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Santa Monica Daily Press



smdp.com

Electric scooter injuries surge along with their popularity

LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

Electric scooter injuries have surged along with their popularity in the United States, nearly tripling over four years, researchers said in a study published Wednesday.

Nearly 40,000 broken bones, head injuries, cuts and bruises resulting from scooter accidents were treated in U.S. emergency rooms from 2014 through 2018, the research showed. The scooter injury rate among the general U.S. population climbed from 6 per 100,000 to 19 per 100,000. Most occurred in riders aged 18 to 34,

and most injured riders weren't hospitalized.

For the study published in JAMA Surgery, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, analyzed U.S. government data on nonfatal injuries treated in emergency rooms.

"Improved rider safety measures and regulation" are clearly needed, the researchers said.

Media reports have linked the stand-up electric scooters with more than a dozen U.S. deaths within the past few years.

The trend follows the emergence

SEE **SCOOTER** PAGE 4

One in five county inmates could be diverted to mental health programs, RAND study finds

MADELEINE PAUKER

SMDP Staff Writer

About 18% of Los Angeles County Jail inmates could be diverted to mental health treatment programs, according to a study a local think-tank released Tuesday.

One in three inmates in the county jail have serious mental illnesses, or about 5,100 of the 17,000 individuals in the average daily inmate population. The RAND Corporation study found that 61% of those 5,100 individuals are appropriate candidates for community-based treatment programs and an additional 7% were potentially appropriate.

The study authors evaluated

a sample of 500 people who are representative of the mentally ill population in county jail, determining that about 59% of men and 74% of women could be diverted to community treatment programs. Men make up 85% of the county jail mental health population.

Lead study author Stephanie Brooks Holliday said the study assessed the population based on the severity of their mental illnesses and the nature of their charges and past convictions. The findings align with estimates previously compiled by county officials.

"We worked closely with the

SEE **STUDY** PAGE 11

Local residents push for monument to honor Mexican American history



Courtesy photo

MEMORIAL: The Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument Committee is comprised of local residents who hope to one day witness the installation of a monument at Venice's Windward Circle that would educate visitors and help preserve the Westside's Mexican American history.

BRENNON DIXSON

SMDP Staff Writer

West Los Angeles is home to a large population of Mexican-Americans whose families have called areas like Venice home for decades, but the area's ever-changing demographics has local residents worried their history may soon be forgotten if action

isn't taken.

In the early 1900s, the "Red Cars" of the Pacific Electric Railway connected Los Angeles to Santa Monica and were popular among the many tourists who frequented the area. The railway system would become known as one of the largest electric systems in the world during the 1920s, and remains popular enough that

residents still hope to one day create a heritage museum featuring a restored Pacific Electric Railway Red Car.

But Venice native Laura Ceballos believes the thousands of workers whose blood, sweat and tears went into laying the track deserve recognition as well.

SEE **MONUMENT** PAGE 11

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Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type “C-7” license, on the following: **Bid #20.07.SMS, Santa Monica High School Interim Repairs/Upgrades – PA’s, Bells, and Clocks Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$1,300,000.00 - \$1,600,000.00** and includes the procurement and installation of a paging, clock, and bell system at Santa Monica High School. The high school currently has an existing paging, clock, and bell system throughout the campus. Within the campus there are some buildings with an existing traditional non-IP based system and others with an IP-based system. The purpose of this project is to install a campus-wide IP-based PA, bell, and clock combination device system as well as out-door speakers while re-using existing infrastructure where possible, as detailed in the bidding documents. The final system will be a hybrid system (IP and traditional speakers), communicating over the IP network for centralized control on the campus and at the District office. The system is to be fully functional and includes installing new hardware; cat-6 cabling from the devices to the respective IDFs; a central operating system, and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the Districts Purchasing Office located at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 on or before 2/11/20 no later than 2:30 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 1/21/20 at 2:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 1/28/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html>.

Mandatory Job Walk: 1/21/20 at 2:00 PM

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

Bid Opening: 2/11/20 at 2:30pm

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

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, January 9

Soundwaves/Pianospheres: Richard Valitutto

Soundwaves' third year of collaborations with Pianospheres begins with a solo performance by Richard Valitutto. Main Library, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NOMA Meeting

The North of Montana Neighborhood Association (NOMA) kicks off 2020 at the Montana Avenue Library with a presentation by The Athens Group of the Miramar Hotel's plans for site re-development. Board nominations will also be on the agenda. Meeting begins at 7 p.m., with snacks and social preceding at 6:30. All are invited.

Library Board Meeting

Library Board Meeting special meeting. Board meetings are held regularly the first Thursday of the month. Main Library, 7 - 9 p.m.

Read & Play

A story time for the very young, followed by play activities designed to cultivate key developmental skills. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 5 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. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Pico Branch Library.

Current Events Discussion Group

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

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 7 p.m.

College Affordability: Financial Aid and FAFSA

An in-depth discussion of the types

of financial aid and how to make college affordable. Includes a detailed review of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CCS Profile. Presented by Diana Hanson of Magellan Counseling and College Mentors. Grades 10-12. Main Library, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, January 10

Fireside at the Miles - Nick Mancini Collective & Brazilian Project

Nick Mancini brings his famed collective back to the Fireside series. Since his last performance he's released a new record with the bands and has begun writing for his Brazilian choro project (Think J. S. Bach at carnival) which he will also be presenting that evening. One man, two bands, one night. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at <https://nickmancinicollective.eventbrite.com>

LA Law Library QuickLook Legal Research Class & Office Hours

LA Law Library legal research specialists teach free, monthly 45-minute overviews of legal information search tools and techniques as part of their regular "office hours" visits. After the class, an LA Law Library legal research specialist will be available in Study Room 7, from 2:30 to 5 p.m., to assist in finding information and resources on any legal topic. January's topic is Types and Sources of Law. No legal advice is provided during the class. 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. Main Library

Saturday, January 11

Fireside at the Miles - Contemporary Guitar Night

An evening of contemporary music for guitar featuring electric guitar ensemble, Los Angeles Electric 8; voice and guitar duo, GuitAria; classical guitar quartet, Ikat Quartet; and fretless guitarist, Buzz Gravelle. Works by Philip Glass, Peter Yates, Buzz Gravelle, Eric Kiersnowski, and more. Curated by Philip Gaulty. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets for sale at <https://ikatquartet.eventbrite.com>

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

California lawmakers eye back-up power for cellphone towers

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

When the nation's largest electric utility preemptively shut off power last fall to prevent wildfires in California, customers lost more than just their lights — some lost their phones, too.

Data from the Federal Communications Commission shows 874 cellphone towers were offline during an Oct. 27 power shutoff that affected millions of people. That included more than half of the cell towers in Marin County alone.

On Wednesday, some Democratic lawmakers revealed legislation to force telecommunication companies to have at least 72 hours of back-up power for all cellphone towers in high-risk fire areas. Telecom companies would have to pay for it, but the bill would not stop companies from passing along those costs to their customers.

The outages affected more than just cellphones. Data shows traditional landlines and cable phone customers also lost service during the blackout. That means some people couldn't call 911 or receive emergency notifications, compounding the dangers associated with an unprecedented power outage in an era dominated by the internet and wireless communications.

"This bill is not about checking your Facebook status," bill author Sen. Mike McGuire said. "It's about life and death."

The federal government tried to mandate backup power for cellphone towers in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The industry successfully fought it.

"It is unfair and unreasonable for the Legislature and the (state regulators) to allow the electric utilities to de-energize their networks and expect that the communications network is going to become a wholesale replacement for power," said Carolyn McIntyre, president of the California Cable and Telecommunications

Association.

Asked if he expects a fight from the industry, McGuire replied: "Hell yes."

McGuire announced his bill on the same day representatives from AT&T and Verizon testified before state lawmakers about the outages and ways to prevent them. It's the second time lawmakers have hauled in private companies to account for the effects surrounding the widespread blackouts in the fall, the largest planned power outages in state history.

In November, lawmakers questioned executives from the state's largest investor-owned utilities, including the leadership of troubled Pacific Gas & Electric, whose equipment has been blamed for sparking the 2018 that killed 85 people in Paradise and destroyed roughly 19,000 buildings. The company filed for bankruptcy last year.

Telecommunications outages have worsened as wildfires have become more common and more destructive. A report from the California Public Utilities Commission found 85,000 wireless customers and 160,000 wired customers lost service during the 2017 North Bay Fires.

Most recently, the FCC says up to 27% of Sonoma County's wireless cell sites were offline during a fire in October.

On Wednesday, AT&T and Verizon told lawmakers that while several areas had disproportionate outages, across the region only 3% of cell towers were offline during the power shutoffs. And just because cell towers were down does not mean service was out because of overlapping coverage areas and temporary towers, said Jesús Román, chief legislative counsel for Verizon.

Also, telecommunications companies had trouble getting enough generators in place for the power shutoffs last fall. Many had to come from out of state, but the trucks delivering them were stopped

SEE CELLPHONE PAGE 4



SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type "B" license, on the following: **Bid #20.05.M - DSA# 03-120191 Webster Elementary School – HVAC Project at Webster Elementary School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$2,600,000.00 - \$3,000,000.00** for HVAC Upgrades to buildings A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H and electrical service upgrade to support the HVAC upgrades and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be filed in the Districts Purchasing Office located at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 on or before 2/11/20 no later than 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 1/21/20 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 1/28/20 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fip.smmusd.org/contractors.html>.

Mandatory Job Walk: 1/21/20 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location: Webster Elementary School located in Malibu, CA at 3602 Winter Canyon Road, Malibu, CA 90265 – **All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front office to be signed in. Attending Contractors will then be escorted onto the campus to the meeting room from that location.**

Bid Opening: 2/11/20 at 2:00pm

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

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SCOOTER

FROM PAGE 1

of rental companies in cities around the world that let customers rent scooters through smartphone apps and drop them off anywhere in the same city. Some cities have adopted nighttime bans and other restrictions amid

rising injuries and complaints about scooters traveling or parked on sidewalks.

“Scooters promote active commuting,” could help spur wider public transit use and could lead to less traffic congestion, said lead author Dr. Benjamin Breyer. “We hope to raise awareness that riders should wear helmets and ride safely.”

CELLPHONE

FROM PAGE 3

at the state border because they did not meet the state’s emission standards, said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Office of Emergency Services.

In advance comments to the legislative committee, California’s four largest wireless companies — AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon — say they generally make sure their major telecommunication hubs have at least between 48 hours and 72 hours of on-site backup power. They use mobile generators at other sites, but they said the generators don’t work at every cell tower.

Jeff Luong, AT&T’s vice president for radio access network construction, told lawmakers the company is buying hundreds of portable generators to prepare for the upcoming fire season. Plus, he said the company plans to purchase more than 1,000 new generators, although it will take

between three and five years to get them in place because of various permitting processes.

“We are committed to providing communication services that the public and public safety agencies can rely on,” Luong said.

California Public Utilities Commission President Marybel Batjer criticized the telecommunications companies for not providing enough information to state officials about outages during the power shutoffs.

“Engagement and delivery of real time information during this critical period was simply not existent,” she said. “The companies themselves must improve.”

Last year, the Legislature passed a law requiring telecommunications companies to report large outages to the Office of Emergency Services within one hour of discovering them. Officials are still developing regulations for that law.

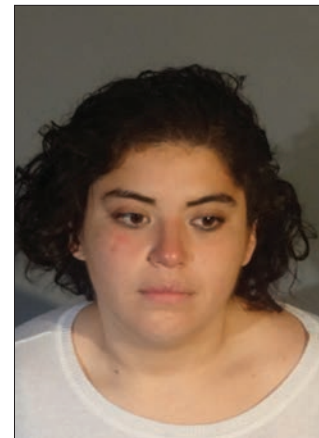
CRIME WATCH

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 23, 2019, AT 9:30 A.M.

Officers responded to the Star Liquor located at 1929 Main Street for an Estes Robbery. A female suspect has attempted to pay for \$19 worth of items with \$12. When the store employee told her she did not have enough money, she took her money and the items and attempted to walk out the front door. The store employee followed her to the exit and grabbed the bag of items from the suspect. A struggle ensued and the female suspect hit the employee in the face with her left hand. The bag containing the items tore open and the contents fell onto the floor. The employee picked up the items and returned back to the front counter. The suspect followed, grabbing a banana and package of Cheetos and threw them at the employee. The employee was not hurt and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. Ashley Taylor Aladana, 23, from Kingsberg, was arrested for shoplifting. Bail was set at \$50,000.



File photo

ASHLEY TAYLOR ALADANA

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 304 CALLS ON JAN. 7

Missing Person 800Blk Pearl St 12:01 AM
Arson 700Blk Pico Blvd 12:52 AM
Drunk Driving Investigation 4Th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:55 AM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2000Blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:10 AM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300Blk 3Rd Street Prom 6:41 AM
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 9Th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:13 AM
Abandoned Vehicle 1700Blk 9Th St 8:15 AM
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200Blk 21St St 8:27 AM
Out of Order Traffic Signals 17Th St / Montana Ave 9:00 AM
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 2Nd St / Wilshire Blvd 9:16 AM
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 700Blk 19Th St 9:34 AM
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 17Th St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:38 AM
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2200Blk Pearl St 10:10 AM
ENCAMPMENT 2900Blk Exposition Blvd 10:15 AM
Burglary Report 2300Blk 20Th St 10:43 AM
Grand Theft Report 1400Blk Berkeley St 10:47 AM
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 800Blk Pacific St 10:57 AM
Threats Report/Investigations 1700Blk 14Th St 11:01 AM
Hit and Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200Blk Chelsea Ave 11:17 AM
Hit and Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:24 AM
Fraud Report 800Blk Idaho Ave 11:42 AM
Battery Just Occurred 1600Blk 5Th St 11:57 AM
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800Blk Pacific St 12:00 PM
Fraud Report 2400Blk Colorado Ave 12:06 PM
Burglary Report 1500Blk 17Th St 12:15 PM
Grand Theft Report 1800Blk Broadway 12:58 PM
Violation of Temporary No Parking Signs 1400Blk 5Th St 1:09 PM
Auto Burglary Report 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd

1:10 PM
Vehicle Parked on Sidewalk 1200Blk Washington Ave 1:25 PM
Public Intoxication 00Blk Pico Blvd 1:30 PM
Vandalism Report 800Blk Pacific St 2:13 PM
Vandalism Just Occurred 1500Blk 4Th St 2:23 PM
Vandalism Report 2300Blk Main St 2:34 PM
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500Blk 5Th St 3:13 PM
Handicap Zone Violation 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:18 PM
Threats Report/Investigations 3100Blk Urban Ave 3:20 PM
Identity Theft 1900Blk 17Th St 3:25 PM
Panhandling Ocean Ave / Broadway 3:51 PM
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 5Th St / Strand St 3:53 PM
Child Endangerment 3200Blk Pico Blvd 4:41 PM
Hit and Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3100Blk Neilson Way 5:58 PM
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 11Th St / Ocean Park Blvd 5:58 PM
Vandalism Just Occurred 1500Blk 5Th St 6:14 PM
Battery Just Occurred 100Blk Broadway 6:21 PM
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 1200Blk Montana Ave 6:33 PM
Battery Report 4Th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:55 PM
Public Intoxication 200Blk Ocean Ave 7:04 PM
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 200Blk Ocean Ave 7:11 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 7:39 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 7:40 PM
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 1000Blk Broadway 8:40 PM
Drunk Driving Investigation Chelsea Ave / Wilshire Blvd 8:52 PM
Fight 2200Blk Yorkshire Ave 10:59 PM
Vehicle Parked in Alley 1300Blk Ocean Ave 11:14 PM
Runaway 20Th St / Olympic Blvd 11:18 PM

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON JAN. 7

Trash/Dumpster Fire 700blk Pico Blvd 12:51 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Olympic Blvd 2:07 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Broadway 2:10 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 3:01 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 4:53 a.m.
Structure Fire 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:43 a.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 6:05 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 9:16 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 16th St / Ocean Park Blvd 9:38 a.m.
EMS 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 9:48 a.m.
Odor Investigation 1500blk Idaho Ave 10:15 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 11:08 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 12:04 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 12:14 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Euclid St 1:04 p.m.
EMS 100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:14 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 7th St 1:19 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 1:20 p.m.

EMS 2500blk Colorado Ave 1:26 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 300blk Olympic Dr 1:45 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:09 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 2:14 p.m.
EMS Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 2:38 p.m.
EMS 400blk 26th St 2:41 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pier 2:52 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 2:59 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 3:27 p.m.
EMS 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1200blk 2nd St 4:17 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 4:20 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 5:29 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 6:27 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 200blk Ocean Ave 7:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 200blk Ocean Ave 7:22 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 9:32 p.m.
Public Assist Main St / Pier Ave 10:02 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2200blk Colorado Ave 10:03 p.m.

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Leatha Pauline Rains



Leatha Pauline Rains, lovingly known as Polly, passed away peacefully on June 9th, 2019 in her home in Santa Monica, California at the age of 84 surrounded by loved ones.

Polly was the loving mother of Tonia Rains, Ricky Rains and Michael Rains. She was the proud grandmother to Ian Rains, Cortnie Rains, Cody Rains, William Rains, Olivia Rains, Colette Rains and Jackson Rains. Polly was also the beloved GGMa to two great-grandsons Carter and Jay Reverditto.

Polly was a kind hearted, strong willed and loving woman who lived her life with grace and integrity. She will be fondly remembered by her family, many friends and loved ones.

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Unseen and the Undead



© Eggleston Artistic Trust The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

DOLLS: William Eggleston “Dolls on Cadillac” Memphis 1972 Chromogenic print.

“Unseen: 35 Years of Collecting Photography” at the Getty Center deserves to be seen more than once. And imagine a time when you can download your consciousness and trade your body in for a new one; that’s the premise of Rogue Machine’s “Disposable Necessities.”

UNSEEN

The Getty Museum’s photographic collection is celebrating its 35th anniversary with an exhibition of photos that have never before been displayed at The Getty. 200 images were culled from the Getty’s 148,000-piece collection, and it’s a beautiful show, beautifully curated featuring everything from the earliest days of photography to the most contemporary processes and imagery. Black and white, chromogenic, digital, Polaroid, rayographs, solar exposures...you may be amazed at both how old and how new the art of photography is.

There are juxtapositions of complementary and contradictory images: a wall featuring photos of hands, powerfully arranged in various forms, from fists to prayer to working hands holding objects. Pictures of reactions to tragedy: people covering their faces with their hands. Images of people behind bars and by the police photographer, Weegee, the original ambulance chaser.

There is a 2001 gelatin silver print, life sized, of a woman’s face, cropped to look like a classically sculpted head, by French photographer Valérie Belin from her series, Black Women 1. It’s so stark and stunning it will draw you like a magnet.

There’s a group of abstract images by Japanese American photographers associated with camera clubs on the West Coast and in Hawaii, created between 1919 and the 1940s and collected over three decades by artist and curator Dennis Reed. Were it not for him, many more of these images would have been destroyed as Japanese people were herded into camps during World War II.

If you’ve never been to our local Camera Obscura, stop in then stop by the Getty’s

side gallery of images taken by, or in, Camera Obscuras elsewhere. It’s fascinating to see how a thin shaft of light on a reflective surface inverts an external view.

Just a few names to mention: Carrie Mae Weems, Dorothea Lange, Eugene Atget, Robert Mapplethorpe, Laura Aguilar, Osamu Shiihara, August Sander, Thomas Eakins, Walker Evans, Mary Ellen Mark, Nan Goldin, Man Ray, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Alfred Stieglitz, Irving Penn, Barbara Morgan, Richard Avedon, Paul Outerbridge, William Eggleston...that’s a sampling of the who’s who of photographic artists from around the world represented in “Unseen.”

The exhibition is up through March at the Getty Museum, located in Brentwood. Visit www.getty.edu for more information.

UNDEAD

In Neil McGowan’s “Disposable Necessities” produced by Rogue Machine at the Electric Lodge in Venice, it’s 2095 in Maryland. Daniel (Darrett Sanders) and his wife Alice (Billy Flynn, now in the body of Al) are arguing about their son, Chadwick (Jefferson Reed), who intentionally fell out of a helicopter so he could replace his old body with that of a young black man. Their best friend Phillip (Claire Blackwelder) now in his sexy, new, curvaceous female form, bursts in to play a practical joke, pretending to have slept with Daniel.

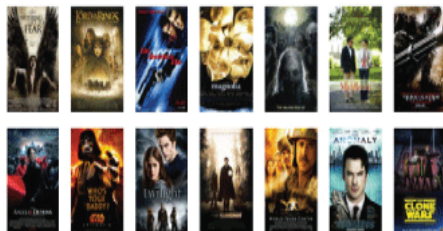
Their daughter Dee (Ann Noble) announces she has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer and will absolutely not allow them to download her consciousness into a new body. She wants to die the old-fashioned way and has made her wishes known legally; but Alice (in the form of Al) tricked her and against her will, attempts to download her into a different body after all. This takes on a twist of its own in Act II, but I won’t reveal the spoiler.

“Disposable Necessities” is half sci-fi, half sociology and all thought-provoking. The playwright imagines a world where the rich

SEE **CULTURE WATCH** PAGE 10

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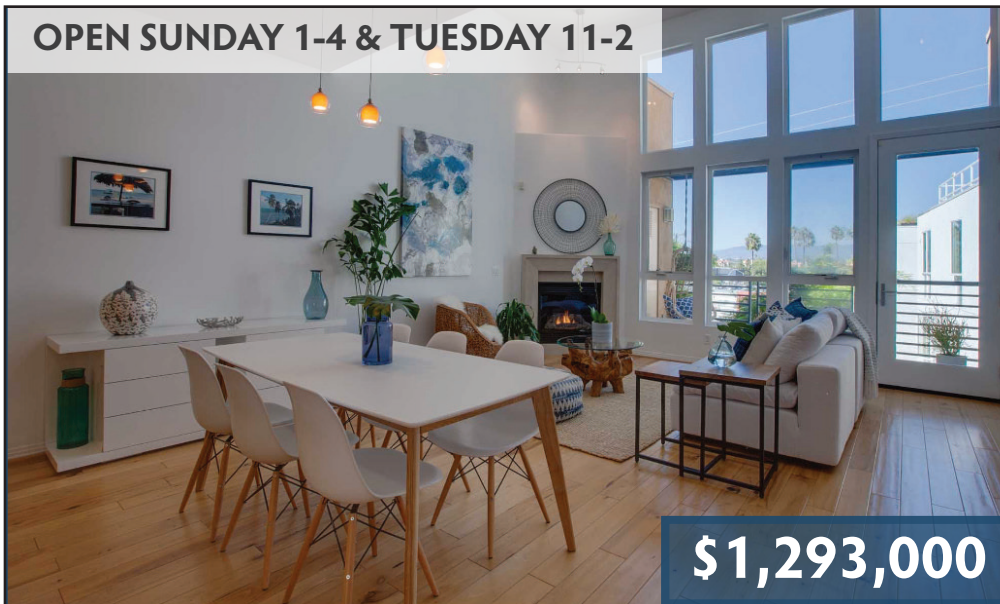
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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY NEPOTISM

NICOLE-STYLEE

Most of the time nepotism is a recipe for disaster. Take the Trump children. Please.

But sometimes a relative really is the most qualified person for the job. When your daughter has been hauled to great concerts since in utero, has been working as a music curator for three years since graduating UCLA with a degree in Ethnomusicology, is coming close to matching your seven-decade lifetime concerts total of 2500+ at only age 26, and knows most of what you know plus a whole lot more about world music and modern not dinosaur tunes, you'd be crazy not to use that resource to make your column ever more relevant. I'm sure there are dozens of great shows every month that I haven't recommended because I have no clue who these people are. So now Nicole can fill in some gaps, to even more illuminate the incredible music hotbed that is Los Angeles.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS: LISTEN TO MUSIC OUTSIDE IN THE DAYLIGHT UNDER A TREE AT TIERRA DE LA CULEBRA (bi-weekly series put on by Leaving Records, still one of the most memorable events I attended in 2019, exactly like its name, it is wonderful with kids, dogs, friends, strangers all appreciating good music of considerably varying genres in a most chilled out, welcoming environment, surrounded by greenery and public art, featuring very good jazzy-psycho Brainstory, beautiful Indian classical music from Paul Livingstone Raga Soundscapes, also Dntel, Gemma Castro, Pan + Misty, food and beverages by Anandamide, bring a picnic blanket), Sat 1 p.m., Tierra de la Culebra community art park, Highland Park, free ("donations appreciated").

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

THE WORLD IS MY HOME — THE LIFE OF PAUL ROBESON (OMGosh, we're so lucky this is back, when I saw it recently I thought it was a one-off here and such a shame because it was so freakin' good but it's back, this world-touring one-man show about the towering, so multi-faceted Paul Robeson, written and performed by Stogie Kenyatta), Sun 7 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, \$30.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — SOUNDWAVES/ Pianospheres: Richard Valitutto (LA Times calls Valitutto a "vivid soloist...quietly dazzling...vigorously virtuosic," with a program of his own work plus Messiaen, Poulenc, Sciarrino, Scriabin, the Pianospheres series is always challenging, engaging, creative music and you walk out afterwards thinking, why don't I always come to these?), Thurs 7:30 p.m., Main Library, DTSM, free.

SOUNDWAVES (co-founder Daniel Rothman's music is performed by Slovenian guitarist Mak Gergic, hailed by the NY Times and the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Saxophone Ensemble, now how much fun does this sound like?), Wed 7:30 p.m., Main Library, DTSM, free.

JASON ISBELL (solo acoustic but you won't miss his powerhouse band The 400 Unit because his voice is so rich and expressive, as



JASON ISBELL
SOUTHEASTERN

Courtesy photo

PERFORMANCE: Jason Isbell is playing on Friday at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA.

are his lyrics and he's a fine picker and danged funny too so this should be a treat), Fri 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA.

BAD HABITS (haven't seen it yet but when does the Ruskin Group do anything less than terrific and this is a family affair starring Orson Bean and wife Alley Mills of The Wonder Years and The Bold & the Beautiful, written by master Steve Mazur of Liar, Liar fame who gave us the unforgettable Sneaky Ole Time at the Ruskin, and it's full of nuns, I just don't think you can go wrong), Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, \$20-\$35.

MEHTA conducts WAGNER, SCHOENBERG, WEBERN (our venerable old conductor is still visiting and you shouldn't miss his genius baton, exploring this unusual program), Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, \$76-\$232.

DAVID LINDLEY (long drive but only 20 bucks and, it's David Lindley, one of the best pickers of several instruments on the planet), Fri 8 p.m., The Coach House, San Juan Capistrano, \$20.

WAR (the only kind you want), Fri 9 p.m., The Rose, Pasadena, Sat 9 p.m., The Canyon Montclair, \$48-\$78.

GUITAR SHORTY (a legend — check his amazing bio), Sat 9 p.m., Harvelle's, SM, \$12.

GATES OF THE WEST - Celebrating 40th Anniversary of CLASH'S "LONDON CALLING" (benefit for Joe Strummer Foundation with MC5 guitarist Wayne Kramer, Jakob Dylan, GNR's Duff McKagan, Butch Walker, others, these things are tricky but danged good elements here), Sat 8 p.m., Roxy Theater, WHwd, \$30.

LIBRARY GIRL - Lover Man Oh Where Can You Be? (now in its 11th year, congrats! and sometimes, like this time, you also get made-on-the-spot delicious tacos and gorditas to die for plus the usual desert and I suppose I should mention this one is Billie Holiday-themed so I'm in heaven and you should be too, co-curated by LG Susan Hayden and new hubby, isn't that an atrocious word, Steve Hochman, featuring some real lights of our poetry landscape and, of course, music), Sun 7 p.m., taco party at 6, Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, \$15.

SEE NOTEWORTHY PAGE 10

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You're so adept at making your own luck that it will probably catch you off guard when you don't have to. Fortunate surprises will happen while you're relaxing. Next month, you'll raise your financial status by simply asking for what's fair. You'll help family and take on new responsibilities, creating wins for the whole group. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 33, 37 and 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A project frustrates. It's because you're looking at the minor aspects when what you need is a broad perspective. Get away from your work for a while, and then you'll come back with an idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People will try to rush you along. Unless you're merging onto a freeway or traffic circle, there is no reason to let anyone else's sense of timing influence your impeccable flow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sales! That's where your talent lies today. Whether it's selling something as simple as a social plan to your friends or as complicated as a hot property to a testy buyer, you'll be a winner.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's no offering in the entire world that is right for everyone. You'll objectively figure out why what you're doing is right for certain people and not others so you can broaden or narrow your appeal according to your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Loving a person for their potential isn't really love because it's a rejection of who the person is right now. One way to tell love from its imposters is that love is always happening in the present.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who mean well aren't always helpful, and people who are careless or ill-intended don't always hurt. Take the feelings out of your choice. The thing to consider strongly now is ability. Who can, and is likely to, deliver?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Yours will be the action that starts others moving. The most beneficial direction will be one that's tidy, clean and simple. Tie loose ends and resolve clutter, and loved ones will follow your lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People can feel how much you appreciate them, even when you don't make a big fuss about it. Public praise isn't always appropriate, but when it is, all who witness your genuineness and enthusiasm will be motivated by it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are a role model to people, only you don't usually notice this, as you're not overly obsessed with what others are gleaning from your interactions. You'll notice today though, in the flattery of copycats.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Decisions don't have to make sense to be good. When you feel you are being guided, it's a pretty big deal. Have the guts to follow through on your intuition, and you'll look back with a grateful heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Rally behind your people. Right now, they crave your support. In fact, saying nothing will be taken as a slight. Return all emails. You have the power to uplift.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are trading dysfunctional patterns for routines and habits that better support your well-being. The changes themselves are so small, they are barely perceptible to the outside world right now. Just wait.

Children's Moon

It is possible for humans to get older without getting smarter or wiser. In fact, there is an entire segment of things that children are much better at than most adults. The concept will be well-illustrated today when the playful Leo moon casts a spotlight on young thinkers and the way freshness and creativity often trump knowledge.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"I'm a Capricorn, born Jan. 1, 1983, and I've never been in a real romantic relationship. I've dated often, but it never gets serious. Any advice to get past this hurdle? And any chance you know whether my love life will improve soon? Thanks so much!" With your sun, Venus, Mercury and south node in Capricorn, by nature you don't come off as touchy-feely to others. Yet, you have this fabulously playful Leo moon longing to let down your guard and get swept away in the thrill of romance. Your cautious, reserved and, daresay, totally invulnerable side is dominant and

keeping your defenses up and at the ready. The sort of love you are asking for requires vulnerability, softness, openness and risk. Your inhibitions are defending you against the very things you want most. Instead of worrying that love will hurt you, assume that it will. That's love's job. Instead of protecting yourself, perhaps you could agree to get hurt. Only then will you understand what it really takes to have what you're asking for and decide whether it's worth it, or how to make it worth it to you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

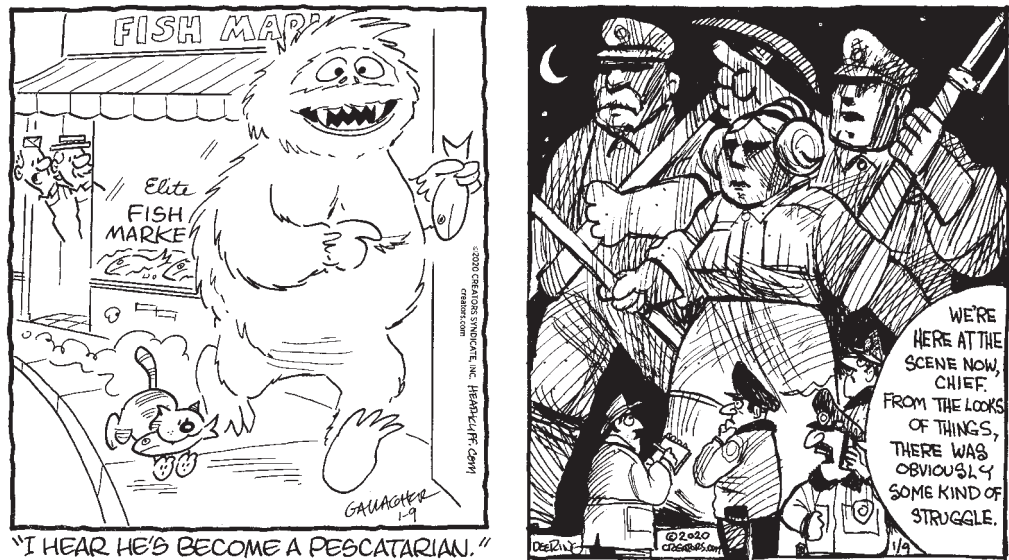
Kate Middleton's Capricorn sun burns so bright, the entire world seems to be watching her every move. Whether stepping out in her tiara and Alexander McQueen gown to an international event or helping children through the work of her numerous charities, Mercury and Venus in graceful Aquarius focus Middleton's glow on the good of humanity. Mars, Saturn and Pluto in Libra promise diplomacy and tact. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Imponderabilia
Plural noun
Imponderables; things that cannot be precisely determined, measured, or evaluated: the imponderabilia surrounding human life.

HeathcliffBy PETER GALLAGHER

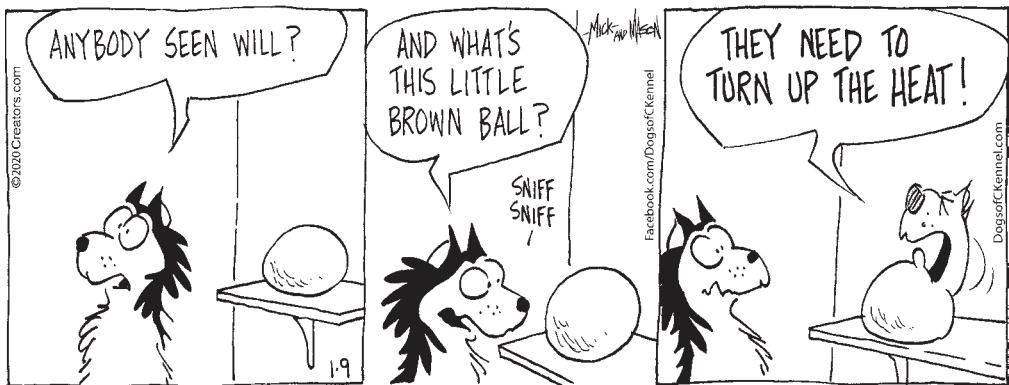
Strange BrewBy JOHN DEERING



AgnesBy TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-KennelBy MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack HillBy JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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Draw Date: 01/04
1 11 21 25 54
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 258 M




Draw Date: 01/06
412 15 19 24




Draw Date: 01/07
25 40 41 52 56
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 80 M



Draw Date: 01/08
Midday: 2 0 0
Draw Date: 01/07
Evening: 8 1 3




Draw Date: 01/04
25 29 31 33 42
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 11 M



Draw Date: 01/08
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
3rd: 04 - BIG BEN
RACE TIME: 1:41.68

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SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

THURSDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Modest new NW swell-mix may move into exposures. Deep 6'+ AM high tide is problematic. Blow through of NW winds – find wind blockage for the PM low tide.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft waist to chest high
NW swell-mix due at best exposures. Deep 6'+ AM high tide is problematic.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1

Campaigning pros
- 5

Bar mixer
- 9

Accumulation of snow
- 14

Send out
- 15

Groundhog Day beast
- 16

Aristocrat
- 17

. . . for bank managers
- 20

Tommy band
- 21

"Amscray!"
- 22

Director's workplace
- 23

Water-moving implement
- 24

Hospital VIPs
- 26

Scoffer's comment
- 28

. . . for trusted users
- 33

Polite "Permission granted"
- 36

Airport structure
- 37

What some hats cover
- 38

A river runs to it
- 41

Wine prefix
- 42

Flavoring for black jellybeans
- 44

Energizes
- 46

. . . for credit card customers
- 49

Tempo
- 50

What "fi" may follow
- 51

Sch. with a robotics team
- 54

Late-PM garb
- 57

Minority faction
- 59

Garb
- 61

. . . for members only
- 64

One on a flight
- 65

"If you ask me," in texts
- 66

Joyous assent

- 67

Looks after
- 68

Marine predators
- 69

Spruce (up)
- DOWN
- 1

What coats some shells
- 2

City on the Lewis & Clark Trail
- 3

Career soldier
- 4

Miscellany
- 5

Given no chance to think for oneself
- 6

Current measure
- 7

"I got next!"
- 8

Lara Croft portrayer
- 9

Crime lab procedure
- 10

Arborist's woe
- 11

Stork cousin

- 12

Polar bear hangout
- 13

Jamboree shelter
- 18

Rock of comedy
- 19

Hauls in
- 25

Salad, sometimes
- 27

Countdown conclusion
- 28

"Que pasa, dude?"
- 29

Tom Sawyer's aunt
- 30

Is shy
- 31

Eye care alternative to PuriLens
- 32

Be released, as a new song
- 33

Shepherd's pie tidbits
- 34

Running track section

- 35

California congressman
- 39

Muscle spasms
- 40

Taqueria staples
- 43

School supplies
- 45

Script fixes
- 47

Rapper/actor
- 48

Electronics expert
- 51

Southern end of I-95
- 52

Nettled
- 53

Almost invisible
- 54

It might turn your head
- 55

Ballet leap
- 56

All-in-one printer function
- 58

Not very edgy
- 60

"Fancy ___!"
- 62

Disburden
- 63

Pro org. with a Vegas team

NEED-TO-KNOW by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20							21					22			
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61				62					63						
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67							68					69			

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CULTURE WATCH

FROM PAGE 6

can go on living forever, taking the bodies of those who can't afford to become immortal. Alice is getting a little tired of Daniel's older man body, hoping he'll use the occasion of his literary works being reissued, necessitating a book tour, to inhabit a new, young and preferably female body. As for Daniel, he never quite got over the fact that his wife lives in the body of a man.

The gender and race swapping are both amusing and revelatory. To see the very buxom Phil, a woman to the core, behave as tough as a man, including hearty laughter, jokes about body parts and man-spreading, makes for a pointed commentary on male-hood. Al and Phil end up hopping in the sack. Chadwick provides the comic relief, as we watch grown white man struggling to behave like a young black man.

Dee is the voice of conscience; the condition of the world grows worse by the day and she blames most of it on body swapping.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 7

FISHBONE (the cover is a little steep but they deserve it, it's a bit of a drive to LB, it's in the afternoon but Alex's is very dark, and you should never miss a chance to see these legendary funk punks), Sun 2 p.m., Alex's Bar, Long Beach, \$25.

KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE (terrific San Diego band up to bless us with their very large universe, is it rockin' funk or vice versa, who cares, listen to the trumpet man blow crazy and Karl plays flute and sings it sweet...but not simultaneously), next Thurs, 9 p.m., Lodge Room, Highland Park, \$25.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: LED ZEPAGAIN 1/17, Harvelle's, SM; CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM 1/17, 18, Lodge Room, Highland Park; TREY ANASTASIO 1/17, 18, Wiltern, LA; TOWER OF POWER 1/17, JOHN MAYALL 1/25, ENGLISH BEAT 1/31, The Rose, Pasadena; SOUNDS OF SIBERIA: YULIYANA KRIVOSHAPKINA with NACHYN CHOREVE 1/17, DAVE ALVIN & FRIENDS: A Tribute to Chris Gaffney 1/18, ERIC ANDERSEN, SCARLET RIVERA,

While she can't avoid the fate (implants went in when her wisdom teeth came out), she still has some control of who she will become.

The play is well directed by Guillermo Cienfuegos, who's a master at making absurdity seem normal (as he did in his legendary take on Ionesco's "Rhinoceros" at Pacific Resident Theatre). The stage is well-dressed, with futuristic door openers, head touching with electronic beeps to replace cellphones and computers, and virtual volume and size increases made with a spreading of the fingertips or uplifting of a hand.

This world premiere production of Rogue Machine's "Disposable Necessities" will be onstage through February 3, in repertory with a play about global warming, "Earthquakes in London" at The Electric Lodge in Venice. Visit <http://www.roguemachinetheatre.com> for tickets and info.

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

1/25, McCabe's, SM; STANLEY CLARKE BAND with LYRIS QUARTET 1/18, Broad Stage, SM; THE WAILERS 1/18, JOHN MAYALL 1/24, The Canyon Montclair; TOWER OF POWER 1/19, WAR 1/24, The Canyon Santa Clarita; LAURIE ANDERSON & CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE 1/21, BEETHOVEN with EMANUEL AX 1/24, 25, 26, Disney Hall, DTLA; JOHN MAYALL 1/23, The Canyon Agoura Hills; ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT, 1/25, The Daily Pint, SM; MARCUS KING BAND 1/31, Fonda Theatre, Hwd; LA OPERA - EURYDICE 2/1-23, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA; PHAST PHREDDIE & THEE PRECISIONS Reunion! 2/1, Burbank somewhere; ELTON JOHN 2/1, Forum, Inglewood; JACARANDA - PAX AMERICANA I & II, 2/2, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica; MAVIS STAPLES, 2/13, The Soraya, CSUN; NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL STARS 2/13, Teragram Ballroom, DTLA.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealrmusic@gmail.com

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STUDY
FROM PAGE 1

Office of Diversion and Reentry to understand the types of factors that legal stakeholders involved in diversion decisions use,” Holliday said.

The county created ODR in 2015 to develop alternative approaches to mental health challenges in the criminal justice system. The office has since launched the Housing Court program, which provides mentally ill incarcerated individuals with permanent supportive housing, but demand for the program and other services far exceeds their capacity.

ODR officials said community-based programs like Housing Court are about seven times less expensive than incarceration and reduce recidivism. Such programs cost about \$70 daily per individual, while incarceration costs \$600. Just 20% of the roughly 4,500 individuals who have completed ODR programs thus far have returned to jail, officials said at a press conference Tuesday.

County supervisors said Tuesday that they hope to use the study to expand mental health programs. Additionally, Holliday said the findings will help further the national movement to divert mentally ill incarcerated

individuals into treatment programs. An estimated 15% of men and 31% of women incarcerated in jails nationally have a serious mental disorder, officials said.

“L.A. is such a big and diverse metropolitan area, so knowing this type of diversion is possible in a jurisdiction like L.A. is meaningful not just locally, but nationally,” she said.

Holliday said RAND and the county will need to evaluate the different treatment needs of incarcerated individuals who could be diverted to community programs and how those needs fit with the capacity of programs already in place. The study authors also recommend that the county collect more information on the outcomes of people placed into diversion programs.

“That deep dive allows us to know what investments need to be made to bridge the gap,” she said.

The report, “Estimating the Size of the Divertible Jail Mental Health Population in Los Angeles County,” is available at www.rand.org. Other authors of the study are Nicholas M. Pace, Neil Gowensmith, Ira Packer, Daniel Murrie, Alicia Virani, Bing Han and Sarah B. Hunter.

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MONUMENT
FROM PAGE 1

Inspired by the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument located on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards, Ceballos currently heads the Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument Committee in an effort to create a monument that would reflect the history of “Traqueros” — the Mexican and Mexican American railroad workers who built the Westside’s railroad transportation system.

“It’s imperative to preserve the Mexican American history on the Westside,” because it is a historical fact that Mexican migrants and Mexican Americans partook in the construction of the interurban railroad systems, but many in town are unaware of their important contributions, Ceballos said, mentioning the influence that Traqueros had on the geographical area and its transportation system remained largely unexplored until former professor Jeffrey Marcos Garcilazo explored the early origins of “Traqueros” prior to his death in 2001.

“Although our history books do not mention nor teach it in our schools, it is important to acknowledge and honor the great contributions that were made by the Mexican American railroad workers who were known as Traqueros,” Ceballos said, “because educating the community would allow local youth and others take pride in their culture — you know — so that’s why this has all been very important to us.”

Committee members said during a meeting Tuesday that the project is quickly gaining support and has garnered endorsements from legislative leaders, civil rights activists and even Santa Monica College as a project that’s vital to the community.

“Seven years of hard work went into

the creation of Venice’s Japanese American Memorial Monument,” Ceballos said, so the group believes it could be as many as three to four years before a monument is placed at Windward Circle in Venice.

“We know this isn’t going to be something that happens overnight,” said Hector Garcia, a member of the Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument Committee.

“But we’re hoping by 2023 to have something here (at Windward Circle),” Ceballos said, explaining how the lengthy process could be extended depending on city and coastal commission permits.

“The least we can do is try because we need to educate the community and our youth, especially during these times (when) the current president of the United States has repeatedly attacked our race with negative and false stereotypes,” Ceballos said, adding she knows not everybody buys into the negative rhetoric, but that doesn’t mean the community wouldn’t benefit from learning more about the Traquero culture and how it influenced the development of the Westside.

“Mexican Americans have a long history and it needs to be recognized not just in Venice, but on the westside as a whole, including Santa Monica over to Los Angeles,” Ceballos said, highlighting how the mural could prompt local schools to discuss the history of Traqueros in a formal classroom setting.

“Like I said, there is very little preservation of Mexican American history in Venice and it’s not taught in our schools or in our history books,” Ceballos said. “The Traqueros have a story that hasn’t been told, and with all that’s happening in the area and country, we as a committee feel this is the right time to build something that would reflect our true history.”

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