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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Los Angeles may temporarily ban shared electric scooters

MATTHEW HALL & KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writers

Shared electric scooters could be banned in the nation's second-largest city until regulations are approved and permits are issued.

A motion by Los Angeles Councilman Paul Koretz would tell city officials to take all available measures to ban scooters in LA and issue cease-and-desist letters to scooter companies.

Koretz says in his district he has seen hundreds of people riding scooters on sidewalks, without helmets and with more than one person aboard. The councilman says he is concerned about risk of injury and lawsuits against the city.

"We have been in close contact with LA DOT and City council, and look forward to continuing to collaborate with local leaders as they further implement a regulatory framework for scooter and bike share," said Lime Communications Manager Mary Caroline Pruitt. "We support regulations that prioritize rider safety, while allowing Lime to continue to serve the community with more affordable, equitable, and convenient transportation options."

SEE SCOOTERS PAGE 6

Opening Statements begin in Voting Rights lawsuit

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Famous civil rights attorney Milton Grimes painted a bleak picture of the Pico Neighborhood on the first day of the trial to determine the legality of Santa Monica's election system. Grimes, who famously represented Rodney King, is one of three attorneys representing the plaintiffs Pico Neighborhood Association and Maria Loya (who is married to SMMUSD School Board Member Oscar de la Torre) in a California Voting Rights Act lawsuit.

"When you think of Santa Monica, you think of the beach, of the palm trees, almost like a utopia. Everyone looks at Santa Monica as the place to go," Grimes said during opening statements Wednesday. "But there's another part of Santa Monica, your honor."

Peppered with blight, liquor stores and auto shops, Grimes said the stretch of the city bordered by Pico Boulevard to the south and Santa Monica Boulevard to the north has become a dumping ground for city services like City Yards and the landfill that later became Gandara Park.

"A park is supposed to be for enjoyment and gathering and play," Grimes said. "This park gives us methane."

The trial got off to a caustic start Wednesday, as attorneys for the City and the Pico Neighborhood Association squabbled over procedure. Attorneys are

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 11





REPTILE FAMILY

Jacob Wilkes

The Santa Monica Public Library hosts regular activities for youth throughout the year. During the summer months, the library brought the Reptile Family to Santa Monica to give kids some hands on experience with some scaly creatures. Visit smpl.org for more information on library programs.


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposed resolution to adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Base Fee for new market-rate multifamily development pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.64.070(B).

WHEN: Tuesday, August 14, 2018
6:30 P.M.

WHERE: Santa Monica City Hall, Council Chambers, Room #213
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HEARING DESCRIPTION
The City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of a resolution which would adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Base Fee that developers of multi-family projects may pay to the City pursuant to Section 9.64.070(b) of the City's Affordable Housing Production Program. The existing Affordable Housing Unit Base fee for new market rate apartments of $34.00 per square foot would be increased by $1.70 per square foot of floor area and the existing Affordable Housing Unit Base fee for new market rate condominiums of $39.71 would be increased by $1.99 per square foot of floor area. Effective on November 1, 2018, the adjusted Affordable Housing Unit Base fee would be $35.70 per square foot of floor area for new market rate apartment buildings and would be $41.70 per square foot of floor area for new market rate condominium buildings.

The adjustments to the Affordable Housing Unit Base Fee reflect changes in land and construction costs based on a methodology adopted by the City Council on June 13, 2006. An explanation of this methodology and the resulting adjustment to the fee are set forth in a memorandum prepared by the City. A copy of this memorandum is now available at the City Clerk's Office in Room 102 of City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California or the Housing Division Office at 1901 Main Street, Suite B, Santa Monica, California. This information is also available on the City's web site (Housing section).

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this matter. You, your representative, or any other persons may comment at the City Council's public hearing or by writing a letter.

Letters should be addressed to:
Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
Further information may be obtained from the City Housing Division at the address above or by calling (310) 458-8702.

The meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have any special needs such as sign language interpreting, etc., please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or TDD: (310) 917-6626.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica, at or prior to the Public Hearing.

ESPANOL
Esta es una noticia de una audiencia pública para aumentar una tarifa sobre el desarrollo de viviendas "multi-familiar" en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Melinda Espinoza en la División de Viviendas al número (310) 458-8702.

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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, August 2

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.

Feel What I See: The Moment it Clicks in Travel Photography
Follow international award-winning photographer, Jacqueline Koh, as she takes us around the world with her visual storytelling. Co-sponsored by the Santa Monica Community Garden. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Design in 3D: Desk Caddy
Use Tinkercad to design a desk caddy 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 Monica Blvd. 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Around the World in 90 Minutes: Scavenger Hunt
Kids can jump in a make-believe hot-air balloon and clue-by-clue race around the world with your crew. Bring a photo to make your passport. Limited space, register at the library. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Movie: Finding Your Feet (2018)
After discovering her husband's infidelity, an upper crust, judgmental snob (Imelda Staunton flees to London to stay with her bohemian sister and rediscovers her joie de vivre through a seniors dance class. (111 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 3 p.m.

Bogafit Class
BOGAFiT is an innovative fitness program that builds strength, deepens flexibility, and improves balance and coordination. BOGAFiT enhances the benefits of traditional fitness movements while minimizing the impacts of traditional land exercises, creating high intensity workouts that are low intensity on your body. BOGAFiT is done on a floating training platform that provides a dynamic exercise experience. $15 per class includes parking pass. 7:15 – 8:15 p.m. https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx#BOGAFIT. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

NOMA meeting
Santa Monica's Local Coastal Plan to succeed the present Coastal Commission Plan and its impact on our city will be discussed by Liz Bar-El, Project Manager, at NOMA'S monthly community meeting Thursday, August 2, at Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. with Meet & Greet at 6:30 p.m. The North of Montana Association meets each 1st Thursday of each month. For information go to www.smnoma.org.

Friday, August 3

Karin Kano Exhibition
Karin Kano, Japanese author illustrator and painter now living in Los Angeles. Exhibition of original, beloved works. August 3(Fri) - 5(Sun), Fri / Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday until 4 p.m. Free. At Blue7Gallery, 3129 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90405 TEL (310) 449-1444

Free screening of "Embrace of the Serpent"
This week, Mind Over Movies screens "Embrace of the Serpent," a psychedelic pseudo-documentary on the Amazon River, which was the first Colombian feature nominated for an Academy Award. Film subtitled and in black and white. Screening followed by roundtable discussion and audience Q&A. The Christian Institute, 1308 Second Street. 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit facebook.com/MindOverMoviesLA.

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

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

"Haiti" has SM quaking

LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC, TONIGHT THROUGH SUNDAY

So let's chat about the thea-tuh, shall we?

There I go again. Butting into the arts area already covered so skillfully by our own SMDP theater critics Cynthia Citron and Sarah Spitz. They know what they're doing.

But there really is a lot of good theater in this town and they can't cover it all, and even if they preview or review something, I don't think it hurts if I put my two cents worth in. When I bump into something good, I have trouble keeping my mouth shut.

I'm not completely unwashed on the boards, you know. Starting in college, as the Arts & Media Editor of the university daily, and with many subsequent publications (most of which died — what does that tell you?), this music geek waded into everything from dance to sculpture to theater, and discovered there were certain skill sets and sensibilities that crossed over.

I've been writing for years now about the amazing troupe in Topanga Canyon whose skills never fall off the mountaintop, 45 years and only getting better. Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum not only has a near-flawless ensemble, but every other aspect excels as well, from set design to direction, costumes to dramatic material. They do a lot of Shakespeare but they also dig to find plays that deserve to be heard much more widely, usually ones displaying social conscience.

THANK YOU, ELEANOR

That's the case with "Haiti," written in 1938 by William DuBois under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Eleanor Roosevelt's brainchild to get people back to work after the Depression and improve our cultural landscape at the same time. We are so much the richer for it.

I've loved geography and current events from the time I was a kid but I have to say I draw a lot of blanks when it comes to Haiti. Very, very poor. Battered by natural disasters and ill-equipped to cope. Political corruption. A tough life for a good people. But I didn't know, until this superb play, that this Caribbean island nation nestled between Cuba and Puerto Rico was the first independent nation in the Caribbean or Latin America, and the first created as the result of a successful slave rebellion. In fact, when they defeated Napoleon's forces, some 40,000 strong, it was huge on the world stage; it resulted in his abandoning his plans for conquering the New World, and he sold the huge territory of Louisiana, without which the USA might never have expanded past the Mississippi River.

"Haiti" is set against this historical background and humanizes it through historic and ordinary characters, interacting. More importantly, it paints a picture of the human cost of slavery that resonates and enlightens today's headlines. In this country, we are still torn by that abomination. There are perhaps 10 major characters, instead of two or three, and it must be so hard to find that many great actors. I saw opening night and it was flawless, not even a blown line. And the sword and musket fights as well! That's got to be hard to pull off.

I could say so much more about "Haiti" but I'll leave it at this: for all the great theater I've seen over many years at Theatricum Botanicum, this is one of the very best. It has a dozen more performances in the next few weeks. Do. Not. Miss this one.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

"HAITI" by William DuBois (see above), Sat 8 p.m., Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$38.50.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — LUCINDA WILLIAMS, STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES, DWIGHT YOAKAM (the LSD Tour — get it? — not just a good moniker but a great package, of three stellar country stylists and excellent songwriters that Nashville wouldn't touch), 7 p.m., the Greek Theatre, Griffith Park, LA, $19.50-$99.50.

TONIGHT! — LEANN RIMES (she's been around forever it seems but is only 35, it's been a long sometimes bumpy road for her since we first heard that incredible strong voice from a 13-year-old, now still so affecting but in a different way with years, experience and wisdom added), 9 p.m., the Rose, Pasadena, $48-$88.

TONIGHT! — RONNIE SPECTOR (yes, the namesake leader of '60s hitmakers the Ronettes — "Walking in the Rain," "Be My Baby," "The Best Part of Breakin' Up" — propelled to stardom by legendary Wall of Sound auteur producer Phil Spector, now in prison for murder, who married her in 1968 then kept her prisoner in their mansion until she escaped barefoot with the help of her mother six years later, just don't be jaded and skip this because we in LA get so many opportunities to see a legendary entertainer, you have three chances to catch her in an intimate setting), and Fri, 8 p.m., the Canyon, Agoura Hills, and Sat 9 p.m., the Rose, Pasadena, $28-$48.

THE ROCK GODZ MUST BE CRAZY: BEATLES EDITION with host Bob Eubanks, Laurence Juber, Chris Montez, Santa Monica renaissance man David Leaf "plus other surprise guests!" (there will be music and many many insider stories about the Beatles — any Beatles fans out there? — in this benefit for the Grammy Music Education Coalition, dedicated to making the gift of playing music available to every child in school, so have fun and make a difference too), Fri 8 p.m., McCabes, Santa Monica, $30.

Jeff Lynne's ELO, Dawes (I've gotten over saying well, only one or two of the original band members, forget it, because it usually sounds really close to the original, and especially if you have the voice you remember from the recordings — Lynne was the co-founder and leader, string wizard-producer-arranger, so this should be fun and quite good, they had so many great songs, and Dawes is a dang good band too), Sat - Sun, 8 p.m., the Forum, Inglewood, $44.50-$179.50.

THE ENGLISH BEAT (here you go, another good example, all you need is original co-founder and The Voice Dave Wakeling, looking now about 10 years older than when he burst upon America in the late '70s with the 2 Tone second wave ska scene out of Britain, with other great bands like the Specials, the Selecter and Madness, but the Beat have had real staying power because of a slew of great songs, you won't believe how many you will remember, and they can easily rock the whole downtown for an hour or two), Sat 7 p.m., Pershing Square, downtown LA, no cover.

SURF GUITAR 101 CONVENTION with the Blue Hawaiians, Fascinating

SEE MUSIC PAGE 3

Tourism Talks

Misti Kerns — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Place Safety First While Riding Motorized Scooters

FOR BOTH RESIDENTS AND LOCALS alike, motorized scooters have become a popular way to explore our beachside city. No matter which transportation method you chose to use, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism heartens all who enjoy our city to follow the law and place safety first.

The summer months are an especially favorite time for many visitors from around the world to enjoy the quintessential Southern California beach experience in our city. Please do your part to help remind and educate your visiting friends and family about how to ride safely and remember to ride safe, smart and sane while zipping around our streets.

The Santa Monica Police Department encourages anyone riding an electric scooter to do so safely and responsibly by remembering to obey the laws and being a courteous rider. To help remind riders of the laws surrounding motorized scooters, the SMPD has released a PSA that covers electric scooters and clarifies the law. To learn how not to receive a ticket, keep in mind the following:

- Wear a helmet
- Don't activate for children
- Don't block sidewalks
- Don't ride on the sidewalk
- Don't ride tandem

As a reminder, California law requires people who ride motorized scooters to wear helmets. Santa Monica Travel & Tourism is distributing helmets, compliments of Bird Scooters, to Bird riders at the Visitor Information Centers below during normal operation hours. Riders can stop in and ask a friendly Visitor Services staff member for a helmet free of charge.

MAIN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER
2427 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405

VISITOR INFORMATION KIOSK
Located in Palisades Park
1400 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90401

PIER SHOP & VISITOR CENTER
Inside the Carousel building
200 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica, CA 90401

For more safety information on getting around Santa Monica, visit santamonica.com.

First link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F2YmKcc2EY

Second link:
https://www.santamonica.com/visit-santa-monica/safety-information-getting-around-santa-monica/

To learn more about SMTT and how you can be a tourist in your own back yard, visit www.santamonica.com

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 3

Creatures of the Deep, Urban Surf Kings, Black Flamingos, Surfer Joe, Tremolo Beer Gut, more (talk about fun!! how's this for sunny SoCal Saturday afternoon? — endless waves of surf guitar, probably mostly instrumentals, in an alpine village setting, of course, surf guitar can be deeper and richer than you may think, I know fo' sho' that the Blue Hawaiians are one kick-ass band), Sat 11 a.m., Alpine Village, Torrance, $40.

JAZZ ON THE LAWN with Nick Mancini Collective ("jazz vibraphone with vocals by Laura Mace" — that's all I know specifically but I do know these four outdoor concerts each summer, in August, in Gandara Park, produced by our Cultural Affairs department, are always a good time, with families and friends bringing blankets and picnic dinners, spreading out all over the park and lapping up one of the great perks of living here, and this is the first one for 2018, don't miss out), Sun 5-7 p.m., Gandara Park, Santa Monica, no cover.

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 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposed resolution to adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost for new market-rate multifamily development pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.64.070(C)

WHEN: Tuesday, August 14, 2018
6:30 P.M.

WHERE: Santa Monica City Hall, Council Chambers, Room #213
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HEARING DESCRIPTION

The City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of a resolution which would adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost that developers of multi-family projects may pay to the City pursuant to Section 9.64.070(C) of the City's Affordable Housing Production Program. The existing Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost of $356,719 would be increased by $17,836. Effective November 1, 2018, the adjusted Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost would be $374,555.

The adjustments to the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost reflect changes in land and construction costs based on a methodology adopted by the City Council on June 13, 2006. An explanation of this methodology and the resulting adjustment to the fee are set forth in a memorandum prepared by the City. A copy of this memorandum is now available at the City Clerk's Office in Room 102 of City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California or the Housing Division Office at 1901 Main St., Suite B, Santa Monica, California. This information is also available on the City's web site (Housing section).

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this matter. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment at the City Council's public hearing or by writing a letter.

Letters should be addressed to:
Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica, at or prior to the Public Hearing.

ESPANOL
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WINNER

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Just up the coast

I'M JUST A TAD EMBARRASSED TO SAY that until about two weeks ago when fellow columnist Charles Andrews and I attended an arts luncheon, I had never been to the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University, nor to the Pepperdine campus itself. Wow, what a revelation. Lucky kids who get to go there!

Weisman and his ex-wife Marcia, whose brother was the namesake of the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, were prolific art collectors. What's so odd is that I kept thinking it's a still-new museum and that I'd get up there soon – but decades passed and somehow I never visited.

Well, there's a good excuse for all of you to go, coming up at the end of August, and should be a real lollapalooza of a show. It's so big, it will spill over into the Pete and Susan Barrett Art Gallery at the Santa Monica College Center for the Performing Arts.

"Pop! 50 Years of Art & Popular Culture" will feature some of the most renowned names of the Pop Art movement of the 1960s, perhaps best epitomized by Andy Warhol's Campbell Soup Can paintings.



Courtesy of the Keith Haring Foundation

ART: Keith Haring, Untitled, 1983 ink on vinyl.

FOUNDING FATHERS, NEXT GEN

Some of the founding fathers (sorry, but they were mostly men) whose work will be exhibited include Claes Oldenburg, best known for his giant public art installations (co-created with wife, Coosje van Bruggen) featuring soft-sculpted pieces representing everyday objects. Take a walk past the Google campus (formerly Chiat/Day) in Venice and you'll see Oldenburg's almost two-story-high binoculars.

James Rosenquist, like Warhol, took inspiration from contemporary commercial and consumer culture; he was influenced by his work as a sign and billboard painter. He'd use fragments of ads and other cultural imagery, adding a touch of the surreal to his works.

More than 50 pieces, all of them from the Weisman collection, will include vintage and historical works as well as next-generation artists inspired by Pop Art, including Richard Artschwager, Keith Haring and Yayoi Kusama, who've taken the form to new levels.

Haring's work was graffiti inspired; Artschwager used Formica and created 3-D furniture and wall sculptures, and Yayoi Kusama's polka-dotted pumpkins will surely bring the fans who (like me) fell in love with her work at The Broad Museum downtown.\

Pop! will open on August 28 and run through December 2; on September 9, from 2 to 4 pm, there's a reception, the public is invited, no charge for admission. Located on Pepperdine's main campus at 24255 Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, CA, the museum is open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Call (310) 506-4851 or visit: arts.pepperdine.edu/museum

THE BERGAMOT CONNECTION

It turns out that Michael Zakian was sitting at my table at the press luncheon. He's been the Weisman Museum's director for more than two decades and has overseen some seriously big-name shows, including the aforementioned Andy Warhol, Dale Chihuly's glass art, Chuck Close, known for his representational portraits composed of tiny pixelated elements that create a vibrating whole, and local hero, Larry Bell, perhaps best known for mystical glass cubes.

And, as it happens, Michael's married to Lia Skidmore, of Skidmore Gallery at Bergamot Art Station, which has a really interesting show up right now, one I visited during the recent Bergamot Summer Celebration.

It ends this weekend (Aug. 4), so get there quickly. Isabel Emrich, a tall, willowy and eccentrically fashionable artist, has a series of paintings of women's faces, fully immersed or partially underwater.

She really gets those watery elements. Close up you see painted strokes, but as you stand back, these paintings look almost representational and simultaneously fantastic. Worth your time.

As is the work of Maxine Smith, whose depictions of ladies (and some men) run the gamut from 20s Flapper Girl, to a moderne version of a white swim-suited woman, to a fur-laden lady who looks like she might just have stepped off of Ellis Island. Her works are influenced by German Expressionism and the wondrous long-necked portraits made by Modigliani, both familiar and strange.

MIND TRAVEL

I bought a last-minute ticket for a really wonderful event last Wednesday – a "silent" concert on the beach performed by pianist/composer Murray Hidari, a Burning Man regular.

The evening begins before twilight falls, in this beach setting demarcated with giant white balloons, outsized candelabras, a white blossoming tree, a small stage with a grand piano. Following a lovely group meditation, with the marine mist rolling in, the blue lights of the headphones glowing, the hotels on the boardwalk lighting up, the amazing light show on the Pier with the rollercoaster's ribbon of rainbow colors and the ever-changing patterns on the Ferris Wheel, this was simply one of the most transporting experiences I've ever attended.

Find out all about upcoming concerts and events in our area and elsewhere (there's one coming to the Fowler Museum at UCLA this month) at www.MindTravel.com. Check out the video of the recent beach concert. Highly recommended!

SARAH A. SPITZ is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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.

Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Neil Simon Spreads "Rumors"

IN A TELEPHONE CALL TO ERNIE, WHO is downstairs in a formal black suit, Charlie, who is upstairs in pajamas, announces that he has gone temporarily blind.

But that comes later and isn't exactly true. Actually, Charlie is in his bedroom, bleeding all over the rug from a gunshot hole in his left earlobe made when he tried to shoot himself in the head. It is Charlie and his wife Myra's tenth anniversary and they have invited four couples to their home in Sneden's Landing, New York, to help them celebrate.

But the first couple, Ken and Chris Gorman (Fox Carney and Debi Tinsley) have arrived to find that the host is upstairs in bed and the hostess is nowhere to be seen. And neither are the hired cooks and servers.

Ken and Chris, bewildered, search the house for the hosts, all the while making up stories about where they might have gone.

Then Claire and Lenny Ganz (Cheryl Crosland and Kent Butler) arrive and Ken tells them what he thinks has happened to the host and hostess and urges them not to tell the other guests. And when the doctor calls, Ken provides a fabricated story that his wife Chris relays in fits and starts to the doctor.

With this mystery and assorted fabricated stories Neil Simon's play "Rumors" begins. And when the other guests Glenn and Cassie Cooper (Todd Andrew Ball and Alyson York) and Ernie and Cookie Cusack (Doug Haverty and Michele Bernath) arrive, the assemblage begins to fabricate explanations that justify the name of the play.

The rumors include ones from Claire, who announces "Charlie's been having a hot affair," "Charlie's running up a hell of a hotel bill!" and "This night is beginning to remind me of Dunkirk." And to her husband Lenny, "I told all our friends that you and I are breaking up." To which Lenny replies, "Don't talk for a while."

Even though he promised not to tell the guests about the shooting, Lenny tells them as soon as they have all arrived "Charlie's been shot…" and then, adding his own opinion, he says, "Myra didn't shoot him."

At one point Chris Gorman, who has been frazzled all evening, wails to Claire, "I'm coming apart at the seams!"

"Your dress?" Claire asks.

"No, my nerves," Chris responds.

Meanwhile, Ken has been running upstairs to check on Charlie, who is sleeping soundly, and downstairs to the others to tell them again that Charlie has shot himself in the head, and the company discusses the possibility that it was a suicide attempt.

With all the running back and forth and up and down, all the hectic (and funny) conversations, the group suddenly realizes that they haven't had anything to eat. They've had lots to drink, but no food.

As a solution, Claire suggests that they all pitch in to make the dinner. The group notes that Claire is not physically able to perform such tasks, to which she responds, "I can do everything but sit down and get up." She then has a spasm, and attempting to get up from the sofa she falls down, rolls over, gets on her knees and circles the room on all fours, and ends up going through a doorway into the kitchen.

There is a second inexplicable gunshot and Ken shouts that he can't hear and begins responding to everything with a comment that is totally irrelevant, as Lenny notes, "Ken is reading lips now."

Claire emerges from the kitchen to announce that she has dropped aspirin in the spaghetti sauce and Ernie remarks "I like the way we were instead of the way we are."



Courtesy photo

RUMOR: The show is staged in North Hollywood

And the act ends with everybody shouting.

In the second act, Ernie suggests they should make up a story that everyone can agree on about why they are there, where the host and hostess are, and the two gunshots.

While they are constructing a story, two policepersons arrive to ask them about a BMW that had been stolen, and the group gets up to dance before opening the door. In response to the questions of Officers Welch and Purdy (Robert McCollum and Judy Rosenfeld), Glen accidentally mentions the gunshots they'd heard. This brings on another barrage of questions from the officers while Lenny rushes upstairs, puts on Charlie's bathrobe, and returns grandly downstairs to introduce himself as Charlie and weave a tale that goes on for nearly five minutes, covering everything that has happened that night. And many other made-up adventures that he has added to the story. Officer Welch says he doesn't believe the story, but it was so fanciful that he accepts it and the police leave. And the play ends with a twist that only Neil Simon could invent.

"Rumors" is directed by Doug Engalla and is a play from Simon's vast output of successes that began with "Come Blow Your Horn" in 1961, and continued with"Barefoot in the Park", "Sweet Charity"', "Plaza Suite", "The Sunshine Boys", "Brighton Beach Memoirs", "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" in addition to Tony winners "The Odd Couple", "Biloxi Blues" and "Lost in Yonkers (which also won a Pulitzer Prize). He also wrote screenplays, and TV scripts for "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Hour", among others.

So far he has won three Tonys and been nominated 17 times. He also won a Special Tony for his contribution to theatre, 2 Golden Globes, 2 Emmys and in 1989 the American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 1995 he was a Kennedy Center Honoree. And in 1966 he had four plays (Sweet Charity, The Star-Spangled Girl, The Odd Couple and Barefoot in the Park) playing simultaneously in theaters on Broadway. In 1983 the Alvin Theatre was renamed the Neil Simon Theatre and in that same year, he was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame.

"Rumors" is not one of his most spectacular plays, though it's his first farce, written in 1988. But it's funny and fast-paced. Lots of talk, but no music.

Perhaps it would have been better if Simon had collaborated with Garfunkel.

"Rumors" will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 through August 11 at the Lonny Chapman Theatre, 10900 Burbank Blvd. in North Hollywood. Buy tickets at www.theprep.com or call (818)763-5990.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

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SCOOTERS

FROM PAGE 1

Beverly Hills recently imposed a six-month ban.

"The use of motorized scooters in Beverly Hills has dramatically increased in recent weeks with the Police Department issuing warnings and citations for riders not wearing helmets, driving on sidewalks in a business district or not possessing a valid driver's license. Police have responded to several injury involved vehicle collisions involving motorized scooters. Police have also removed scooters from sidewalks and streets that obstructed the normal movement of traffic and created a hazard," said a statement from the City of Beverly Hills.

In that city, the ordinance prohibits the devices from being placed in any public right-of-way or on public property, operated in any public-right-of-way or on public property, or being offered for use anywhere in the City. The Council did express an interest in working with the companies to develop future rules.

The City's statement said that the Council were concerned about public safety and the lack of outreach by the companies. The Beverly Hills Police will impound the devices and are issuing citations related to vehicle code violations resulting in fines.

Santa Monica instituted an emergency ordinance in march that allows city to collect a $60 impound fee for any "shared mobility device" that poses an immediate hazard or obstructs access to public space. Police officers have also stepped up their work on the beach path to reduce illegal use of the scooters.

Santa Monica will institute a city-wide pilot program for the scooters in September. This program will attempt to cap the total number of devices in city limits at 3,500, with up to 1,000 e-bikes and up to 2,000 e-scooters at the launch, according to administrative guidelines posted online. The number of devices can be increased if the companies provide evidence that they are being frequently used. The pilot also sets fees, including a $20,000 annual operator fee plus $130 per device. Applications were due at the end of July with operator selection expected at the end of August.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW YORK

Wells Fargo to pay $2.1 billion for role in housing bubble

Wells Fargo agreed Wednesday to pay a $2.1 billion fine to settle allegations it misrepresented the types of mortgages it sold to investors during the housing bubble that ultimately led to the 2008 financial crisis.

The amount is relatively smaller than the fines paid by Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and other big banks in the years following the financial crisis to settle similar allegations. Wells Fargo is one of the last remaining big banks to settle charges related to its role in the subprime mortgage crisis.

The fine is unrelated to the more recent scandals that have plagued Wells in the last three years, such as the opening of millions of fake accounts for customers without their authorization in order to meet unrealistic sales quotas, or the bundling of auto insurance policies on to auto loans when customers did not need them.

The government accused Wells and many other big banks of understating the risk and quality of the mortgages they sold to investors at the height of the housing bubble, in Wells' case between 2005 and 2007. These investors bought up tens of billions of dollars in mortgages from Wells and other banks, and experienced massive losses when borrowers failed to repay and housing prices collapsed nationwide.

The Department of Justice said Wells Fargo sold at least 73,500 loans that had poor underwriting standards to investors. Half of those loans defaulted, resulting in billions of dollars in losses to investors.

"This settlement holds Wells Fargo accountable for actions that contributed to the financial crisis," said Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio, in a statement.

In earlier settlements with the Justice Department, Bank of America paid a $5 billion fine to authorities in 2014 for similar allegations, and Citigroup paid a $4 billion fine.

Wells Fargo said in a statement it was "pleased to put behind us these legacy issues" and said it had previously set aside the money to cover the settlement.

KEN SWEET, AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles moves to license pot growers after long delay

Los Angeles has started accepting license applications from marijuana growers, manufacturers and testing companies, seven months after California broadly legalized cannabis.

The start of the process Wednesday arrived with a mix of relief and anxiety from businesses that have been waiting to enter the state's legal market for months.

So far, the city has only licensed retail shops, with the rest of the supply chain in limbo.

Retailer and cultivator Donnie Anderson has been paying rent for months on commercial space he hasn't been able to use without a cultivation license.

He says he and his partner have been "hanging on by the skin of our teeth."

Meanwhile, legal sales continue to face stiff competition from the illicit market, and there are widespread complaints over hefty taxes.

MICHAEL R. BLOOD, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **70.3°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed Statement of Qualifications for

RFQ: # 183 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is September 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Statement of Qualifications must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Qualifications may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Qualifications and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFQ package.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #186 CITY OF SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY CLASSES AND CAMPS
- **Submission Deadline is August 16, 2018, at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 381 Calls For Service On July 31.

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

Indecent exposure Ocean/Santa Monica 12:02 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1700 block Ocean 12:04 38 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block Ocean 1:39 a.m.
Battery 500 block Colorado 1:55 a.m.
Auto burglary Centinela/Santa Monica 6:19 a.m.
Person w/a/ gun 1500 block 16th 6:42 a.m.
Grand theft auto 800 block Maple 7:01 a.m.
Vandalism 800 block 12th 7:07 a.m.
Vandalism 200 block Pico 7:17 a.m.
Burglary 1500 block Broadway 7:25 a.m.
Burglary 900 block Palisades 8:05 a.m.
Auto burglary Berkeley/Santa Monica 8:16 a.m.
Auto burglary 3000 block Santa Monica 8:23 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block Berkeley 8:58 a.m.
Animal related incident 1200 block Arizona 9 a.m.
Battery Cloverfield/Ocean Park 9:15 a.m.
Burglary 900 block Palisades 10:57 a.m.
Burglary 3000 block Wilshire 11:31 a.m.
Person down Moomat Ahiko/Ocean 11:36 a.m.
Assault 2200 block Colorado 12:02 p.m.
Battery Main/Hill 12:07 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating in public 2700 block Santa Monica 12:07 p.m.
Person down 3100 block Highland 12:11 p.m.
Animal related incident 1100 block 6th 12:46 p.m.
Domestic violence Pch/Entrada 1:19 p.m.
Prowler 100 block Strand 1:22 p.m.
Injured person 200 block Broadway 1:39 p.m.
Bike theft 2200 block Main 1:53 p.m.
Grand theft 1400 block Ocean 3:03 p.m.
Grand theft 2500 block Pico 3:09 p.m.
Death investigation 1300 block 9th 3:20 p.m.
Battery report 200 block Wilshire 3:43 p.m.
Burglary 800 block Maple 4:37 p.m.
Vandalism 600 block 12th 4:54 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 4:59 p.m.
Child abuse 1500 block Ocean Front Walk 5:07 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 5:22 p.m.
Burglary 1200 block 25th 5:47 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 6:42 p.m.
Grand theft 2900 block Santa Monica 6:54 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 6:55 p.m.
Grand theft 1800 block Ocean Front Walk 7:06 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 7:12 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 7:14 p.m.
Burglary 800 block Maple 7:19 p.m.
Battery 2900 block Main 7:38 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 4th 8 p.m.
Auto burglary 1800 block 10th 8:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block 2nd 8:21 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block 20th 8:30 p.m.
Sexual assault 1400 block 20th 9:11 p.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block 4th 9:19 p.m.
Family disturbance 600 block Ozone 9:27 p.m.
Public intoxication 1300 block 3rd 10:20 p.m.
Drinking in public 1400 block Franklin 10:24 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 33 Calls For Service On July 31.

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

Emergency Medical Service 0 block Pico 12:01 a.m.
EMS 700 block 14th 12:12 a.m.
EMS 11th/Wilshire 12:15 a.m.
Mics. Outside fire 3rd/Bay 12:26 a.m.
EMS 100 block Wilshire 12:41 a.m.
EMS 700 block Ocean 12:47 a.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica 2 a.m.
EMS 2700 block Barnard 3 a.m.
EMS 1000 block 11th 5:58 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Arizona 8:29 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 2nd 8:42 a.m.
EMS 1200 block 15th 9:58 a.m.
EMS 17th/Washington 11:45 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 11:49 a.m.
EMS 3100 block Highland 12:10 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean Front Walk 2:38 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 16th/Pico 2:40 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 3:06 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 2800 block Santa Monica 3:51 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 3:54 p.m.
EMS 0 block Pico 3:55 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 100 block Interstate 10 4:06 p.m.
Lock in/out 700 block 18th 4:12 p.m.
EMS 1400 block Ocean 5:07 p.m.
EMS 1500 block Ocean Front Walk 5:08 p.m.
EMS 1000 block Euclid 7:01 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 17th 9:26 p.m.
EMS 200 block San Vicente 9:38 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 3rd 10:27 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 800 block Palisades 10:46 p.m.
EMS 3100 block 4th 10:49 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 14th/Santa Monica 11:23 p.m.



DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/28
22 27 46 56 65
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 187M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/31
12 15 35 64 69
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 50M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 7/28
4 8 11 31 33
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 19M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/31
3 8 10 11 25

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/31
MIDDAY: 7 8 5
Draw Date: 7/31
EVENING: 1 0 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 7/31
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:43.35

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WORD UP!

improbity

1. lack of honesty or moral scruples.
2. perseverance.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Stories for the Waiting Room

■ Doctors consult a calculator, which uses data compiled in 2013, to determine whether a patient might benefit from the use of a statin (among the world's most prescribed drugs) to prevent heart attack or stroke compared to taking aspirin or blood pressure drugs.

■ New data, however, suggesting existing guidelines overestimate risk in some people and underestimate it in others – and more than 11 million people might need to reconsider the use of statins as a coronary disease preventative.

Doc Talk

■ SOB: shortness of breath (The term may be used by patients after they get their medical bill.)

MYSTERY REVEALED!

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Sylvia Mendoza correctly identified the photo as part of the Santa Monica Pier sign. She wins a prize from the Daily Press.

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

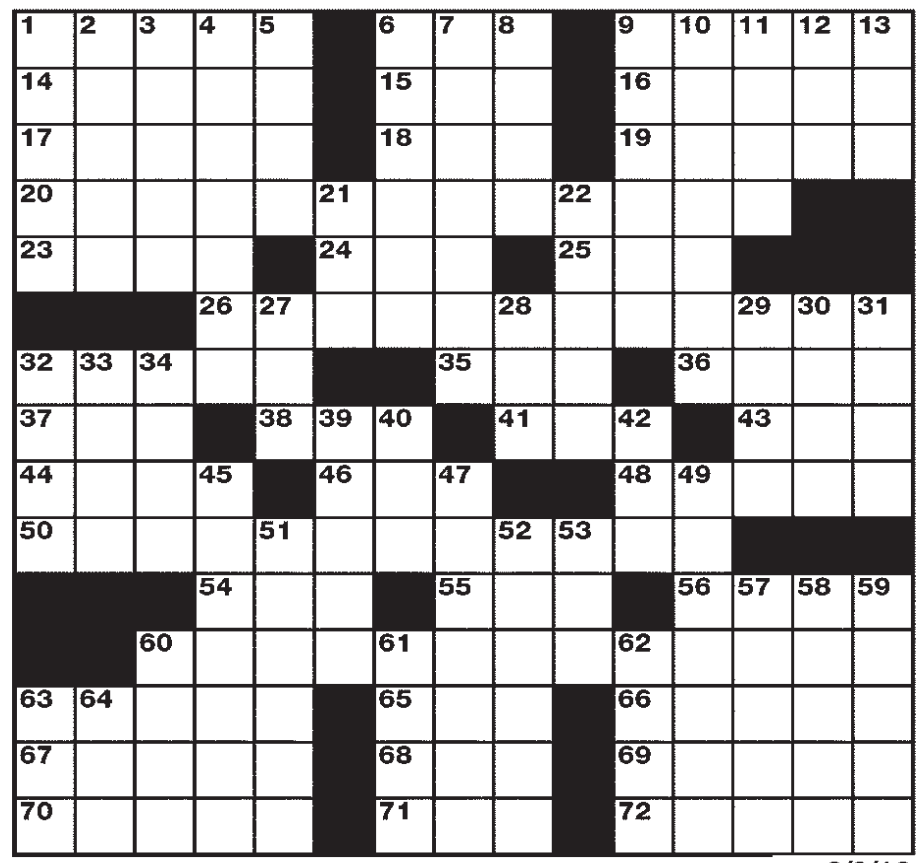
3	1	8	4	9	7	6	5	2
7	9	5	6	2	1	4	8	3
6	2	4	5	8	3	9	7	1
8	7	1	9	5	6	2	3	4
9	3	2	7	4	8	1	6	5
4	5	6	3	1	2	8	9	7
5	8	7	1	6	4	3	2	9
1	6	3	2	7	9	5	4	8
2	4	9	8	3	5	7	1	6

Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S DOING WHAT by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Armor helmet openings
6 Keyboarding rate, for short
9 Appropriate for a palace
14 Zealousness plus
15 Extreme hostility
16 Extremely sharp
17 Alpacas' hangout
18 Greek dawn goddess
19 Now under control
20 Spotted African carnivore
23 Model for Leonardo
24 Visit with
25 Flossing advocate: Abbr.
26 Plaintive-sounding bird
32 Smooth and lustrous
35 Talk it up
36 Where most Indians live
37 Parlor pic
38 What you're made of
41 Fed. intel group
43 __ Majesty
44 Historic chapters
46 Six-legged marcher
48 Caricatured, say
50 Part-Thoroughbred mount
54 Spot for a stopover
55 Is, for two
56 Helen Mirren title
60 Predatory insect
63 What many an author assumes
65 Jamaican music
66 Money paid by motorists
67 Starting on
68 Farm structure
69 Japan's second city
70 Ancient chocolate consumer
71 NFL gains
72 In disarray

DOWN
1 Insignificant
2 Covered veranda
3 River of Pakistan
4 Rare baseball result
5 Window frame
6 Sort of sausage
7 Sons and daughters
8 Fit together
9 Suitable for little kids
10 Music at some hockey games
11 City east of San Diego
12 Consumed or corroded
13 Had an edge
21 Sch. at Ames
22 Strong pulls
27 Green-lighted
28 McKellen of movies
29 Hazmat-monitoring agcy.
30 Factor in room rates
31 Qualify for
32 Anxious state
33 Croft of video games
34 Footnote abbr.
39 Kid's tender
40 Director Lee
42 Much of junk mail
45 Winter Olympics competition
47 Acknowledged in an acceptance speech
49 Clown accessory
51 "Don't rush me!"
52 They're often heard performing hymns
53 Sleep acronym
57 Supporter of the heavens
58 Does a farm chore
59 Multi-paragraph test answer
60 Ale quantity
61 Car-trip guessing game
62 Bit of matter
63 Quick-wink link
64 Designer Claiborne



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2)

You've made a discovery, and you'll keep expanding in knowledge and skill with it. This is social in nature, having to do with transmuting the abundant love lavished on you this year into an effective, creative and powerful force for good in the world. Your way of organizing life and work is totally brilliant. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 46, 23, 1 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Creation takes time; destruction can happen in an instant. You may think long and hard about how to take your life to the next level. Reality will quickly shoot down some (not all!) of those ideas, but don't let that stop you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Happiness and simplicity will be linked up today. The minute you feel that things are involving too many elements or getting too complicated, busy, messy, fast or expensive... stop. Start over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
It's not just that one solution doesn't work for everyone; it's that one solution doesn't even work for anyone all of the time. Each moment and circumstance is different. Stay sensitive and awake and you'll do great.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Disillusionment is the thing that happens when you find out that what you thought was real involves a manipulation of perception. Knowing that tricks abound is a necessary step in understanding the nature of reality.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
The habit of trying to get things in order to be happy is an addiction, and it should be broken. You really don't need anything else. The expansion of your spirit is the happiness, also the work, also the prize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
After careful consideration and planning, the best plan may be no plan. It's one of those rare days when all you need is your openness and a belief that the best will happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You're a wonderful self-editor. You know that it brings you luck, love, relationships and more. Unfortunately, those who don't self-edit are prone to say too much, confuse people, and make them afraid to approach the next time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You hate to overpay for a thing that will disappear in a moment. To forgo perishables in favor of a lasting memento will be your action — also a metaphor for other choices you'll make in the near future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Two people will try to tell or sell you the exact same thing, and you'll much prefer one to the other. Why? It boils down to style. Tone is a part of this. Go where the resonance is, and don't look back.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
People want you to go one way or another, so they psychically lean on you, trying to get you to sway in that direction. Be strong. Go where you want to go. Don't be guilted. Tell others to stay in their lane.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your life could be much like yesterday, or it could be something very different. The choice is yours. A new start won't require a big effort, merely a mental shift that happens once you claim this as "day one."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
When people want something, but they're not saying it, you can feel that. It will seem to have an actual weight. Encourage others to unburden themselves from the weight. Make it OK for them to speak up and say what they want.

Lunar Trine to Mercury in Leo

Far from the frivolity it once was, entertainment has become a matter of identity. Our ancestors had limited options where we have millions. The fact that we can get so specific with our choices makes each decision more significant. For better or worse, we are changed by what we watch. The lunar trine to Mercury says: Choose carefully.

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Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



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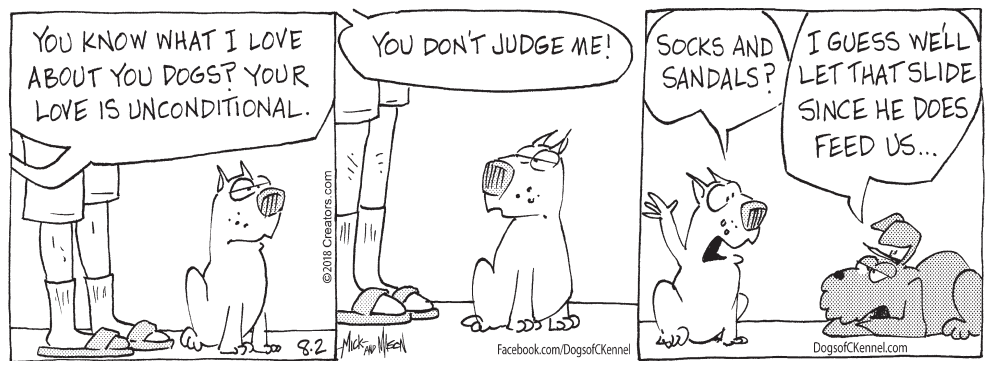
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Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



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Student charged in elaborate digital money theft scheme

CHRISTOPHER WEBER & ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

A Massachusetts college student who was named his high school's valedictorian for his savvy tech skills hacked into unsuspecting investors' personal cellphones, email and social media accounts to steal at least $2 million in digital currency like Bitcoin, according to documents provided by California prosecutors Wednesday.

Joel Ortiz was taken into custody July 12 at Los Angeles International Airport ahead of a flight to Boston, according to prosecutors. The 20-year-old faces more than two dozen charges including grand theft, identity theft and computer hacking, court documents show. He's held on $1 million bail.

The Santa Clara County, California, public defender's office, which is representing Ortiz, declined comment. A number listed for his home in Boston was disconnected.

The elaborate scheme involved taking over victims' phones, allowing him to reset passwords and access online accounts containing electronic assets in the form of Bitcoin, Coinbase, Bittrex and Binance, the criminal complaint said.

In one case Ortiz allegedly walked into an AT&T store and impersonated a victim in order to get a new SIM card, which gave him control of the victim's phone. He obtained access to the victim's "financial and personal identifying information, tax returns, private passwords" and siphoned $10,000 from a cryptocurrency account, according to police report.

In several instances Ortiz allegedly impersonated victims over text messages and convinced friends and family members to "loan" him digital funds, court documents said.

At one point Ortiz allegedly stole $10,000 from a California resident, and then tried to get more, calling the victim's wife and sending a text to the victim's daughter that said "TELL YOUR DAD TO GIVE US BITCOIN," the documents said.

Court documents identify more than 20 victims who live in California, and prosecutors say they know of additional victims outside of the state.

Ortiz enrolled at the University of Massachusetts Boston and studies information technology, said school spokesman DeWayne Lehman.

Ortiz was the 2016 valedictorian of Another Course to College, a small public college preparatory school in Boston, and was honored alongside other top students across the city at a luncheon that year with Democratic Mayor Marty Walsh and other officials at a downtown hotel.

At his school, Ortiz was the lead robot software programmer on its robotics team, taught other students the basics of software coding and "led efforts to teach computer science," according to a Boston Public Schools' press release touting the students' accomplishments.

The school system said Ortiz "loves science and technology," is fluent in Spanish and speaks conversational Chinese.

Boston Public Schools spokesman Daniel O'Brien declined to comment.

Richer reported from Boston.

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

looking for every angle to influence Judge Yvette Palazuelos, who will have the ultimate say in whether Santa Monica has to change to district elections.

The case involves the 2001 California Voting Rights Act, which bans at-large election systems if they hurt the ability of minorities to influence the outcome. The judge will review analysis of past elections to determine whether Latino voters prefer different candidates than the ones who end up getting elected city-wide.

In suing the city to change elections for City Council, Grimes and his co-council say the current at-large system was instituted in 1947 expressly to dilute minority votes and keep them from getting elected. They say the intention has largely been fulfilled. Current Councilmember Tony Vazquez is the only Latino-surnamed representative to serve on the City Council.

Vazquez, however, does not reside in the Pico Neighborhood.

"Latinos are dispersed throughout the city," said attorney Marcellus McRae during his opening statements. "Two-thirds of Latinos in Santa Monica do not live in the Pico Neighborhood."

McRae is a partner at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, LLP, the firm contracted by the City to assist with the case. He argues that a district system would not give Latinos better representation on the City Council.

The issue has been on the ballot in Santa Monica twice, with voters rejecting districts in 1975 and 2002. In 1992, the City Council voted 4-3 to maintain the status-quo rather than implement districts. Loya and the PNA brought the lawsuit against Santa Monica after a similar lawsuit forced the city of Palmdale to change its election system to districts in 2015.

The case involves reviewing decades of City Council races and analyzing surnames and neighborhoods to determine whether Latinos in the Pico Neighborhood vote differently than their white neighbors.

The City ended opening statements with their own depiction of the Pico Neighborhood, highlighting Virginia Avenue Park, an $11 million project that opened in the Pico Neighborhood in 2014. Since 2001, McRae says the city has pent nearly $100 million on projects to improve that part of the city.

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