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Volume 17 Issue 35

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City helps the homeless at the library

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

On a chilly morning last week, a few members of Santa Monica's burgeoning homeless population shouldered their belongings in hiking packs and sturdy duffel bags up to the second floor of the Main Library Branch. A short survey on highlighter yellow paper was their admission ticket to grab to a free cup of coffee and see the smiling faces of a handful of representatives from local social services agencies.

"We're going to be open three to four hours this morning," said Brian Hardgrave with the City's

SEE LIBRARY PAGE 5

All significant California fire evacuation orders lifted

AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

All remaining significant evacuation orders for areas around the smoldering remnants of Southern California's huge wildfire were canceled Thursday after a new round of winds caused little fire activity.

The lifting of evacuation orders and warnings in Santa Barbara County left only remote and little developed Rose Valley in the wilderness of neighboring Ventura County under an order barring residents and visitors.

Warnings of high fire risk were canceled for Santa Barbara County, although they remained in

SEE FIRE PAGE 5



HANUKKAH

Courtesy Photos

Downtown Santa Monica celebrated Hanukkah this week with activities and a menorah lighting on the Promenade.

Santa Monica store called "the perfect environment for a sexual predator"

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

A $3 million lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court this week describes the Lululemon store on the Third Street Promenade as "the perfect environment for a sexual predator to operate," arguing the conditions contributed a supervisor raping an employee at his home in Hermosa Beach.

In the civil complaint, former employee Shayla Famouri alleges she felt pressured to respond to texts from her supervisor, Phillip Silva, and see him outside of work because of Lululemon's workout culture. The athletic wear brand encourages employees to wear Lululemon clothing and attend workout classes as brand ambassadors. During an annual employee competition called "Sweat Week" Silva began texting Famouri to attend workout classes with him.

"Silva attempted to meet with Famouri so frequently, under the guise of working out, that every time Famouri could not oblige, she felt that it was reflecting negatively on her work performance," reads the complaint. Famouri eventually caved and during breakfast after the class, the USC student says Silva steered the conversation toward the topic of sex. She did not report the conversation to a manager because sex was a often talked about among employees at the store.

"Gossip about dating and hook ups were rampant amongst employees at Lululemon," the suit says. "Parties and outings were reg-

SEE YOGA PAGE 4

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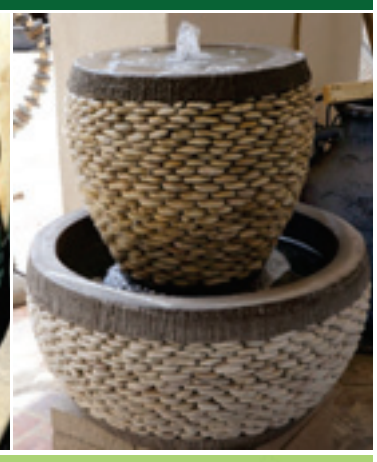
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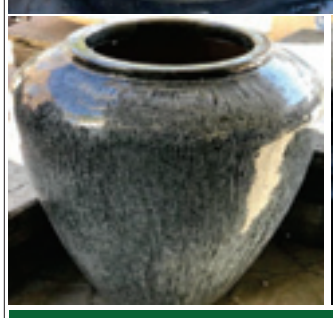
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, December 22

Drive-In Series for Kids

Bring your cardboard box car to the drive-in and watch some holiday favorites. This double header features: How the Grinch Stole Christmas [1966|Unrated|26 Minutes] -AND- A Charlie Brown Christmas [1965|TV-G|25 Minutes] Ages 3 and Up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 23

Design in 3D: Open Lab

Explore 3D printing possibilities. 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. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Guest House open

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

Pico Farmer's Market

Fresh seasonal produce sold direct by California's farmers. Parking for the market is available in the lot along Pico Blvd., at meters along Pico Blvd. or adjacent to Virginia Park in the parking lot on north/east corner of Pico and Cloverfield. 2201 Pico Blvd, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Downtown Farmers Market

The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market, also known as the Organic Market, opened in May 1991. As Santa Monica's second CFM, it had a different mission to fulfill. With the passage of the California Organic Foods Act of 1990, consumers were eager for more organic produce and another market for weekend shopping. The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Main Street Farmers Market

The Main Street market hosts a variety activities including bands, a bi-weekly cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, a face painter, a balloon animal designer as well as seasonal California grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, meats and cheeses. 2640 Main St. @ Ocean Park, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25

City services closed

Buses will be on a holiday schedule.

Tuesday, December 26

City Council Meeting cancelled

Write Away

Gain support and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 12 – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 27

Wacky Winter Adventure Puppet Show

Luce Puppet Co. presents the story of Pepe the dog and Freezey the snow girl, who travel to the North Pole to find the Gingerbread Princess. Limited space; free tickets available at 2 p.m. For Families. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Downtown Farmer's Market

Fresh seasonal produce sold direct from California farmers. The inaugural Santa Monica Farmers Market opened with goals of providing reasonably priced, high quality produce to the city's population, and bringing more foot traffic into the area. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

SEE **LIST** PAGE 6

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

BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

Second federal judge blocks Trump administration's contraception rules

A second federal judge has blocked Trump administration rules allowing more employers to opt out of providing women with no-cost birth control.

U.S. District Judge Haywood Gilliam in Oakland, California, ruled Thursday that the administration had failed to provide advanced notice and to allow public comment on the rule change before implementing it. Gilliam granted a preliminary injunction sought by the state of California.

The rules had already been blocked nationwide by a federal judge in Philadelphia in a separate lawsuit brought by the state of Pennsylvania.

President Barack Obama's health care law required most companies to cover birth control at no additional cost, though it included exemptions for religious organizations. The new policy would allow more categories of employers, including publicly traded companies, to opt out of providing free contraception to women by claiming religious objections.

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SACRAMENTO

Feinstein: No on spending bill without immigrant protections

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein says she won't vote for a stopgap spending measure to keep the U.S. government open if it doesn't include protections for young immigrants.

Congress must pass a spending measure by midnight Friday to prevent a government shutdown. Some Democrats are protesting the measure because it doesn't extend protections for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children that were halted by President Donald Trump. Congress has until March to take action.

Feinstein says it's "unconscionable" to leave that and money for a children's health insurance program out of the bill.

Her Thursday comments are her first opposing the spending bill. They come a day after her Democratic rival, California Senate leader Kevin de Leon, called her "AWOL" when it comes to protecting immigrants.

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NEW YORK

Facebook signs deal with music label Universal Music

Facebook and record label Universal Music Group have signed a multiyear deal that will let Facebook users share videos that have the label's music in them.

Right now, if Facebook's regular users upload videos that contain Universal's music, the videos will get taken down. Universal, a unit of French media conglomerate Vivendi SA, has rights to music from artists including Jay-Z, Rihanna, Bruce Springtsteen and Justin Bieber.

The companies did not say when users would be able to share music in videos on platforms owned by Facebook. They hinted that more music features could be coming.

Facebook declined to comment about its music strategy beyond the press release. Universal did not immediately answer questions.

Facebook is trying to get people to watch and share more videos.

YouTube, the world's largest destination for online video, sells music-streaming subscriptions, but Spotify and Apple Music are thought to be more popular.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Facebook changing how it identifies 'fake news'

Facebook says it is changing how it identifies "fake news" stories on its platform to a more effective system.

The social-media network had put "disputed" labels on stories that fact-checkers found false. Instead, now it will bring up "related articles" next to the false stories that give context from fact-checkers on the stories' problems.

Facebook said Wednesday that in its tests, fewer hoax articles were shared when they had fact-checkers' articles spooled up next to them than when they were labeled with "disputed" flags.

The new approach also may help speed up the fact-checking system, which sometimes worked too slowly . Now information from just one checker can be shown next to the false story. The labeling system required two fact-checkers.

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CARSON CITY

Nevada recreational pot sales outpacing projections

Three months after they became legal, sales of recreational marijuana in Nevada are continuing to outpace projections.

The Nevada Department of Taxation says the $27.7 million in sales reported for September was down from the $33 million reported in August, but $5 million more than the state had anticipated.

The first full month of legal sales in July totaled $27 million.

The department said in a monthly report this week that September sales generated more than $4.7 million in state taxes consistent with the state projections for the month.

Tax revenue for the three months has totaled $12.5 million and is on track to meet state budget projections anticipating roughly $50 million to be generated over a 12-month period.

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Film Review

By Kathryn Whitney Boole
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

THE SHAPE OF WATER
Rated R
123 Minutes
Released December 8

The Shape of Water is truly pure fantasy, and as such this work needs to reach us on a universal gut level and tug at our deepest instincts and emotions. In Guillermo del Toro's expert hands this universality is rendered perfectly. I believe that in writing and directing this film del Toro has proven himself to be one of the great filmmakers of our time.

On the surface the movie reflects the period of the1950's and also the style of '50's science fiction movies. Del Toro has taken the crudely drawn SciFi fantasies of that time period and introduced today's technology and his own imaginative genius as an artist and storyteller to create an amphibian so vivid and so close to human that it's easy to forget he's a creature. He resembles the monster in Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954) yet he is drawn with considerably more sophistication. The result is a totally believable modern day fairy tale. It will seem outlandish at first, and then slowly it draws you in, just as Sally Hawkins' cleaning lady character "Eliza" is drawn to the creature.

The story is set in the 1950's as well, and there are thought-provoking comparisons drawn between the mores and culture of that era in our country and that of our own time. The style of the film is very visual – note that the two of the main characters never speak, yet are able to carry the story. The rich colors and the lighting are symbolic in every scene. Watch the creature's nerve endings - they protrude from his skin and light up according to what he is feeling. The emotional metaphor of water is also a prominent character in this film. The powerful sound track by the legendary composer Andre Desplat, recalls French musicals of the period, very rich and emotional.

As I was watching the film, I felt that no one could have played the role of Eliza but Sally Hawkins, and indeed, I found out later that Del Toro wrote the role for her. She is an extraordinary actress who needs only her eyes, face and physical movement to express her deepest emotions. She started acting after being diagnosed as dyslexic as a child as the drama lessons helped her with her command of words. Octavia Spencer is superb as Elisa's co-worker, "Zelda," who provides all the dialogue to move the story forward and succeeds beautifully in establishing the natural rhythm of the narrative. Michael Shannon is one of the few actors who can portray a thoroughly evil person and still convey hidden redeeming qualities.

The Shape of Water is a must-see, one of the best movies of not just 2017…of forever.

Kathryn Whitney Boole has spent most of her life in the entertainment industry, which is the backdrop for remarkable adventures with extraordinary people. She is a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. kboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews see https://kwboole.wordpress.com

YOGA

FROM PAGE 1

ularly held during which employees drank to excess and hooked up with one another."

Famouri hoped her time as a sales representative in the Santa Monica store would help her get a job at the corporate headquarters once she graduated from business school. In the store, Famouri says managers were indifferent to corporate policies concerning sexual harassment. At one point, she says employees and managers laughed through sexual harassment training and made a game of mocking the video and slapping each other's butts.

"Her managers and supervisors constantly admonished her for wearing clothes that were not tight or revealing enough, in their opinions," the suit says.

After her supervisor tried multiple times to initiate a relationship with Famouri, she says she decided to let Silva down gently. A conversation over sushi went south, with Silva allegedly telling Famouri she was fat and stupid. Shen Famouri drove him home, he asked her to come inside so he could apologize for his behavior.

Once she went inside, Famouri says her supervisor pinned her down on his bed and raped her.

A spokesperson for Lululemon sent the Daily Press the following statement:

"In 2016, Shayla Famouri raised serious allegations regarding the behavior of another employee. Upon learning of these allegations, the company initiated a comprehensive and in-depth investigation. The accused employee was immediately suspended; and then resigned. Nevertheless, the company saw the investigation through to completion, ultimately finding that the accused employee did engage in behavior that was not in line with our standards of conduct."

"At lululemon, harassment and discrimination have no place in our community. Our culture is founded on us all positively contributing to an environment rooted in our values, which includes a commitment to working with integrity and a collective dedication to creating a respectful workplace. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that employees come to work each day in safe environments where they are empowered to speak up."

About six weeks after the alleged rape, Famouri confided in a coworker who urged her to report it to the store manager. She did and Lululemon launched an investigation into the incident. A source within the company says during the investigation they became aware of other claims against Silva, but were not aware of his alleged misbehavior prior to Famouri's complaint.

A few days later, Famouri reported the alleged rape to the Hermosa Police Department. After a brief investigation, the Los Angeles District Attorney's office declined to press charges.

While the case was under investigation, Famouri requested a leave of absence from Lululemon. Instead, Famouri alleges the Human Resources manager at Lululemon told her she could resign and be eligible for rehire in the future. A source at the company denies Lululemon tried to push her out.

Equinox confirmed to Buzzfeed News that Silva now works as a personal trainer at the upscale gym. He could not be reached for comment and deleted his social media accounts in the wake of press coverage regarding the lawsuit.

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1

Human Services Division as he poured creamer into a cup for a woman who had walked into the room. "Individuals can come and go as they please: grab a cup of coffee and talk to service providers about what they need."

Hardgrave was overseeing the City's second pop-up event at the library on Santa Monica Boulevard. It's part of a citywide effort to get more homeless residents connected with the dozen or so providers that supply job training, public benefits, healthcare and more in an effort to get people off the street. The first pop-up in October even had a room for the Department of Public Health to administer vaccines for Hepatitis A and the flu.

Local shelters are filled to the brim, sending more people on the street. An annual count of the homeless in January found 581 people sleeping on sand and sidewalks, along parks and hidden in alleyways in this city's eight square miles. The number was up nearly 40 percent over the previous year. Those familiar with the crisis say the face of Santa Monica is changing – most of those sleeping on the streets have been here less than six months. The homeless population nationwide is up one percent.

At the pop-up fair, Nick Bersentes was one of the new residents meeting the local service providers. Warm and articulate, Bersentes said he's been sleeping in an ally just north of the Third Street Promenade for about a month and a half. It's just the latest stop in the last decade he's been homelessness, wandering from town to town and state to state.

"I'm actually enjoying being homeless right now," Bersentes said. "I'm feeling like I'm in touch with the world."

He came to Santa Monica because of a fond memory of his youth: eating lunch with his aunt on The Third Street Promenade and seeing the movie The Fugitive. That day, and thus the city, became a symbol for him of better times. In 2004, Bersentes was diagnosed with schizophrenia; he says it's too hard to keep a job and juggle all the obligations that come with keeping an apartment and career. He came to the small resource fair to figure out how to collect his disability checks.

Other visitors were already familiar with the local systems. A young man with a skateboard tucked under one arm gave a hug to a representative from OPCC assuring her "You are a lifesaver. You put me in the right direction."

"We really don't want people to think they need to come to the library to get their needs met," Hardgrave said. The idea, however, is to meet Santa Monica's homeless residents in the areas where they frequent in order to get them the help they need.

Before leaving, the visitors filled out exit surveys. A brief glance through the messages found repeated complaints for "more work opportunities" and a need for hygiene showers.

"One guy did rave that Southern California is a heck of a lot better at this than Tulsa, Oklahoma," said the volunteer collecting the green slips of paper.

In November, the City Council approved a series of new investments to address homelessness, along with a multi-department strategic plan. The plan includes coordinated outreach, new teams, and more resources at the public libraries.

One homeless man shook his head while hearing about the City's efforts at the resource fair.

"I just heard they have coffee and I came here for that," the man said while filling up a paper cup with Starbucks breakfast blend. "I think it's all very good but they don't have a lot of space for apartments. They're all full."

With a warm cup of coffee in hand, he picked up his duffel bag and walked out the door.

kate@smdp.com

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

effect elsewhere in Southern California due to Santa Ana winds, low humidity levels and very dry vegetation.

The only visible flame was on the northern side of the fire where controlled burns set by firefighters to clear combustible material were being conducted in wilderness, said fire information officer Brandon Vaccaro.

About 18,000 homes and other buildings were still listed as threatened. Even when there's no sign of flame or smoke, fires can rekindle.

The Thomas fire, which began Dec. 4, is responsible for two deaths, has destroyed at least 750 homes, and has burned about 425 square miles (1,100 square kilometers).

The blaze was 60 percent contained and is the second-largest in California's history.

The latest round of winds was caused by the passage of a cold front into the area overnight. But firefighters had used three days of calm conditions to bulldoze containment lines and set controlled fires to clear dry brush.

Some residents stayed away from their homes at hotels and evacuation centers, while others waited at home and hoped for the best.

Katy and Bob Zappala had stayed in their home in Santa Barbara, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles, despite an evacuation order in place since Saturday.

"Our cars are packed, we have all our clothes and jewelry, so we're ready to leave at a moment's notice should we have to," Katy Zappala, 74, said Wednesday.

The Zappalas and their cat, Madeline, decided against leaving their home after the evacuation order was issued because they knew authorities would not allow them back in.

"You're always nervous when the winds come up," Zappala said.

Days and days of fierce, often erratic gusts combined with extremely dry weather pushed the blaze with incredible speed as it moved through Ventura County's agricultural Santa Clara Valley, into the city of Ventura and then moved northwestward, threatening the coastal communities of Santa Barbara County.

Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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The Snide World of Sports

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor's Note:
As the year closes, the Daily Press will be reprinting some of the most read and/or best content from the year. The following column was a reader favorite and originally published in February.

Jeanie Buss and Playboy Magazine

Not that anyone asked but I've always had a crush on Jeanie Buss. (Who interestingly enough, was born in Santa Monica.) The President of the Lakers is beautiful (in 1995 appeared in Playboy); intelligent (graduated from USC with honors); and exceptionally rich. If the Clippers sold for $2 billion the Lakers could be worth double. (FYI, in Playboy, Jeanie's boobs were covered, fittingly, by basketballs.)

It's obvious Jeanie reads Snide World. I say that because last Sunday I recommended that she put Earvin "Magic" Johnson in charge of basketball operations and on Tuesday she did it. (Before you send email, I'm joking.)

For Laker fans, the announcement about Magic was greeted with joy and relief. Joy because it rekindled the hope that the Lakers would soon return to the glory days when they competed for championships. Or at least where they were relevant again. Relief, because Jim Buss was canned as head honcho of basketball operations and returned to just owner status. ("Just?" He's worth north of $500 million!)

But, after the celebration at the news of Magic's ascension reality set in. As Bill Plaschke of the L.A. Times put it in a headline, "Can The Greatest Laker Save the Worst Lakers Ever?"

Before Magic left to go on the road with the Lakers to Oklahoma City, he did pull off one trade, involving Lou Williams but it was met with mixed reactions. Williams was the Lakers' leading scorer, and a candidate for his second "6th Man of the Year" Award in three years. He's also the leading highest scorers in the 4th quarter in the entire NBA. He was sent to the Houston Rockets, which will hopefully be good for Lou. He's going to a playoff team and may wind up being a crucial piece to a possible deep run in the playoff's

In return for Williams, the Lakers received Corey Brewer, a two-time NCAA Champion with the University of Florida and Most Outstanding Player of the 2007 NCAA Tournament. A 10 year NBA vet, Brewer, 6'9", has been with 5 other NBA teams before the Lakers. His career gives meaning to the term "well traveled." Along with Brewer, however, Houston sent the Lakers their 1st round draft choice. (Currently #27 in next year's draft.)

The "much hoped for but little chance" deal of somehow getting Paul George from the Indiana Pacers did not happen. Reportedly Magic discussed the possibility with Larry Bird, the Pacers GM but it didn't go past preliminary stages. Bird and Magic's rivalry goes back to the 1979 NCAA Championship and extended for more than a decade in the NBA. Now it appears to be extending to their respective front offices. At their age, maybe they'll make an orthopedic tennis shoe commercial.

George, a Southern California native, has expressed interest in joining the Lakers, and clearly L.A. Has interest in him. But Magic is not interested in trading any of the Lakers' young talent, so a swap seems impossible.

Somewhat lost in Magic's new position is the sadness experienced by current Lakers at the sudden departure of Mitch Kupchak who spent 36 years with L.A. going back to his days as a player. He was GM for 17 years. Each Laker was signed by Kupchak, as was Coach Luke Walton. But clearly a change was overdue. In fact, Jeanie apologized to Laker fans that, because the decision was so emotionally difficult (firing her brother) she had "probably waited too long."

The "good news" is Magic appears incredibly enthusiastic and that has always yielded great things for the Lakers. The "bad news" is, it's going to be a long road. That said, if, and it's a huge if, the Lakers could entice Long Beach native and former UCLA, Bruin Russell, Westbrook, who can opt out of his contract at the end of the current season, the long road would be infinitely shorter.

Complicating a possible Westbrook deal, or for another star, is the Designated Player Exemption of the CBA. Don't ask me to explain it, but this new rule allows elite players, who are still with the team that drafted them, to be paid beaucoup bucks (as in $200 million) to stay by their current team. That's why among Magic's immediate duties is to become thoroughly versed on the vast complexities of the CBA.

My "immediate" hope for the Lakers is that they lose enough of the remaining games to hold on to their own 1st round draft choice. This "negative rooting" is an unfamiliar and unpleasant experience. Hopefully Magic's charm, basketball intelligence and inter-personal persuasiveness with free agents will have the Lakers back in the playoffs sooner than later. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. (Explaining any typos.) Meanwhile, and for old time's sake, I'm wondering what I did with that Playboy Magazine that featured Jeanie.

Jack Neworth also writes "Laughing Matters," which returns in January. He can be reached at jackdailypress@aol.com.



LIST

FROM PAGE 2

Guest House open

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

Thursday, December 28

Movie & Author Discussion: The Graduate (1967)

Author Beverly Gray (Seduced by Mrs. Robinson: How the Graduate Became the Touchstone of a Generation) screens and discusses this sexy 1960s classic about a disillusioned college graduate (Dustin Hoffman) who finds himself torn between his older lover (Anne Bancroft) and her daughter. A book sale and signing follows. (Film runtime: 106 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

New Year's Craft Countdown

Ring in the New Year with wearables and noisemakers. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 346 Calls For Service On Dec. 20.

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

Living in a vehicle 1100 block 17th 1:17 a.m.
Vandalism 900 block 25th 1:48 a.m.
Battery Ocean / Colorado 2:45 a.m.
Burglary 1600 block 11th 3:11 a.m.
Prowler 1200 block 11th 4:11 a.m.
Arson 500 block Santa Monica 4:53 a.m.
Encampment 100 block Santa Monica 6:38 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block Ocean Front Walk 7:21 a.m.
Vehicle parked in an alley 200 block Wilshire 7:35 a.m.
Theft recyclables 600 block Ocean 7:39 a.m.
Encampment 5th / Idaho 7:46 a.m.
Traffic collision 11th / Montana 7:48 a.m.
Hit and run Lincoln / Pico 8:15 a.m.
Hit and run 1500 block PCH 8:32 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1300 block Maple 9:04 a.m.
Counterfeit money investigation 1500 block 2nd 9:12 a.m.
Counterfeit money investigation 300 block Olympic 9:17 a.m.
Auto burglary 800 block PCH 9:30 a.m.
Hit and run 1500 block PCH 9:31 a.m.
Injured person 2800 block Lincoln 9:53 a.m.
Speeding 4th / Ocean Park 10:10 a.m.
Encampment 2400 block Ocean Front Walk 10:13 a.m.
Auto burglary Chelsea / Arizona 10:16 a.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 1400 block 4th 10:17 a.m.
Vehicle parked in an alley 1400 block Lincoln 10:19 a.m.
Vandalism 1500 block 15th 11:07 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1000 block Santa Monica 11:53 a.m.
Illegal weapon 11th / Arizona 11:55 a.m.
Hit and run 1500 block 4th 12:11 p.m.
Person with a gun 600 block Wilshire 12:21 p.m.
Burglary 3100 block Colorado 12:23 p.m.
Traffic control request 400 block Montana 12:31 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 12:32 p.m.
Identity theft 200 block 21st 1:10 p.m.
Petty theft 100 block Santa Monica Pl 1:53 p.m.
Traffic collision 1300 block 2nd 2:11 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 2:15 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 3:11 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 3:19 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 3:29 p.m.
Assault Lincoln / Santa Monica 3:31 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 4:18 p.m.
Indecent exposure 100 block Hart 4:24 p.m.
Auto burglary 1100 block PCH 5:18 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 5:20 p.m.
Missing person 3rd Street Prom / Arizona 5:59 p.m.
Encampment 1300 block Ashland 6:02 p.m.
Burglary 100 block hart 6:17 p.m.
Theft suspect in custody 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 6:43 p.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Ocean Park 6:53 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block PCH 7:01 p.m.
Found property 300 block Santa Monica Pier 7:05 p.m.
Battery Ocean / Broadway 7:16 p.m.
Drunk driving investigation 18th / Olympic 7:25 p.m.
Person with a gun 26th / Santa Monica 7:48 p.m.
Hit and run 26th / Santa Monica 7:50 p.m.
Fight Stanford / Santa Monica 8:09 p.m.
Pedestrian stop Franklin / Wilshire 8:09 p.m.
Battery 600 block Wilshire 8:22 p.m.
Burglary 300 block 23rd 8:46 p.m.
Fraud 300 block Olympic 8:52 p.m.
Grand theft 1300 block 3rd Street Prom 8:57 p.m.
Vandalism 2000 block Main 9:02 p.m.
Encampment 2100 block Ocean Park 9:09 p.m.
Grand theft 2100 block 20th 9:15 p.m.
Attempt suicide 1200 block Grant 9:27 p.m.
Vandalism 1300 block 3rd Street Prom 9:54 p.m.
Burglary 1800 block Santa Monica 10:10 p.m.
Hit and run 200 block Santa Monica Pier 10:15 p.m.
Burglary investigation 1400 block Yale 10:18 p.m.
Armed robbery 1800 block Wilshire 10:18 p.m.
Traffic hazard Stewart / Colorado 10:27 p.m.
Armed robbery 500 block Santa Monica 10:27 p.m.
Vandalism 400 block Santa Monica 10:30 p.m.
Armed robbery 800 block 9th 10:37 p.m.
Drunk driving investigation Lincoln / Pico

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 44 Calls For Service On Dec. 20.

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

Emergency Medical Service Lincoln / Ocean Park 1:17 a.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 1:49 a.m.
Trash/dumpster fire 500 block Santa Monica 4:49 a.m.
Vehicle fire 200 block Wilshire 5:16 a.m.
EMS 400 block 18th 6:35 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2600 block 6th 8:25 a.m.
EMS 1300 block Georgina 8:28 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 8:41 a.m.
EMS 2800 block Lincoln 9:49 a.m.
EMS 3400 block Pico 10:29 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block Montana 10:36 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2800 block Lincoln 11:03 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2000 block Main 11:41 a.m.
EMS 1500 block Pacific Coast Pier 11:54 a.m.
Automatic alarm 200 block 22nd 12:00 p.m.
Structure fire 400 block Montana 12:28 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 12:38 p.m.
EMS 1700 block Cloverfield 12:45 p.m.
EMS 1100 block Arizona 1:12 p.m.
EMS 400 block San Vicente 1:16 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Franklin 1:20 p.m.
EMS 300 block 19th 1:29 p.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 1:48 p.m.
EMS 800 block 4th 1:59 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block 4th 3:37 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 3rd 3:42 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Wilshire 4:15 p.m.
EMS 100 block Hart 5:41 p.m.
Elevator rescue 300 block Olympic 6:06 p.m.
EMS 800 block Pico 6:40 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 7:10 p.m.
EMS 900 block 3rd 7:40 p.m.
EMS 300 block 14th 8:12 p.m.
EMS 1500 block Ocean 8:20 p.m.
EMS 2200 block 22nd 9:08 p.m.
Vehicle fire 1100 block Montana 9:16 p.m.
Public assist 200 block 19th 9:28 p.m.
EMS 1200 block Grant 9:30 p.m.
Trash/dumpster fire 1100 block Lincoln 9:48 p.m.
EMS Lincoln / Olympic 10 p.m.
Odor investigation 3200 block Wilshire 10:13 p.m.

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 12 AT ABOUT 1:16 A.M.

An officer saw a car on the road without license plates and stopped the car at the 2100 block of Main Street. The driver was not in possession of a driver's license and had marijuana in the car. The passenger was on probation for identity theft. A search of the driver led to the recover a syringe. A records check of the car's VIN determined the car was reported stolen out of the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department. A search of the car led to the recovery of a semi-automatic firearm and narcotics paraphernalia. David Bautista-Camacho, 24, from Pomona and Brenda Karen Velasquez, 27 from Montclair were arrested for grand theft auto, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a firearm. He was denied bail. She was given bail of $35,000.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Med School

■ Q: What is the most common disease in the world?

■ A: Arguably dental caries. The World Health Organization estimated that 2.43 billion people (36 percent of the global population) have active cavities in their permanent teeth. Virtually every adult has dental caries at some point in time. By age 65, 96 percent of Americans will have had tooth decay.

Best Medicine

■ Q: What's the difference between a general practitioner and a specialist?

■ A: The first treats what you have; the second thinks you have what he treats.

MYSTERY REVEALED

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Alyssa Gonzalez correctly identified the photo as part of a painted garage at 6th and Bay Street. She wins a prize from Dolceneo Gelato.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

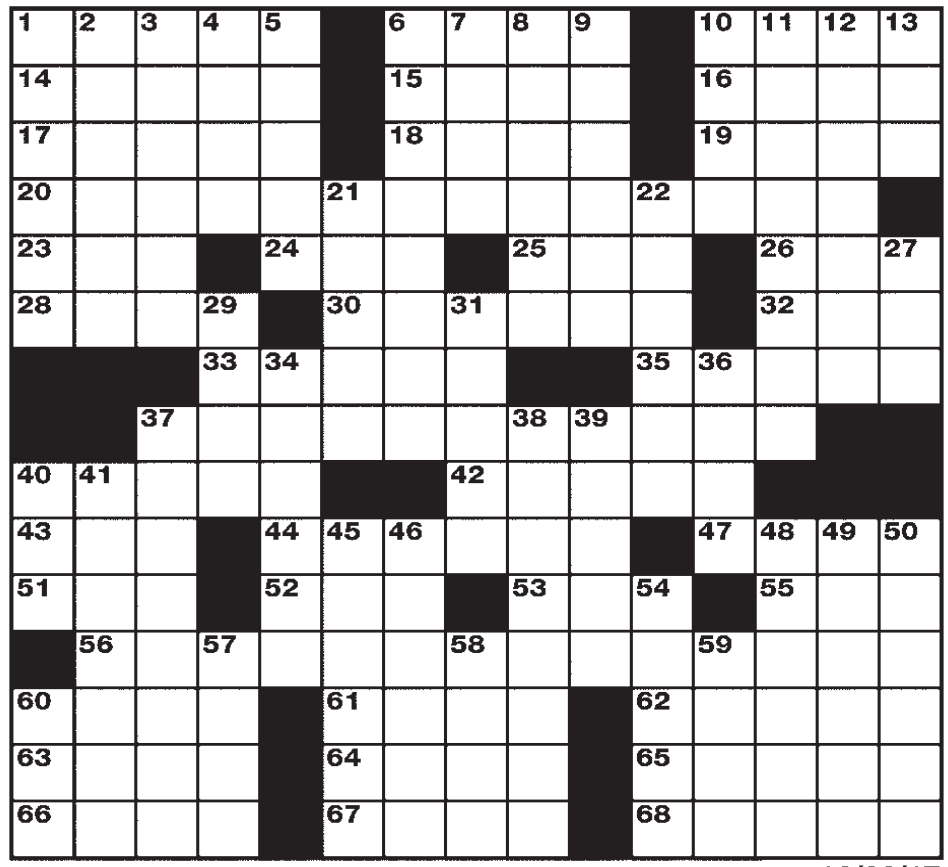
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ACROSS

1 Home to much Spanish art
6 Screens before LCDs
10 Cry of concern
14 Shadow remover
15 Nonclerical
16 Emotional tone
17 Colgate competitor
18 Tolstoy heroine
19 Certain sisterhood members
20 *Lord of the Flies* author
23 Corroded
24 Old-film cable channel
25 Old-school cheer
26 Lacking in excitement
28 Clancy hero
30 Roman orator
32 Unenviable mark
33 Later on
35 Means to ends
37 "Dock of the Bay" singer
40 Brainy bloc
42 Cool-headedness
43 Every bit
44 Hoop group
47 Major arcade producer
51 Center of feelings
52 String chaser
53 Dance club VIPs
55 Slip into
56 "Pied Piper" poet
60 Diminutive dog
61 "Mother of Presidents"
62 Frame for china plates
63 Masters
64 Peacekeeping grp.
65 *Emozione romantica*
66 Wrongful act
67 Originate (from)
68 In knots

DOWN

1 Hawkish
2 Poe's autograph, e.g.
3 Funnel-shaped flower
4 Tot's tote
5 Sphere of influence
6 More cold and damp
7 Resounded
8 Export from Bolivian mines
9 Ladderlike
10 Prefix for directional
11 Early #1 song for Elvis
12 Dog show no-show
13 Fabric amts.
21 What the FDIC insures
22 Gandhi garments
27 "I knew it!"
29 Beltway Series team
31 Brunch serving
34 Future groom
36 Folks
37 Person watching
38 Traditionally messy place
39 Nightclub of the past
40 Novelist Rita __ Brown
41 1 Across big name
45 Industrialists
46 All things considered
48 Westinghouse rival
49 Hopeless cases
50 Taiwan-born director
54 Toil, so to speak
57 Top-shelf
58 Spicy taste
59 Implicate
60 Excessively glib



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22)

Reach out to important people who can help you move toward your dream. Boldness will be rewarded many times in 2018. Though you don't require people to be anything other than how they are, family will make you very proud. You'll work for the sheer enjoyment of it and make a killing. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 40, 23, 38 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Good fortune sometimes steals the credit that should really have gone to good planning. With this in mind, what can you start today that might pay you 10 years from now? Do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
If you could see everyone's thoughts, half the people wouldn't look nearly as confident. Self-doubt is really irrelevant to the success equation. Keep going through the motions necessary to make something happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
People talk about problems. It could help, although it could also be an addiction to the release and attention that come with complaining. As for speaking of your joys, make sure you're talking to supporters who won't be jealous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
When your day is touched by nature, it's also touched by wonder. Your connection to nature makes you bigger and smaller all at once. It gives you a sense of belonging to life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Knowledge is a gift that's light as air, bright as sunbeams and tricky to deliver. How it's packaged will matter. Put time and thought into how you're going to organize and pass on your knowledge. Your immortality depends on it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
To prefer people to be a certain way so that we may easily relate — this is only natural, and yet incredibly selfish. Also, it keeps our hearts small. Practice loving people as they are, perfectly themselves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Just before the bend, you've no clue as to the shape of the road ahead. There are others who have walked this road a thousand times. Ask, or just follow and enjoy your uncertainty; you only get to be new once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You know the secret of good service: To be well-served, you first serve others well. And though you may not be acknowledged quickly for this today, the reward for getting the job done is that it's done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
When you think about it and apply yourself, you are creating your life. When you don't think about it and do whatever, you are creating your life. Either way will work well today, actually.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You have new feelings about your role, or possibly you're just bored of it. So, you agreed to something. It doesn't mean you have to keep agreeing to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You may feel alone in your ambitions, but it doesn't have to be this way. You'll have a greater sense of purpose (and accountability) if you include more people in this. A Taurus or Virgo would be ideal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You don't feel the need to prove that you're unique. You've no big need to stand out either, as you'd much rather connect with others as equal co-creators in a shared experience.

Mercury Direct Is Here to Help

People aren't born appreciating tastes that fall into the "bitter" category. Coffee, beer, leafy greens, grapefruit — all acquired tastes, and yet, these foods are favorites for many. Bitter experiences can have a similar addictive quality. For some strange reason, we keep coming back. Mercury straightens out to help us investigate the phenomenon.

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By PETER GALLAGHER



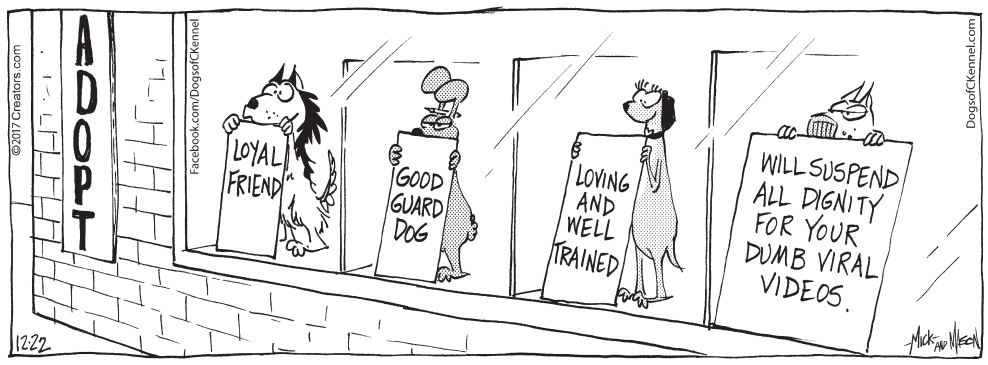
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



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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Tax pros are suddenly popular, if a little confused

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Don't feel bad if you don't understand how the new tax bill will affect you. Chances are, your accountant doesn't yet either.

From New York to Kentucky to Florida, accountants and tax lawyers are scanning the 1,000 page measure, fielding a swirl of questions from clients and swapping tips via email in their efforts to fully grasp the bill's far-reaching changes.

When the House and Senate released the final tax bill late last week, it gave many experts their first look at what will become as vast rewrite of tax law. Congress gave approval to the measure Wednesday, and President Donald Trump is to sign it early next month.

"The whole weekend I was overwhelmed with client requests on how this impacted them, and it hasn't stopped, and probably won't for several weeks," said Gary DuBoff, an accountant at MBAF, a New York-based firm.

The uncertainties range widely.

Should some taxpayers try to reclassify their pay as business income, which is taxed at lower rates for top earners? Should small companies restructure as corporations to capitalize on a now-much lower corporate tax rate? Can people in high-tax states rush to prepay their 2018 state and local income taxes this year to fully capitalize on the deduction for such payments, before it's capped next year?

The answers are: Maybe, maybe and no, though taxpayers may be able to prepay their 2018 local property taxes this year.

"Every one of your clients is calling you, and they all want to know what the effect is," says Joseph Perry, an accountant at Marcum, based in Melville, New York. "It's like, 'Wait, slow down —we have to figure this out.'"

Most accountants scoff at the notion, pushed by the bill's proponents, that it has simplified the tax code. For higher-income earners in particular, as well as many small businesses, tax law remains at least as complex as ever. And the bill has injected a new layer of uncertainty because so many changes are temporary and could be reversed in a few years.

The need for clarity is welcome news for the professionals who need to sort it all out.

"It's going to be good for business," said George Smith, a third-generation accountant based in Southfield, Michigan. "I'm a tax geek; I'm excited about the nuances."

After the last major tax overhaul took effect in 1986, it became clear that many small businesses would benefit by reorganizing as partnerships, says Joseph DeGennaro, tax director for Doeren Mayhew in Detroit. Doing so allowed their business profits to be passed on as personal income, which was taxed at individual tax rates. At that time, the top individual rates were lower than the corporate rate.

Now, the situation is reversed: The new legislation sharply cuts the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent — much lower than most individual rates. DeGennaro and other accountants say the question being posed most often by small business owners is whether those firms should now restructure as corporations. This time, the answer is not so simple.

If corporations pay out their profits to owners through dividends, those payments are taxed at 23.8 percent. That rate, once combined with the corporate tax rate, is much higher than individual rates.

And in some cases, if a business restructures, it can't switch back for five years. What if a new Congress raises the corporate tax rate, in say, three years? At that point, DeGennaro pointed out, a business owner would be stuck paying the higher corporate rate.

"I'm telling clients that nothing is permanent," DuBoff said. "If you restructure for the new law, you better have an exit strategy."

Many critics of the GOP bill argue that it will encourage high-income earners to turn themselves into businesses and reclassify their salaries as business income, which will be taxed at a lower rate. But the bill seeks to bar this through complex rules and by blocking many professionals, such as lawyers, accountants and doctors, from taking that step.

Mark Nash, a tax partner at PwC, based in Miami, said that so far, the provisions are broad and general, making it difficult to advise clients on whether to essentially incorporate themselves.

"We're left to scratch our heads about what it means in the real world for somebody's actual circumstances," he said. "It's quite a complicated deduction to calculate."

Some of these questions must be answered before year's end — an additional source of frustration for tax experts.

"It's too much, too quick and too little time," Smith said.

DeGennaro noted that come Jan. 1, the changes will prevent businesses from deducting their entertainment expenses.

"People should be looking at their entertainment policies right now," he said.

Others point out that the sharp cut in the corporate tax rate could benefit — or harm — a company's balance sheet. Companies that have postponed tax payments might enjoy a windfall because they will owe less in 2018. Other companies could absorb a hit because the value of their tax refunds will fall.

Such questions are consuming numerous hours for people like Howard Wagner, a Louisville, Kentucky-based accountant at Crowe Horwath.

"It's going to be a miracle if I make it through the next two weeks," Wagner said.

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