held out the prospect of legislation that would prohibit big tech companies such as Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple from becoming chartered or licensed as U.S. financial institutions, and thus able to offer banking services, and specifically from establishing a digital currency.

Facebook, marshaling its more than 2 billion users around the world, "is apparently trying to create a new global financial system that will compete with the U.S. dollar," Waters said.

The congressional criticism thickened the cloud over Facebook's plan, coming after negative statements and expressions of concern from the two most powerful financial regulators , Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, as well as from President Donald Trump himself.

In a rare endorsement of Trump's views, committee Democrats projected his negative tweets last week about cryptocurrencies and Libra on a giant electronic screen in the hearing room. Trump said Libra "will have little standing or dependability."

As he did at Tuesday's hearing by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Marcus repeatedly took pains to assure lawmakers that Facebook would not launch the currency project until it had received all the necessary approvals from regulators and secured safeguards to protect the privacy of users' data. He said Facebook will not control Libra because Facebook will be only one of about 100 companies and nonprofits in an association that will manage the currency.

Marcus said the plan would open low-cost online commerce to millions of people around the world who lack access to bank accounts and would make it cheaper to send money across borders.

He did not agree to a suspension of the plan or a pilot project.

"We will take the time to get this right," Marcus said.

He said Facebook isn't looking to base the Libra project in Switzerland in order to evade oversight, but because that country is recognized as an international financial center.

Acknowledging lawmakers' concerns over Facebook's record on data privacy , Marcus said, "I think trust is essential

SEE **FACEBOOK** PAGE 5

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Prosecutors say father intentionally drove boys off pier

A man was charged Wednesday with capital murder after prosecutors say he drove his family off a Los Angeles pier, killing his two severely autistic sons.

Ali Elmezayen (EL-mah-ZION) faces two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder and there's a special circumstance allegation that the killings were carried out for financial gain, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said.

Elmezayen is in federal custody on insurance fraud charges related to the 2015 pier plunge. Prosecutors in that case said he purchased $6 million in insurance policies to cover his family in the event of an accidental death.

A lawyer for Elmezayen, 44, could not be found. The murder case will proceed after the insurance fraud trial, set to begin Sept. 3, is completed. He has pleaded not guilty in that case.

Investigators said Elmezayen intentionally barreled off the edge of commercial fishing dock in San Pedro with his partner and two children inside the vehicle.

Elmezayen's car window was open, and he surfaced within 30 seconds and swam to a ladder on the pier. His partner, Rabab Diab, couldn't swim, but authorities said she was rescued by a fisherman after surfacing and screaming, "My kids, my kids."

"The poor lady was screaming hysterically," said fisherman Ray Prince. "I thought she was going to drown."

Two boys, Abdelkarim, 8, and Elhassan, 13, couldn't swim and were strapped in child seats. They were pulled lifeless from the car by rescue divers.

Elmezayen collected more than $260,000 in insurance payouts for the deaths and wired more than $170,000 back to his native Egypt, prosecutors in the fraud case said.

The district attorney initially declined to bring charges in the deaths because of insufficient evidence. A police mechanic found evidence that the brake pedal didn't properly work, but couldn't tell if that was the case before the tragedy or because of salt water corrosion.

Prosecutors said Wednesday the charges are a result of further investigation.

If convicted in the murder case, Elmezayen faces life in prison without parole, or the death penalty, although prosecutors have not decided on that possibility.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

California pot regulators struggling with job, audit says

The agency overseeing California's legal marijuana market has been overmatched by the job and is struggling to hire sufficient staff and set an overall strategy, an audit found.

The Bureau of Cannabis Control is authorized to hire 219 people, but only 75 positions have been filled, according to an audit by the state Finance Department.

While the cannabis bureau is in its relative infancy and has established a foundation to oversee the market, "the current status and location of personnel is not sustainable to provide effective and comprehensive oversight of cannabis activities throughout California," auditors said.

"The bureau does not have a comprehensive management strategy ... that identifies mission critical activities aligned with workload and available resources," said the audit, which was released earlier this month.

The problems outlined in the audit provide a backstory to the uneven rollout of the state's legal pot market, which is still competing with thriving underground sales. Legal cannabis is being sold around California, though it's unavailable in many areas because local governments have banned sales or not set up rules for the market to operate.

In a lengthy response, the Department of Consumer Affairs, which oversees the cannabis bureau, said the agency faced a rigid deadline to adopt regulations and begin issuing licenses by Jan. 1, 2018.

Regulators hit that target, but the agency acknowledged it faced a maze of shifting legislation and related requirements, including hiring staff, conducting studies, finding office space, entering into contracts for basic equipment and services, designing an online system and reviewing license applications.

The agency disputed some findings and argued that it met or exceeded its responsibilities despite the challenges.

SEE **COMMUNITY BRIEFS** PAGE 11



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LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

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

PRODUCTION
Grape Multimedia Productions
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

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

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

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Sustainable Quality Awards
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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What A Town!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

"DEATH OF A SALESMAN" by ARTHUR MILLER starring ROB MORROW (apparently I'm not the only one who likes this production of the 1949 Tony- and Pulitzer-winning play from the brilliant Arthur Miller because they've not only extended the run through Aug. 25 but have added Thurs shows but don't wait because five of those shows are already sold out, this talented ensemble gives this very challenging material all it deserves, Morrow is nuanced and riveting — and will not perform 8/16-17 only — but so is everyone else, Sarah Spitz did an interview with Morrow for her Culturewatch column and Tatiana Blackington James did an excellent review), Thurs-Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM Airport, $20-$35.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — "BLACK PANTHER" (Movie in the Park, why the heck not, great weather, terrific movie,worth seeing a second time, bring your own popcorn and drinks and save a bazillion dollars, hooray for Santa Monica!), Thurs, pre-show 7:30 p.m., movie 8:15 p.m.,Virginia Avenue Park, SM, free.

TONIGHT! — "YESTERDAY" (it would seem the LA Times film critic Justin Chang is one of the few people who didn't like this movie, even the remaining Beatles' families gave their rare permission to use the songs, and in his long review pouting that they didn't make the movie that he wanted made, he then violates the cardinal SPOILER ALERT! rule of Hollywood and reveals, straight off, practically every device and joke in the movie and so I have applied for a position at the Times because I too can go to a movie), Thurs-?, ArcLight, SM; The Landmark, West LA.

TONIGHT! — "PAVAROTTI" (haven't seen it but a reliable source said I must, perhaps it will make us Angelenos appreciate more our gift of another of the world's greatest tenors, LA Opera's director Placido Domingo, these cats have lived a life like only Sinatra or Elvis), Thurs-?, The Royal, W LA;

TONIGHT! — "ECHO IN THE CANYON" (another first-person account of rock and roll history, of and by the creative denizens of Laurel Canyon, no "Lady of the Canyon" herself Joni Mitchell but she moved there in '68 and the film covers '65-'67, it's good but Jakob Dylan is not the most dynamic front man and sadly several other really good, more worthwhile music films came and went after only a week yet this one marches on after more than a month now), Thurs-?, Monica Film Center, SM; The Landmark, W LA.

"DAVID CROSBY: REMEMBER MY NAME" (we're swimming in new films about old rockers and their interesting history, this one directed by A.J. Eaton and produced by former wunderkind rock journalist/film producer Cameron Crowe, it coaxes Crosby of The Byrds, Crosby, Stills & Nash and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young into unflinching



Courtesy image

SCREAMIN' JAY HAWKINS

candor as he confronts mortality and assesses the damage of earlier days with a redemptive journey back to music, choosing "living" over "legend" as he attempts to rebuild burned bridges the only way he knows how, by hitting the road despite serious health issues with a creative streak of fresh songs and performances), Fri-?, The Landmark, W LA, Q&A Fri 7:40 p.m., Sun 1 p.m.

ANAT COHEN, MARCELLO GONÇALVES (this sounds interesting, the Israeli clarinetist and Brazilian 7-string guitarist play intimate, lyrical compositions by Moacir Santos, DownBeat writes of their album, "Outra Coisa" achieves something very rare: It reduces the big band arrangements of the great Brazilian jazz composer Santos down to just two musicians, and their mastery is such as to render additional instruments superfluous."), Fri 8 P.M., Sam First, LAX, $15-$20.

RICKIE LEE JONES (maybe the best free music concert of the whole summer, which is sad not because the chance to see Rickie Lee isn't a rare delight but because we should have at least a dozen more artists of her calibre available, it's only because she is an off-beat artist that not everyone digs that this doesn't get a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED but for those who know her and love her work this one is off the charts, the MdR shows are always jam-packed so go early, like, leave now, maybe), Sat 7 p.m., Burton Chace Park, MdR, free.

TOOTS & THE MAYTALS, ZIGGY MARLEY (yes Costa Mesa is in Orange County but it's a lot closer than Jamaica and the ticket prices are modest and Toots is not only the guy whose song gave a name to an entire genre, he's not only one of the best singers ever in reggae, he's one of the best singers… ever), Sat 7:30 p.m., Pacific

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

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

Tourism Talks

By Misti Kerns

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Launches New Visitors Guide and Street Map

As the summer months are in full swing, sunny skies and warm weather have returned to the region. Many of us who live in Santa Monica will be hosting friends and family and are always looking for new ways to experience the beach city we call home. Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) is here to help!

Our newly launched 2019/2020 Official Visitors Guide and Map make for comprehensive resources on all that our world-class cities offers, for both residents and visitors alike. After all, our eight neighborhoods are quite diverse, each filled with a distinct personality and well-loved local businesses of their own. The map highlights just how walkable our 8.3 miles are, a message we want visitors to be well aware of during their travels.

The cover image of this year's Official Visitors Guide and Map features the cotton candy colors of a sunset as the sun sinks down over the Santa Monica Pier and waves lap against the shore. This year, SMTT launched a contest to find the cover image – a photograph that embodied the spirit of Santa Monica

The winning photography was taken by Ed Burns, a Santa Monica Community Service Officer who has long been a sunset enthusiast and captured the cover image on one of his many trips to the beach.

"I've loved watching sunsets since I moved to the beach as a kid, and then started photographing them... after I took my first photography class," Burns said.

"Over the past 2 1/2 decades, I've constantly watched the sky to see what type of cloud patterns are forming, and I would usually take a drive down to the beach if I believed we'd get a colorful sunset. I never felt a single frame could adequately capture the amazing beauty of a good sunset though, so I learned how to shoot panoramic photos and starting shooting most of my sunsets in that format."

A proud member of the community, Burns also shared that Santa Monica's beauty is found not only in its sunsets, but also in its people.

"I've met and known some amazing first responders over the years, but Santa Monica has (in my humble opinion) some of the finest law enforcement personnel I've ever known," he added.

This past January, SMTT also published the city's first-ever "Complete Guide to Street Art Murals in Santa Monica" on SantaMonica.com. The online guide provides a photo, address and - when possible - mural and artist name to provide visitors the easiest and most comprehensive way to explore Santa Monica's street art scene. Already a hit, it has been used domestically and internationally to promote the destination's vast arts and culture offerings. Now, we are thrilled to share that the guide has been repurposed into a beautiful and eye-catching printed map that can be used on-the-go!

To read, download or request the Santa Monica Official Visitor Guide and Map, visit https://www.santamonica.com/santa-monica-publications. Hosting an event, wedding or a celebration in Santa Monica? Email marketing@santamonica.com and we will be glad to provide materials for your welcome package.

His past January, SMTT published the city's first-ever "Complete Guide to Street Art Murals in Santa Monica" on SantaMonica.com. The online guide provides a photo, address and - when possible - mural and artist name to provide visitors the easiest and most comprehensive way to explore Santa Monica's street art scene. Already a hit, it has been used domestically and internationally to promote the destination's vast arts and culture offerings. Now, we are thrilled to share that the guide has been repurposed into a beautiful and eye-catching printed map that can be used on-the-go! The Santa Monica Street Art Maps will be distributed to all Santa Monica hotels and through the four Santa Monica Visitor Information Center locations where visitors and locals can pick them up for FREE. If you are interested in obtaining some FREE maps to have available for your customers, email marketing@santamonica.com

FACEBOOK

FROM PAGE 3

and it's clear we've made mistakes. We're owning these mistakes."

The committee's senior Republican, Rep. Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, said skepticism over the project is justified but the effort should not be prohibited outright. A thorough review is needed, "instead of a knee-jerk reaction of banning something before it begins," McHenry said.

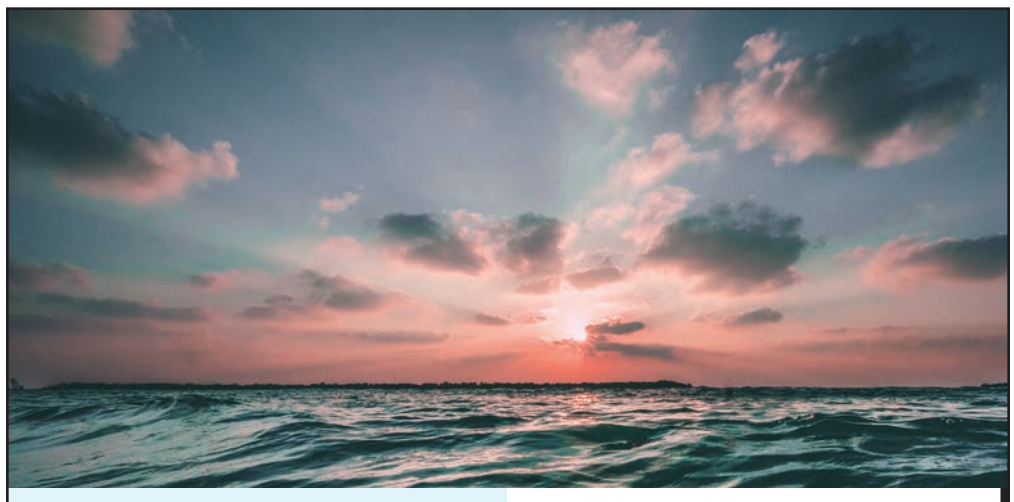
Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., said the legislation Waters is proposing to ban big tech companies from banking "has no constitutional basis."

Marcus' assurance that Facebook won't control Libra failed to convince Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., who focused on Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

"This is the Zuck buck," Sherman insisted. "This is a godsend to drug dealers" and other criminals. "Zuckerberg has billions but he doesn't have the authority to print more. ... This is an attempt to transfer enormous power from America to Facebook and its allies."

The planned digital currency is to be a blend of multiple currencies, which means the exchange rate will fluctuate.

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An Ongoing Plague Revisited



Photo by moses@algaimaging

PLAY: Colbert Alembert, Debi Tinsley, Mark Sande, Kiff Scholl and Greg Ivan Smith all together for David's 50th birthday party

It's been nearly 35 years since the beloved film star Rock Hudson died of a heretofore unknown disease called AIDS. At the time, Ronald Reagan, who had been a movie star himself (although not a beloved one) was president. He reacted to news of the malady that was soon to take the lives of a generation of men with indifference and denial. If he had access to the damning terminology of our current president, he might have dismissed this tragedy as "just a Chinese hoax."

In the wake of the ongoing plague, however, a galaxy of playwrights and screenwriters took on the burden of telling the world the stories of the dying victims. But to his everlasting shame, Reagan did nothing to help them. And neither did his wife, the manipulative Nancy.

Long recognized as a co-conspirator in her husband's activities, Nancy became the target of a number of writers who considered her responsible for abetting Reagan's non-response to this fatal disease.

The latest playwright to confront this subject is author and history professor Daniel Hurewitz, whose play "Nancy F***ing Reagan" is currently having its world premiere at The Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood.

The premise of the play is the 50th birthday in Palm Springs of a man named David (played by Kiff Scholl) whose party is being disrupted by the funeral of Nancy Reagan. A cortege of visitors arriving in Palm Springs to attend Nancy's public ceremony has tied up traffic into the city, much to the annoyance of David's friends. Arriving late and bedraggled, they express their contempt for Nancy and her decision to make a final visit to the place where she and "Ronnie" had a vacation home.

David, meanwhile, is watching the fading light of "the sun setting on my 40s" with his friend Maggie (Debi Tinsley) in the house she shares with her husband Richard. David, like the playwright, Hurewitz, is a gay history professor. Of Nancy, he says, "That woman took our youth," and adds mournfully, "I've spent so much of my life alone."

Finally, a motley mix of friends arrive for the birthday party.

They include Jason (Greg Ivan Smith) and his current lover, Kenny (Colbert Alembert) a young, light-skinned African-American. (David's friend Maggie is also a light-skinned African-American). And then there is Richard (Mark Sande), who keeps his cool and acts as a steadying influence on the others. ("Fifty is the new thirty," he reassures David.)

Richard is currently writing a movie about zombies, while Maggie, considered an expert on the Holocaust, is a dean at a local college. With the others they participate in a conversation that veers from racism to gayness to "Angels in America" to the Reagans "who watched us die."

In the midst of this, a student named Allison (Safiya Quinley) barges in to speak to the dean. She is so upset as she tells her story that her frenzied discourse sounds like she's speaking Chinese, or some other unintelligible language. She is a beautiful African-American and a determined activist, and has come to report that she was assaulted by her professor.

But gradually she gets involved in the ongoing discussion about racism. "Trying to 'pass' is a racist act," she says.

Also going on from time to time is an oleaginous television report from a newscaster named Erica (Amy Kersten) who delivers smarmy impressions of Nancy Reagan's funeral.

And finally, fueled by endless amounts of liquor, David denounces Nancy for having AIDS victims' "blood on her hands" and decides to go to her funeral and pour blood on her coffin. And Kenny agrees to go with him.

"Nancy F***ing Reagan" is well directed by Larry Margo, and the ensemble delivers cogent arguments with sincerity, as well as

SEE **PLAY TIME** PAGE 11

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Momo Dumplings

Tara's Himalayan cuisine

I read somewhere that people are genetically programmed to find mates outside their tribes to be more attractive than those within their own tribes. I don't know if that's true or not, but I think that rule is true with respect to food. I grew up in a small town in Illinois where we ate traditional mid-western foods. Our dining fare consisted of fried chicken, T-bone steaks, local vegetables, salads, and since we were on the Wisconsin border, lots of cheese. On moving to Los Angeles, however, I found my food preferences changed from those of my childhood to a variety of ethnic foods. So, when I saw Tara's Himalayan Cuisine had opened in Santa Monica, I was quick to take my family there. The word must have spread for we weren't the only customers lining up to eat that evening, as the restaurant was packed. Since we had to wait a few minutes for a table, I quizzed the departing customers on how they liked the food, and received a thumbs up from everyone.

So, what is Himalayan food? Tara's menu is divided into three categories: Nepalese, Tibetan,



Merv Hecht

MOMO: Himalayan dumplings are on the menu.

SEE **THE REVIEW** PAGE 10



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 18)

Your cosmic birthday gift will be an extremely useful one: You'll have an uncanny knack for understanding and modifying your own moods, making it possible to change your emotional state at will. Keep researching your wishes. It's how you'll find dream situations to plug into, and things happen quickly from there. Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 42, 35, 11 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may feel a great deal of pressure in the fact that someone is coming to you for answers, but you can relax about this. You don't have to know anything special. The best you can do is hold up a mirror.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Minding your own business may sound like a bossy directive, but it's actually a path to freedom and increased energy. If you're careful not to make things about you that needn't be, you'll have more energy for your own enjoyment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maybe, on a planet hurtling 1,000 miles an hour through space, control is largely an illusion. But it's a sorely need one. Create it for another person today and you'll experience ease and gratitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't need to know everything about the subject at hand because you're going to specialize and get really terrific at one part of the puzzle. Narrow your focus. You'll learn best when you learn less.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Invite that highest iteration of your mental process to take charge and you'll receive a vision. The vision is of you living your best life – or at least this is one possible version of it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Can you improve things by transferring responsibility to someone more capable, knowledgeable or lucky? Not really. Not today, anyway. Or rather, it's costly and possibly lazy, whereas a DIY approach will bring you good fortune.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The "why" question is most helpfully directed from you to you. It is not a good question to ask of the people on your team because it's usually an accusation. Move on to the "how" and "what" questions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In every relationship there comes a time when one or both parties needs to recalibrate. If you're paying attention and making small adjustments along the way, this shouldn't be too big of a deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's someone behind the scenes who has the power to implement or block your plan. This person may not be directly or officially the authority but nonetheless possess influence that outsizes his or her role.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your self-esteem is a fickle metric. Just remember that it is, after all, just an opinion. Even so, if being around a person seems to have a consistently negative influence on your self-esteem, just leave.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Point everyone toward solving your problem, and then you won't be working on it alone. The people around you may not exactly jump into helping mode, but the mental wheels will turn. This is a start.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You want to agree to something, but agreement isn't just saying yes. Agreement becomes action and then habit, and before you know it, the agreement is a lifestyle. Think it over and through.

Mars and Pluto Skywrite

As far as omens go, this Mars and Pluto situation may as well be skywriting. As is the case with most skywriting scenarios, the limitations of the medium favor a very simple message, the fewer characters the better. Mars and Pluto are ideal clients in this regard, as their message is quite short. "GO!"

DEVELOP YOUR INTUITION, LIBRA

The connection Libra has with loved ones is the root of Libra's intuition. It's as though there are invisible cords that entwine Libra's soul with the soul of each person Libra loves. This connection is strongest with Libra's chosen partners. It transcends time and space. Libra can send and receive messages through this cord regardless of where the other person is in the world, and even beyond, after a loved one has passed into other dimensions. When this happens, Libra often experiences special times of luck in which he or she may believe that the partner who has passed is gifting insight and help from the other side.

Here's an exercise to strengthen Libra's intuitive powers: Sit quietly and with one hand lightly touching the heart, like you would during the Pledge of Allegiance. Focus on your breath, slowly in and out. Choose a loved one, and hold this person's thought in your heart. Place your other hand on your navel. Imagine a silver cord stretching from you to the other person. Ask, "If my loved one has something to express to me, what might it be?" Let yourself float on the wings of this question, detached and listening to the answers.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

The Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla Parker Bowles, assists the Prince of Wales on his official duties and executes a full schedule of her own charitable responsibilities. The Duchess's sun, moon, Mercury and Venus are all in Cancer, the sign of maternal energy and patriotism. This preponderance of hard-shelled cosmic crab energy offers protection from the slings and arrows of public life. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Ideogram
noun [id-ee-uh-gram, ahy-dee-]. A written symbol that represents an idea or object directly rather than a particular word or speech sound, as a Chinese character.

Heathcliff

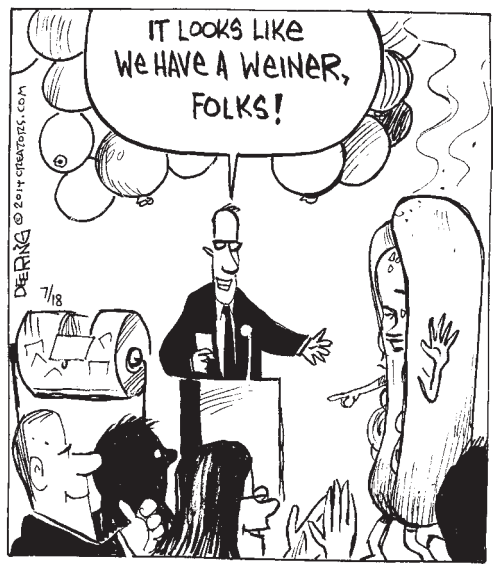
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S DRINKING THE UNPASTEURIZED."

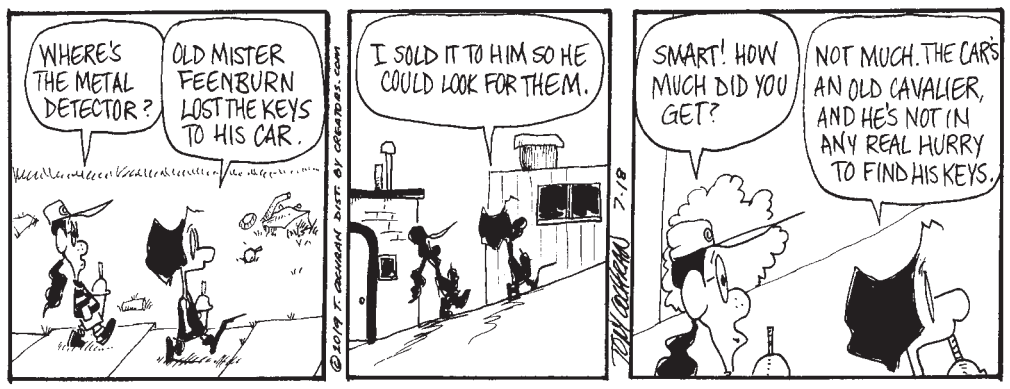
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



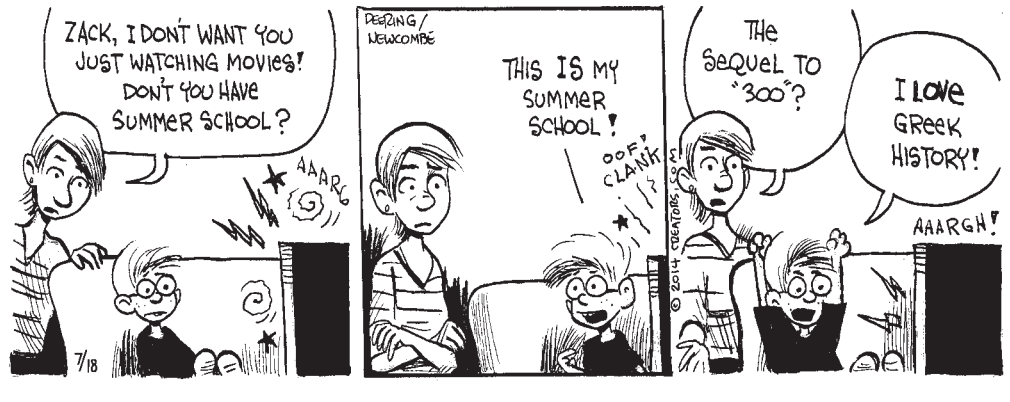
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 07/13
13 23 32 35 68
Power#: 21
Jackpot: $40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 07/26
8 16 31 48 52
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: $145 M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 07/13
1 13 18 20 30
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: $62 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 07/16
10 13 24 25 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 07/16
Midday: 5 4 8
Draw Date: 07/17
Evening: 7 8 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 07/15
1st: 6 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 8 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
3rd: 1 - GOLD RUSH
RACE TIME: 1:43.98

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



SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 70.3°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
SW swell continues as old SSW swell drops out - summer breaks offer the most size.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Easing SW/SSW swells - summer beaks offer the most size.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

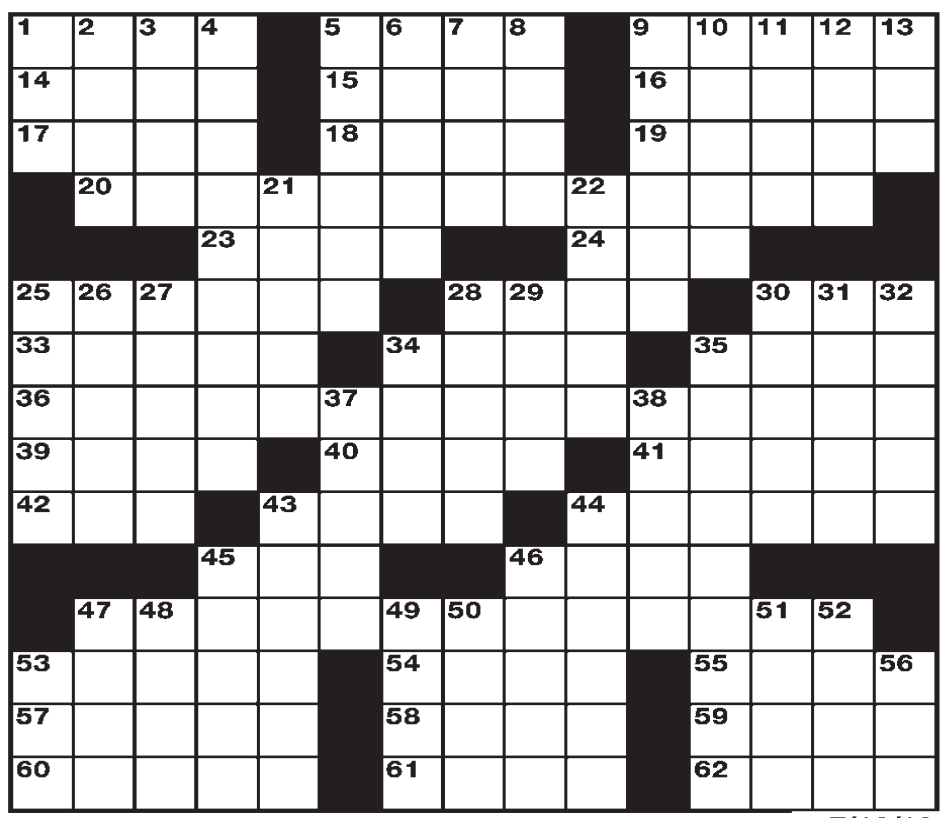
1			7	2	8		9	
9		8	6			3		
	5			9		6		2
			2			5		
6	7		8		5		2	9
		5			3			
7		9		3			5	
		4			2	7		3
	8		5	1	7			6

Newsday Crossword

COOKBOOK ISLE by Pam Klawitter
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Bills thought to be bad luck
5 Group of predators
9 Southwestern wolves
14 Sworn statement
15 Hanker
16 Prone to bungling
17 Salsa bandleader Puente
18 Shape of some medals
19 Spots for yachts
20 __ *: The Chicken Handbook*
23 Concourse, for instance
24 Family member
25 Guys from Guatemala
28 Irish John
30 Brief vogue
33 "Let's do this!"
34 Bug-catching phase
35 Volcano shape
36 __*: Spice Up Old Recipes*
39 Ranges of knowledge
40 High level
41 Waring competitor
42 Circular segment
43 Bog growth
44 Major inconvenience
45 Sound heard in 45 Down
46 *Chicago* actor
47 __*: Baking for Kids*
53 Inflation problems
54 Senior advocate
55 Shouts of encouragement
57 Shoreline shelters
58 Celluloid footage
59 Shortening of a sort
60 "Cut that out!"
61 Different from these
62 Cuts it out

DOWN
1 Little one
2 Ragamuffin
3 Comics canine in uniform
4 Retail display areas
5 Newly arrived chickpea products
6 Took steps
7 Overtoast
8 *The King and I* actress
9 Big name in small bags
10 Pizza topping
11 Ballpark purchase
12 Nashville show, for short
13 Canonized grp.
21 SNL producer Michaels
22 Designer Mizrahi
25 Port of Alaska
26 Erstwhile anesthetic
27 Timberlake's former boy band
28 Medieval working class
29 *Floride* or *Pennsylvanie*
30 Selections prior to printing
31 Common Christmas ornament
32 Farm machine giant
34 Vocal disapproval
35 Shepherd's pie, e.g.
37 Escalator's start or finish
38 Amass to excess
43 Hair holder
44 Distress call
45 Doves' dwellings
46 Brownies and Cadettes
47 Icy mass
48 Chocolate __ cake (molten-center dessert)
49 Small eatery
50 Approve enthusiastically
51 Flamboyant style
52 Obsessive fan
53 Radio regulator
56 Now-revived '60s protest org.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/18/19

THE REVIEW

FROM PAGE 7

and Indian. One popular dish is the soup dumplings, called "Momo," which is served on a plate of six — three chicken and three stuffed with vegetables. Personally, I preferred the vegetable dumplings mainly because of the texture. Although it seems that the Himalayan diet does not feature as much sliced bread and baked products as offered in Indian food, a variety of Naan and other breads are on the menu. The more traditional dishes I've read about were not prevalent, some of which include pungent stews with a sour taste and certain types of pickled vegetables. Also missing from the menu is a dish called Tsukuti, which is dried meat with spices and vegetables, and Samay Baji, which is a Nepalese traditional mixed plate consisting of beaten rice (Chyura,) bara, barbecued and marinated buffalo meat, (Chhwela,) fried boiled egg, black soybeans (Bhatmaas,) spicy potato salad (Aalu-Wala,) finely cut ginger (Palu,) boiled beans mixed with spices,

(Bodi ko Achar,) green leaves, (Saag) and Ayla, an alcohol found in Nepal's Newar community. Although I didn't see any of those dishes on the menu, it is possible they are listed under different names.

It was difficult to distinguish the food from Indian dishes offered in restaurants all around Los Angeles. That said, and forgetting for a moment whether the dishes are really representative of Nepal or more like traditional Indian dishes, we found the food surprisingly good. The lamb shank, hard to find in Los Angeles these days, was very good. The Chicken Tikka Masala, which is said to be the most common dish currently served in England, ranked way up there and was as good as any I've had. The Eggplant Curry was well seasoned and a number of people were eating curry dishes. I asked if they liked their food, (I'm quite a nuisance at restaurants) and got a lot of thumbs up. There were some dishes with yak meat, which we didn't try, and many of the dishes were represented as having special Nepalese spices, but I personally didn't find them to be very unique. For me to become more knowledgeable about the differences between Himalayan cuisine vs. specific Indian, Tibetan, or Nepalese dishes is going to take some time. However, the food was so good that my continuing "research" is going to be a great pleasure. As to my family's dining experienced that evening, everyone enjoyed the dishes they ordered and found them to be excellent. Accordingly, I strongly recommend this restaurant, but will probably wait until they can serve beer before I go back.

Tara's Himalayan Cuisine is at 262 26th Street in Santa Monica. The telephone is (424) 744-8948. They are open 7 days a week from 11 to 9 p.m. (There's one advantage to allowing open immigration, the immigrants tend to work harder and longer hours than locals.)

Openings: A new restaurant called "Mason," located at 108 W. Channel Road in Santa Monica, has opened down the street from where I live in Santa Monica Canyon. It occupies a space which has been the site of many restaurants over the years, including,

"Les Anges," which specialized in a delicious lobster dish infused with an anisette based liquor, which was injected with a hypodermic needle. Unfortunately, the chef moved to Hawaii and the restaurant went out of business. More recently the "Hungry Cat" operated in that space and we loved going down there on Monday nights to enjoy the oysters, and we were disappointed when it closed. I'll be writing about "Mason," which lists itself as "A classic American chophouse with a modern upswing," as soon as I have a chance to experience it. Meanwhile, a few feet up the street is the revised "Golden Bull," the original of which has been at that location for many years. The new iteration is wonderful and every time I've been there, the restaurant was crowded. There's no question that the restaurants in Santa Monica Canyon are getting better and better. Let's hope Mason can break the spell and hang in there.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur" and it is available on Amazon. Or you might like his attempt at humor in "Great Cases I Lost." He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and beverages, including wines, internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

PROPERTY

FROM PAGE 1

said.

In California, a property's value for tax purposes increases when it is sold or developed because of Proposition 13. The 1978 state law taxes property based on its assessed 1976 values with up to 2% annual increases for inflation, unless it changes hands or is substantially improved.

"If you bought your house in Santa Monica in 1975, you have a lot of wealth in your home," Prang said.

Single-family homes make up about 45% of the city's total assessed property value and commercial and industrial property comprise 37%. Although multi-family homes represent only 18%, the value of apartments and condominiums has grown by almost a third over the past five years, said Michael E. Drandell, CEO of Goldrich Kest, a real estate development and management company.

"More people want to live in Santa Monica, but there's a dearth of new apartment products on the market," said Drandell, a Santa Monica resident. "Therefore, you have a classic case of supply and demand; more going after less, prices go up."

Because assessed values of existing properties only rise when they are sold, he added, the properties that would fetch the highest prices on the market aren't necessarily in Santa Monica.

"If every single house in Beverly Hills was sold today, the growth in assessed values would completely blow every other city out of the water," Drandell said.

The assessed value of all Beverly Hills property in 2019 was $36.6 billion, the fourth-highest in the county and a 7% increase over last year. Elsewhere on the Westside, Malibu grew a modest 5% this year to $16.9 billion, West Hollywood saw an 11% jump to $12.2 billion and Culver City swelled 9% to $11 billion.

The size of a city has little impact on its property values, said Robert Kalonian, the county assessor's public information officer.

"Santa Monica being an 8-square-mile city is typically not relevant," he said. "As an example, West Hollywood is 1.9 square miles but usually comes in at the top 10 (in total assessed property values) each year because of its high values, frequent sales activity and high level of construction."

madeleine@smdp.com

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 JULY 8 AT APPROXIMATELY 9:35 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to 300 Wilshire for an unknown trouble call. The suspect approached the victim and forcefully removed the victim's keys and headphones. The suspect was apprehended by witnesses to the crime and held until officers arrived. While officers were on scene, they learned the suspect detained was related to an attempt carjacking that occurred at 4th and Wilshire minutes prior to this incident. Abel Andrade, 23, from Los Angeles, was arrested for robbery, attempted carjacking and possession of a controlled substance.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 367 CALLS ON JULY 16

Strongarm robbery 800blk Montana Ave 1:35 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 2:33 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 2nd St / Colorado Ave 2:51 a.m.
Prowler 700blk Cedar St 3:56 a.m.
Encampment 1200blk Palisades Park 4:46 a.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 4th St 5:15 a.m.
Burglary 1600blk Hill St 8:55 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Santa Monica Pier 9:02 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 200blk Palisades Ave 9:07 a.m.
Animal related incident 500blk Broadway 9:16 a.m.
Burglary 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 9:19 a.m.
Drinking in public 6th St / Ashland Ave 9:26 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk Olympic Blvd 9:29 a.m.
Battery 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 9:30 a.m.
Petty theft 400blk Lincoln Blvd 9:57 a.m.
Speeding 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:34 a.m.
Hit and run 2600blk Colorado Ave 10:38 a.m.
Panhandling 1400blk 2nd St 10:40 a.m.
Fraud 1000blk 12th St 10:46 a.m.
Burglary 2800blk Neilson Way 11:10 a.m.
Missing person 1900blk Pico Blvd 11:23 a.m.
Person with a gun 300blk 15th St 11:46 a.m.
Burglary 2500blk 7th St 12:10 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2600blk Highland Ave 12:18 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:49 p.m.
Panhandling 1500blk 2nd St 12:55 p.m.
Out of order traffic signals 26th St / Olympic Blvd 1:06 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 3000blk Airport Ave 1:22 p.m.
Grand theft auto 800blk Ocean Ave 1:35 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300blk 6th St 1:43 p.m.
Fraud 1500blk Princeton St 2:01 p.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic Dr 2:28 p.m.
Person with a gun 2900blk 31st St 2:32 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1200blk California Ave 2:56 p.m.
Person with a gun 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:13 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk 11th St 3:24 p.m.
Abandoned vehicle 1300blk 15th St 3:44 p.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1500blk Montana Ave 4:02 p.m.
Fight 2400blk Pico Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Identity theft 2400blk Chelsea Pl 4:10 p.m.
Traffic collision - unkn injuries 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:27 p.m.
Petty theft 400blk Raymond Ave 4:50 p.m.
Identity theft 1100blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:08 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2800blk Highland Ave 5:11 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 500blk Montana Ave 5:25 p.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:25 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 300blk Ashland Ave 5:32 p.m.
Auto burglary 600blk San Vicente Blvd 5:33 p.m.
Person with a gun 2000blk Ocean Ave 5:41 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 1400blk Princeton St 5:46 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 300blk Ashland Ave 6:09 p.m.
Burglary 2800blk Neilson Way 6:11 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100blk 3rd St 6:14 p.m.
Child abuse 1300blk Berkeley St 6:16 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:21 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 49 CALLS ON JULY 16

EMS 1100blk Arizona Ave 12:01 a.m.
EMS 2300blk California Ave 12:10 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Kansas Ave 12:59 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 2:13 a.m.
EMS 100blk Broadway 2:19 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 5th St 3:08 a.m.
EMS 2900blk 3rd St 3:30 a.m.
EMS 600blk Pico Blvd 3:50 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Main St 4:14 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 4:21 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2500blk Pico Blvd 5:01 a.m.
Electrical fire - no fire visible 1100blk 6th St 5:41 a.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 5:49 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Main St 5:51 a.m.
EMS 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:39 a.m.
Odor of natural gas 2700blk Pico Blvd 7:34 a.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 7:40 a.m.
EMS 900blk 11th St 7:42 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 20th St 7:50 a.m.
EMS 16th St / Pearl St 8:32 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Michigan Ave 8:52 a.m.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

Amphitheater, Costa Mesa, $28-$58.

MEET ME AT REED presents THE SANTA MONICA JAZZ ALL-STARS (classics and originals), Sat 5-7 p.m., Reed Park, SM, free.

WILL GEER'S THEATRICUM BOTANICUM presents "MOBY DICK-REHEARSED" (based on Orson Welles' 1955 adaptation of the novel, it sounds like it requires a lot of "acting," no whales, no ship — cool!) Sat 4 p.m. and various Fri-Sat-Sun through Sept. 29, T. Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$42;

"THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH" (set in WWII-era New Jersey and the Ice Age, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play from 1942 uses humor, history and mythology to shine a light on man's primal drive to carry on, it's oblique, mysterious, confusing, thought-provoking and wonderful and Wilder acknowledges it by occasionally knocking down the fourth wall with lines like, "… that is the DUMBEST line I have ever had to speak in a play!" — spoken by Willow Geer as Sabina, who single-handedly delivers the funniest first third of a play I have ever laughed through, followed by Wilder getting pretty somber and messing with our heads, I thought maybe it was an adaptation WGTB is famous for but an actor told me nope, every word is Wilder's, oh my), Sat, 8 p.m. and various Fri-Sat-Sun through Sept. 29, Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$42;

"TWELFTH NIGHT" (they're known for their mastery of The Bard), Sun 4 p.m. and various Fri-Sat-Sun through Sept. 28, W.G.'s Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$42;

"AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE" ("Freely Adapted and Directed by Ellen Geer" but that's a good thing, a very good thing, as the daughter of founder Will Geer has maintained a ridiculously high standard at this magical outdoor canyon theater that has lasted 46 years), Sun 8 p.m. and various Fri-Sat-Sun through Sept. 28, W.G.'s T. Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$42.

LA PHIL, DUDAMEL, MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 2 — "Resurrection" (OK now we're talkin', Gustavo the Great doing one of the things he does best, m'man Mahler, starting the 2nd with a funeral, oh joy but then running the gamut of life's experiences and human emotions we wind up in a vocal-instrumental typhoon that takes us straight to the Promised Land — and then you exit and fight the traffic home), Tues 8 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $8-$123.

LA PHIL, DUDAMEL, YUJA WANG (love the range of the program, from Barber's famous, gorgeous Adagio for Strings through John Adams' well-named Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes? to Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 driven by acclaimed, charismatic pianist Wang), next Thurs, 8 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $8-$132.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

LED KAAPANA, 7/26, PETER ASHER & ALBERT LEE, 8/2, 8/4, PAUL BARRERE & FRED TACKETT, 8/3. McCabe's, SM; SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, 7/27, Meet Me at Reed Park, SM, free; MICHAEL MCDONALD, CHAKA KHAN, 7/31, Hollywood Bowl; JON BATISTE, 8/3, KRONOS QUARTET, 8/8, Burton W. Chace Park, MdR, free; FARTBARF, Numb.er, 8/15, Levitt Pavilion, LA, free; every Fri-Sat, 7 p.m., live bands, mostly country-folk-rock, call for schedule, LA's Original Farmers Market, free.

BODACIOUS BIRTHDAYS:

Here's a mad triumvirate — SCREAMIN' JAY HAWKINS "I Put A Spell on You" (1929), DION DIMUCCI "The Wanderer" (1939) and gonzo "journalist" HUNTER S. THOMPSON "Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas" (1937).

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

PLAY TIME

FROM PAGE 6

participating in some irrelevant, and often silly, activities. But all in all, it's a well-spent two hours.

The play runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 through August 4. The Secret Rose Theatre is located at 11246 W. Magnolia Blvd. in North Hollywood. To reserve tickets, visit nfrnfr.eventbrite.com, and for discount tickets use the promo code "NFRNFR" when purchasing from Eventbrite.

Cynthia Citron has lived and worked on every continent except Antarctica as a journalist, award-winning magazine editor, public relations director, and screenwriter. She can be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

"Unlike most state government programs, the bureau was simultaneously starting from the ground up on multiple fronts," the response said.

The audit did not examine two other agencies with a hand in pot regulation – the Department of Food and Agriculture, which oversees cultivation, and the Public Health Department, which regulates manufacturers.

MICHAEL R. BLOOD ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles police officer charged with off-duty rapes

A Los Angeles police officer has been charged with committing two rapes while off duty, authorities said Wednesday.

Officer William Rodriguez was arrested Tuesday after an investigation into a reported sexual assault of an acquaintance in November 2018 and DNA linked him to an unsolved sexual assault in August 2015, a Police Department statement said.

It was not immediately clear if Rodriguez had a lawyer who could comment on the allegations.

The department said the 10-year veteran assigned to a traffic division was in custody and had been relieved of police powers.

"When one of our own breaks the trust of the people we are sworn to protect and to serve, it tarnishes the badge we all wear proudly on our chests," Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Rodriguez was expected to be arraigned Thursday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Prosecutors recommended that his bail be set at $1.2 million. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 30 years to life in prison.

The board of directors of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers, said if the allegations are true, "this officer's conduct is sickening, and an absolute disgrace."

The union said it hoped the reputations of other officers would not be tarnished.

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