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Scooter crackdown resulted in zero tickets, zero fees for scooter companies

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

A highly visible education campaign aimed to get electric scooters off the Strand yielded no tickets and no impounded scooters, despite the city's stance the devices are illegal on the beach path. Rather, police stopped approximately 900 riders between Friday and Sunday, encouraging them to park the scooters on the curb and walk instead.

Rather than impounding the devices, Lt. Saul Rodriguez with the Santa Monica Police Department said about 300 electric scooters were "taken for safekeeping for vendors" Bird and Lime who picked them up from City Yards for free.

In March, the City Council approved an emergency ordinance to allow the city to collect a $60 impound fee for any "shared

SEE **CRACKDOWN** PAGE 7

Officials: Prop 10 could be catastrophic without companion measure

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

While most news stories lead with controversy, in order to avoid any confusion, let's start with what city officials can actually agree on: the City Council debate tonight is not about Proposition 10, the controversial ballot measure that would undo a key rent control restriction in the State of California.

Rather, the debate is about how to stop a potential calamity here if it passes: 1978-level rent on new 2018 and 2019 leases. Officials

SEE **RENT** PAGE 7

Sexual Harassment in the workplace panel

CHELSEA SEIFER
Daily Press Intern

As new accusations and stories of sexual misconduct continue to surface everyday, Santa Monica wants to tackle this issue at home.

The Santa Monica Democratic Club (SMDC) will host a discussion panel at the Santa Monica Public Library MLK Auditorium (601 Santa Monica Blvd.) at 7 p.m. on Wed., July 25 addressing the subject. SMDC board member and women's activist Barbi Appelquist will moderate and panelists include

SEE **HARASSMENT** PAGE 6









Jacob Wilkes

TWIST OF LIME:

While Santa Monica officials worked to keep electric scooters off the beach path this weekend, Lime hosted an education event just down the beach path in Venice on Sunday to promote thier shared devices and teach users safe riding.


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, July 24

Bogafit Class

BogaFit Class 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Try a high-intensity workout on a floating platform. $15 per class includes parking pass. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Family Fort Night

Build your own fort and read stories in it with your family at the library. For families. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 6 – 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting

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

Ice Cream Bars Soap-Making Workshop

Create scented handmade soap in the shape of ice cream bars! Call (310) 458-8684 to Register. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

ASR Time Travel Tuesdays: Star Trek (2009)

A rift in time puts the crew of the Enterprise on a new course, and they will have to rely on each other to save Earth from destruction. (126 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 – 5 p.m.

Summer Activity Program: Musical Moments From The Wizard Of Oz

Puppets & Player Little Theatre presents beloved songs from the film. Ages 4-11. Free tickets will be available at 2 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

Design in 3D: Eiffel Tower

Use Tinkercad to design a model of the Eiffel Tower for 3D printing. Skills learned can be applied to create a variety of fun and useful 3D printable objects. No experience required. Main Library, 601 Santa Moncia Blvd. 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Smartphone Photography Tips & Tricks for Teens

Get practical and easy tips to help you elevate your smartphone photography. For ages 11-18. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Summer Activity Program: Puppet & Magic Show

Help Davey Dog make the right decisions to get home. Space is limited. Free tickets available 30 minutes before the show. Ages 4-11. [45 min] Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Pool Open

The pool will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Passes go on sale at 9 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

The Dolphin Tank: Media Tech in LA

Hosted by Springboard with Project W and Davis Wright Tremaine 6 p.m. Abacus Wealth Partners.
429 Santa Monica Boulevard, Register to attend: https://mediate-chla.splashthat.com/ Apply to pitch: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6YfAnb7TTMCypkoa6p8TcQ9Io_HI9GMpfTpAeeI1QUNJsCQ/viewform

Wedenesday, July 25

Fall in Love with Japan with Sheila Stone

Professional tour guide Sheila Stone takes us on a breathtaking visual journey through the landscape of Japan. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 7 – 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 26

Beach Eats

Beach Eats is a weekly food truck gathering at Marina "Mother's" Beach on summer Thursdays through September 27, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. New this year, enjoy live music from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. while you picnic by the sea! Bring your own beach chair and enjoy the free show. Visitmarinadelrey.com/beacheats; 424-526-7900.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Chinese turtle-smuggling flight attendants fined in LA

Two flight attendants for a Chinese airline were fined and ordered to leave the United States within 72 hours Monday for attempting to smuggle dozens of spotted and box turtles in carry-on bags from Los Angeles to China.

U.S. District Judge S. James Otero ordered Chinese nationals Huaqian Qu, 41, and Renfeng Gao, 31, to pay $5,500 each to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before returning to China within three days.

They were also sentenced to three years of probation.

The two China Eastern Airlines attendants pleaded guilty last month to a federal conspiracy charge, which carries a possible penalty of up to five years behind bars, said the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Qu and Gao were arrested at Los Angeles International Airport on May 12 after special agent Juan Ramirez Amezcua found a total of 31 live spotted turtles and 14 live box turtles in both attendants' luggage, according to an affidavit filed in the case.

The two attendants were flagged for inspection after a Transportation Security Administration inspector detected "unusual round objects" in their bags while conducting an X-ray luggage check, the document shows.

"Flight crewmembers could take advantage of the exemptions that crewmembers have to smuggle prohibited items such as wildlife," TSA officials said in the document.

The turtles could have been worth more than $40,000 in Asia, where there is a "robust market" for turtle species native to the United States, according to Amezcua.

While prosecutors argued for 10-month prison sentences, Otero said the smuggling offense "was not violent," and the probationary sentences with fines were "sufficient."

BY ARIEL TU, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Ex-LA school board chief pleads guilty in corruption case

The former president of the Los Angeles school board has pleaded guilty to reimbursing campaign contributions to friends and family members and resigned from his most recent position as a board member.

Under an agreement with prosecutors, Ref Rodriguez pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to commit an assumed name contribution and four similar misdemeanor counts.

The 47-year-old was sentenced to three years of probation and two months of community service.

Rodriguez had resigned from his position as president of the school board last year after he was charged with more than a dozen counts involving campaign fundraising violations.

He remained a board member but resigned from that position on Monday.

Prosecutors say Rodriguez and a cousin reimbursed nearly $25,000 in campaign contributions made by his family and friends.

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FOLSOM

Californians urged to conserve power during heat wave

The operator of California's electrical grid is calling for voluntary conservation of power due to high temperatures in most of the West, reduced electricity, tight natural gas supplies in the Southern California area and high wildfire risk.

The California Independent System Operator says a so-called Flex-Alert will go into effect statewide from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

The measure is aimed at conserving power in the hours when air conditioners are typically at peak use.

The National Weather Service issued an excessive-heat warning Monday morning for almost all of Southern California through Thursday.

Heat advisories will go into effect Tuesday up the Central Coast and through the Central Valley into Oregon.

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BURBANK

Activist to star as TV's first transgender superhero

A transgender activist who won a discrimination lawsuit after her school refused to let her use the girls' bathroom will be TV's first transgender superhero.

Nicole Maines will star in The CW/Warner Bros.' "Supergirl" as Nia Nal, aka Dreamer. Producers describe her character as a "soulful young transgender woman with a fierce drive to protect others."

Maines gained national attention for her battle against her Orono, Maine school district over her right to use the girls' bathroom.

Maine's highest court ruled in 2014 that school officials violated state anti-discrimination law when they required her to use a staff restroom.

It was the first time a state high court concluded that a transgender person should use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify.

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LOS ANGELES

More sue USC over handling of sex harassment allegations

More than 50 former and current students of the University of Southern California said Monday in a new lawsuit that the school mishandled complaints that a longtime gynecologist engaged in inappropriate behavior during pelvic exams.

The number of people suing USC and Dr. George Tyndall now tops a hundred, following the new court filing by the firm D. Miller and Associates.

California's state Department of Education said last month it was investigating USC's response to allegations that Tyndall groped female students during campus office visits and improperly photographed and made comments about the women's bodies.

Complaints made as early as 1990 were not fully investigated until 2016, the agency said. Tyndall, 71, retired in 2017.

USC officials did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the latest lawsuit.

Tyndall could not be reached Monday but he has denied wrongdoing.

He has not been charged with a crime but police are investigating allegations from dozens of women and more than 400 students made complaints through a university hotline. USC has said it is cooperating with the investigations.

"A blind eye was turned towards these women's pleas for help," attorney Andy Rubenstein said in a statement Monday. "USC's inexcusable inaction gave Dr. Tyndall the opportunity to abuse countless more patients over many years."

Tyndall, 71, was suspended with pay in 2016 and retired the next year with a financial payout from USC.

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LOS ANGELES

Suburban teen acquitted in South Los Angeles gang killing

An 18-year-old man was acquitted Monday for his alleged role in a gang-related killing in South Los Angeles last year when he was a senior at a suburban high school.

Cameron Terrell was found not guilty of one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder, City News Service reported. He had pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Prosecutors said the white teen from upscale Palos Verdes allegedly joined a predominantly black Los Angeles street gang. Terrell was identified in a complaint with the moniker "White Boy."

Police said he drove the car involved in the October 2017 shooting death of Justin Holmes, 21. Holmes had no gang affiliations, authorities said. Two juveniles were arrested along with Terrell and were charged with murder.

Surveillance video showed the 16-year-old alleged shooter and the other teenager jumping into the back seat of a black Mercedes-Benz sedan after the shooting. The car was registered to Terrell's father and was typically driven by Terrell, investigators said.

Defense attorney Jovan Blacknell told jurors his client didn't know anyone was going to be shot on a Sunday in broad daylight.

"Cameron didn't expect to hear gunshots. He didn't expect any of this to happen," said Blacknell, questioning why Terrell would drive "his daddy's car" if he knew there was going to be a shooting.

A police officer testified at a previous hearing that a photo found by investigators on the defendant's cellphone showed a young man who appeared to be Terrell making a hand sign derogatory to a rival gang.

Terrell was released from custody last year on a $5 million bond. His family pulled him from classes at Palos Verdes High School after other parents labeled him as a danger to students.

Terrell's attorney has said his client is working toward finishing his high school education. He did not say whether Terrell is being home-schooled or attending classes elsewhere.

The status of the case against the two teens arrested with Terrell was not immediately available.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Publicity Stunt By Police

THE SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT impounded over one hundred Bird and Lime e-scooters this past weekend and did a masterful job with the publicity and public relations efforts to increase awareness that the e-scooters are not to be used on the bike path. There were photos of the lined up e-scooters, and then they were tossed willy-nilly into the back of a truck with the stereotypical handsome police officer looking tough. The pictures made the rounds of Facebook, NextDoor and other social media outlets.

I get it. E-scooters are nothing more than this summer's Pokemon Go madness. The social hysteria and fascination with the e-scooters is facing tremendous backlash and the "law and order" contingent is out in full force to rail against this summer's fun. It makes for great photo ops, it lets the police look like they're all about protect and serve and the anti-scooter lobby feels vindicated.

This is a PR goldmine for the SMPD. They can't go wrong with this awareness campaign. Seriously, who is going to be against safer streets and rider safety? I mean how do you stand up against the armed officers (even if they are in short pants!) and say "you're being a buzzkill, man" and point out the hypocrisy of their actions?

Like this: The police do not regularly, consistently and equitably enforce the law and to choose to enforce this particular code section, on this particular day, which just so happens to have a photographer right there and a press release ready to go, is indicative of the propaganda that is being put out. The police regularly ignore bike riders on the boardwalk where they don't belong. The police regularly ignore homeless people defecating and urinating in public. The police regularly ignore littering, spitting, and conveniently for themselves do not have to adhere to the no talking or texting while driving law.

This weekend's stunt was clearly over on Sunday as I was watching the bike path from the Loews Santa Monica Beach hotel, there were tons of people stopped on the bike path to watch the acrobatics and ring swingers, and there were bikes and e-scooters just trundling along.

Enforcement of any law is always a discretionary choice for a police officer. How many of us have been released from being detained with just a warning? I know I have many times, for many types of infractions. The erratic and arbitrary enforcement of laws though, makes it harder to achieve compliance in the long term. When sometimes I'm ticketed, and sometimes I'm not, it's human nature to take your chances – but that betrays the safety arguments that are made in favor of any particular law.

Speeding is illegal because it is unsafe and dangerous to others. But if the speed limit is not consistently enforced, how am I supposed to know what is the TRUE limit? The police department can make all the bold moves and pull publicity stunts all the time, but if the public knows that 90% of the time they're going to get away with something, they will ignore the law.

Even after this weekend's big splashy public relations campaign by the Santa Monica Police Department, I noted that there many, many, people riding the e-scooters along Ocean Avenue, down Pico, all over the city. The truth of the matter is this: they are fun, they are convenient and they are practical from a transportation perspective to make short hops when you don't want to drive. Parking is stupidly expensive in city structures and if I can take an e-scooter and avoid the costs of gas, wear and tear on my car, parking fees (and the semi-regular extortion by the parking ticket demi-gods) I'd much rather take an e- scooter.

Do I believe that there will be massive regulation coming down the pike from the City Council on this issue? Absolutely. No government has ever let the people have access to fun, practical solutions without finding a way to tax the life out of them. Will next summer be very different from this one with the e-scooters being super available? Guaranteed.

But for now, the e-scooters make great press for the police and provide a viable solution for local transportation when the City hasn't.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The future is here

Editor:

From recent articles in your paper about electric scooters, it's obvious the city is perplexed by this current phenomenon. Writing tickets or confiscation won't stop the future, if they want to limit the number of scooters in town then maybe they should limit the number of cars entering our city limits, especially downtown.

Scooters are a reasonable alternative to buses, cars or motorcycles and with the theft rate of bicycles in this town that the police can't seem to get a grip on, why would anyone want to risk an expensive bike and not take a scooter as an alternative.

The city council needs to rethink their approach, yes, keeping them off sidewalks is a good idea, they do need to be on the designated bike lanes in town and have a license but then the city doesn't want them on the beach bike path! Pedestrians aren't allowed there either but don't get tickets, such inconsistencies by the city make us crazy! The future is here, leave the scooters alone.

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WINNER

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Mystery: Who bought websites implying US senators 'for sale'

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

Dozens of web addresses implying U.S. senators were "for sale" have been quietly and mysteriously purchased online, amid heightened concerns on Capitol Hill that foreign agents — especially Russians — might be trying to meddle in upcoming midterm elections.

An Associated Press investigation found the responsible party: Democrats.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee acknowledged to the AP that it had quietly purchased the addresses, which use a new internet suffix "forsale," in March for at least 27 incumbent senators facing reelection this fall and in 2020, without telling the senators. The cybersecurity director for the sergeant-at-arms, the highest-ranking U.S. law enforcement officer in the Senate, has been looking into the matter.

The addresses now controlled by the Democratic political group include the names of mostly Democrats but some prominent Republicans, too. The group masked its role in the purchase to ensure its identity as the buyer remained anonymous. The current price for such addresses, with a privacy guard, is roughly $18 each.

"It's a routine campaign practice to purchase URLs to stop bad actors from getting them, and if we eventually decided to develop a URL into a website then there would be a clear disclosure of who was operating it," said Lauren Passalacqua, communications director at the DSCC.

Buying politically-related web addresses to use them later online — or prevent rival campaigns from using them — has been a routine practice for decades. But Washington has been transfixed by criminal charges filed against Russian military officers accused of secretly meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign, accused by federal prosecutors of setting up websites like DCLeaks.com and using anonymous Twitter accounts to peddle embarrassing information about U.S. politicians.

U.S. intelligence chief Dan Coats has cautioned that the "warning lights are blinking red" and that "the digital infrastructure that serves this country is literally under attack."

The mysterious "forsale" purchases set off alarms. AP's review found roughly 280 political web addresses registered under the "forsale" domain, targeting President Donald Trump, the GOP, Supreme Court and National Rifle Association, as well as individual Democrats and Republicans. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee said it was responsible for at least 27 of them targeting U.S. senators and didn't provide further details.

"In this particular atmosphere, anything along these lines is concerning, because there's so much opportunity for malicious use of the internet, particularly in campaigns," said Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, before AP solved the mystery. King declined to comment after learning from AP that Democrats were responsible.

The latest actions show how lines and motives in American politics can blur among foreign adversaries, U.S. dirty-tricksters, pranksters or speculators hoping eventually to sell the web addresses to campaigns or their rivals. None of the addresses for the senators appears to be associated with an operational website, obscuring motives for future uses. Unlike in cases where so-called squatters register web addresses they hope to sell for profit, there were no indications the addresses were being made available for resale or populated with ads to make money.

Tim Groeling, an expert on political communication and new media at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the anonymity sought by the Democratic group was what troubled him. The identities of whoever registered the websites were purposefully masked. He said it's common for campaigns to purchase permutations of candidate names defensively and to use offensively against political opponents.

"The lack of transparency is both concerning from a standpoint of the potential for other governments to do this type of thing and not be revealed, and our domestic politics," Groeling said. "I'm a big fan of transparency. I think a lot of things can be fixed with sunlight."

The addresses use the new internet suffix "forsale" first made available in 2015 and intended to help consumers sell unwanted items without paying auction sites. The addresses the Democrats registered included the names of Sens. Bob Casey, D-Pa.; Claire McCaskill, D-Mo.; King; Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Ted Cruz, R-Texas; Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D.; Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Roger Wicker, R-Miss. and Dean Heller, R-Nev.

The technology infrastructure of the U.S. Senate and its offices around the country are the responsibility of the sergeant at arms. Terry Gainer, who previously served as sergeant at arms until 2014, said that if he had learned of the mysterious addresses in the current political environment, he would have his cybersecurity officer as well as the Capitol Police made aware. He said he would also ask the Secret Service and FBI to investigate.

"I don't believe in coincidences, and again, what's been going on since the whole Russian intrusions, there'd be much more sensitivity about taking a look at this," Gainer said.

It was unclear who purchased the addresses targeting the NRA, GOP and others. Internet records showed they were purchased anonymously hours before the Democrats bought the ones with the senators' names, and within seconds of each other. The address implying the Supreme Court was for sale was purchased last month.

"It's no different from dot-sucks," said Paul Vixie, a highly regarded computer scientist who helped design the system of internet addresses currently in use. "Social commentary has always thrived on the internet, due to reach and cost issues. These politicians are right to reserve those names, but wrong if they think other domains only slightly less clean won't appear."

Warren's staff declined to comment, as did McCaskill's and Cruz's. Heller, Casey, Heitkamp, Sanders and Wicker did not respond to questions. The GOP, DNC and NRA also did not respond to questions from the AP.

The U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms Office declined to comment on the "active defense" of its system.

Politicians and celebrities, especially, have trademark rights to their own names, and can file a complaint and request arbitration through the World Intellectual Property Organization or the National Arbitration Forum with whoever registered the website, according to Alexander Urbelis, a partner at the New York-based Blackstone Law Group who detected the new registrations.

"It's a really nutty thing to do unilaterally because it's going to set off alarm bells," Urbelis said.

Rick Tyler, a longtime Republican political consultant, said such website purchases are typical campaign tactics. He said third parties, like super PACs, are often used so the campaigns themselves appear virtuous.

"Ultimately in all of this, with the Russian meddling and the fake news ... it gets very confusing," Tyler said. "I think the information consumer has to just beware, they have to learn to discern what is true, and what is not."

Follow Tami Abdollah on Twitter at https://twitter.com/latams

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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"C-20"** license, on the following: **Bid #19.07.ES - DSA#03-118434 Santa Monica High School – HVAC Chiller Replacement Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$150,000 -$200,000** and includes the removal and disposal of an existing 100-ton chiller from an external enclosure, the supply and installation and commissioning of a replacement chiller including the necessary modifications to the existing system to accommodate the new chiller and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the Districts Purchasing Office located at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 on or before 8/21/18 no later than 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 7/26/18 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:
All applications are due no later than 8/6/18 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website athttp://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx.

Mandatory Job Walk:
Thursday, 7/26/18 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location:
Santa Monica High School located in Santa Monica, CA – All **Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the 4th Street pedestrian gate, adjacent to the Double Tree Hotel, opposite the Civic Center parking structure. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location.**

Bid Opening:
Tuesday, 8/21/18 at 2:00PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

Deadly LA market shooting started with domestic feud

MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

A man's feud with his grandmother turned into a bizarre and deadly weekend confrontation that ended with a supermarket worker dead and dozens of people held hostage in a store miles away.

Gene Evin Atkins, 28, was booked Sunday on suspicion of murder after an explosion of violence that a relative said may have been brewing for weeks.

Melyda Corado, 27, was shot to death Saturday at a Trader Joe's market in the Silver Lake neighborhood after a gunfight that shattered the store's glass doors, witnesses said.

"I'm sad to say she didn't make it. My baby sister. My world," her brother, Albert Corado said on Twitter.

Grieving family members, co-workers and customers on Sunday remembered Corado as lively, hardworking and always smiling. A makeshift memorial of flowers, candles and notes grew on the sidewalk outside of the store.

"Yesterday marks the saddest day in Trader Joe's history as we mourn the loss of one our own," company spokeswoman Kenya Friend-Daniel said in a statement.

The violence began when Atkins shot his 76-year-old grandmother several times at their South Los Angeles home after she complained about his having too many television sets on, said a cousin, Charlene Egland.

The grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Madison, was taken to a hospital in critical condition. Egland said she had surgery and was improving Sunday.

Madison raised Atkins from the age of 7 and he had never been violent toward her but recently seemed upset and distant, Egland said.

"He didn't seem right to me," Egland said.

For the past two or three weeks, the two argued over Atkins' girlfriend, who was staying at their home, Egland said.

"She didn't want the girl over there anymore," Egland said.

Egland said she was walking toward the house when she heard about six gunshots. Another cousin who lives in the house came running from the porch and shouted to Egland, "I think Gene shot my mama!"

Police said Atkins' girlfriend was grazed in the head by a bullet, but the injury was not life threatening.

Egland ran to call 911 but Atkins allegedly forced his wounded girlfriend into his grandmother's car and drove away.

A stolen-car device helped police track the car to Hollywood but Atkins refused to pull over, police said.

During the chase, Atkins fired at officers, blowing out the car's back window, and there was more shooting before the car crashed into a pole outside the Trader Joe's, followed by another shootout with police, Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Customers and employees dove for cover and barricaded themselves inside storerooms and bathrooms as bullets flew.

Glass fragments injured a 22-year-old woman who later took herself to a hospital for treatment, police said.

As he heard gunfire, Sean Gerace, who was working in the back of the supermarket, grabbed several co-workers and the group made their way into an upstairs storage area. He placed a folding storage ladder outside of a window, helping colleagues escape to safety, he told KNBC-TV.

"I grabbed an emergency ladder, barricaded the hallway, grabbed a weapon, put the ladder out the window and just tried to get the attention of the SWAT officer," Gerace told the television station.

About three hours later, Atkins — who'd been shot in the left arm — agreed to handcuff himself and walked out the store's front door, surrounded by four of the hostages.

He was being held on $2 million bail Sunday and it wasn't clear if he had an attorney to comment on the allegations.

A gun was found inside the store, police said.

Trader Joe's said the store — known by customers as a neighborhood hangout with great customer service — would remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Atkins, who has two daughters, bounced between several jobs, including working as a security guard, but had been repeatedly fired, Egland said.

His grandmother had tried to help him find employment and "was just trying to make him do better," she said.

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber and Robert Jablon contributed to this report.

HARASSMENT

FROM PAGE 1

President of the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats Jessica Yas Barker and research analyst for Unite Here local 11 Danielle Wilson.

The panel continues the work of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements that began last fall with hundreds of women including actresses and others working in the entertainment industry revealing years of sexual harassment by their male costars and/or management. While high profile allegations against Kevin Spacey, Harvey Weinstein and Alabama's Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore have made national news, the Santa Monica event will focus on the harassment of the everyday woman.

The panel will dissect the issue of sexual mistreatment at work and discuss how to navigate working as a woman.

"Over the past several months, we have seen the issue of women's rights in the workplace, specifically regarding sexual harassment, rise to prominence as more women have come forward every day about mistreatment by prominent male public figures," said SMDC co-President Sion Roy in an email.

"Please join us for a panel discussion on this important issue, as we consider how Santa Monica Democrats can advocate for women and support #WeSaidEnough, #MeToo, and #TimesUp movements across the state and country."

The SMDC is a local political organization and claims to be one of the oldest official democratic clubs in California. The club has a focus on the traditional topics like educating democrats on current events, endorsing democratic candidates for office and debating political ideas but they also have a history of tackling civil rights issues.

"One thing that board has been involved in for decades is gender equality and women's rights," said Appelquist.

She said the group has had many internal discussions over the subject and felt the current climate required those conversations to become a public event.

"We're going to start off with the panelists giving personal stories [what their #MeToo moment was] and then for the second part, they will go into what they are working on now. As well as what we, as Santa Monica residents, can do to support," Appelquist said.

The hope is that the public discussion helps galvanize local, community support into national action and increases the confidence of women to come forward with their issues.

"A lot of times people don't come forward because very few of these cases are actually processed," she said. "Like if we look at rape kits, millions of rape kits go untested. The state of Georgia instituted legislature that delineated a time frame in which all kits have to be processed by and I think Georgia is an example how you need to have support at a state level to have it at a national one."

The Executive Board of the club will host a meet and greet from 6:30 to 7 p.m. before the event for first time and new members. The main event will start at 7 p.m. Attendance is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Parking will be available and the lot is Handicap accessible. Visit https://santamonicademocrats.com for more information.

editor@smdp.com



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LOS ANGELES

Golden Globe Awards set for Jan. 6, well ahead of Oscars

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association says it has picked a date for next year's Golden Globe Awards.

The association said Monday that the 76th annual awards ceremony will be held Jan. 6 in Beverly Hills, California, its usual posh setting.

Nominations for the Golden Globes movie and television categories will be announced Dec. 6.

The Globes, once dismissed by critics for some puzzling movie nominees, increasingly are in step with the Academy Awards.

The academy previously announced the Oscars will be held Feb. 24, 2019.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association says its members represent 56 countries.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRACKDOWN

FROM PAGE 1

mobility device" that poses an immediate hazard or obstructs access to public space. In this case, however, Lt. Rodriguez said officers could not technically impound the vehicles.

The city has also added signage to the beach path warning riders that electric devices are not allowed on the path in Santa Monica.

Lt. Rodriguez said the enforcement campaign will extend to downtown Wednesday. California vehicle code requires a license and a helmet to ride the scooters and prohibits riding on the sidewalk.The ticket for not wearing a helmet is $190.

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RENT

FROM PAGE 1

worry the sudden collapse of Costa-Hawkins could be disastrous for rent controlled landlords who rely on "vacancy decontrol," the imperiled state policy that allows them to charge all new tenants market rate rent. Without the law, turnover could arguably plunge the rent on a unit to as low as $580 a month in some areas of the city.

Staff has drafted a local ballot measure that could set the base rent to 2018 levels in the event Prop 10 passes. Tonight the Council will consider whether to place it on the November ballot.

"To me, what is appropriate and necessary is we do something to avoid a catastrophic reduction in allowable rents such that property owners have no choice but to Ellis their buildings," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said during a June 26 discussion of the issue. "If we did that to our voters ... shame, shame, shame on us. We have to be prepared."

The issue involves the particular wording in the City Charter defining the "rent ceiling" as the base rent in 1978. In April, the Rent Control Board's top attorney, J. Stephen Lewis, warned the passage of Proposition 10 could automatically plunge City policy back more than two decades, to the time where there was no market-rate reset and every new tenant basically paid the base rent, whether they signed a lease in 1978 or 1988.

Lewis said the potential for disaster is mitigated by the fact current tenants paying market rate rent would not see a decrease, since their apartments are governed by their individual lease.

The controversy lies in what, if anything, to do about it. Only voters can amend the City Charter and there's no guarantee that Proposition 10 will even pass. Over the past few months, city leaders have actively pondered "what ifs" to assess the likelihood of catastrophe.

After Lewis's April warning, the Rent Control Board considered whether to place a companion measure on the local ballot to either amend the City Charter or expand Rent Control. On the night they were set to debate, angry landlords packed the meeting room and jammed their inboxes with emails against Prop 10. Facing a lengthy earful during public comment, the RCB abruptly canceled the discussion.

"I really don't think this is going to pass and I'm going to propose something bold...to avoid a lot of the unpleasantness that's about to come our way from about thirty people," Commissioner Todd Flora said, as he moved to indefinitely postpone the Agenda item.

Since then, Proposition 10 has gained significant steam, with endorsements from the California Democratic Party, the ACLU, the California Teachers Association, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, among others.

Flora himself supports Proposition 10.

"But a few months ago, when this issue was brought before the Rent Board, there was a feeling a Statewide measure was not likely to pass," Flora said in an email to the Daily Press. "Several civic leaders weighed in privately, sharing my instinct that stirring the pot would therefore be unproductive. So, I moved we table the item, thinking it would lower the temperature among angry landlords who wrongly assumed the Rent Control Board would revert rents back to 1978 levels. But our assurances apparently didn't alleviate their concerns and the Council feels the need to have the contingency in place."

With the time to draft a local initiative dwindling, landlords are still as angry as ever. So, for the first time in city history, the Council is considering a voter initiative to make a major change to Rent Control rules without an endorsement from the Board.

Lewis told the Daily Press he sees the potential move by the Council as both "unsettling" and unnecessary.

"That would be an unsettling precedent," Lewis told the Daily Press. "It has always been my view that the Board could, at least, enact regulations that would in some fashion maintain the status quo (if Proposition 10 passes)."

Lewis said temporary regulations could give the Board (and landlords) breathing room until 2020, which is the next time voters could change the City Charter. Over the next two years, the Board and the community could have a much broader conversation over how to expand or limit rent control.

In June, the Council picked up the issue with a broader discussion on rent control, but given the time restriction, asked staff to research a narrowly tailored initiative to change the base rent to 2018 levels. The resulting staff report confirmed the Rent Control Board has sufficient legal authority to "achieve the same basic ends as the proposed ballot measure" through regulations.

"Staff recommends that the Council consider the administrative approach in part because, while the Council has the authority to place a ballot measure regulating base rents before the voters, the Charter vests the Board with exclusive powers with respect to all rent control issues, including the setting of base rents," said the report by Deputy City Attorney Heidi Von Tongeln.

The decision on what to do ultimately rests with the Council tonight. In June, McKeown argued a ballot initiative would give landlords financial security

"People are scared, as they should be," McKeown said. "There's panic in the streets and we can forestall that here in Santa Monica.

When asked what would happen if Proposition 10 passes, but a local initiative to reset the base rent fails, Lewis said there were too many unknowns to say for sure.

"I wouldn't want to speculate," Lewis said.

Tonight, it's the Council's job to do just that.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **72.3°**

TUESDAY – **GOOD** – SURF: **4-6 ft** shoulder high to 1 ft overhead
SSW swell up further and peaking in the PM- most size for focal points further west in the region up to 5-8' faces in the PM. Possible light wind for much of the day.

WEDNESDAY – **GOOD** – SURF: **4-6 ft** shoulder high to 1 ft overhead occ. 7 ft
SSW swell holds to slowly eases. Larger sets at top spots. Possible light wind for much of the day.

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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS

DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Monica Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the work of the Project generally described as: **Malibu Campus Sheriff Substation / Phase 1 – Demolition/Soil Remediation/Piles Installation.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
The District has determined that all bidders on this Project must be previously pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on that Project. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements.

1. **Contractor's License Classification:** California Contractors License **A or B**.
2. **Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018 beginning at 10:00 am.**
3. **Location:** 23555 Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265.
4. **Bid Documents** will be available on July 20, 2018 at **ARC West LA Branch** 1736 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025. Point of Contact: Mitchell Caceres.

Deadline and Location for submission of Bid Proposals: August 21, 2018 at 1:00 PM, Pacific Time. Application must be Hand-Delivered at Santa Monica Community College District, Facilities Planning Department at 1510 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405, Attention: Charlie Yen. Contractors must have a representative at the Bid Opening.

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 22, 2018 AT 3:08 A.M.

While patrolling the 700 block of 10th Street, Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) officers saw a subject walk out of a residential garage carrying a bicycle. The subject tried to flee from officers in the alley but was detained a short distance away. The bicycle was determined to be stolen from the residence. The subject was identified as Tyler Mitchell Davis, a 28-year-old male from Mar Vista. Davis was also in possession of narcotics and on probation. Davis was booked residential burglary, possession of methamphetamine, evading arrest and probation violation. Davis remains in custody at SMPD Jail on a bail of $50,000 pending future court proceedings.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 353 Calls For Service On July 22.

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

Shots fired 2400 block Main 12:39 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1500 block 4th 1:07 a.m.
Fight 14th/Michigan 1:52 a.m.
Injured person 15th/Olympic 2:14 a.m.
Trespassing 2600 block Colorado 2:34 a.m.
Fight 300 block Santa Monica Pier 3:12 a.m.
Fight 1500 block 2nd 3:34 a.m.
Animal related incident 800 block 9th 5:59 a.m.
Person w/a gun 1600 block Santa Monica 6:17 a.m.
Bike theft 200 block Santa Monica 8:30 a.m.
Vandalism 300 block Pico 10:25 a.m.
Auto burglary 800 block 2nd 10:34 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 19th 10:50 a.m.
Person w/a gun 1600 block Santa Monica 10:56 a.m.
Trespassing 1200 block 26th 11:17 a.m.
Indecent exposure 19th/Pico 11:33 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1600 block Ocean 11:37 a.m.
Trespassing 3100 block Main 11:48 a.m.
Indecent exposure 4th/Interstate 10 12:02 p.m.
Battery 300 block Santa Monica Pier 12:20 p.m.
Vandalism 1100 block Lincoln 12:30 p.m.
Person down 4th/Santa Monica 12:46 p.m.
Indecent exposure 2500 block Barnard 1:22 p.m.
Critical missing person 300 block Santa Monica Pier 1:53 p.m.
Animal related incident 200 block 25th 2:34 p.m.
Indecent exposure 300 block Santa Monica Pier 2:38 p.m.
Indecent exposure 200 block Santa Monica Pier 2:42 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 6th 2:44 p.m.
Battery 1600 block The Beach 2:47 p.m.
Encampment 2500 block Wilshire 3:34 p.m.
Fight 1700 block The Beach 3:47 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 400 block Expo Line 4:20 p.m.
Found person 300 block Santa Monica Pier 4:21 p.m.
Indecent exposure Lincoln/Pico 4:32 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block Lincoln 4:37 p.m.
Grand theft 2100 block Santa Monica 5:01 p.m.
Person down 7th/Wilshire 5:31 p.m.
Vandalism 1400 block 6th 5:44 p.m.
Found person 300 block Santa Monica Pier 6:29 p.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block The Beach 7:09 p.m.
Drinking in public 1600 block Ocean 7:12 p.m.
Person w/a gun 2900 block Main 7:19 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 19th 7:38 p.m.
Fight 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy. 8:03 p.m.
Public intoxication 400 block San Monica Pier 8:35 p.m.
Battery 100 block Wilshire 8:37 p.m.
Public intoxication 300 block Santa Monica Pier 8:40 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 900 block 15th 8:51 p.m.
Strongarm robbery Main/Olympic 9:12 p.m.
Fight 700 Block Ocean 9:34 P.M.
Found property 300 block Santa Monica Pier
Animal related incident 2300 block of Carlyle 10:29 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 200 block Montana 10:39 p.m.
Vandalism Lincoln/California 10:51 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 35 Calls For Service On July 22.

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

Emergency medical service 1400 block 3rd 12:16 a.m.
EMS 15th/Olympic 2:13 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Wilshire 3:08 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 17th 4:04 a.m.
EMS 0 block Vicente 8:04 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2900 block Olympic 8:28 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 9:56 a.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 11:50 a.m.
EMS 3100 block Wilshire 12:19 p.m.
EMS 200 block San Vicente 12:51 p.m.
EMS 1200 block Ocean Front 1:40 p.m.
Automatic alarm 400 block 10th 3 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 3rd 3:07 p.m.
Elevator rescue 800 block San Vicente 3:14 p.m.
EMS 1200 block Ocean Park 3:16 p.m.
EMS 800 block Olympic 3:27 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean Front 3:50 p.m.
EMS Neilson/Hill 4:07 p.m.
EMS 300 block Olympic 5:54 p.m.
EMS 3300 block Barnard 6:22 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 6:46 p.m.
EMS 16th/Arizona 7:02 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury Main/Pacific 7:19 p.m.
EMS 2900 block Barnard 7:21 p.m.
EMS 3300 block Barnard 7:26 p.m.
EMS 2400 block 34th 8:08 p.m.
EMS 100 block Wilshire 8:37 p.m.
EMS Main/Olympic 9:13 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 9:23 p.m.
EMS 0 block Ocean Park 9:24 p.m.
EMS 800 block 2nd 9:36 p.m.
EMS 300 block 23rd 9:40 p.m.
EMS Lincoln/Arizona 10:16 p.m.
EMS 200 block Montana 10:48 p.m.
EMS 800 block 4th 11:55 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 7/21
9 23 56 58 68
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 147M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 7/20
1 14 30 44 62
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 512M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 7/21
3 4 30 32 44
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 17M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/22
1 6 9 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/22
MIDDAY: 2 5 7
Draw Date: 7/22
EVENING: 8 7 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/22
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:43.24

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!

leonine
1. resembling or suggestive of a lion.
2. of or relating to the lion.
3. (usually initial capital letter) of or relating to Leo, especially Leo IV or Leo XIII.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Get Me That, Stat!

■ The CDC reports that there were 30,000 deaths due to falling among adults age 65 and older in 2016, up from 18,000 in 2007. The increase spanned gender and most racial groups. If the trend continues, 59,000 older adults will die after falls in 2030, more than the number of Americans who died last year in vehicle accidents or due to opioid overdose.

Life in Big Macs

■ One hour of showering burns 136 calories (based on a 150-pound person) or the equivalent of 0.2 Big Macs. It also consumes more than 130 gallons of water or 1,084 pounds or more than seven times the weight of the person showering.

MYSTERY REVEALED!

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Chris Johnson correctly identified the mystery photo as a planter at Montana and 15th, outside the Whole Foods.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

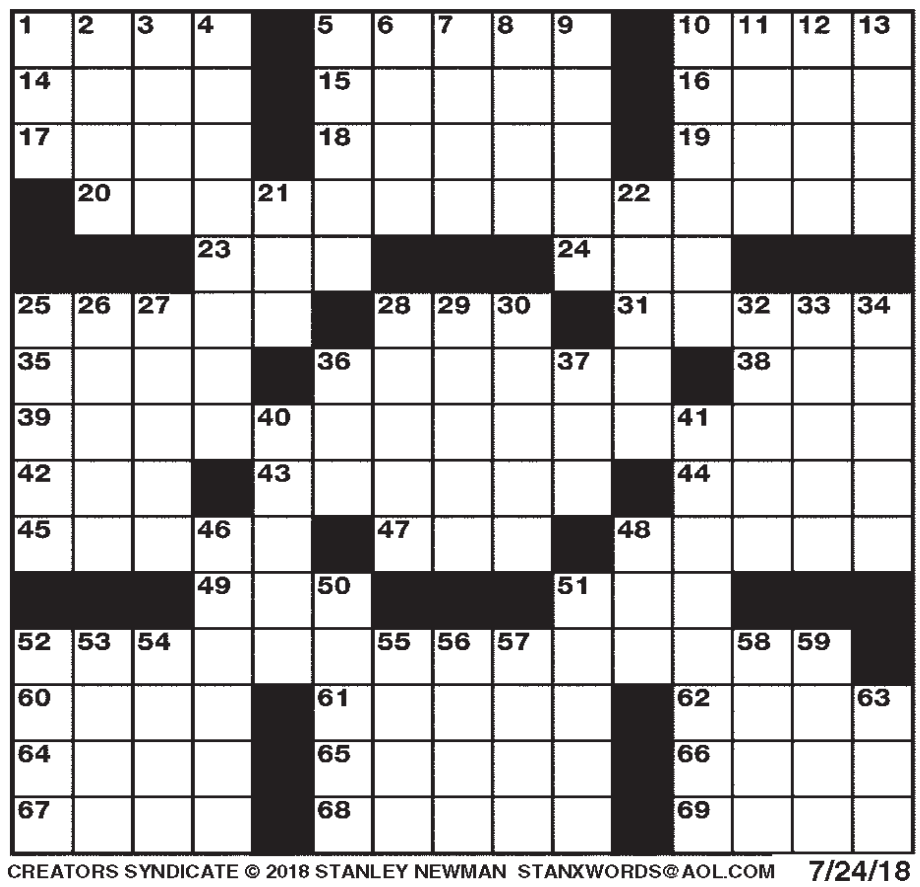
DOUBLE DUBBLES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Neighborhood food shop
5 Sharp, as eyesight
10 Relax in the tub
14 Churchgoer's agreement
15 What Julius Caesar spoke
16 Bit of land in the sea
17 Uses a shovel
18 Unseasoned, as food
19 Otherwise
20 Phrase denoting excessive progress
23 Not saying anything
24 Cashew or pecan
25 In the midst of
28 Not scheduled yet: Abbr.
31 Florida bay city
35 "Me? Never!"
36 Buzzed like a bee
38 Owned by us
39 Wedding vow phrase
42 Frozen cubes
43 "Most certainly!"
44 "This __ sudden!"
45 Tennis great Evert
47 Letter before tee
48 Cattle drive animal
49 Fawn's mother
51 __ Baba
52 Emulates animals boarding Noah's Ark
60 Explorer of kids' TV
61 Covered with suds
62 Acorn producers
64 Diabolical
65 Book of maps
66 Command to a cannoneer
67 Midday snoozes
68 Shouts out
69 Imperfection

DOWN

1 Family man
2 Give off
3 Toy block brand
4 Sleeplessness
5 Place for pasting photos
6 Advanced high school math
7 Salt Lake state
8 Subtle color
9 Finish with
10 Midday snooze
11 Norway's capital
12 And
13 Razor-sharp
21 Beer stein
22 Go one better than
25 Playful prank
26 Be a freeloader
27 "On the __ hand . . ."
28 Swap
29 Dog treats
30 Mountains of South America
32 Large antlered animal
33 Heartbeat
34 Great enthusiasm
36 Family room
37 When a plane is supposed to leave: Abbr.
40 Cap brim
41 Get along well
46 High standards
48 Cunning
50 Opinion piece
51 Deep chasm
52 Genesis paradise
53 Halifax, __ Scotia
54 Journey
55 Carryall bag
56 Picture-hanging surface
57 Milky gemstone
58 Lamentful yell
59 Gumbo vegetable
63 Work with needle and thread



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 24)

You already have a lovable manner with people, and this year, new skills take your relationships to the next level. You'll treat people exactly how they want everyone to treat them, and this gives you great influence. The money flows to you in August, and again with a big sale in December. A merger happens in February. Libra and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 48 and 6.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Negative talk is like a computer virus — a little bad information that has the potential to corrupt the whole system. You'll avoid the dynamic by talking about what's true and what's positive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
It can be very frustrating to see the result you're going for in your mind and tolerate the fact that you're not there yet. Try to be more like the butterfly — relaxed and willing to let nature do its thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
They'll look to you for support that you're not sure you're qualified to give. But it's not like that. All they need is your ear. You won't be expected to deliver a verdict or react in any particular way, just to listen with love.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You may think that you deserve or need some hard love, but if you bring some softness to the way you deal with yourself, you'll get better results. Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to your best friend... or better yet, to a five year-old.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Unlike the newborn fawn that can stand up within the first 10 minutes of life, humans take time to learn just about everything. Furthermore, they can't learn alone. You'll find your educational counterpart today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Chance is on your side, but that's no reason to roll the dice, flip the coin or let the chips fall where they may. Take control of your own fate. Take a chance on you. Risk on your own best, most scientific guess.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The one who you can be silly with is essential to your life, even though this person may not be someone you should also consult about certain other things. One person won't fit every role.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You feel generous, though it's not always so easy to find people who can really use what you have to share. Don't give it to just anyone. Do some research.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Can you overthink it? Sure. You've already invested a thousand more thoughts into it than you need to. That's OK. Now is as good a time as any to move on. Trust that some problems are best solved by not thinking at all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Strike a balance with your communication. Be direct and specific about the things you really need to happen. But keep the mystery alive on topics that don't directly concern the other person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
So much of your action comes from a belief about yourself and an intention to operate in the world according to that belief. Examine your feelings about you. Can they be more supportive? More loving?

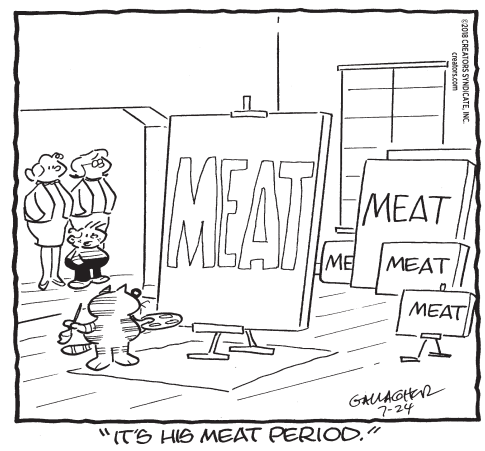
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Don't worry about it. No matter how clear, concise, articulate, relatable and thorough you think you're being, people will always come up with their own interpretations. So just say it like you want to say it.

Pre-Mercury Retrograde Advice

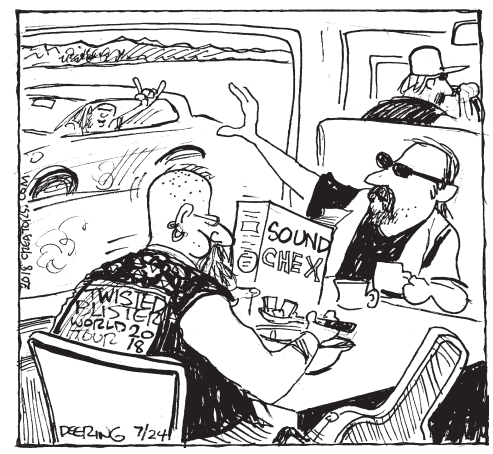
They say you can't go back. That's because when you revisit the place (or person, outfit, meal ...) you're different, it's different, they're different. Time changes all. That's what makes today so beautiful. Live it fully, in a way you can totally get behind, so "going back" won't even cross your mind later. Tomorrow brings Mercury's retrograde.

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Just tough Trump tweeting? US ratchets up Iran pressure

MATTHEW LEE & ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump's explosive twitter threat to Iran's leader comes as his administration is ratcheting up a pressure campaign on the Islamic republic that many suspect is aimed at regime change.

No one is predicting imminent war. But Trump's bellicose, all-caps challenge addressed to President Hassan Rouhani followed a speech by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in which he accused Iran's leadership of massive corruption and widespread rights abuses and urged Iranians to rise up in protest.

Both the tweet and the speech landed less than two weeks before the administration will begin re-imposing sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal. In the meantime, the U.S. is stepping up Farsi-language outreach that is intended to support Iranians demonstrating against the policies of their government.

Trump's tweet doesn't appear to have been prompted by any notable shift in rhetoric from Iran.

It could have been an impulsive reaction to reports from Tehran quoting Rouhani as giving the U.S. an oft-repeated reminder that conflict with Iran would be "the mother of all wars." Yet animosity directed at the Iranian leadership is an established part of the administration's broader foreign policy.

Iran publicly shrugged off Trump's late Sunday message — "NEVER EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Tweeted Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday: COLOR US UNIMPRESSED: The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them —albeit more civilized ones_for 40 yrs. We've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!"

Asked at the White House if he had concerns about provoking Iran, Trump said simply, "None at all."

Tehran is already aware of what is coming from the administration as consequences of Trump's May withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear accord take shape.

As Pompeo noted in his speech to Iranian-Americans and others in California on Sunday, the centerpiece will be the re-imposition of U.S. economic sanctions; the first batch will go back into force on Aug. 4 targeting the Iranian automotive sector and trade in gold and other metals. A more significant set of sanctions that will hit Iran's oil industry and central bank by punishing countries and companies that do business with them will resume on Nov. 4.

"Right now, the United States is undertaking a diplomatic and financial pressure campaign to cut off the funds that the regime uses to enrich itself and support death and destruction," Pompeo said in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

Pompeo also slammed Iran's political, judicial and military officials, accusing several by name of participating in rampant corruption, and called its religious leaders "hypocritical holy men" who amassed wealth while allowing their people to suffer. He said the government has "heartlessly repressed its own people's human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms," and he hailed the "proud Iranian people (for) not staying silent about their government's many abuses."

"The United States under President Trump will not stay silent either," he said.

He was right. True to form, Trump did not stay silent. But the White House blamed Rouhani for inciting the war of words with his comment that "America must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars."

"WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!," Trump wrote.

Reaction from Congress, particularly Democrats, was swift and critical.

Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, acknowledged that Iran's terrorist activities in the Middle East pose a threat but suggested it wouldn't be solved through a tweet from Trump.

"Sadly, after pulling us out of the nuclear deal with Europe and Iran, there doesn't seem to be strategy for how to move forward to fight Iran's activities," she said.

And Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, the former Democratic vice presidential candidate, called the Twitter blast from the White House "another warning sign that Trump is blundering toward war with Iran."

Trump's National Security Council pushed back:

"Our differences are with the Iranian regime's actions and, in particular, with the actions of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, not the Iranian people. The Trump administration's Iran policy seeks to address the totality of these threats and malign activities and to bring about a change in the Iranian regime's behavior."

"If anybody's inciting anything, look no further than to Iran," said White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said. She added that Trump has been "very clear about what he's not going to allow to take place."

Trump has a history of firing off heated tweets that seem to quickly escalate long-standing disputes with leaders of nations at odds with the U.S.

In the case of North Korea, the verbal war cooled quickly and gradually led to the high-profile summit and denuclearization talks. Still there has been little tangible progress in a global push to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons program since the historic Trump-Kim Jong Un summit on June 12.

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, David Rising in Dubai, Aron Heller in Jerusalem, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul and Michael Casey in Concord, New Hampshire contributed.



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