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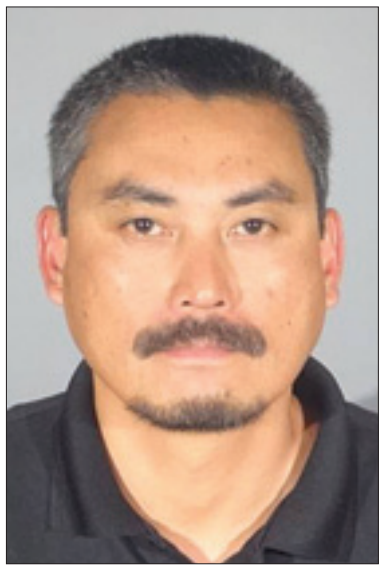
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08.23.18
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Los Angeles man found guilty in murder of Samohi grad



ESPINOSA

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A 43-year-old man was convicted Tuesday in the murder of 18-year-old Juan Castillo, the Samohi graduate found shot to death last year. A jury found Sherwin Mendoza Espinosa guilty of second-degree murder.

Espinosa faces 40 years to life in state prison, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 12 in Department W82 of the Los Angeles County Airport Courthouse.

Castillo played football at

SEE CONVICTION PAGE 7

City Hall's most fervent critic finally gets his day in court

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The sharp sound of a gunshot woke Oscar de la Torre from his sleep.

"I ran to the kitchen window and I saw cars peeling out. They were leaving. There was a body on the ground," de la Torre recalled at Los Angeles Superior Court Wednesday, when he took the stand in a voting rights trial challenging Santa Monica's system of government.

The activist was only a teenager the day he said he watched his friend take his last breath. It was 1989, and as soon as a neighbor told de la Torre he thought it was safe to go outside, the young men walked into the Pico Neighborhood street. De la Torre looked down, stunned to recognize the teenager who had just been shot. He had known Juan Escobar since middle school.

De la Torre says Escobar was still gasping for air as more neighbors crept out of their apartments to see what had happened. The teenager bled from his stomach and from his back. Sirens screamed as three Santa Monica Police Department patrol cars rolled up to the scene.

De la Torre pulled his dying friend off the ground as the officers ran up. But instead of rendering medical aid, he says an officer immediately demanded to know the identity of the gunman.

"The police officer looked at me and said 'if you don't tell me who shot him, I'm not letting the ambulance get to him,'" de la Torre recalled to Judge Yvette Palazuelos. "I thought: our lives don't matter."

After weeks of anticipation, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified

SEE COURT PAGE 3



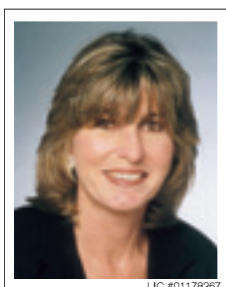




SOUR START

Angel Carreras

Lime scooters scattered around the Pier. The City of Santa Monica is hoping their new public education campaign will reign in bad user behavior with scooters.


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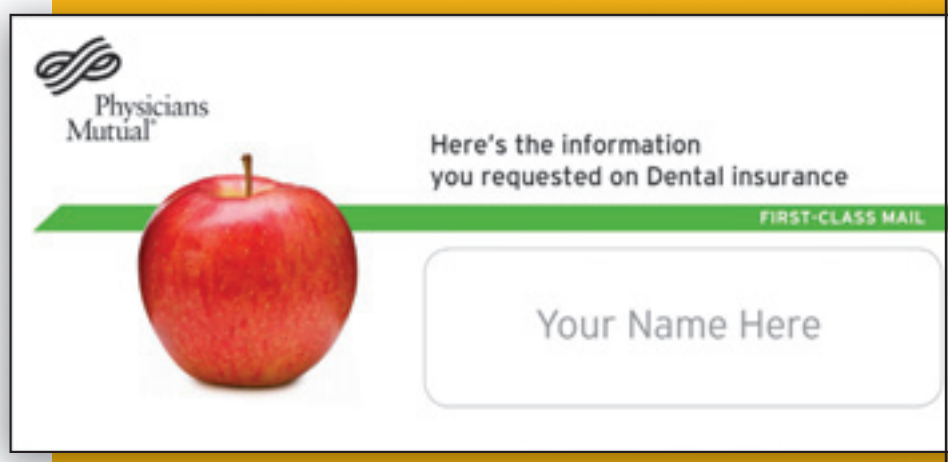


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, August 23

Design in 3D: Open Lab

Explore 3D printing possibilities at the Library. Prepare your own three-dimensional plastic objects for 3D printing. Staff will be available to help with basic troubleshooting. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 5 – 7 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Baby Time

Story series for babies ages 0 to 17 months accompanied by an adult. (August 9 – September 13) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 10 – 10:20 a.m.

Friday, August 24

Craft Supply Swap

Do you have leftover yarn, extra buttons, or scraps of ribbon you haven't used in months? Join us at the library each Friday to share your crafting supplies or find new crafting treasures. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Out of the Blue: Under the Umbrella with Therese Kelly

Join artist Therese Kelly for a hybrid eco walking tour of the Beach House site, plus a natural dyeing workshop for all ages. Tours will range across the site and the dye workshop can get messy; comfortable shoes, sun protection, and clothes you don't mind getting stained are advised. Register at http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture. Annenberg Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Free screening of "Lo and Behold"

This week, Mind Over Movies screens acclaimed director Werner Herzog's documentary "Lo and Behold," an increasingly prescience examination of technology, humanity and connectivity. 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.

Saturday, August 25

Santa Monica Rep Play Reading: Uncle Vanya

Santa Monica Rep performs Anton Chekhov's dramatic masterpiece Uncle Vanya. Seating is limited, and on a first arrival basis. Late seating is not permitted until a suitable break in the performance. Early arrival is recommended. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Bollywood Dance with Aparna Sindhoor

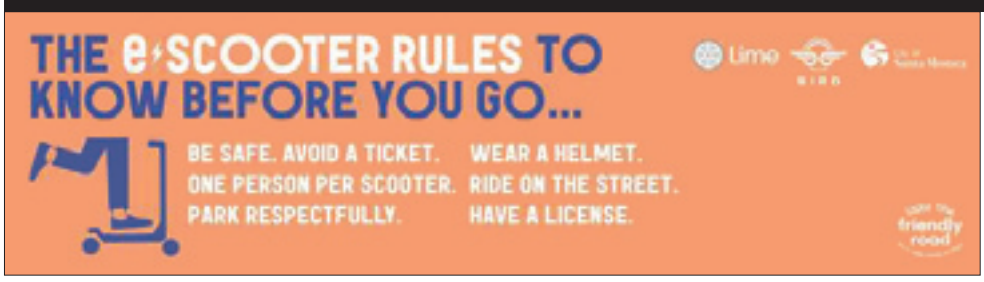
Aparna Sindhoor, her students and company members introduce Bollywood a popular dance inspired by Indian cinema. It is fun to learn as well as perform, and it's a great workout! No prior experience necessary, bring clothes to move in and comfortable shoes. Cost: $5. 1450 Ocean, 2 – 3 p.m. Register online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68064

Excavating Memory, a writing session with Lisa Diane Wedgeworth

Dig into your personal memories in this writing workshop - find narratives to inform your artwork, start your memoir, or just put an order to the days. No prerequisite, just come prepared for mental time travel. Free. 1450 Ocean, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68072

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Santa Monica

Santa Monica Launches Public Education Campaign on E-Scooter Safe Rules of the Road

Starting this week, a new public education campaign to equip electric scooter riders with the rules of the road will launch in Santa Monica and the Westside. Safe riding tips will be displayed on the Big Blue Bus, Metro buses, Expo Line trains and stations, light pole banners and parking structures in Santa Monica leading up to COAST, Santa Monica's open streets event on October 7. The City is launching the safety messaging campaign in partnership with the two e-scooter companies currently operating in Santa Monica, Bird and Lime.

"Electric scooters are still a new part of Santa Monica's mobility mix, and hundreds of new riders are using the devices every day," said Deputy City Manager Anuj Gupta. "This dynamic campaign is about working in partnership with our current e-scooter operators to ensure new and existing riders know how to ride and park safely in the final stretch of the busy summer season."

Safety messages focus on wearing a helmet; riding on the street, not the sidewalk; having a valid driver's license; riding one person to a scooter; and where not to ride. These laws are enforced by the Santa Monica Police Department and violators may be ticketed.

This campaign, subsidized by legal and impound fees collected from e-scooter operators and earmarked for mobility education, is geared to do just that. The artwork aligns with the City of Santa Monica's upcoming education campaign called "Take the Friendly Road" as part of a commitment to achieving Vision Zero, or zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The two current e-scooter companies, operating with conditional vending permits, Bird and Lime, are amplifying Santa Monica's local efforts by sharing the message regionally.

"Along with Lime, Santa Monica has been at the forefront of the scooter evolution, and we are pleased to join forces with the City to address the important topic of safe riding," said Thomas Lord, Los Angeles General Manager at Lime. "Scooters, as a sustainable and flexible transportation solution, are transforming the way people get around Santa Monica and cities across the globe. But it only works if our collective communities lead the way in safe and responsible riding." "Santa Monica is the birthplace of the shared e-scooter phenomenon. It is also a leading innovator on providing diverse mobility options to the entire community that are supported by engaging consumer-facing education campaigns and programs," said Tim Harter, Senior Manager of Government Relations at Bird. "We are honored to partner with the City on its e-scooter public education campaign as the safety of those in our community is of paramount importance."

The e-scooter education campaign will run through October.

New drop zone locations for e-scooter and e-bike parking are also beginning to roll out this week, with plans to expand to different neighborhoods throughout Santa Monica. Drop zones are the preferred parking locations for mobility devices in order to reduce impacts on pedestrians and keep the public right-of-way accessible to all. Five drop zone locations are being implemented this week in Downtown, with more to follow in the weeks to come.

COURT

FROM PAGE 1

School Board member finally took the stand in the controversial voting rights trial Wednesday, bringing decades of community activism, protests, legal wrangling and scandals to a head. Until now, the multi-million dollar legal battle over whether the city should create distinct districts has dwelled on the testimony of political scientists and statisticians.

The tone pivoted on Wednesday, as de la Torre's graphic testimony painted a bleak picture of the poorest neighborhood of a beachfront city packed with celebrity glamour and million-dollar homes. Sitting on the stand, de la Torre eagerly answered questions from his attorney Kevin Shenkman, an active parent in the school district who has either won or settled dozens of similar cases throughout California. Santa Monica is only one of a handful of cities that have dared to challenge a suit using the California Voting Rights Act, which makes it easier for minorities to show at-large election systems make it too hard to get their candidates into city government.

"For me this lawsuit is about fairness," de la Torre said. "It's about ensuring our community has more influence on who represents us…and to ensure we have a champion for issues that are important to us on the City Council so we can improve our quality of life."

De la Torre has lived in Santa Monica for more than 40 years, moving to the Pico Neighborhood when he was six years old. Judge Palazuelos briefly smiled when Oscar said his only experience in the wealthy North of Montana neighborhood growing up was on Halloween, when poor families headed there to trick-or-treat for the best candy.

Later, as a football player at Santa Monica High School, de la Torre would visit wealthy teammates there. He recalled one occasion, when the neighborhood's private security patrol slowly rolled by a gathering of white, black and Latino teammates.

"He slowed down, he looked at us, and he just rolled down his window and he said 'Hey, how are you all doing?'" de la Torre said. De la Torre said a law enforcement officer had never asked him before how he was doing, but simply what he was doing. "It was a big eye opener for me."

Shenkman showed de la Torre photos of the Interstate 10 freeway, a recycling/trash sorting facility, City Yards, and he confirmed they are all located in the Pico Neighborhood.

The 2011 state voting law was intended to make it easier for minority candidates to elect representatives from their own communities. With a Latino population of just over 13 percent, attorneys for the city of Santa Monica argue districts would not enhance Latino voting power here. De la Torre's lawyers have presented a hypothetical Pico Neighborhood District that is about 30 percent Latino, with the majority of Latino voters living outside the boundaries. Two current Councilmembers claim Latino heritage, Councilmember Tony Vazquez and Mayor Pro Tempore Gleam Davis.

De la Torre first ran for School Board in 2002, the same year he opened the Pico Youth and Family Center. He's continuously won re-election ever since, despite becoming embroiled in a number of scandals along the way. In 2011, a civilian oversight committee found "an unusual mixture of facts and advocacy" in an investigation into de la Torre relating to a fight at the youth center. De la Torre called the investigation a sham to discredit him. Two years later, he was forced to step down from his role at the PYFC amid city accusations of financial discrepancies and duplicate paychecks.

In 2016, de la Torre ran for City Council and lost. During his testimony, de la Torre said he made a tactical decision to support Measure LV, a controversial slow-growth initiative opposed by incumbents. He claimed his support for LV torpedoed his ability to fundraise and receive endorsements he has gotten in the past for school board.

The city claims de la Torre purposefully threw his election in 2016 to win the lawsuit. De la Torre raised just $980 for his 2016 City Council race, after raising more than $14,000 in each of his prior campaigns. He did not seek endorsements or send out mailers that year.

An attorney for the city of Santa Monica, Marcellus McRae, of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, began cross-examination in the afternoon. The city has argued de la Torre's testimony is self-defeating since he's won four consecutive at-large elections for school board.



McRae reviewed a number of mailers from the influential group Santa Monicans for Renters Rights over the years, showing they endorsed his candidacies for school board, as well as other minority candidates for various offices. He highlighted the number of endorsements de la Torre has received over the years. He compared those endorsements to 2016, where de la Torre was quoted by a local newspaper saying he would not seek an endorsement from SMRR because he was "running a grassroots campaign."

McRae repeatedly impeached de la Torre's testimony, a courtroom tactic where an attorney shows inconsistency between a witness's deposition testimony and what he says in front of the judge. De la Torre admitted failing to seek endorsements in 2016 was a risk that could result in a loss.

Cross-examination will continue Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lyin' Short People and Silky Steel

RANDY NEWMAN, YOU SLIMY LITTLE CRIMINAL

Last Thursday I wrote nice things about you. I take it all back.

In doing a little research I found out that crummy little creep lied to me, flat out lied, 40-some years ago when I interviewed him when his tour with Ry Cooder stopped in Albuquerque, at UNM. No room to tell the story here, maybe later, but I'm gunnin' for you, Newman. Rock scribes never forget a liner note, let alone a lyin' "rock star" (ha!).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! -- JAYDEE MANESS (here's a find! and here's why you need me and should contact the Pulitzer people right away, because you've got to be a pretty serious music fan to see this name and go, whoa! one of the best steel guitar strokers for the last 60 years, in a rare solo appearance in a chill country joint in Burbank, so here are some reasons: helped pioneer, with Gram Parsons who discovered him at the Aces Club in the City of Industry, of all places, the nascent LA fusion of rock with country, was on the Byrds' landmark 1968 "Sweetheart of the Rodeo" and split, with bassist Chris Hillman, for the successful Desert Rose Band, toured and recorded with Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Dwight Yoakam, Vince Gill, Tom Jones, Neil Diamond, Eric Clapton, Elton John, Ray Charles and many more, became a Buckaroo, and played on "Hee Haw" with Buck the first year, joined the famous Palomino Club house band, played on "The Dukes of Hazzard" for 7 years, backed Johnny Mathis, Clint Black, Sting on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show -- is that enough?), 9 p.m., Joe's Great American Bar & Grill, Burbank, $?

PARADISE -- A Divine Bluegrass Musical Comedy (the Ruskin keeps me as a fan with another ace, fun production with some great original songs you'll hum out the door but be careful about those lyrics in mixed company, solid to great cast with star leads both local and imported, live band, directed so well by our own Arts Commission chair Mike Myers), Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m. through Sept. 23, Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica airport, $20-$35.

DAVID BYRNE (founder-frontman for the wonderful Talking Heads, Byrne has carved out one of the most interesting, creative careers in music-theater-letters-et al, he's got a lot of ground to cover in concert but chances are good he'll break some new ground, just trust the man, and ask him how his bike is), Fri 7 p.m., Santa Barbara Bowl, $49.50-$204.50, also Sat 8 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, downtown LA, $39.50-$149.50.

RECOMMENDED:

TODAY! -- ROCK LEGENDS -- The Lost Negatives of Michael Friedman (hurry now! run don't walk, just down the street to the old Victorian on the corner of Main and Ocean Park, the California Heritage Museum, where this impressive collection of Friedman's unposed photos of major rock artists like the Stones, the Band and Janis from 1969-73 will be leaving after Sunday to reside forever at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame -- you don't want to have to go to Cleveland to see this, do you? didn't think so -- what a story, lost track of the negs before he could print them then his wife walks down from their attic 40 years later with a box in her arms, "is this what you've been looking for and yakking about all this time?"), California Heritage Museum, Santa Monica, free for veterans and military, free Fridays, or $5-$10.

FARTBARF, Yaawn, Assquatch, the Fabulous Downey Brothers (you know what I'm gonna say: Fartbarf will blow your mind, move your body and tickle your ears, and ooo! -- twice in the same column I get to recommend an act that is certifiably UNIQUE and only 10 bucks, see also TOLEDO DIAMOND at Harvelle's), Sat 8 p.m., Alex's Bar, Long Beach, $10.

Summer Happenings: The Greater Body (every once in a while there is something that looks so interesting I'm tempted to go even though I'm not familiar with any of the performers and this is one, also the Broad has a good track record for these sort of things, so here is the description from their website of the many artists, you judge and let me know, in case I don't make it -- Chinese punk, post-punk, ritual performance, film, psychedelia and more: post-punk Re-TROS rocks the East West Bank Stage with special guests Xiu Xiu, MIIIA pumps out her rave-inspired beats, Daniel Collás, Juliet Swango and Jie Ma perform Collás' original score to accompany Zhou Hongbo's film "Lotus Ferry," Asian Dope Boys celebrate the euphoria and psychedelia of Eastern religions, art, music and dance in collaboration with Aïsha Devi, who channels metaphysical research and ritualistic practice into an alternate club environment, Oculus Hall transforms into an underground Beijing punk club with back-to-back sets by FAZI, Hell City and Shave 'N' Shut, meanwhile Yan Jun presents work incorporating field recording, voice, feedback and his own body in response to the architecture of the museum, composer Ji Dongyong presents "Ban" for the 37-reed sheng, performed by Dai Zifan with electronics and live digital projections), Sat 8 p.m., the Broad, Santa Monica, $25-$30.

THE TOLEDO SHOW (it's right here! 4th St, downtown Santa Monica, every dang Sunday, it's a unique show and how often can you say that, first-class concept, musicianship, choreography and it's 10 bucks, tsk, c'mon people, what do I have to do, pick you up and drive you there and order your first drink?), Sun 9 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.

YES with Jon Anderson, Rick Wakeman, Trevor Rabin (can't give my full enthusiasm to this but I'm sure this crew will do honor to Yes's well-known songbook, a string of hits you love, you've got The Voice, of Jon Anderson and keyboard monster Rick Wakeman but I'd be missing the superb Steve Howe on guitar and of course to some of us it's just not Yes without one of the great all-time percussionists in any genre, Bill Bruford -- drummers genuflect when his name is mentioned -- who was on my cable

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

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WINNER

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Guess Who's Coming to Singapore?

I GUESS I'VE SEEN THIS PLOT-LINE 77 times in the last year alone. A young couple, madly in love, return to his or her home town for a special event---a wedding or holiday or some such---and to introduce their parents to their Significant Other. And "other" is the operative word here. The "otherness" involves a difference in religion or ethnicity or class. Either his parents or her parents or both sets of parents object emphatically to the match. So in order to appease their parents, the couple breaks up---temporarily. And the rest of the movie or play involves what they go through to get back together again.

This is the plot line of "Crazy Rich Asians", a beautiful new film that has won much-deserved acclaim from both critics and audiences. And the operative word here is "beautiful". I don't think I've ever seen so many beautiful people all together in such an extraordinarily beautiful city: Singapore. Every woman is exquisite and nearly all the men are hunks. In fact, you could turn off the sound and just watch the people cavorting in their beautiful, exotic costumes and come away from the film completely satisfied.

The gorgeous protagonists in this romantic comedy are Rachel Chu (Constance Wu) and Nick Young (Henry Golding). Rachel, who was born in China and brought to America as a young girl, earns the immediate disapproval of Nick's mother, Eleanor, (Michelle Yeoh) who considers her a Chinese-AMERICAN and certainly not "one of us." The "us" in question is a coterie of society's oldest and richest families, and even though Rachel speaks Chinese and is a University professor teaching, of all things, economics, she cannot measure up to Eleanor's standards as a girl qualified to marry her son.

Further, before they arrived in Singapore Nick had not told Rachel about his family, so she was overwhelmed to learn that he was the son and heir of one of the wealthiest men in all of Asia. She was also overwhelmed by their community's lifestyle: it seemed that they never went anywhere, or partied, without an entourage of at least 200 friends. And the wedding festivities were incredible: in one scene the female wedding guests were taken to an enormous display of extravagant gowns and told to pick out as many as they liked, as a gift from the bride and her family.

"Crazy Rich Asians", so rambunctious and colorful, is neatly served by the astute direction of Jon Chu and the glowing cinematography of Vanja Cernjul. Scenes were shot in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia, but the elegant architecture and spotlessly clean streets of Singapore were a special treat for the eyes and made you want to hop on the next plane immediately.

Or at least add it to your bucket list!

The film itself is an adaptation of an international best-seller written by Kevin Kwan in 2013. It was his first book, and he has since written two more which will undoubtedly be showing up at your local theater within the next year or two.

"Crazy Rich Asians" opened here in Los Angeles and in New York last week and grossed a mind-boggling $34,000,000 over its first weekend.

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

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 4

TV show in the '90s, Bruford jumped to King Crimson then restarted his jazz career in earnest), Wed 7:30 p.m., the Greek Theatre, Griffith Park, Los Feliz, $50-$150

ALICE IN CHAINS (I'm not a huge fan but I can see why some are, which means you must get to Amoeba by 4 at the latest, they can bang their metal hard then charm you with a ballad next song), Wed 6 p.m., Amoeba Music, Hollyweird, free.

GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC (c'mon, I don't have to school ya on the Cosmic Masters of P-Funk, do I? -- sure it's Santa Ana but how far would you go if you thought this was your last chance to stand in front of legends? did you catch Sinatra? the Beatles? George Jones? von Karajan? -- don't say I didn't give you a chance), NEXT Thurs 8 p.m., the Observatory, Santa Ana, $25.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Hawk Percival, Ambar Lucid, Bones Muhroni, Travis Daggett, Kishi Bashi, Emerson Star, Juliet Swango, Storefront Church, Them Evils, Boogaloo Assassins, Take Pictures, Sleep Club, Coma Girls, Empress Of, Puddle of Mudd, the Carothers Brothers, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, Doctors & Engineers, Release the Bats, Wormstew, Yaawn, Napalm Death, Cattle Decapitation.

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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LIFE TASTES BETTER HERE™

Culture Watch

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

Home-Based Culture

THIS WEEK, THE ONLY EVENT I WAS able to get out to was an art opening at the Robert Graham Gallery in Culver City. Except: I was a day early! But that turned out to be fortuitous because I got a personal tour with the artist, Timothea Stewart.

She is a lively blond, now in her mid 70s who looks 50. The works are rainbow colored vertical ribbons, starbursts, and vortex-shaped figures, all expressive of a spiritual inner journey, many grouped in triptychs, with each work edifying and amplifying the others.

Timothea began drawing and painting in Spain (she has included her earliest drawings in the upstairs gallery). It's really interesting to see the influences on her early work and how radically she has evolved over time.

After Spain, she was given a studio at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, where in addition to painting and drawing, her career blossomed outward into consulting with museums, private collectors and art dealers. When she moved back to California, she opened a gallery on La Cienega Blvd. with an exhibition of the works of Wallace Berman, the granddaddy of assemblage art and a crucial figure in the history of post-war California art.

Timothea's inner journey began as coincidences were mounting in her life, and she felt they were pointing her in a more spiritual direction. She eventually joined up with the founder of the Mind Spiritual Inner Awareness (MSIA) leader, John-Roger. Although he became controversial later in the movement, she traveled the world with him for 30 years and left her art behind. She still attributes her spiritual growth to his teachings, and although he has passed on, she still practices what she learned from him.

Her reawakening as an artist came through a painting exercise involving an investigation into ancient spiritual masters, and the energy she derived from the experience led her back to her art. You can see this energy in her works.

Timothea's paintings and drawings will be on view for a very short run; the gallery is open Tuesdays through Sundays, and on Sunday, August 26 there's a closing reception, along with an artist talk with her at 3 p.m.

Robert Graham Gallery is run by Graham's son, Steven Graham, and in the upstairs gallery you'll see a number of Robert's works on view. The gallery is located at 5856 Adams Blvd., in Culver City. Call 310 480-7977 for more info. https://www.facebook.com/rgstudioinfo/



Sara Spitz

ART GALLERY: Timothea Stewart's art on display.

THE BOOKSHOP

A quiet, lovely film opens tomorrow at The Landmark Theatres in West L.A., called "The Bookshop," starring the amazingly gifted and flexible actress Emily Mortimer. (Interestingly this was also the week that I watched "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" on Netflix, another movie based on a book with literature at its core. I'll be speaking with the producer, Paula Mazur, this week and will report on that conversation later.)

Based on Penelope Fitzgerald's novel of the same name and set in 1959, widowed Florence (Mortimer) decides that she will open a bookshop in a small English seaside town in East Anglia. She will meet forces she never expected to deal with, objections from those who have never read books, others who want the space they've coveted for years (but done nothing about) as an arts center for the town.

Florence does some daring things, or perhaps daring only to those with closed minds. She brings in Ray Bradbury's books and then the shocking, scandalous and controversial "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov. Now the wasps are really buzzing.

Patricia Clarkson plays the "villain," a high-handed power broker who schemes in the nastiest way to rid herself of the bookshop's proprietor, while "old guard" eccentric recluse Mr. Brundish (played by one of my favorite actors, Bill Nighy) takes himself out of self-imposed exile to try to help Florence.

It's a study in individual character strength and stick-to-it-ive-ness, until the forces arrayed against her prove indefensible.

"The Bookshop" opens Friday, August 24 at the Landmark Theatres.

MORE SUMMER STREAMS

I find myself enthralled with the series "Love in a Cold Climate," the story of three close friends, Fanny, Linda and Polly, whose lives intersect and diverge in unpredictable ways. I've only watched 3 of the episodes from this 2001 BBC production, a beautiful period piece set from 1929 through 1940.

Based on the novel by Nancy Mitford, Alan Bates plays eccentric uncle Matthew who raises his niece Fanny (the wonderful Rosamund Pike), who narrates the series. For all three the chief goal is to get them married. Linda, played by Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh, is a sillier girl, whose mother is the very epitome of narcissism; and Polly (Megan Dodds) is a rebel, who refuses to marry then shocks everyone by choosing her dead aunt's widower (and homosexual) Boy (Anthony Andrews).

Check it out on Amazon Prime Video.

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.

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Courtesy photo

CASTILLO: The Samohi grad was only 18-years-old when he was murdered last year.

CONVICTION

FROM PAGE 1

Samohi and graduated in 2016. His body was found by paramedics in the early morning of Feb. 26, 2017, near UCLA's Santa Monica Medical Center with a single gunshot wound to his head.

As previously reported by the Daily Press, detectives said they believed Castillo was sitting in a car on the 2100 block of Pico Boulevard with an acquaintance when he was shot by the 42-year-old suspect shortly before 1 a.m. early that Sunday.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles District Attorney's office told the Daily Press that Castillo and Espinosa had a brief confrontation with each other before Espinosa ran to his car, retrieved his gun and shot Castillo.

Espinosa, a convicted felon, was arrested last year at a home in Baldwin Hills nearly three months after Castillo's murder. At the time, he was in possession of an Uzi pistol, a weapon that matched the description of the gun used the night of the shooting.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **73.2°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
New S swell slowly builds. NW windswell creeps up.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
Modest S swell tops out. Small NW swell-mix.



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 AUGUST 8, 2018 AT ABOUT 8:11 A.M.

While patrolling the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk, officers saw a female drinking a beer in public. Officer detained the subject for the violation. A computer check revealed nine outstanding Santa Monica warrants for her arrest. The subject was placed under arrest for the violation and warrants. Rebecca Caroline Hallock, 43, was booked for an open container in public, drinking in public, and outstanding warrants. Bail was set at $80,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 402 Calls For Service On August 21.

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

Battery Lincoln/Ocean Park 00:01 a.m.
Indecent exposure Lincoln/Pico 03:05 a.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 1200 block Ocean 03:34 a.m.
Burglary 1100 block 7th 05:50 a.m.
Vandalism 1600 block 12th 05:56 a.m.
Vandalism 800 block Olympic 07:19 a.m.
Auto burglary 2300 block Arizona 07:46 a.m.
Auto burglary 1000 block 2nd 08:06 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 08:24 a.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block Marine 08:34 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block The Beach 08:44 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 09:12 a.m.
Encampment 1400 block Cloverfield 09:13 a.m.
Battery 300 block Arizona 09:21 a.m.
Elder abuse 1100 block Arizona 09:36 a.m.
Burglary 1100 block 5th 10:04 a.m.
Person down 600 block Wilshire 10:23 a.m.
Burglary 800 block 5th 10:24 a.m.
Fraud 200 block California 10:39 a.m.
Battery 2700 block Santa Monica 10:58 a.m.
Stalking 1800 block Santa Monica 11:12 a.m.
Encampment 1700 block Ocean Front Walk 11:43 a.m.
Animal related incident 1000 block Palisades 11:51 a.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 12:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 4th/Adelaide 12:21 p.m.
Encampment 1600 block The Beach 12:52 p.m.
Vandalism 1200 block 14th 1:42 p.m.
Battery 2200 block Wilshire 2:11 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1700 block Santa Monica 2:22 p.m.
Person w/a gun 1900 block Lincoln 2:30 p.m.
Harassing phone calls 800 block 5th 2:58 p.m.
Grand theft 4th/Broadway 3:35 p.m.
Vandalism 800 block Olympic 3:38 p.m.
Injured person 2000 block Ocean Front Walk 4:02 p.m.
Auto burglary 900 block 10th 4:05 p.m.
Auto burglary 1000 block 2nd 4:06 p.m.
Vandalism 1500 block Wilshire 4:14 p.m.
Person w/a gun 2600 block Barnard 4:58 p.m.
Runaway 1400 block 6th 5:02 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1200 block 16th 5:07 p.m.
Prostitution 300 block Olympic 5:09 p.m.
Strong-arm robbery 1200 block 2nd 5:12 p.m.
Auto burglary 2900 block 31st 5:13 p.m.
Bike theft 300 block Broadway 5:13 p.m.
Auto burglary 2300 block Arizona 5:15 p.m.
Bike theft 300 block Colorado 5:19 p.m.
Burglary 1000 block 9th 5:41 p.m.
Drunk driving 17th/Delaware 5:49 p.m.
Fight 1100 block Wilshire 7:11 p.m.
Encampment 800 block Palisades Park 7:19 p.m.
Fight Ocean/Colorado 7:23 p.m.
Encampment 1700 block The Beach 8:54 p.m.
Burglary 2300 block 32nd 9:33 p.m.
Family disturbance 2300 block Ocean Park 11:27 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 23 Calls For Service On August 21.

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

Emergency Medical Service 800 block 2nd 02:23 a.m.
EMS 700 block Ocean 02:56 a.m.
EMS 100 block Colorado 04:03 a.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block Colorado 08:19 a.m.
Hydrant leak 3200 block Pennsylvania 10:25 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield/Michigan 12:04 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Ocean 12:25 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Ocean 12:37 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2200 block Neilson 1:04 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Stewart 1:43 p.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block Pico 2:11 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 2:31 p.m.
Lock in/out 1600 block Ocean Park 2:38 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 4:02 p.m.
EMS 1900 block 22nd 4:48 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 6:35 p.m.
EMS 2700 block Main 8:08 p.m.
EMS 400 block Montana 8:11 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Wilshire 9:10 p.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 9:13 p.m.
EMS 100 block Kinney 9:14 p.m.
Traffic collision w/physical rescue 800 block Pacific Coast 10:00 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 10:08 p.m

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DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 8/18
24 34 52 61 67
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 60M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 8/21
14 16 19 38 57
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 118M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 8/18
4 5 24 30 38
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 25M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/21
16 22 23 26 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/21
MIDDAY: 4 6 4
Draw Date: 8/21
EVENING: 5 5 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/21
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:41.09

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!

raffish

1. mildly or sometimes engagingly disreputable or nonconformist; rakish: a matinee idol whose raffish offstage behavior amused millions.
2. gaudily vulgar or cheap; tawdry.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Coffee? Tea? Cancer?

■ Flight attendants may have a higher risk of some cancers because they literally spend a good chunk of their lives higher than the rest of us.

■ A Harvard study found that men and women who work on flying planes experience increased rates of many types of cancer, compared to the general population, from breast, cervix and skin to colon, stomach and liver. One possible explanation is their work environment: Spending extended periods of time at higher altitudes exposes flight attendants (and pilots) to more cosmic ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen.

■ Other factors may be disrupted circadian rhythms, such as jet lag, that impair immune function and exposure to a host of chemical contaminants, from jet engine leakages to flame retardants that contain compounds that may act as hormone disruptors.

■ Researchers haven't studied cancer risk in frequent flyers, but say there's no reason why heavy travelers would not have similar risks.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

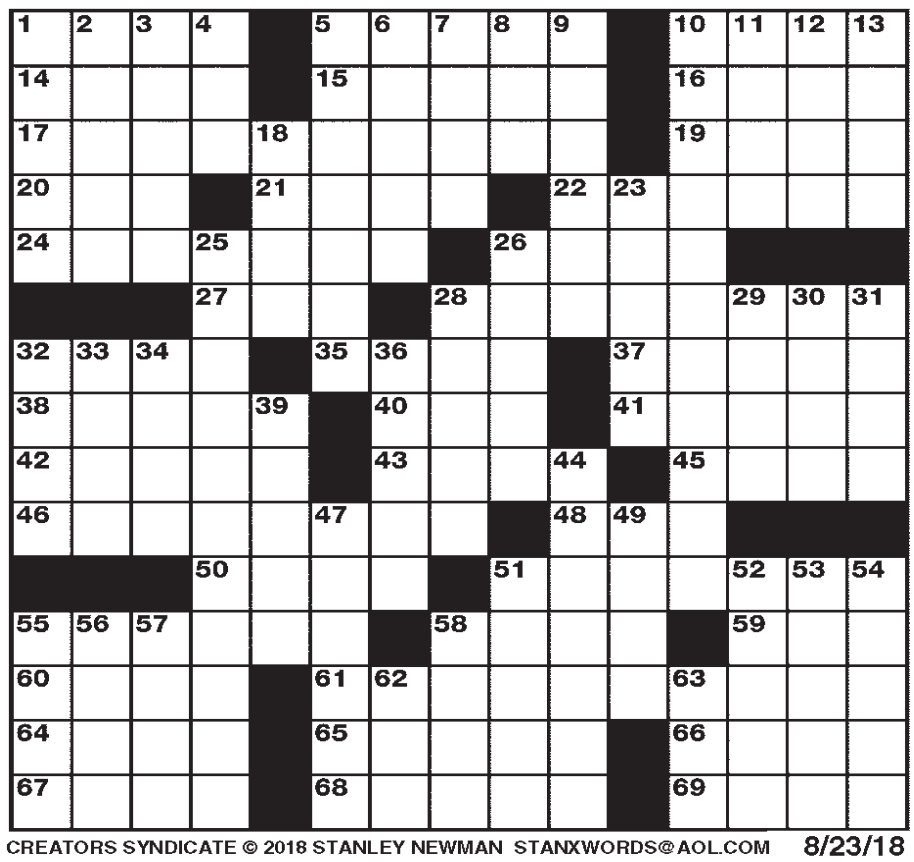
INPUT/OUTPUT PAIR by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Turn to pulp
5 Fallen angel
10 Pick up aurally
14 Part of UAE
15 Piper product
16 Caroling season
17 Zilch
19 Minimal rain
20 Avian symbol of Australia
21 *Hamlet* quintet
22 Diviners' cards
24 Draw upon
26 Carson City neighbor
27 Kayaking implement
28 Something played by puzzlers
32 Lose traction
35 Polite interruption
37 Century 21 rival
38 Barbershop bottle
40 Leave floored
41 Chilling
42 *My Fair Lady* lady
43 Hoodlum
45 Day on the Roman calendar
46 Prankster's weapon
48 Sean Lennon's mom
50 Hamlet, for one
51 Comedy genre
55 Recyclable technology
58 "Right __ way . . ."
59 Frat letter
60 Meditation on a mat
61 Early event in presidential races
64 5 Across' doings
65 Run through, as a debit card
66 Holding a grudge
67 E-mail folder
68 Age-old battlers
69 River near the Leaning Tower

DOWN

1 *Olympia* artist
2 Limburger's claim to fame
3 Took sudden notice
4 *Westworld* airer
5 Prismatic displays
6 Justice who succeeded O'Connor
7 Home for Kit Carson
8 Hill builder
9 More fastidious
10 Symbol for a proton
11 Schilling successor
12 Zillions
13 Count of gym crunches
18 Granny
23 It means "male"
25 Contents of some shakers
26 Shakespearean teen
28 Team's triumphant cry
29 In the thick of
30 Nutmeg spice
31 Spot markers
32 Ladled entrée
33 Tropical nut
34 Rolling __ (prosperous)
36 World Court city, with "The"
39 200 milligrams of rubies
44 Picks up on
47 Rock that sounds swell
49 SpaceX collaborator
51 Have much influence on
52 Interior appointments
53 One-eighty
54 Spanish avenue
55 Ophthalmological focus
56 Made a basket, say
57 Opposed to, nonstandardly
58 Kit Kat bar competitor
62 Have yet to pay
63 Letters on Forever stamps



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/23/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 23)

This solar return brings you more attention than you're used to, but you'll know just what to do with it. You'll earn a reputation as someone who solves problems, makes life better for others and is generally fun to be around. How you show up to gatherings will favorably touch the financial and professional sector of life. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 21, 8 and 30.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You really want the best for the group. You leave your ego out of the decision-making process. You'll use the best idea -- the one that will forward the interests of all. Whether or not that idea was generated by you won't matter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Light comes from the outside; appearance comes from inside. Everyone assembles it inside his or her own mind. That's why they each see it so differently. Right now, you're seeing more underlying emotion than the others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Do not give up on your difficult project. There is so much more you can do! One or two attempts are not nearly enough. As you approach your fifth or sixth try, the fates will favor your tenacity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
It's weird to want something and then, inexplicably, run in the opposite direction of it. But fearing what you want is normal: What if you get it and it's not fulfilling? Today you won't have such a problem if you just stay put.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Trying to impress your love won't work. Go the other way. Be comfortable. Do what it takes to get there. This won't unfold exactly as imagined, but some expectations will be met.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Children do not know how to take responsibility until adults show them how. It is entirely possible that the one who isn't stepping up to the plate may not have been taught to do right.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
A universal complexity: People are who they are instead of who you'd like them to be. Well, it's something to accept and even embrace. You'd be so bored if they always did as you preferred.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
There's a season for everything, and each season gets to decide its own timing. The timing will get more surprising these days, on both the global and the personal level.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
When people act weird around you, it's because they don't want you to know all there is to know. That's fair. No one deserves to know everything. But it won't stop you from wondering.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It might seem that there's more work needed to get work than there is to do the work. This is true. Marketing is real. Access to opportunity won't be cheap, but it will be worth the investment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Words are confusing. Intentions get muddled. History will go down not as a testament to intention but as a testament to action. Action always speaks loudest, clearest and with the most direct message.

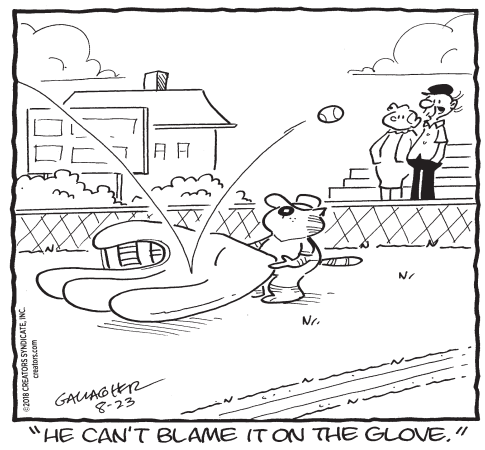
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your mind isn't working in the usual way, which makes you uniquely equipped for today's challenge. Hopefully, you'll accept the proposal posed by a kindred soul in need.

Social Aquarius Moon

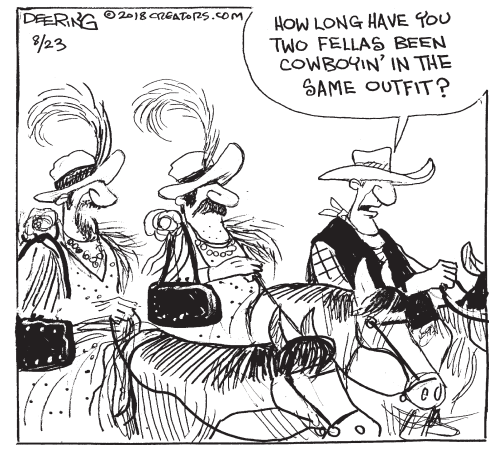
A person is not just a person. A person is also part of a story. When you touch lives, teach what you know or help others to have experiences they otherwise might not, you are making the story richer and more epic. Under the social Aquarius moon, involve others, even when you don't have to, even when it's actually extra work for you to do so.

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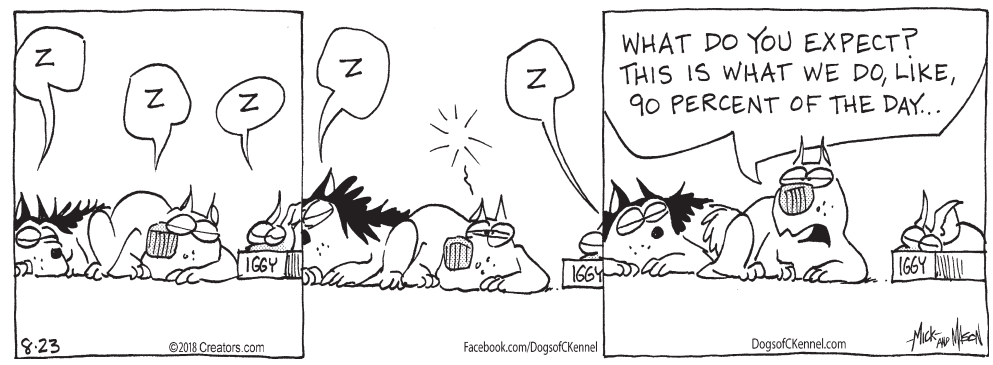
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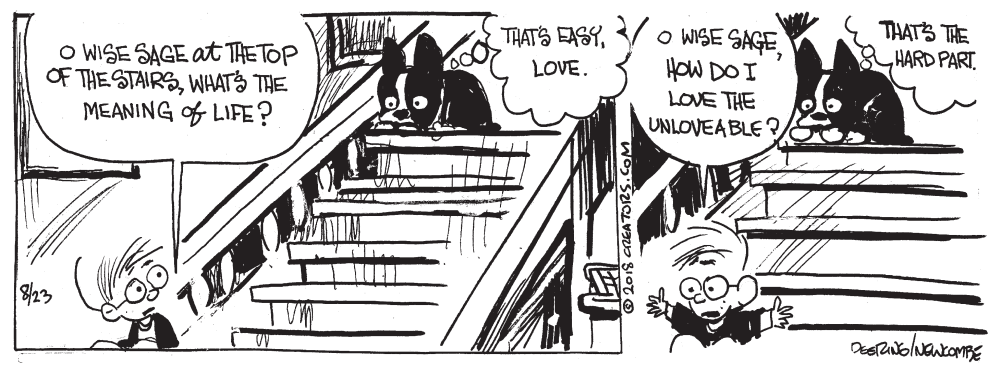
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California lawmakers pass bill to erase old pot convictions

BY PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

A bill requiring California prosecutors to erase or reduce tens of thousands of marijuana criminal convictions was approved by the state Legislature on Wednesday and now awaits Gov. Jerry Brown's signature.

When voters passed Proposition 64 in 2016 to allow adult use of marijuana, they also eliminated several pot-related crimes. The proposition also applied retroactively to pot convictions, but provided no mechanism or guidance on how those eligible could erase their convictions or have felonies reduced to misdemeanors.

The Senate passed a bill Wednesday that would make that happen.

The bill orders the state Department of Justice to identify eligible cases between 1975 and 2016 and send the results to the appropriate prosecutor.

The state DOJ estimates that almost 220,000 cases are eligible for erasure or reduction. The DOJ has until July 1, 2019, to compile the list of eligible cases and forward it to the appropriate district attorney's office.

Prosecutors then have until Jul 1, 2020, to decide which cases on the DOJ list they want to challenge.

Since passage of Proposition 64, most California district attorneys have said they didn't have the resources to review their records to identify eligible cases.

Non-violent, felony convictions for possession or distribution of less than an ounce of marijuana are eligible for reductions to misdemeanors, though prosecutors can challenge applications based on the person's criminal history. Felons with serious convictions such as murder, rape and robbery that are considered "strikes" under a California law requiring stiff sentences for repeat offenders.

Some eligible people hired attorneys and petitioned courts on their own and prosecutors in San Francisco and San Diego counties reviewed past cases and took action on their own to erase or reduces thousands of cases combined.

But the vast majority of eligible people have not applied for relief, many of them not even knowing they qualified. Others saw the process as too expensive and complicated.

The bill was introduced by Democratic Assemblyman Rob Bonta, who represents parts of Oakland, California, and passed the lower house earlier this year.

It passed the Senate 22-8 with bipartisan support on Wednesday.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco, who supported passage, said many with marijuana convictions don't even know they are eligible.

Wiener said the bill "creates a simpler pathway for Californians to turn the page."

Republican State Sen. Joel Anderson, who represents a rural district east of San Diego, said the bill will enable some eligible people regain their gun rights by reducing felonies to misdemeanors. "This bill will take those people off the prohibited list, save us time and money," Anderson said.





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