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Editor's Note:
Thursday is usually our Weekender paper that features our lifestyle columns and stories about weekend plans on the front page. However, we have deviated from that format to cover the ongoing wildfires in the area.

# Another wildfire joins the siege across Southern California

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO & BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

A wildfire erupted in Los Angeles' exclusive Bel-Air section Wednesday as yet another part of Southern California found itself under siege from an outbreak of wind-whipped blazes that have consumed multimillion-dollar houses and tract homes alike.

Hundreds of homes across the L.A. metropolitan area and beyond were feared destroyed since Monday, but firefighters were only

SEE **WILDFIRE** PAGE 6

# For the first time in 7 years, there are more homeless in US

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER & GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

The nation's homeless population increased this year for the first time since 2010, driven by a surge in the number of people living on the streets in Los Angeles and other West Coast cities.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released its annual Point in Time count Wednesday, a report that showed nearly 554,000 homeless people across the country during local tallies conducted in January. That figure is up nearly 1 percent from 2016.

Of that total, 193,000 people had no access to nightly shelter and instead were staying in vehicles,

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 4

# Nearby fires shut down schools, outdoor events



Photo Courtesy of SMFD Twitter

**FIREFIGHTERS: Santa Monica firefighters are working the front lines of the nearby fires and wind warnings continue through Thursday.**

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Dangerous Santa Ana winds continue to elevate fire danger across Southern California, with winds predicted to reach 80 miles an hour in some places on Thursday, according to CAL Fire.

Maps of the region showed "high danger" of fires in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, as flames and smoke shut down schools and separated commuters from their workplaces. At one point Wednesday, more than 200,000 Southern Californians were under evacuation orders.

Thousands of students stayed home as Santa Monica College, UCLA, and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District canceled classes. Hundreds of teachers and staff for SMMUSD became separated from their classrooms when the Skirball Fire broke out near the Getty Center. Video taken by drivers showed a raging hillside in the dark of night as commuters tried to get across the Sepulveda Pass before the officials shut down the 405 Freeway in Brentwood.

"We would not have been able to get in the number of substitute teachers we need in order to have a regular schedule and regular classes," SMMUSD spokesperson Gail Pinsker told the Daily Press. Parents should continue to monitor their inboxes, television and social media for up to the minute information the rest of the week.

SMMUSD plans to remain closed Thursday.

A Red Flag warning remains in effect for Southern California through Friday, promising to blow smoke and ash across the region and potentially down trees and power lines. Air quality remains poor in Santa Monica and the City urged residents to reduce outdoor and physical activity, canceling outdoor programs.

"Particulate matter from a forest fire, is

SEE **FIRES** PAGE 7


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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

## Thursday, December 7

### Rent Control Board Meeting

The Santa Monica Rent Control Board will hold its regular meeting to discuss Rent Control related issues. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.

### Read a Play Group: A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Discover great plays while uncovering your inner actor. This new monthly group will read through a different play each month, with each in attendance taking part in the read through. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

### L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now

One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Bilingual volunteers available. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 3:30 – 7 p.m.

### Introduction To T'ai Chi

Discover the ancient Chinese tradition, T'ai Chi, a noncompetitive, self-paced system of gentle physical exercise and stretching. Instructor Pat Akers teaches the basic movements. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

## Friday, December 8

### A Winter's Solstice

The feature shows are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m. As we head into the holiday season, find out about the history of ancient observances of the Winter Solstice, and take a look at a re-creation of the remarkable planetary conjunction in 2 BCE – a leading candidate for a scientific explanation of the Star of Bethlehem. Second floor of Drescher Hall (1900 Pico Blvd.). $11 ($9 seniors and children) for the evening's scheduled "double bill," or $6 ($5 seniors age 60+ and children age 12 and under) for a single Night Sky or feature show or telescope-viewing session. For information, please call (310) 434-3005 or see www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or www.smc.edu/planetarium. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

### Annual Holiday Concert

8p.m. Haesung Park, organ; The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's; The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish; Tomasz Golka, conductor. Bach: Keyboard Concerto in D minor; Corelli: "Christmas" Concerto; Handel: Messiah, Part I and "Hallelujah" Chorus (audience sing-along). St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienveneda Ave., Pacific Palisades. Tickets $35. Advance tickets and information: MusicGuildOnline.org, (310) 573-7422

### Holiday Sing-Along

Celebrate the holidays by singing along to your favorite tunes! Santa Monica Youth Choir will perform, accompanied by a small orchestral ensemble. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before program. Ages 4-10. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 4 – 4:30 p.m.

### Get Crafty! DIY Photo Snow Globe

Bring a photo and an empty jar from home and turn it into a photo snow globe. For families with kids/teens ages 0-17. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### Guest House Open

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

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

# Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Robin Hood's Tax Plan: Rob the Rich and Give to the Poor

**IF SWASHBUCKLER ERROL FLYNN WERE** alive today, I think he'd stand up and applaud "The Heart of Robin Hood", a delightfully quirky new version of the Robin Hood legend that has been entertaining audiences since the 14th century.

The current production, by the Icelandic company Vesturport, is a comedy that has traces of Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona", in which a woman disguises herself as a man in order to avoid marriage to a man she doesn't want. In addition, the play provides the exuberance and high-flying dynamics reminiscent of a company from Cirque de Soleil.

As the play opens, we are bowled over by the exquisitely beautiful and deceptively simple setting designed by Borkur Jonsson. It is Sherwood Forest, depicted as a background in shades of green constructed in some material that allows the players to arrive by sliding down it from the rafters to the stage. The setting is enhanced by bowers of leaves and occasional trees, including one with a high branch that the players leap onto to rest, to hide, or to pounce from above on their sword-wielding attackers. In addition, as we soon discover, the background wall, which is 40 feet tall, has flaps that open and shut in which various characters appear from time to time, as well as a large rectangular opening with a small platform that allows others to stand and declaim their intentions from on high.

But before we are introduced to any of them, we are serenaded by an Icelandic singer/songwriter and her four-man band who have been nesting quietly behind a tree upstage right. This ensemble performs between scenes where other plays might offer a blackout as players scramble into new costumes backstage. The star, Salka Sol, has a glorious voice which she accompanies with her guitar, and later she plays the guitar and a trumpet simultaneously.

So now that you're comfortably settled in your seat, let's get on with the play.

First up is Robin Hood, robustly played by the handsome, well-muscled Luke Forbes, surrounded by a few of his Merry Men, and joined by a fierce new member, Little John (Jeremy Crawford).

At this juncture Robin only steals from the rich; the "giving to the poor" hasn't occurred to him yet. That lovely idea is provided by Marion (Christina Bennett Lind), daughter of the Duke of York (Ian Merrigan), who had escaped into the forest to be free from an environment she calls "a gilded prison" and to avoid marrying a man that her father favored.

Mistakenly assuming that Robin and his men would protect her, she is chased off after a ferocious sword-fight, which impressed him but didn't change his decree: "no women allowed in the forest."

Chagrined, she returns home and changes her clothes (but not her face, her hair, or her makeup) and returns to the forest as a man named Martin. She is accompanied by her guardian, Pierre (Daniele Franzese), who expertly provides much of the comedy, verbally and physically.

The plot thickens, however, when the evil Prince John (Eirik Del Barco Soleglad) appears in the forest searching for Marion. His plan, in addition to marrying her, is to kill his brother, King Richard, who is off to the Crusades, and seize the crown for himself.

"The Heart of Robin Hood", with its 17 players, many playing multiple parts (Ian Merrigan alone plays six), makes it impossible to introduce them all and their many subplots within the story. They are an amazing company, all of them, but never more so than when they are performing their physical feats of magic. They enter and leave the stage sliding up and down the back wall, rising and descending on a thick rope, sometimes twirling or hanging upside down, tumbling, fighting, rolling, jumping into a bottomless pit, falling into a real pond and climbing out dripping wet, and other insane activities. Plus everybody sings.

British writer David Farr is the author of this unique and tumultuous production and the directors are Gisli Orn Gardarsson and Selma Bjornsdottir. (There are a couple of umlauts and an accent mark missing from those names, but my computer isn't sophisticated enough to add them.) But do remember their names, because I'm sure we will be hearing from them again soon.

You have until December 17 to catch this wonderful show at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. in Beverly Hills. It will run Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call (310) 746-4000 or online at TheWallis.org/RobinHood.

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

# David Dines

By David Pisarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Little Ruby Delivers Huge Flavor

**THE AUSSIE INVASION, VIA NEW YORK,** has landed on Santa Monica Boulevard, just a few feet away from ocean vistas in the form of a hip new burger joint called Little Ruby. This West coast offshoot of an East coast small chain known as Ruby's Café is a delightfully charming open air experience.

**Little Ruby**
109 Santa Monica Blvd
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I arrived on a Sunday to a mostly packed restaurant for lunch. The general manager, Tim Sykes, was a charming host. I was seated streetside and said my server, Bree Cummins would be along shortly. As I read the basic menu, which has some unique items for Southern California, Bree made her appearance and asked if I had questions. Not sure what I wanted, she suggested I try the Vegemite and toast.

Being of a certain age, her suggestion immediately produced a soundtrack in my head of Men At Work singing Down Under. Against my instincts, she was able to talk me into trying this crazy Australian breakfast staple. "You just put lots of butter on the toast and a very little amount of the Vegemite" she said. "okay, bread and butter has to be a good foundation. I'll give it a go."

Minutes later she and Tim arrive to explain how one Vegemites. The plate had two pieces of inch and a half thick, crusty, yeasty bread with a huge ramekin of butter and a medium one of some black tar looking stuff. It had the consistency of toothpaste and smelled fermented. Following the instructions of Bree, I slathered bread with loads of butter and then a tiny dollop of the Vegemite.

I bit in the toasted bread and the warmed butter brought a familiar flavor of joy, and then the Vegemite hit. It was tangy, and salty, with an effervescent note of yeast. I liked it. The Vegemite was a strong but not overpowering complementary flavor to a traditional taste.

What Bree said, and I realized was my problem previously, was "it's not like peanut butter. You use it as a seasoning not as a main ingredient." That made all the difference in the world to the experience. Less is more in this case, where more is overpowering.

Next up was the Bacon, Lettuce, Avocado and Tomato sandwich. Bacon being bacon, more is always better. This sandwich arrived with a humongous amount of Australian style bacon on well toasted bread and slathered with mayonnaise and ripe tomatoes. This was a winner of a sandwich. To be noted though Aussie style bacon is more like a smoky bacony pastrami than the streaky bacon that we Americans are used to. It doesn't come cooked to a crispy consistency that shatters upon biting. It's more like strips of meat that resemble a sliced brisket. I found this style similar to the British bacon I had while living in England. It's akin to Canadian bacon as we call it.

I didn't have room for the enormous burgers and salads, all of which looked superb. I'm just going to have to return and try some other items on the menu. It won't be a hard sell to get me to go there thanks to the great service by Bree and the charming eyes of Tim, along with his accent, I'll be happy to drop in and say Hello anytime.

There is a nice selection of pastas that I want to try, and the desserts range from a standard chocolate cake, to Banofee Sundae Pot, and a Sticky Date Pudding that sounds delish.

Parking is available in an adjacent public lot and a few spots on the street. Being downtown, there's the parking lot complexes and some additional spots on Ocean Avenue.

Little Ruby rates a solid 4 out of 5 stars for food, service, and environment. Presentation is rather typical and nothing to write about. Prices range from $9-18 for small plates, Brekkie is $10-15 and for salads, pastas are $ 13-15, lunch specials, and dinner mains are $10-25. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**DAVID PISARRA** is local attorney, writer and columnist for the Daily Press.

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## HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

tents, the streets and other places considered uninhabitable. The unsheltered figure is up by more than 9 percent compared to two years ago.

Increases are higher in several West Coast cities, where the explosion in homelessness has prompted at least 10 city and county governments to declare states of emergency since 2015.

City officials, homeless advocates and those living on the streets point to a main culprit: the region's booming economy .

Rents have soared beyond affordability for many lower-wage workers who until just a just few years ago could typically find a place to stay. Now, even a temporary setback can be enough to leave them out on the streets.

"A lot of people in America don't realize they might be two checks, three checks, four checks away from being homeless," said Thomas Butler Jr., who stays in a carefully organized tent near a freeway ramp in downtown Los Angeles.

Butler said he was in transitional housing — a type of program that prepares people for permanent homes — for a while but mostly has lived on the streets for the past couple of years.

The numbers in the report back up what many people in California, Oregon and Washington have been experiencing in their communities: encampments sprouting along freeways and rivers; local governments struggling to come up with money for long-term solutions; conflicts over whether to crack down on street camping and even feeding the homeless.

The most alarming consequence of the West Coast homeless explosion is a deadly hepatitis A outbreak that has affected Los Angeles, Santa Cruz and San Diego, the popular tourist destination in a county where more than 5,600 people now live on the streets or in their cars. The disease is spread through a liver-damaging virus that lives in feces.

The outbreak prompted California officials to declare a state of emergency in October.

The HUD report underscores the severity of the problem along the West Coast.

While the overall homeless population in California, Oregon and Washington grew by 14 percent over the past two years, the part of that population considered unsheltered climbed 23 percent to 108,000. That is in part due a shortage of affordable housing.

In booming Seattle, for example, the HUD report shows the unsheltered population grew by 44 percent over two years to nearly 5,500.

The homeless service area that includes most of Los Angeles County, the epicenter of the crisis, saw its total homeless count top 55,000 people, up by more than 13,000 from 2016. Four out of every five homeless individuals there are considered unsheltered, leaving tens of thousands of people with no place to sleep other than the streets or parks.

By comparison, while New York City's homeless population grew to more than 76,000, only about 5 percent are considered unsheltered thanks to a system that can get people a cot under a roof immediately.

In the West Coast states, the surge in homelessness has become part of the fabric of daily life.

The Monty, a bar in the Westlake neighborhood near downtown Los Angeles, usually doesn't open until 8 p.m. Partner and general manager Corey Allen said that's because a nearby shelter requires people staying there to be in the building by 7. Waiting until after that to open means the streets outside are calmer.

Allen said the homeless have come into his bar to bathe in the restroom wash basins, and employees have developed a strategy for stopping people from coming in to panhandle among customers.

Seventy-eight-year-old Theodore Neubauer sees the other side of it. Neubauer says he served in Vietnam but now lives in a tent in downtown Los Angeles. He is surrounded by thriving business and entertainment districts, and new apartments that are attracting scores of young people to the heart of the nation's second most populous city.

"Well, there's a million-dollar view," he said.

Helping those like Neubauer is a top policy priority and political issue in Los Angeles.

Since last year, voters in the city and Los Angeles County have passed a pair of tax-boosting ballot initiatives to raise an expected $4.7 billion over the next decade for affordable housing and services for the homeless. HUD Secretary Ben Carson praised the region for dealing with the issue and not relying solely on the federal government.

"We need to move a little bit away from the concept that only the government can solve the problem," he said.

But Mayor Eric Garcetti said that insufficient federal funding for affordable housing and anti-homelessness programs are part of the reason for the city's current crisis.

"Los Angeles' homelessness crisis was not created in a vacuum, and it cannot be solved by L.A. alone," Garcetti said in a statement.

Excluding the Los Angeles region, total homelessness nationwide would have been down by about 1.5 percent compared with 2016.

The California counties of Sacramento, which includes the state capital, and Alameda, which is home to Oakland, also had one-year increases of more than 1,000 homeless people.

In contrast, the HUD report showed a long-running decline in homelessness continuing in most other regions. Nationally, the overall homeless number was down by 13 percent since 2010 and the unsheltered number has dropped by 17 percent over that seven-year span, although some changes in methodology and definitions over the years can affect comparisons.

Places where the numbers went down included Atlanta, Philadelphia, Miami, the Denver area and Hawaii, which declared a statewide homelessness emergency in 2015.

The homeless point-in-time survey is based on counts at shelters and on the streets. While imperfect, it attempts to represent how many people are homeless at a given time. Those who work regularly with the homeless say it is certainly an undercount, although many advocates and officials believe it correctly identifies trend lines.

The report is submitted to Congress and used by government agencies as a factor in distributing money for programs designed to help the homeless.

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. AP videographer Krysta Fauria and photographer Jae Hong in Los Angeles contributed to this article.

**PUBLISHER**
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

**STAFF WRITER**
Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**
Andrew Oja
andrew@smdp.com

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

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

**CIRCULATION**
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

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

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# Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## You Don't Need To Know The Words

**PRECIOUS SOUNDS LIVE AND RECORDED**

**"LANDINI" – AURELIO; "THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS" – SYRIANA (BOTH, REAL WORLD RECORDS).**

I like to listen to, and tell others about, music that makes me smile. These two albums, from opposite sides of the planet, do that.

Not to say I don't put on music that makes me think, or even wince, or get up off the couch, because these two do all that too, but mostly they make me feel like music can cure all the world's ills. They take me somewhere else. And I can't understand a word on either one.

Aurelio is from a special place in Honduras, a strip of land jutting out into the Caribbean, where in his village of Plaplaya there is no electricity and little contact with the outside world, and the cherished music traditions of the Garifuna are everything. His father was a respected troubadour, his mother a songwriter and gorgeous singer. His first guitar was made of cans and fishing line. He feels a strong obligation to take his rich musical tradition out into the world.

The guitar work on this, his 2014 second album, just knocks me out. So emotional. Much of it seems to come from the fingers and heart of Guayo Cedeno. It is not flashy but it thrills the soul. He glides and picks and taps and slides through the cultural gumbo as if guiding his own musical tour. The vocals also are simply gorgeous, be they Aurelio or large choruses. The melding of African with Caribbean - Central American sounds is as good as anything I've ever heard, but that is the essence of Garifuna music.

As specific to a tiny distinct culture as "Landini" is, "Syriana" was recorded mostly in London but finds its soul all over the Middle East. There is a reason it bears kinship with the great Dub Colossus album I reviewed last week: same producer, Nick "Dubulah" Page.

Where the fluid guitar sounds dominate "Landini," here the thread is the plucked stringed instruments and the percussion, recorded mostly in Damascus. The distinctive qanun, a descendent of the Egyptian harp that creates a cinematic quality, is heard throughout. There is a blending with Western styles and atmospheric touches that sometimes remind you of a film noir or a James Bond soundtrack, or even surf music. But it works beautifully, unified while ranging widely.

Sadly, this 2010 album could not be recorded now, with Syria and Damascus ravaged by war. Let us hope this touching, gorgeously realized recording is not a monument to a lost world.

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** THE CHAMBER BROTHERS, with Lenny Goldsmith (Tower of Power). Saturday, 7 p.m., Casa Escobar, Malibu, $20. Four brothers harmonizing gospel, soul, rock and roll together, all their lives. Consummate performers, class act. If all they gave you was their 1967 11-minute psychedelic hit "Time Has Come Today," you would walk away completely satisfied.

**RECOMMENDED:** "ALRIGHT THEN," Saturday, 5 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, $25, $20 seniors/students/guild. Orson Bean (stage, screen, television star of many decades) wrote this as companion piece to his award-winning 2016 hit "Safe at Home." Performed with wife Alley Mills ("The Wonder Years"), it is their true story of how two people who "should not have wound up together — made it, told with humor, pathos and the occasional song." I have never been disappointed by a performance at Ruskin, therefore "recommended," without hesitation. Once again, the advantage of living in Santa Monica, where your neighbors are worth watching.

**TAKE 6**, with the Manhattan Transfer and Nnenna Freelon, Saturday, 8:30 p.m. ($55), 10:30 p.m. ($45), Catalina Jazz Club, Hollywood. Vocalese heaven.

**CALDER QUARTET**, tonight! 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, downtown LA, $20-112. Schubert and Schoenberg. They rock.

**GEORGE KAHN JAZZ & BLUES REVUE**, Sunday, 8 p.m., Vitello's, Studio City, $20. They swing.

**PUSSY RIOT**, those rockin' ladies who would be serving time if they were back in the USSR, are playing in Highland Park Tuesday, but it's sold out.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Next Monday to Jerry Rubin, my good friend with all the wrong ideas on overdevelopment in Santa Monica, but all the right ones about art preservation.

Although 74 is nothing to celebrate (75 is), he is nonetheless having a blowout at the venerable Gaslite at 2030 Wilshire, 5:30 - 8 p.m. He promises music, comedy, karaoke, activist guest speakers, open mic, and a "Birthday Cake Peace Ceremony."

Oh c'mon — it may sound tame but I'm sure it will be fun. Jerry's got some great friends. One is the versatile and talented David Zasloff, who will be doing comedy. I had Zasloff the musician on my cable TV "Not Just Another LA Music Show" a couple decades ago, and I look forward to catching this act.

Jerry announces "no birthday gifts please, except your pledge to keep up your good efforts to promote peace!" And then he puts in a pitch for Starbucks gift cards. Typical. But, why not? If you believe in peace (as opposed to the horror of war), remember Jerry's the guy out there doing it full time for nearly 40 years, standing in for most of us who sit at home and occasionally think, I should do something…

Here's a final chuckle for you, from Jerry's world. Some beach Krishna yahoo named Punya Das posted Jerry's birthday fundraiser page for Planned Parenthood, with the comments, "this is jerry rubin the famous peace activist baby killer spiritually blind some peace activist looooooooooooser." A) He's obviously got him confused with the other, more nationally famous Jerry Rubin … who died 23 years ago; B) "baby killer" — really? — try informing yourself about what Planned Parenthood does; I suggest using this new thingy called the Internet; C) "spiritually blind some peace activist looooooooooooser" — just a tad judgmental for a professed spiritual guy, aren't ya Punya? I love people who stand up and shout out the courage of their convictions, no matter how much ignorance they're based on. I suppose jacking the earth's population up to nearly 10 billion by 2050, from the current 7, with mostly tragically impoverished humans, is a recipe for peace.

**LYRIC OF THE WEEK:** "He's the universal soldier and he really is to blame, but his orders come from far away no more, they come from him and you and me and brothers can't you see — this is not the way we put an end to war?" — Buffy Sainte-Marie ("Universal Soldier")

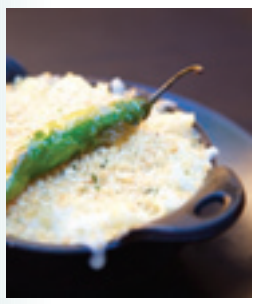
**CHARLES ANDREWS** has lived in Santa Monica for 31 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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## WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

slowly managing to make their way into some of the hard-hit areas.

As many as five fires have closed highways, schools and museums, shut down production of TV series and cast a hazardous haze over the region. About 200,000 people were under evacuation orders. No deaths and only a few injuries were reported.

From the beachside city of Ventura, where rows of homes were leveled, to the rugged foothills north of Los Angeles, where stable owners had to evacuate horses in trailers, to Bel-Air, where the rich and famous have sweeping views of L.A. below, fierce Santa Ana winds sweeping in from the desert fanned the flames and fears.

"God willing, this will slow down so the firefighters can do their job," said Maurice Kaboud, who ignored an evacuation order and stood in his backyard with a garden hose at the ready.

Air tankers that were grounded most of Tuesday because of high winds went up on Wednesday, dropping flame retardant. Firefighters rushed to attack the fires before the winds picked up again. They were expected to gust as high as 80 mph at night.

Before dawn Wednesday, flames exploded on the steep slopes of Sepulveda Pass, closing a section of heavily traveled Interstate 405 and burning at least four homes in Bel-Air, where houses range from $2 million to $30 million.

Firefighters hosed down a burning Tudor-style house as helicopters dropped water on hillside homes to protect them from the 150-acre (60-hectare) blaze.

Bel-Air was the site of a catastrophic fire in 1961 that burned nearly 500 homes. Burt Lancaster and Zsa Zsa Gabor were among the celebrities who lost their houses.

Across the wide freeway from the fire, the Getty Center art complex was closed to protect its collection from smoke damage. Many schools across Los Angeles canceled classes because of poor air quality. UCLA, at the edge of the Bel Air evacuation zone, canceled afternoon classes and its evening basketball game.

Production of HBO's "Westworld" and the CBS show "S.W.A.T." was suspended because of the danger to cast and crew from two nearby fires.

In Ventura County northwest of L.A., the biggest and most destructive of the wildfires grew to 101 square miles (262 square kilometers) and had nearly reached the Pacific on Tuesday night after starting 30 miles (48 kilometers) inland a day earlier.

The fire destroyed at least 150 structures, but incident commander Todd Derum said he suspects hundreds of homes have been lost.

While winds were calmer Wednesday, the fire remained active around Ventura, spreading along the coast to the west and up into the mountains around the community of Ojai and into the agricultural area of Santa Paula.

"We're basically in an urban firefight in Ventura, where if you can keep that house from burning, you might be able to slow the fire down," said Tim Chavez, a fire behavior specialist at the blaze. "But that's about it."

Amanda Lee Myers in Santa Paula and John Antczak, Jae Hong, Reed Saxon in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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Courtesy photo

**FLAMES: Wind-driven fires have consumed homes and businesses.**

## FIRES

FROM PAGE 1

smaller in size that our normal environmental pollutants, causing these particles to get deeper into the lungs," said Gilbert J. Kuhn Jr., M.D. at Providence Saint John's Health Center. "People who are over 65 years old or those with preexisting respiratory and heart problems (such as coronary artery disease) as well as young children…should stay indoors with all windows and doors closed, and use an HEPA air filter, if possible."

Raging fires in neighboring communities meant off-duty firefighters came to work in the city, as the Fire Department sent 13 members to nearby wildfires. SMFD sent an engine and a battalion chief to help with the Creek Fire burning in the Sylmar Area late Tuesday night. SMFD is currently helping Los Angeles with multiple structure fires. SMFD also sent two engines to the Thomas Fire in Ventura County late Monday night as part of the Mutual Aid Strike Team with Culver City FD and Beverly Hills FD.

Public Information Officer Constance Farrell said local fire and police departments as well as libraries remained fully staffed, despite the number of employees cut off by the closure of the Sepulveda Pass Wednesday. The freeway eventually reopened in the afternoon. Public Libraries served as a place to escape the poor air quality outside.

"It's an evolving situating so we've had to move really quickly to understand the scope of the impact," Farrell said.

kate@smdp.com

# LA's Getty Center was built with fire protection in mind

**BY JOHN ANTCZAK**
Associated Press

A destructive wildfire that erupted early Wednesday burned not far from The Getty Center, the $1 billion home to the J. Paul Getty Museum and related organizations that overlooks Los Angeles from a perch on the southern slope of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The campus, which houses collections ranging from pre-20th century European paintings to Roman and Greek antiquities, tapestries, photographs and manuscripts, sits on the west side of Sepulveda Pass, a major thoroughfare on the city's west side.

The fire was reported at 4:52 a.m. on the east side of the pass alongside Interstate 405 and quickly raced up steep slopes into the tony neighborhoods of the Bel Air area, destroying some homes as firefighters and aircraft sought to beat it down.

A 5 a.m. National Weather Service report showed a 22 mph wind and 33 mph gust at the Getty, followed by higher and variable winds later through the morning, but the fire did not jump across the pass even though the plume curled westward and out to sea.

If it had, the Getty would have been prepared. Officials have described how fire protection was designed into the facility by architect Richard Meier, including the thickness of the walls and doors to compartmentalize any fire.

Smoke detection and sprinklers are ever-present along with pressurization systems to keep smoke out or reverse flow if it does get in.

The center has its own reservoir to supply suppression systems if necessary, and there's an on-site helipad to fill helicopters with water. Hydrants throughout the extensive property are fed from a large-diameter loop.

The immediate zone around the building is kept green with fire-resistant plants, and the expansive acreage surrounding the campus is rigorously kept clear of grasses. Canopies of oak trees also serve to suppress the growth of vegetation that could feed a fire.

The Getty Center closed the day before the fire to prevent any harm to its collection from smoke from existing fires in Los Angeles County. It remained closed Wednesday.

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## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **61.5°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Steep NW swell and lingering SSW swell. AM offshore flow.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
NW leftovers in the morning, possible new WNW swell in the PM. Small SSW swell.

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# 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 DECEMBER 2, AT ABOUT 4:55 P.M.

Officers responded to 300 block of Broadway regarding a possible fight in progress. Officers arrived on scene and discovered the suspect being detained by a good Samaritan. The suspect was detained without incident. Officers determined the victim was walking holding her phone in her hand when the suspect approached her from behind. The suspect ripped the phone out of her and ran away. The victim gave chase to the suspect while yelling for help. A good Samaritan tackled the suspect while another person retrieved her phone and handed it back to her. Marvin David Martinez, 23, homeless, was arrested for robbery.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 354 Calls For Service On Dec. 5.

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

Encampment 1600 block of the beach 2:01 a.m.
Fight 22nd / Pico 3:18 a.m.
Prowler 1300 block of Arizona 3:25 a.m.
Battery 500 block of Colorado 3:38 a.m.
Rape 300 block of Olympic 6:37 a.m.
Petty theft 600 block of Ashland 6:47 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom 7:10 a.m.
Encampment 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 7:51 a.m.
Traffic collision 2200 block of 23rd 8:18 a.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block of 21st 8:41 a.m.
Missing person 300 block of Olympic 8:41 a.m.
Grand theft 200 block of Broadway 9:03 a.m.
Traffic collision 1200 block of 2nd 9:06 a.m.
Battery Main / Hill 10:30 a.m.
Auto burglary 200 block of 21st Pl 10:38 a.m.
Grand theft 700 block of 21st 10:46 a.m.
Prowler 1600 block of Appian 10:58 a.m.
Battery 17th / Santa Monica 11:06 a.m.
Battery 2000 block of 3rd 11:18 a.m.
Grand theft 900 block of 3rd 11:33 a.m.
Person down Ocean / Pico 12:35 p.m.
Battery 1900 block of Pico 12:41 p.m.
Fight 400 block of Santa Monica Pier 12:55 p.m.
Auto burglary 700 block of Broadway 1:15 p.m.
Injured person 17th / Montana 1:18 p.m.
Hit and run 2200 block of Broadway 1:35 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block of 2nd 1:42 p.m.
Traffic collision 23rd / Santa Monica 1:46 p.m.
Sexual assault 3rd / Strand 1:46 p.m.
Traffic collision 900 block of 17th 1:53 p.m.
Fraud 200 block of 17th 3:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block of 2nd 3:12 p.m.
Auto burglary 2200 block of Main 3:16 p.m.
Grand theft 1100 block of Ashland 3:54 p.m.
Petty theft 2400 block of Virginia 4:16 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block of Ozone 4:34 p.m.
Petty theft 1000 block of 14th 5:33 p.m.
Battery 1500 block of Berkeley 5:51 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 15th 7:02 p.m.
Fight 2000 block of Ocean 7:05 p.m.
Grand theft 200 block of Broadway 7:50 p.m.
Encampment 1800 block of Lincoln 8:03 p.m.
Auto burglary 1600 block of Cloverfield 10:21 p.m.
Traffic collision 1100 block of 3rd 11:25 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 23 Calls For Service On Dec. 5.

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

EMS 1500 block of Yale 6:19 a.m.
Electrical fire - no fire visible 3100 block of Neilson 6:35 a.m.
EMS intersection of 20th / Pico 8:17 a.m.
EMS 1900 block of Ocean 8:44 a.m.
EMS 2300 block of Kansas 8:50 a.m.
Haz mat - level 1 1800 block of Main 11:21 a.m.
EMS 900 block of Montana 11:28 a.m.
EMS 2000 block of 21st 11:41 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of 12th 11:48 a.m.
EMS 2400 block of Wilshire 12:09 p.m.
EMS 2000 block of Santa Monica 12:23 p.m.
EMS intersection of Ocean / Pico 12:35 p.m.
EMS 1000 block of 12th 12:47 p.m.
EMS 1000 block of 12th 1:12 p.m.
Wires down 2000 block of 19th 1:14 p.m.
EMS intersection of 17th / Montana 1:17 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 3:47 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of Colorado 3:54 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of Lincoln 4:16 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 7:23 p.m.
EMS 600 block of Santa Monica 7:54 p.m.
Trash/dumpster fire 1400 block of Ocean 9:51 p.m.






## DAILY LOTTERY

**Powerball**
Draw Date: 12/2
28 30 32 36 58
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 193M

**Mega Millions**
Draw Date: 12/5
14 15 37 42 67
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 176M

**Super Lotto**
Draw Date: 12/2
7 18 33 40 42
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 37M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 12/5
3 11 16 22 34

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 12/5
MIDDAY: 1 1 3
Draw Date: 12/5
EVENING: 4 4 7

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 12/5
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:49.19

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!

**palmy**
1. glorious, prosperous, or flourishing: the palmy days of yesteryear.
2. abounding in or shaded with palms: palmy islands.
3. palmlike.

## WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

### Body of Knowledge

■ Nerve impulses speed to and from your brain at speeds of up to 170 miles per hour.

### Life in Big Macs

■ One hour of riding a bus burns 68 calories (based on a 150-pound person) or the equivalent of 0.1 Big Macs.

### Never Say Diet

■ The Major League Eating record for kimchi is 8.5 pounds in 6 minutes, held by Miki Sudo. Kimchi is a national dish of Korea, consisting of salted and fermented vegetables, usually cabbage and radishes, with various seasonings.

## MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



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

### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

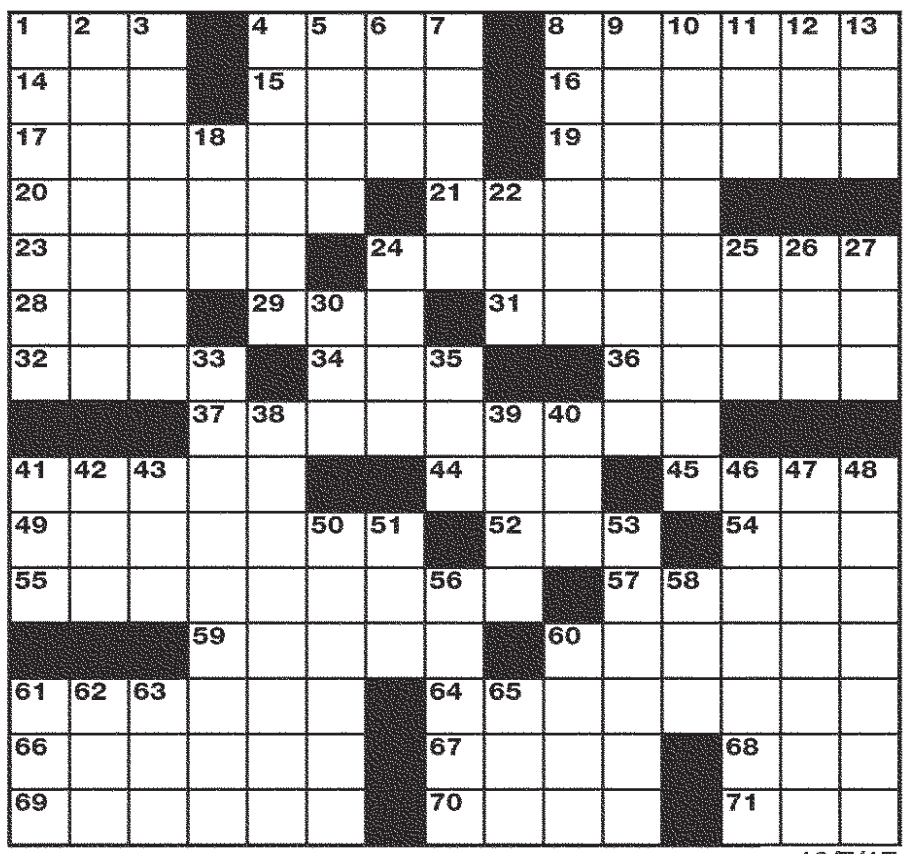
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | 2 | | | | 8 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | |
| | | 8 | | 1 | | 6 | | |
| | 9 | | | 7 | | | 6 | 8 |
| | | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 9 | | |
| 7 | 8 | | | 9 | | | 1 | |
| | | 6 | | 5 | | 8 | | |
| | 1 | | 8 | | 3 | | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | | | | 6 |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

## Newsday Crossword

TOO TO TWO by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 Criticize, so to speak
4 Monomaniacal mariner of fiction
8 Span supporters
14 Go wrong
15 Formal denial
16 *Star Trek* director J.J.
17 Too __ to __
19 Playful knuckle rub
20 Evolve, as events
21 Opera house exclamation
23 Half of a "game" pair
24 Too __ to __
28 Where some MDs work
29 Smart TV brand
31 Industrious ones
32 Gets it
34 Certain drive-thru convenience
36 Ankara cash
37 Too __ to __
41 One with billing issues, perhaps
44 Witty bit
45 Ride with the air
49 Collected abundantly
52 Important physics equation
54 Part of TNT
55 Too __ to __
57 City near Düsseldorf
59 Fuming
60 Very generous gratuities
61 Whole Foods buyer (2017)
64 Too __ to __
66 Group cry for help
67 Very dark
68 Hyundai rival
69 As quickly as possible
70 Casual wear
71 Corn holder

**DOWN**
1 Gets back to work
2 Smelter stuff
3 Extravagant
4 Part of a Bullwinkle costume
5 Ready for planting, perhaps
6 Busiest airport in the southern US
7 *The Hobbit* hero
8 Banquet nibble
9 First and foremost
10 Panorama
11 Video streaming delay
12 Early Beatles record label
13 GPS reading
18 Stats, for short
22 Plunder
24 Place to hike
25 According to
26 Feast-famine connector
27 Letter closers, briefly
30 Half of a "game" pair
33 Zappos stats
35 GPS display
38 Get dinner delivered
39 No longer in effect
40 *CSI* specimen
41 Pendulum path
42 State school, for short
43 Ring physician's decision
46 On the line
47 Flower in herbal shampoo
48 Old West symbol
50 Boaster's assurance
51 Major leaguer with a "W" cap
53 Drive-thru operator
56 On the level
58 Sonoran sun
60 Sprite sister brand
61 Shakesperean slitherer
62 Scratch up
63 GPS display
65 Unspecified individual



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/7/17

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 7)

You'll get the attention you deserve with one stipulation: that you don't settle for less. Stick with those who celebrate and support you and you'll rise past their high expectations and up to your own even-higher ones. Get help in setting up processes that will earn you the extra money and satisfaction you've lacked. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 38, 1, 42 and 25.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)
No one has all the answers. This will come as a relief to you now, because it means that you don't have to offer a turnkey solution for your people. Instead, introduce them to the issues and invite them to work together to solve this.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
What's more important than being right? Understanding. This isn't about knowing more. Knowledge and understanding are not precisely the same thing. The former is more akin to facts, the latter to processes.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
You've already survived your worst days, so even if this one isn't unfolding ideally, there's still enormous potential here if you keep your attitude buoyant. Positive people around you will help.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Everything is moving quickly, and you'll get plenty of participation points over the next three days. You'll win a few and lose a few — and don't worry, because anything you lose will come back around.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
There's something you want to accomplish that seems not to be in the cards. It's like for every push you make, life pushes back. Don't give up. These pushes from life are just trying to guide you to a better way.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Your creativity is not going away just because you happen not to be using it much lately. It's actually swelling up, eager for an outlet. Schedule time for exploration of this side of you in the near future. You're long overdue.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Tenacity, in its less appealing form, is called stubbornness. You'll have this sort of stick-to-it-ness to work with now. Be careful what you agree to, because it won't be so easy to back out.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Develop your plans on paper. This will help you order your thoughts and take stock of your resources, as well as the resources you'll have to acquire to make your wishes a reality.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Still worried about what to give the important people in your life who seem to already have everything? Actually, what you write in the card will be more important. Put time and thought into this and you'll be a hit.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Changing your brain chemistry isn't so mysterious really. There's very little you can do that won't alter it. Ways to get the good chemistry flowing: hugs, music, exercise, learning, laughter and so much more.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You'll look for the drama, humor and general human-interest aspect of life with the zeal of someone who's been invited to a very important dinner party. It just feels better to have a few good stories in your arsenal.

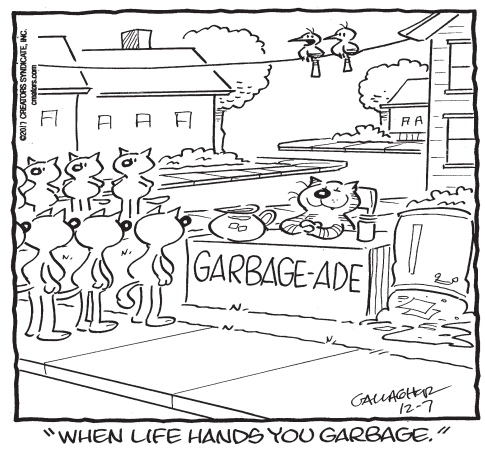
### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
We all talk too much now and then. But one who's proven to be a habitual conversation bully will have you running and hiding in avoidance today. Sad, really, but a good lesson in the importance of generous communication.

## Retrograde Advice

It's said that sadness is about the past, anxiety is about the future and the present is only peace. Maybe for the enlightened masters. For the rest, some degree of sadness and anxiety will be present throughout the early stages of Mercury retrograde — and simplistic platitudes don't help. Accepting the complicated nature of life might, though.

**DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?**
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

## Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

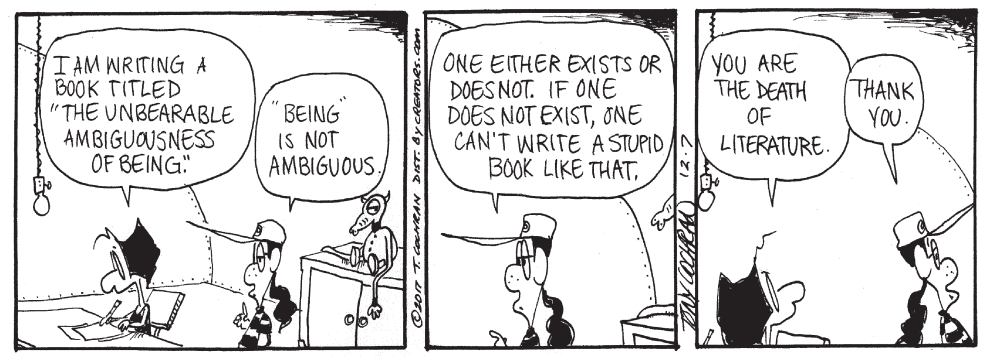



"WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU GARBAGE."

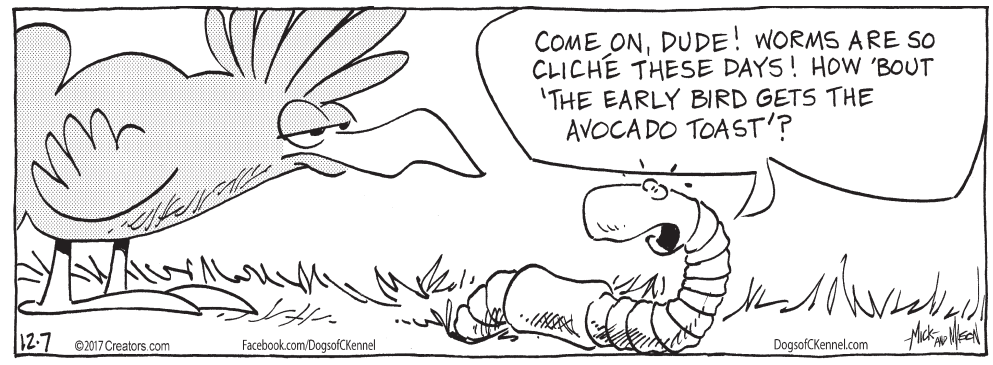
## Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



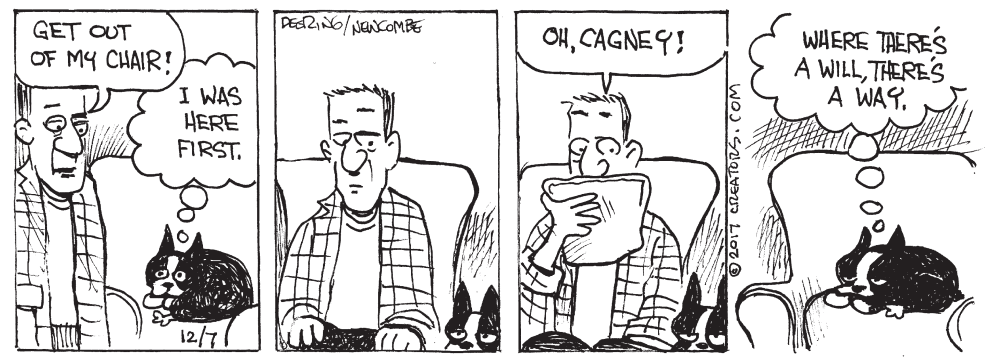

## Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN




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




## Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




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### Help Wanted

JOB OFFER- Printing Company in Santa Monica is looking for Filing, Organizing for small office. ASAP. email mike@peprinting.com peprinting.com

### Wanted

SEEK ROOM to rent. Professional woman seeking private room and bath to rent on Westside. USC employee and grad student. Honest, clean, quiet. References. 310-804-5300.

### DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2017321137 NEW FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/07/2017 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as QUICK AND CLEAN DRAIN CLEANING AND LIGHT PLUMBING. 1568 W. 48TH STREET / 9854 NATIONAL BLVD. SUITE #329 , LOS ANGELES, CA 90062 / LOS ANGELES, CA 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: REALTY RELIEF RESOURCE, INC. 1579 W. 48TH STREET LOS ANGELES, CA

### DBAS

90062. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:MICHAEL GREEN. REALTY RELIEF RESOURCE, INC. . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/07/2017. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-

### DBAS

TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/07/2017, 12/18/2017, 12/25/2017, 01/01/2018.

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# Charity Toy Ride and Holiday Light Tour

## SAT, DEC 9TH RIDE STARTS @6PM

The Toy ride starts at the Bike Shop Santa Monica.
We will be riding along the Strand to MDR Boat Parade and back along Via Dolce through the Venice canals, back down Main st. ending at Windward circle and the Bank of Venice for treats and raffle prizes.

**** Please bring an unwrapped toy to make a child's Holiday special ****

THE BIKE SHOP SANTA MONICA
2400 Main St suite C,
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(across from Urth Cafe)

THE BANK OF VENICE
80 Windward Ave.
Venice, CA 90291.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

*Hosted by* **The Bike Shop Santa Monica**
*Sponsored by* **Bianchi, The Bank of Venice** and **The Santa Monica Daily Press**
*To collect gifts for* **The Santa Monica Police** Activity league holiday event.

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