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Volume 19 Issue 42

Happy Crazy New Year
Charles is not a fan of New Year resolutions.
Page 4

CRJ has an MLK event
This Sunday in Virginia Ave. Park.
Page 5

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New Year means new laws

New rules of the road

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

New laws passed in Sacramento will have several impacts on roads this year and drivers are encouraged to learn the new rules before they get an avoidable ticket.

According to the California Highway Patrol, drivers will face an additional penalty for using a cell phone while driving.

"Current law prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone in a handheld

SEE **CHP** PAGE 10

Changes to local laws

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

Several new laws take effect on January 1 in Santa Monica including maximizing the minimum wage, limiting work hours for some hotel employees and universal application of rules banning plastic food containers.

MARINE DEGRADABLE CUPS AND LIDS FOR SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ORDINANCE

Santa Monica passed rules requiring the use of

SEE **SANTA MONICA** PAGE 6









Courtesy photos

HOLIDAYS: Santa Monica celebrated Hanukkah by the beach with several events last week including a Menorah lighting on the Pier hosted by Chabad on 17th and a community celebration at the Annenberg Beach House with Chabad North of Montana and Neirot Forest School.

SMC stymied by student debt law

MARCO PALLOTTI AND TATIANA LOUDER
SMC Corsair / SMDP Staff Writers

Bad student debt has doubled over the last four years at Santa Monica College but officials are left with fewer options for collecting following the passage of the Education Debt Collection Practices Act in October.

The act applies to students at community colleges and universities throughout California

"Student bad debt happens when a student signs up for classes and hits the postpone button," said SMC Vice President of Business and Administration Chris Bonvenuto at the Sept. 3 SMC Board of Trustees Meeting.

The most recent increase in debt, from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019, is $382,362.

"The important thing to remember is that for this entire period the District budgeted for approximately $800,000 in student bad debt," said Bonvenuto in an email. "In 2018-2019 the amount budgeted was increased by [approximately] 1.3 million to match the new reality of the student bad debt amount."

This "new reality" may be a harsher one for schools collecting debt. The Educational Debt Collection Practices Act, formerly AB1313, makes it illegal to withhold a transcript from a student in order to collect fees, mistreat a transcript request due to outstanding fees, or use a transcript as a means of debt collection from a student.

Prior to this law, signed by Governor Newsom on Oct. 4, holding transcripts to collect fees was one of the primary means of collection.

As the new law will make it more difficult to collect bad debt from students, Benvenuto plans to carve out more of the yearly budget specifically to cover the debt. "Normally we budget $700,000 dollars for bad debt in that area. Two years ago, that number spiked to about 1.7 million," continued Benvenuto at the Board meeting. "This year, I'm proposing to increase the budget to 2 million dollars. No longer can I assume that number will drop to 700,000 again." That 2 million dollar figure represents about 1.1 percent of the school district's budget.

Benvenuto said the future collection of debt is currently under discussion.

"We're trying to keep in mind the needs of the students, while being fiscally responsible," he said. Benvenuto also added that to his knowledge, SMC is the only school in the area that allows students the option to postpone payment.

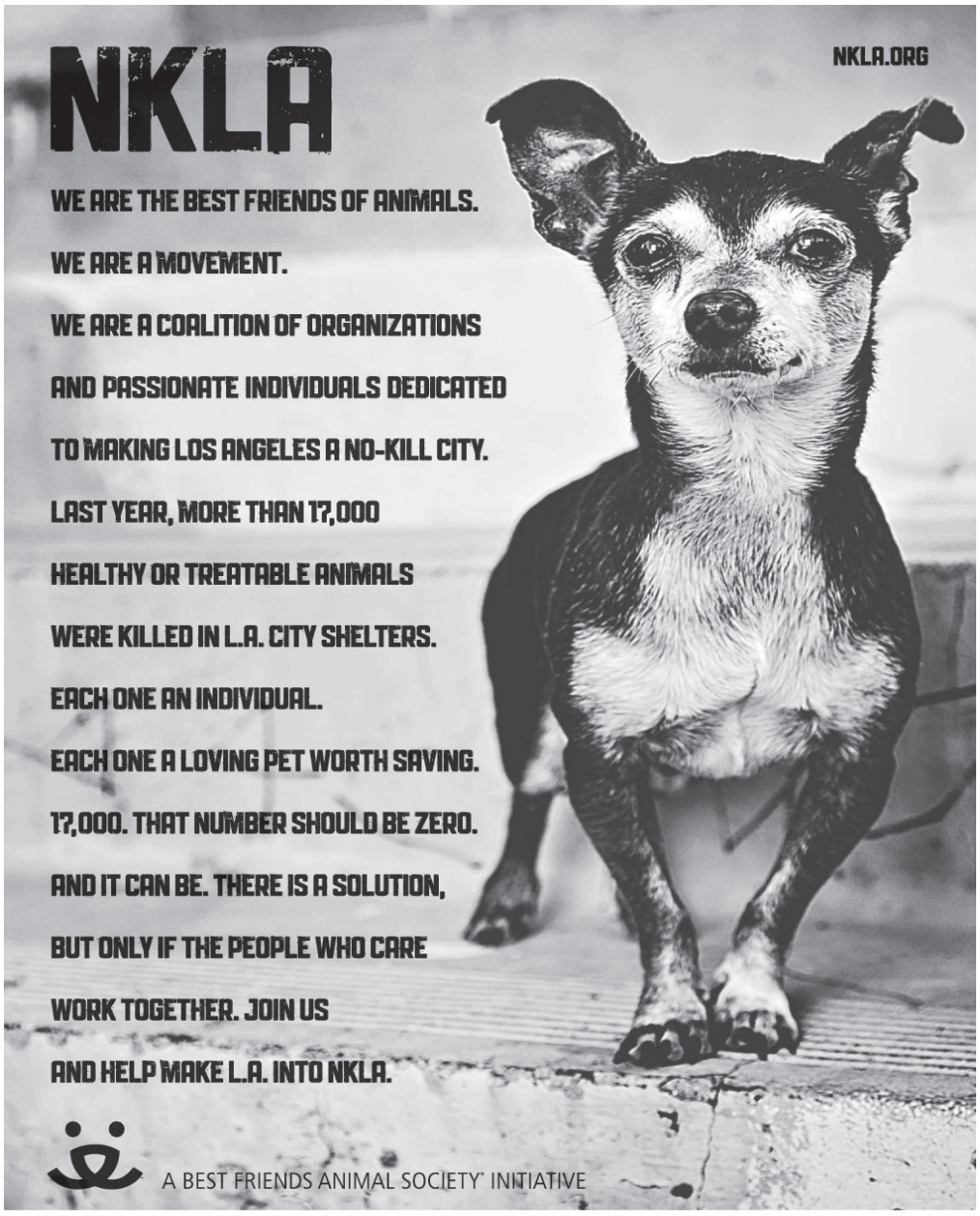
Benvenuto said "that, too, is currently under discussion."

The next SMC Board of Trustees meeting is Jan. 21, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room in Business 117.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Farmers Market Closed

Thursday, Jan. 2

Community Kids: Emergency Preparedness with the American Red Cross
Learn how to stay safe and prepare for emergencies with the American Red Cross's "Pillowcase Project" program. Participants will receive a pillowcase to decorate and use for emergency preparedness supplies. Ages 8-12. Main Library, 5 - 6 p.m.

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.

Friday, Jan. 3

Music and Movement at the Library
A musical story time that will have little ones singing and dancing as they learn important early literacy concepts. For ages 18 months to five years old. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

Ocean Park Book Group
A Monthly Meeting of the Ocean Park Book Group. Meets the 1st Saturday of the Month. Open to All. No Registration Required. 'In the Midst of Winter' by Isabel Allende. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library.

Saturday, Jan. 4

How to Make 2020 Your Best Year Ever!
Psychotherapist Ira Israel demonstrates how concentrating on loving, compassionate relationships and leading more balanced lives will create happiness for 2020 and beyond. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Preschool Explorers: Weather
Explore the weather with stories and hands-on exploration. Ages 3-6. Main Library, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 5

Gallery open
Gallery hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exhibit 'Memories of Diaspora: Immigration Narratives of Los Angeles." Paying homage to the memories and narratives of those individuals who have made Los Angeles their new home, the exhibition features work by students and faculty from the Rampart District-based art organization Art Division. Memories ... is curated by Art Division's Executive Director Dan McCleary and Luis Serrano, its Director of Painting and Drawing. artdivision.org. Annenberg Community Beach House.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (Main St.)
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.

CRJ celebrates MLK
As the Committee For Racial Justice looks ahead to January celebrations of MLK day, questions come to mind. 51 years after his death, Dr. Martin Luther King has streets, schools, hospitals and even a national holiday named after him. He has become one of the most popular icons in American history. But is the popular Dr. King the real Dr. King—or is the popular Dr. King a comfortable counterfeit that serves all too often to lull the public into complacent satisfaction with the racial and socio-economic status quo? Thelma Terry Center in Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave 6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 6

Buried in Paper? Dig your Way Out and Get Organized for 2020!
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SEE **LIST** PAGE 9

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

2020 Watch: Messy primary finally meets election year

BILL BARROW
Associated Press

The presidential politics calendar turned to 2020 nearly a year ago. This week, the actual date catches up. What we're watching as the preseason closes and election year opens:

THE NARRATIVE

The ups, downs and swerves of 2019 yielded a stable top slate. Former Vice President Joe Biden leads most national polls of Democratic primary voters, with Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts within striking distance. Yet in the first caucus state of Iowa and the first primary state of New Hampshire, there's a jumble of Biden, Sanders, Warren and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. At first glance, it's a clean choice: Biden and Buttigieg hail from the center-left; Warren and Sanders come from the progressive left. Reality is more layered. All four have weaknesses within Democrats' diverse electorate; each makes a different case for carrying the banner against President Donald Trump, who is now impeached but a near certainty to survive a Senate trial. If that's not enough indecision, several wildcards — including two billionaires — still hope to scramble the contest.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Money: Who can (sort of) compete with Michael Bloomberg's wallet?

The fourth-quarter fundraising period ends Tuesday. Warren and Sanders set the early curve for grassroots donations, outpacing Buttigieg and Biden, who tap traditional deep-pocketed contributors in addition to online donors. Now those small-donor juggernauts must compete with former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who's used a share of his estimated $50 billion personal fortune to blanket television and digital advertising and build an expansive staff in Super Tuesday states. For his rivals, it's not so much about keeping up; Bloomberg can easily outspend every other campaign, including that of fellow billionaire Tom Steyer. But there's only so much television time for sale, and if Warren and Sanders want to plow big money into Super Tuesday, especially the expensive television markets of California, they'll need as much cash as possible ahead of time. Biden, meanwhile, has already secured his best fundraising quarter (a relative comparison for a candidate who's lagged other top-tier contenders). The question is whether Biden's "best" mollifies establishment Democrats who waved red flags when he reported having less than $9 million on hand at September's end.

Money, Part II: How long can Cory Booker keep going?

The year-end deadline is critical for New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker as he reaches for relevance. The last of two African American candidates (along with former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick), Booker made a do-or-die money appeal in September, and it worked. But it'll take more than scraping by to fund the turnaround he envisions: a surprise finish in overwhelmingly white Iowa to kick-start a dramatic rise in more diverse primary states that follow (Barack Obama's 2008 path). Campaigns that hit big fundraising numbers tend to leak that news before Federal Election Commission filings are due. Candidates with bad news tend to wait. So, it bears watching how Booker's team plays it to start January.

Is Amy Klobuchar being overlooked in Iowa?

Those previously mentioned Iowa and New Hampshire jumbles omit Amy Klobuchar. But the Minnesota senator is plugging away in both states. She just hit her 99th Iowa county (that's all of them), demonstrating her effort to use complex caucus rules that can reward candidates with a wide geographic footprint. Notably, Klobuchar's strategy tracks Biden. Both aim for a more consistent appeal across 1,679 precincts than Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg muster on Feb. 3. The question becomes how many precincts give both Biden and Klobuchar the minimum 15% support required to count toward delegates. Anyone who doesn't hit that viability mark drops from subsequent ballots, their backers going up for grabs. Biden's Iowa hopes depend in part on picking up moderates on realignment votes (read: Klobuchar and Buttigieg supporters). If Klobuchar is as strong as she hopes to be, she could turn that strategy around on Biden, driving him below viability and attracting his supporters on later ballots. Biden returns to Iowa this week for another bus tour, though not as lengthy as his eight-day jaunt after Thanksgiving.

Is Sanders a true contender this time?

Sanders lost the 2016 nomination because of Hillary Clinton's advantage among non-white Democrats. Since then, Sanders has deepened his ties among Latinos, African Americans and other non-whites. Warren and Buttigieg are still chasing that success. Sanders' advisers believe the senator is well-positioned to challenge Biden among non-whites if he's able to build early momentum in New Hampshire and Iowa, where Sanders will spend New Year's Eve. If they're right, that would open avenues to delegates Sanders didn't get in 2016.

Is Trump's position improving?

The president has never been popular judged in a vacuum. In 2016, he won GOP primaries with pluralities and lost the general election popular vote. As president, he's never reached majority job approval in Gallup's polling. But he's still hovering in the 40s, not far from where his immediate predecessors were 11 months before winning second terms. Impeachment proceedings haven't affected Trump's standing. Meanwhile, the same Democratic-run House that impeached him approved his new North America trade pact. Top-line economic numbers shine, even if the on-ground reality is uneven. And Trump could be on the cusp of a peace deal in Afghanistan after the Taliban ruling council on Sunday agreed to a temporary cease-fire. As frenetic as Trump's messaging is, he proved in 2016 that he relishes framing binary choices for voters, and he's more than convinced he has a case in 2020.

SEE **2020** PAGE 5





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LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com
Brennon Dixson
brennon@smdp.com

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

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

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

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

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

HAPPY CRAZY NEW YEAR!

TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

For The Year in Review. For Best Of/Worst Of lists. For 2020 Predictions.

Nope. Not here.

Several reasons. Those lists are obligatory exercises in subjective history revision and likewise-biased projection. Mostly done for purposes of selling a media product. OK, they also fall under the description of what a newspaper, magazine or broadcast company does — report the news and put it in context.

But they take time to research and I'm lazy. They leave you open to ridicule if you leave something out, get something wrong or badly blow a prediction. Who needs it?

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Is the least subjective and the most useful. But wiser, more ambitious minds with better work ethics than mine at this newspaper, have already covered the Year in Review thingy, last week, pretty thoroughly, I thought. You're welcome.

I will throw in a couple of wishes for 2020.

More transparency in our city government. Much more, because it's hovering close to zero now.

A new sense of fiscal responsibility. Make that, some sense, something, just a little, because for years they've been spending our tax dollars like it's play money, an infinite pile of play money, much of it for vanity projects that enhance their undeserved reputation for making Santa Monica such a progressive, compassionate, transportation innovative, forward-thinking green jewel of a city.

A CITY STAFF

Coming to its senses to provide realistic not idealistic transportation planning, not based on eliminating evil cars in a city and region that is a long way from having decent mass transit, and realizing that scooters and bikes may be fine and fun for all our young tourists and residents but not necessarily the best solution for grandma trying to get her groceries home. And this town has a lot of grandmas. And have you noticed? More and more evil cars are going electric, making them…less evil.

Voters who see this precious, historic, unique city is being destroyed by wrong-thinking politicos and their bosses, and care enough to take the time to inform themselves on the issues and the candidates, instead of marching to the polls to vote by postcard, for a slate of candidates and issues who bought those endorsements. Yes, you can literally do that. So if you see your friend going to vote with a postcard or flyer in their hand, snatch it away and start informing them.

District elections that result in neighborhood, resident representative government in Santa Monica, not the unbeatable slate of SMRR-bred, PAC-dependent overdevelopment crazies foisted on us for the better part of 40 years.

CRAZIES?

Yeah, crazies. It's crazy to try to build your way to affordability for housing. Crazy to provide a handful of "affordable" housing units by trading them for thousands of market-rate condos and apartments, that result in higher rates for everyone. And more density and all the problems that brings, for one of the already most dense coastal cities in CA. Crazy to chant "Supply and Demand" when you know dang well that doesn't apply to a seaside, gentrified market like SM.

It's crazy to spend $140M on an office building, just to make it the greenest building in the world that everyone will ooh and aah over and say please come to our conference in Rome, in Abu Dabi, in Rio, and tell us allll about it. (I'm oohing and aahing over what we could have done with the $60M+ wasted. At a time when so many voices are warning of an impending budget crisis here.)

Crazy to pursue for years the appeals of a lost lawsuit, on an issue that no city has ever won, that merely makes a modest change in the way we vote for our City Council, because it makes it less likely that SMRR and other power interests can easily control those elections. It's crazy to refuse to tell us how many tens of millions of our taxpayer dollars you have spent on this shameless power play.

CRAZY

It's crazy to spend $9M to change all our bus benches to something impractical, then change some of them back again.

It's crazy for our Council to not even have the integrity to censure former Mayor Pam O'Connor when her petulant refusal to work with newly hired Communications and Public Affairs Officer Elizabeth Riel (who once donated to the campaign of one of O'Connor's opponents) was not only clearly wrong but resulted in a lost lawsuit costing the city nearly a million dollars.

Crazy for former City Manager Rod Gould — who went along with O'Connor's foot-stomping and fired Riel — to take a high-paying position immediately after he left his post here, with a firm he fed several big contracts to, in corrupt defiance of the Oaks Initiative law, and think he could get away with it. But of course! Because it was crazy but not unexpected for our then City Attorney Marcia Moutrie to refuse to take any action. A citizen group, the Transparency Project, sued and won.

So I guess maybe that is my year-end review of the State of Our City. I feel an obligation to point all these things out because so many people are not informed. I get that from readers all the time: "I had no idea!"

Still — I think it's going to be a great 2020, here, across the nation, across the world. But it's up to each one of us, isn't it?

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealm-rmusic@gmail.com

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

With births down, U.S. had slowest growth rate in a century

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

The past year's population growth rate in the United States was the slowest in a century due to declining births, increasing deaths and the slowdown of international migration, according to figures released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The U.S. grew from 2018 to 2019 by almost a half percent, or about 1.5 million people, with the population standing at 328 million this year, according to population estimates.

That's the slowest growth rate in the U.S. since 1917 to 1918, when the nation was involved in World War I, said William Frey, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution.

For the first time in decades, natural increase — the number of births minus the number of deaths — was less than 1 million in the U.S. due to an aging population of Baby Boomers, whose oldest members entered their 70s within the past several years. As the large Boomer population continues to age, this trend is going to continue.

"Some of these things are locked into place. With the aging of the population, as the Baby Boomers move into their 70s and 80s, there are going to be higher numbers of deaths," Frey said. "That means proportionately fewer women of child bearing age, so even if they have children, it's still going to be less."

Four states had a natural decrease, where deaths outnumbered births: West Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

For the first time this decade, Puerto Rico had a population increase. The island, battered by economic stagnation and Hurricane Maria in the past several years, increased by 340 people between 2018 and 2019, with people moving to the island offsetting natural decrease.

International migration to the U.S. decreased to 595,000 people from 2018 to 2019, dropping from as many as 1 million international migrants in 2016, according to the population estimates. Immigration restrictions by the Trump administration combined with a perception that the U.S. has fewer economic opportunities than it did before the recession a decade ago contributed to the decline, Frey said.

"Immigration is a wildcard in that it is something we can do something about," Frey said. "Immigrants tend to be younger and have children, and they can make a population younger."

Ten states had population declines in the past year. They included New York, which lost almost 77,000 people; Illinois, which lost almost 51,000 residents; West Virginia, which lost more than 12,000 people; Louisiana, which lost almost 11,000 residents; and Connecticut, which lost 6,200 people. Mississippi, Hawaii, New Jersey, Alaska and Vermont each lost less than 5,000 residents.

Regionally, the South saw the greatest population growth from 2018 to 2019, increasing 0.8% due to natural increase and people moving from others parts of the country. The Northeast had a population decrease for the first time this decade, declining 0.1% due primarily to people moving away.

Monday's population estimates also offer a preview of which states may gain or lose congressional seats from next year's apportionment process using figures from the 2020 Census. The process divvies up the 435 U.S. House seats among the 50 states based on population.

Several forecasts predict California, the nation's most populous state with 39.5 million residents, losing a seat for the first time. Texas, the nation's second most-populous state with 28.9 million residents, is expected to gain as many as three seats, the most of any state.

2020

FROM PAGE 3

THE FINAL THOUGHT

Most voters are just tuning into a presidential race that's raged for a year. They'll find a Democratic contest featuring stark options on policy and personality, but lacking an undisputed favorite. Candidates are navigating primary politics: dancing along the progressive-liberal-moderate spectrum and carefully choosing when to go after each other. At the same time, Trump dominates the 2020 narrative, a fact demonstrated most recently as Biden spent two days talking about whether he'd testify in a Senate trial on Trump's removal from office. It's untidy enough for Trump's reelection campaign to boast confidence and some Democrats to fret openly. History suggests, however, that all observers should respect the volatility. Indeed, incumbent presidents are difficult to beat. (Eight out of the last 11 who sought reelection won). But when they do lose, it's nearly always to a challenger who emerged from the opposition party's messy, even chaotic primary. Democrats' chaos is just getting warmed up.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Ave. Park

What Dr. Martin Luther King Means Today

As the Committee For Racial Justice looks ahead to January celebrations of MLK day, questions come to mind. 51 years after his death, Dr. Martin Luther King has streets, schools, hospitals and even a national holiday named after him. He has become one of the most popular icons in American history. But is the popular Dr. King the real Dr. King–or is the popular Dr. King a comfortable counterfeit that serves all too often to lull the public into complacent satisfaction with the racial and socio-economic status quo?

At their January 5 workshop, the Committee for Racial Justice will honor the memory of Dr. King by considering such questions as these:

In what ways has King's true legacy been co-opted and falsified by politicians, the media, educators (or mis-educators), etc.?

What is King's true legacy? What kinds of changes would the REAL King want to see in our society and world? How might we best work for these changes? We will be guided in our consideration of such questions by two special guests.

Their first special guest is well known to most of us. Dr. Sylvia Rousseau was an extremely effective principal at Santa Monica High School for 7 years. She was interim co-superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. She was an extremely effective principal of Crenshaw High School. She was Professor of Education at the University of Southern California. The list goes on. Suffice it to say that over a long career Dr. Rousseau has secured a place among Southern California's most distinguished and highly respected educators.

Their second special guest is a representative from an ambitious nationwide project that is expressly dedicated to carrying out Dr. King's true mission. The project is The Poor People's Campaign. The representative is Kenia Alcocer. She is co-director and organizer of Union de Vecinos and co-chair of the California Poor People's Campaign.

Please join them for a deep, thoughtful, and challenging celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King at 6 p.m. in Virginia Ave. Park.

This event is sponsored by the Committee for Racial Justice. Co-sponsored by Virginia Ave Park; the African American Parent, Student, Staff Support Group; and the Church in Ocean Park

For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

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SANTA MONICA

FROM PAGE 1

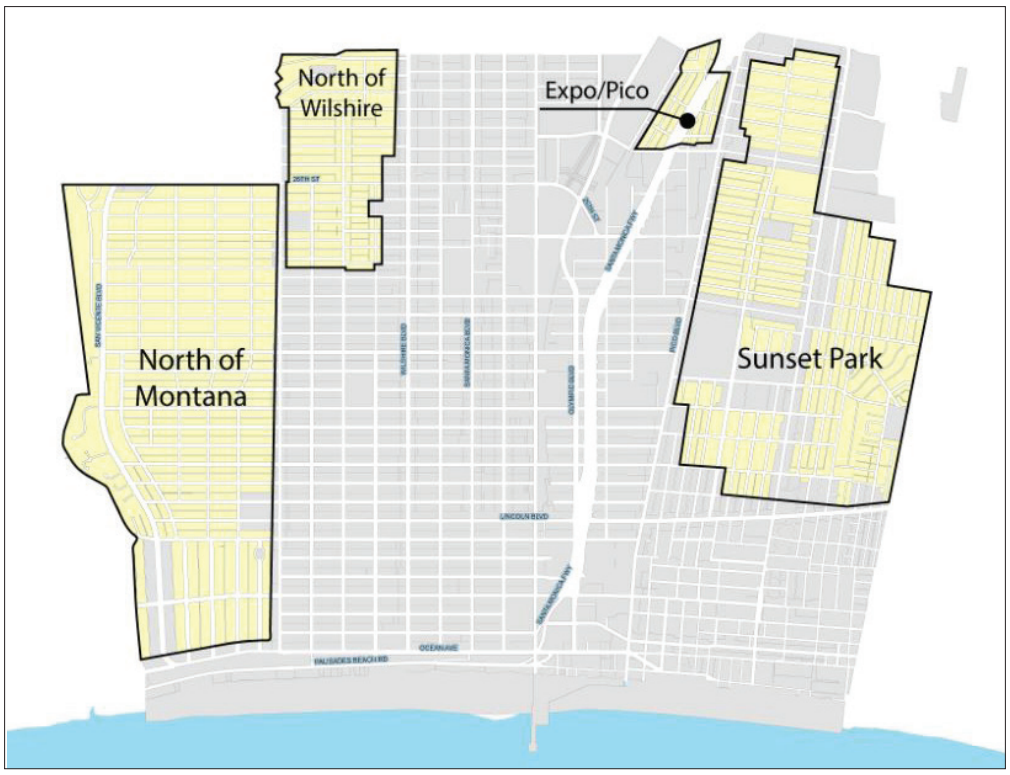
biodegradable take-out containers in 2018. The law took effect on Jan. 1 of 2019 but included a one year exemption for businesses who were unable to find appropriate products due to a lack of support by their suppliers. However, that exemption expires on Jan. 1 of 2020. Under the now universal rule, permitted materials include paper, fiber, wood, wheat straw/straw, bagasse, or edible material. Items included in the rules are straws, utensils, stirrers, lid plugs, plates, trays, bowls, containers, cups and cup lids. Additionally, marine degradable straws and utensils may only be provided upon request.

WORKLOAD PROVISIONS OF HOTEL WORKER PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Santa Monica's new Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance will be in place as of Jan. 1 providing hotel housekeepers with safety protections to prevent violence and limiting work hours for some employees.

The law establishes a daily workload maximum of 4,000 square feet for hotels with less than 40 guest rooms and 3,500 square feet for hotels with greater than 40 guest rooms. It requires a double-overtime compensation rate for all hours worked in a workday when a housekeeper's workload exceeds these maximums.

The safety provision requires on personal rights and safety, and education to protect public health and prevent instances of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual violence.



Courtesy image

R1: The rules for building in single family homes have changes this year.

R1 STANDARDS

New standards will be in place for neighborhoods comprised of single family homes including more than 6,000 parcels in four areas of town (North of Montana, North of Wilshire, Sunset Park, and Expo/Pico).

Height: Maximum building height is 28 feet, the same as the Interim Zoning Ordinance. Flexibility is provided for flat-roofed structures allowing a vertical wall height limitation of 23 feet.

Maximum Parcel Coverage: Maximum parcel coverage controls the size a home can be on a parcel. The maximum parcel coverage is 45% for new construction and 55% for one and two-story additions to existing homes.

Upper-Story Stepbacks: This controls the mass of the second story and determines how far back the second story needs to be additionally set back. The size of the second story will now be determined based on total parcel coverage and not the maximum buildable elevation. Each stepback areas shall be at least 1% of total parcel area.

Upper-Story Outdoor Space: Individual balconies, decks, terraces, first-story roof decks, and similar outdoor spaces may not exceed 3% of parcel area or 300 square feet, whichever is less. Rear facing balconies, decks, terraces, first-story roof decks, and similar outdoor spaces larger than 100 square feet in the rear half of the parcel shall be set back a minimum distance of 20% of the parcel width from the side parcel lines to preserve neighbor privacy. Accessory Dwelling Units: ADUs are exempt from parcel coverage.

$15 MINIMUM WAGE FOR BUSINESSES WITH 25+ EMPLOYEES

Large, non-union, employers are now required to pay employees a minimum wage of $15. City Hall passed a minimum wage ordinance in 2016 that stepped up the minimum wage over several years. As of July 1, 2020, businesses with 25 or more employees will be required to pay $15 per hour. Small businesses will pay a minimum wage of $14.25 this year and will hit $15 in 2021. Hotels were already required to pay a minimum wage of $15.66. Santa Monica has allowed unions to negotiate for other benefits in lieu of the minimum wage. Known as supersession, the rule allows unions to secure other benefits, such as additional time off, under a collective bargaining agreement. Local rules also include sick leave provisions that were in place as of 2018.

editor@smdp.com



Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

DEAR EARTHTALK: WHICH COMPANIES ARE TAKING THE LEAD IN COMMITMENTS TO PLASTICS REDUCTION? - JASON K., RENO, NV

Our modern world is literally swimming in plastic. According to Plastic Oceans International (POI), we produce over 300 million tons of plastic each year around the world, half of which is for single-use purposes. We then dump eight million tons of it into the oceans annually, where it accumulates up and down the food chain, with some settling into large, mid-ocean whirlpools of plastic waste called gyres.

Since the 1950s, we've produced upwards of 8.3 billion tons of plastic, and production is seemingly only just starting to ramp up: A recent study predicts we're on course to add another 26 billion tons to the planet's existing plastic burden by 2050 if production remains unchecked.

Weaning ourselves off plastic is going to be one of the great challenges of the 2020s. Consumer demand, along with governmental action, is forcing many companies to re-examine their manufacturing processes, supply chains and distribution networks to reduce the use of plastic in both products and packaging.

One leader is Ikea, which recently committed to transition much of its plastic packaging to a mushroom-based renewable alternative that can grow in a controlled environment, and, like plastic, be easily formed into shapes. If kept dry, this "MycoComposite" can be used over and over. It can also decompose fully in just 30 days. Producing it uses only 12 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of plastic, and with 90 percent lower carbon emissions.

Another step in the right direction is Mattel's recent commitment to use 100 percent recycled, recyclable or bio-based plastics materials in both its products and packaging by 2030. Early in 2020 the company will debut its first product aligned with this new goal, the Fisher-Price Rock-a-Stack, made from sugarcane-based plastics and packaged in 100 percent recycled or sustainably sourced material.

Walmart announced in February that it seeks to achieve 100 percent recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging for its private brand packaging by 2025 and will encourage other brands it sells to set similar goals. The retailing behemoth is also working with suppliers to eliminate non-recyclable PVC plastic in general merchandise packaging altogether by 2020.

These efforts are laudable, but some worry that shifting to alternatives doesn't fully address the problem: Due to public concerns about plastic pollution, says Greenpeace's Graham Forbes, "we are witnessing a parade of corporations scrambling to look greener" by advancing false solutions that don't address our addiction to single-use packaging. Instead, Greenpeace argues, we need to get away from throwaways and refill our own containers. We'll only see real change, says Forbes, when we prioritize re-use.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at https://emagazine.com. To donate, visit https://earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 01)

You'll know just what to cut out, organize and align. Much magic comes of focused work in a single direction. A sweet spirit alights on your world, offering laughter and affection. There will be cinematic-level excitement in the spring and then a spell of steadiness that allows you to save resources to invest in August. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 28, 45, 1 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are clever and consistent. You may stumble here and there, but you know the direction you're going. And as long as you don't give up, you will always find a way to get there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Most of the tomorrows are outcomes of todays. But then there are those interesting non sequiturs, like raindrops of good fortune that fall out of perfectly blue cloudless skies. Enjoy today's splash.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your loved ones will likely toss up resistance to your advice, directions and general comments, but you can be sure they will follow your example.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Who said you have to know what you're doing to start? Just start. You'll learn as you go. And don't be afraid to ask for help. People need to and love to help if they can. And if they can't, they'll just say no.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Resist searching. All you need is right in front of you; you only need to look at it a while. Sure enough, a natural curiosity will rise up and guide you to the answer that's been here the whole time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your future is so appealing that you could fall in love with it. Luckily, you learned long ago not to fall in love with potential. It interferes with your ability to use it. Work, reality and loving right now – that's what makes things happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's an answer, several in fact, but you only need one. Someone knows; someone you haven't met yet. Make it a point to get out and meet new people in the weeks to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It isn't always going to be passion and excitement and newness that keep you motivated to stay on track with your goals. Sometimes it's determination. Right now, it's a simple willingness to do what it takes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Greed, which is among the most boring human traits, indicates thoughtlessness, incuriousness and a lack of creativity. You'll counteract its effect on the world by offering big love wherever you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Every love story needs a grand gesture. Consider the story between you and you. Isn't this as worthy as any of a big show? You are the relationship that will carry you through your entire life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just because it's a new year doesn't mean you'll find a completely different you reflected in the mirror. And yet, inside this face that is your face, fresh thoughts stir. Yes, there actually is something here that wasn't before.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're feeling impressionable and can make this work for you by placing yourself in the environments with the best influences and around the people you would most like to be like.

Two Moons, Two Moods

A soft, diffused Pisces lunar influence glows through the hazy start of 2020. Take a moment to get right internally. We must decide who we are and orient ourselves accordingly. If we're lax, then we'll revert to old, lazy ways. A little willfulness up front will be necessary. Later, an action-oriented Aries moon will direct our follow-through.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SUPERSTITIONS

ARIES: Write goals and continue the habit of writing through the year; that's the magic. TAURUS: Decide how you'll be active in the new year. Movement-related goals will be particularly lucky. GEMINI: Resolutions having to do with relationships will be particularly lucky and effective. CANCER: Mistakes are a glorious sign that you're trying new things. Taking risks will be the start of something fantastic. LEO: As your heart embraces feeling, hurts turn to healing. VIRGO: The soul searching you do before you decide on resolutions will put powerful forces into play. LIBRA: This new chapter will be written whether you author it or perform it like an actor. Which is your preference? SCORPIO: The process is the most important part of any goal. If you promise yourself one thing, make a promise to keep returning to the process no matter what. SAGITTARIUS: You'll go forward in good cheer and what felt like work transforms into play. CAPRICORN: The year is new, but you are even newer with fresh hope at the very base of soul. AQUARIUS: A dream, a thought, an action – it's a simple as that, though not necessarily in that order. PISCES: If it was on your list last year and didn't happen, then scratch it. The new year deserves a new approach and a fresh chance to win it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Two notable American Capricorns were born on the first day of the year, war hero Paul Revere and American flag designer Betsy Ross. Revere was born under the warrior moon of Aries with natal Mercury, Jupiter and Uranus in adventurous Sagittarius. Ross was born when the moon was in Cancer, the sign of the United States of America and patriotism in general. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

Local Weather

The following is the Santa Monica weather forecast from the National Weather Service.

New Year's Day: Sunny, with a high near 63. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

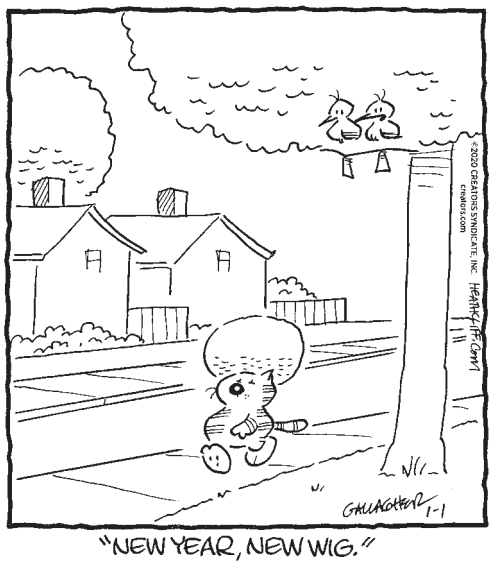
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 65.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Heathcliff

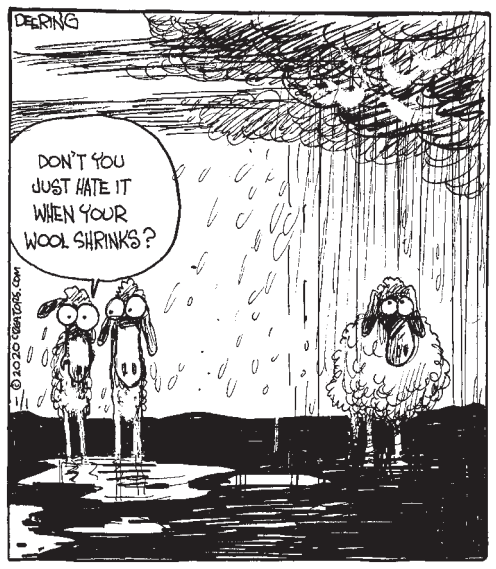
By PETER GALLAGHER



"NEW YEAR, NEW WIG."

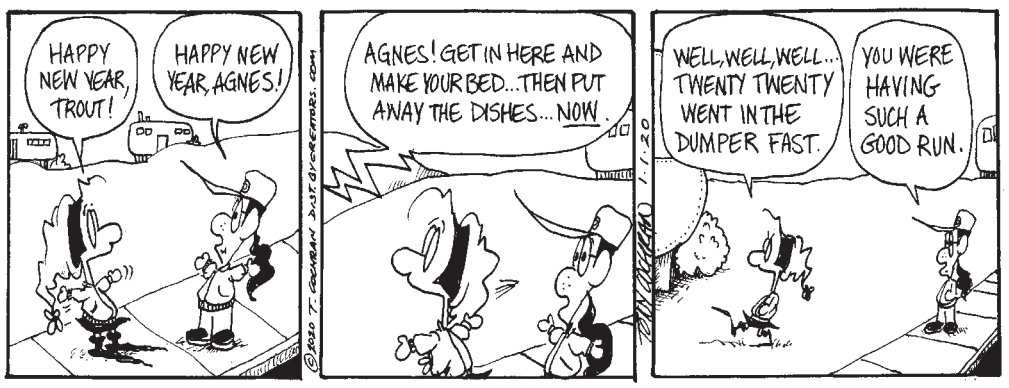
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



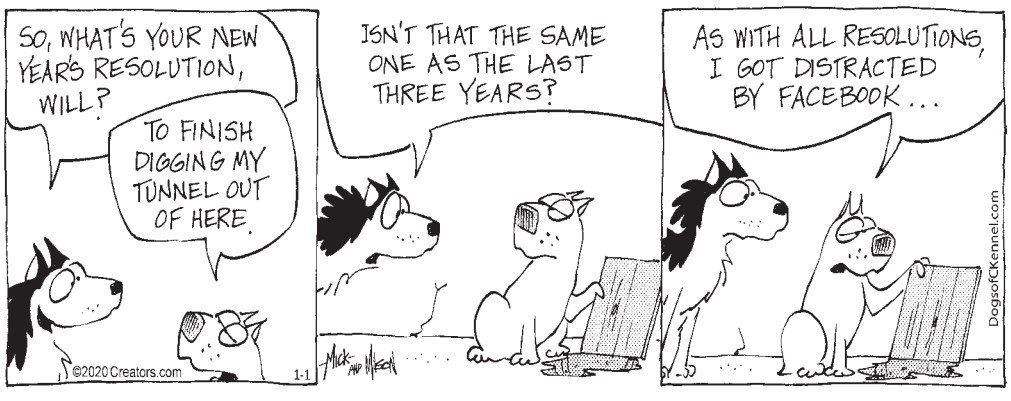
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



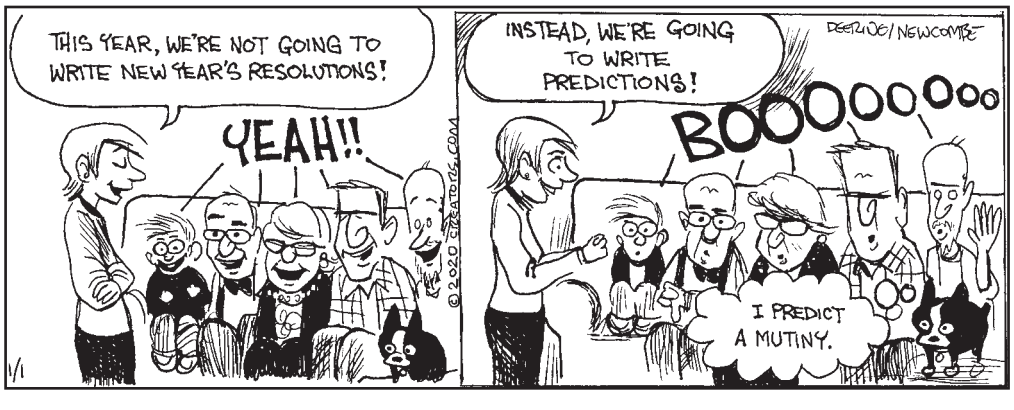
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?

Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

LIST

FROM PAGE 2

Prince will give a step-by-step seminar on how to organize your piles of paper for a more efficient, peaceful home and office. You'll learn how to manage the mayhem and leave with an action plan of how to review your own paper, save what is important and find what you need when you need it again. Pico Branch Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Pico Teen Advisory Council Meeting

Have a voice at your library! Help plan programs and community service projects while earning volunteer hours. Meets once a month in The Annex Room. Grades 8-12. Pico Branch Library, 4 - 5 p.m.

Just For Seniors: 'Appy Hour' Device Workshop

Bring your smartphone or tablet and get help with learning how to use your device. Ocean Park Branch Library, 4 - 5 p.m.



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft waist to chest high
Old NW swell lingers in the morning. More sizable and relatively better-angled WNW swell to move in late in the day.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft+ waist to head high occ. 6 ft
Long period WNW swell to peak – most size for exposures out west. Wind is looking favorable at this point.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

E	G	R	E	T	■	L	I	E	D	■	P	R	E	P
G	L	A	R	E	■	E	D	G	E	■	L	A	V	A
G	E	T	A	M	O	V	E	O	N	■	U	N	I	V
S	E	E	■	P	L	E	A	■	T	A	N	G	L	E
■	■	■	D	E	E	R	■	S	I	N	G	■	■	■
A	C	R	O	S	S	■	H	O	S	T	E	S	S	■
C	H	E	S	T	■	P	E	A	T	■	A	P	E	S
C	I	A	O	■	■	E	A	R	■	■	H	E	R	E
T	R	I	M	■	P	A	R	S	■	L	E	A	V	E
■	P	R	E	D	I	C	T	■	N	E	A	R	E	R
■	■	■	T	O	T	E	■	L	A	N	D	■	■	■
P	U	S	H	E	S	■	S	I	P	S	■	H	M	O
A	N	T	I	■	T	A	K	E	A	C	T	I	O	N
I	T	A	N	■	O	V	E	N	■	A	I	S	L	E
L	O	N	G	■	P	E	W	S	■	P	E	S	T	S

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

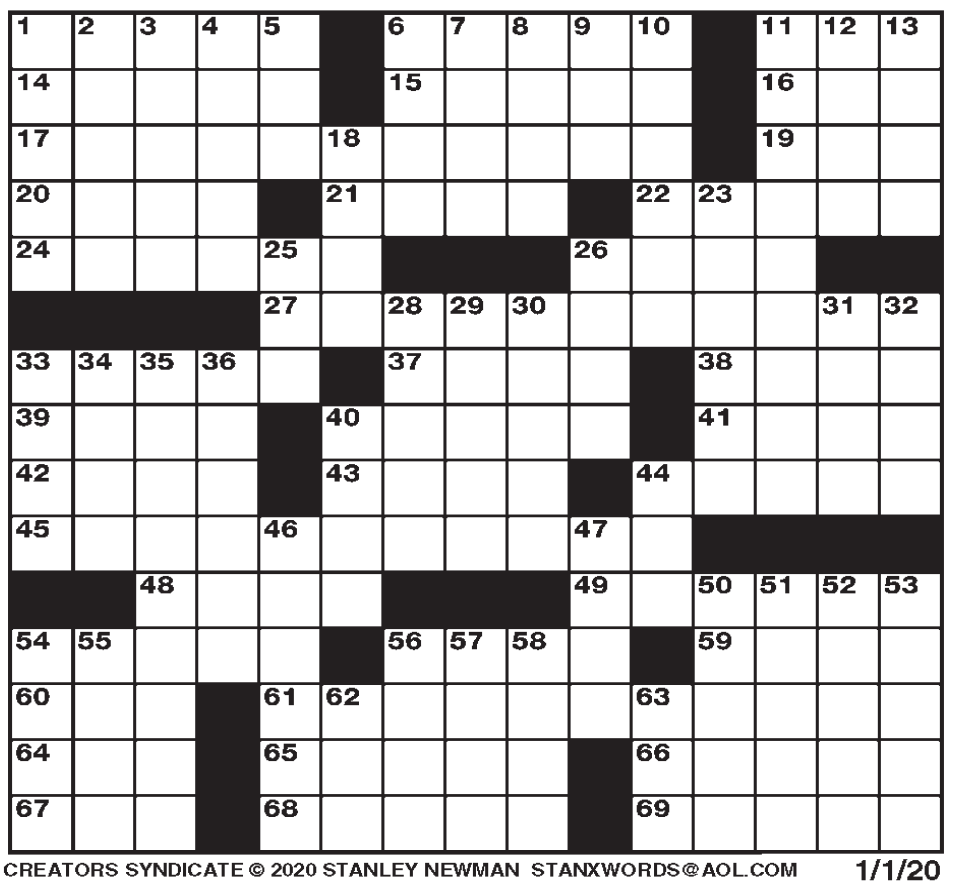
USE THE CLUES by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Plane landing area
6 Son of Abraham
11 One of golf's "majors"
14 Stand up
15 Unusual collectible
16 Swiss skiing spot
17 Work perfectly
19 Feel bad about
20 Sporting sword
21 __ Major (bear constellation)
22 Elastic material
24 Sign of a sale
26 Accompanying
27 Cool off, perhaps
33 Piece of grass
37 Hunted one
38 Not fooled by
39 Connecticut university
40 Split __ (quibble)
41 Complain
42 Actress Stone
43 Old pros
44 Repels, with "off"
45 Complete negotiations
48 Phoenix suburb
49 Ones in charge
54 Predatory fish
56 Risky business, for short
59 Vocal
60 Raconteur's talent
61 Surpass all, undesirably
64 One way to vote
65 Garment with arms
66 Founded
67 Keep out
68 Phi Beta __
69 Shine upon

DOWN

1 Less risky
2 Hogwash
3 Steamed up
4 Tiny spot of land
5 Parakeet or poodle
6 Bakery aide
7 Undersea travelers
8 Oratorio selection
9 Feel off
10 Herding dog
11 Athens attraction
12 Sticky stuff
13 High point
18 Enormous
23 Not away
25 *Simpsons* grandpa
26 Motives
28 Quite quickly
29 Checked out
30 Of few words
31 Just slightly
32 A host (of)
33 Tourney passes
34 Hard to believe, as an excuse
35 One's old school
36 Casino staffer
40 Some laughs
44 Winter bug
46 Chider's sounds
47 Champs-Élysées landmark
50 From around here
51 Wipe clean
52 Autumn implements
53 Motorless vehicles
54 Deck cleaner
55 Informal greeting
56 Do without
57 Criminal, to cops
58 Sundance's girlfriend
62 "Now I've got you!"
63 Recede



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/1/20

CHP

FROM PAGE 1

manner; if found in violation, the offense is punishable by a fine," said CHP Director of Communications Fran Clader. "However, beginning July 1, 2021, this new law will levy an additional penalty on a driver found in violation of California's hands-free law: a point will be added on to a driver's record for each hands-free violation occurring within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense."

A pair of new rules modify the use of deadly force for police officers. Under current rules, the use of deadly force by a peace officer is justifiable when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary. Section 835a of the Penal Code amends the reasonable force standard to "objectively reasonable force." A corresponding rule requires law enforcement agencies to rewrite use of force policy and provide mandatory training to all officers in order to comply with the new law.

A new law by Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) allows bicycles to travel straight through a right or left-hand turn-only lane while at an intersection, if an official traffic control device indicates the movement is permitted. The rule means bicycle riders will not have to merge left when the bike lane becomes a right turn lane.

"AB 1266 bill will make our roadways safer for everyone by matching street design with the already practiced, safe behavior of cyclists at busy intersections. I'm committed to making sure Californians have safe, healthy, and non-polluting transportation choices as we expand our efforts to combat climate change," said Assemblymember Robert Rivas.

Caltrans is required to develop standards for lane striping, pavement marking, and appropriate regulatory signs to implement this bill.

An omnibus bill made several changes to road rules including allowing motor carriers of property can continue operating for 30 days past their permit expiration date, under specified circumstances.

This legislation also expands prohibitions on the consumption of cannabis, in any manner, by passengers in a bus, taxicab, pedicab, limousine, housecars, or camper. This exemption is now only applicable to alcoholic beverages consumed by passengers in these types of vehicles.

Perhaps the most misunderstood rules change impacts animal carcasses on the roadside.

A new rule has directed the Fish and Game Commission, in consultation with the CHP and other stakeholders, to establish a wildlife salvage pilot program authorizing the issuance of a permit for the removal and recovery of deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and wild pigs killed because of a collision with a vehicle, if the wild game meat is used for human consumption. The rule has not made it legal to take or consume roadkill and drivers cannot take animals from the road until the permit process is in place.

Starting October 1, 2020, any individual who plans to fly within the United States or access federally secure facilities and military bases will be required to have a REAL ID or other federally approved document, such as a U.S. passport.

Californians applying for a REAL ID are required to visit a DMV field office with the following items: an identity document, such as a valid passport or original birth certificate (if you've changed your name, legal name change document(s) might be required). A document with the entire Social Security number visible, such as an original Social Security card or W-2 form. Two hard copy documents showing California residency, such as a utility or cell phone bill, bank statement, or mortgage bill.

"With the October 2020 REAL ID federal enforcement date in sight, we hope Californians will make a resolution to be #REALIDready so they are able to fly domestically," DMV Director Steve Gordon said. "Anyone who shows up at the airport this October without the correct ID risks being turned away. We urge Californians to beat the anticipated last-minute rush and take care of their REAL ID needs today."



Courtesy image

REALID: The new Real ID will be required for travel starting in October of this year. The new ID's require additional application materials at the DMV.

editor@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pacific Palisades

Chamber Music Palisades Celebrates Monumental Birthday

Chamber Music Palisades (CMP) will be paying tribute to Delores "Dee" Stevens' illustrious career and celebrating her 90th birthday at its January 15, 2020, concert at 8 pm at St. Matthew's Parish. The evening will feature presentations, special gifts, appearances, and tributes from world-class artists who have performed with her over the decades. KUSC's on-air host, Alan Chapman, will emcee the evening's festivities. Chapman has graciously been providing educational and entertaining information to audiences since Chamber Music Palisades' first series. Tickets are $35 and will be available at the door. Students with ID are always admitted free. Doors will open at 7:30pm.

This celebratory program brings a variety of musicians together in collaboration. Joining CMP Co-Artistic Directors Susan Greenberg (flute) and Delores Stevens (piano) will be Alyssa Park, violin; Maria Newman, violin; Scott Woolweaver, viola; Scott Hosfeld, viola; and Timothy Loo, cello. Dee's son, Paul Stevens (horn), will also join this lineup of phenomenal musicians. The program will include selections from Beethoven's String Trio in C minor, op. 9 no. 1, Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor, op. 60, local composer Adrienne Albert's Remembrances for flute and piano, and a special mother-son performance of Françaix's Canon in Octave for horn and piano.

Now in its 23rd consecutive season of presenting major chamber music experiences to Westside residents, Chamber Music Palisades remains active in the community and presents music education programs in a variety of local schools. For more information or directions, please call (310) 463-4388 or contact Susan Greenberg at susanflute@me.com.

Chamber Music Palisades
Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 8 p.m.
St. Matthew's Parish
1031 Bienveneda, Pacific Palisades

SUBMITTED BY NANCY VARAT

Citywide

True Stories Will Change the Way We View Mental Health

Mental health is the foundation of healthy relationships, personal and emotional well-being and positive connections to society. But one in five adults suffers from mental illness and they, and the people who care about them, have important stories to tell. Mapping of the Mind, a new salon show from Jewish Women's Theatre (JWT), will bring these stories to life and just might change the way we think about mental health forever.

Opening at The Braid, JWT's art and performance space in Santa Monica on January 18 and traveling throughout the Southland until January 28, Mapping of the Mind takes a unique look at mental illness through personal essays, song, and poetry. The stories, told by a talented cast and directed by the multi-talented Susan Morgenstern, will present touching, humorous, and truthful accounts about the courage it takes to live with mental illness and the hope and strategies that can make the impossible possible.

The salon show will open at the Braid on January 18 and travel to the California Museum of Art in Thousand Oaks on January 19, the Westside on January 20 and 21, the San Fernando Valley on January 22, Mid-City on January 25 and the South Bay on January 26. It will continue at The Braid on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout January. General admission is $45, and $50 at the door, with a dessert buffet. For additional information and to buy tickets, visit: www.jewishwomenstheatre.org.

One thread that will run through the show is writings from the journals of artist Maury Ornest, whose work was featured in The Gallery at The Braid in 2018. His journals say he had "no hope but to paint" and this reflection touches everyone who sees his canvases, because they negate the severe darkness that was going on inside his head by bursting with light, color, joy—and hope.

In Mapping of The Mind, audiences will also meet a woman with post-partum depression who winds up in a psychiatric ward because she believes she failed at natural childbirth, breastfeeding, and the doctrine that teaches "motherhood is instinctive." There is a story from a former 18-year old Yale freshman whose bulimia fills dormitory toilets with vomit and blood until a newly graduated therapist takes her under her wing. Twenty-three years later, she still sees her, but now as an equal because this former depressed bulimic now holds her own Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

"Michelle Obama once said that the only shameful thing about mental illness is the stigma attached to it," recalls Ronda Spinak, JWT's artistic director. "Our stories should help abolish this stigma because the writers demonstrate that they have the same wants and dreams that all of us do: to work and to love."

Another storyteller takes us through three years of Yom Kippur services, where she goes from cutting herself, to suicidal thoughts, to deciding to save her own life because she has learned "life is precious. I can walk with my despair and joy together."

One woman, diagnosed with schizophrenia 30 years ago, was told she would never live independently and would hold only menial jobs. Her story shares the techniques she used to "find the wellness within the illness." The author, Elyn R. Saks, is now a chaired professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and the holder of an adjunct appointment in the department of psychiatry at the medical school of the University of California, San Diego. Her story, Successful and Schizophrenic, first appeared in the Sunday Opinion section of the New York Times, and it now makes its first theatrical adaptation in Mapping of the Mind. Saks is also the author of the critically acclaimed memoir The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey through Madness.

Other storytellers whose work will be featured in Mapping of the Mind include Chef Rossi, a writer for many publications including the New York Post, Time Out New York and Bust Magazine. She is also the owner and executive chef of The Raging Skillet, a cutting-edge catering company. Comedienne/actress Annie Korzen, Robyn Goodman Mandelberg Ph.D. and Spinak also have poignant pieces in the show.

Mental illness, of course, touches not only the people who suffer with the disease, but those who love them. One Passover, for example, the grandmother of an anxiety-ridden autistic child tells her son, the child's father, that the family is not welcome at the seder this year because she doesn't want her special needs grandson exposed to her other grandchildren. The family decides to hold their own seder and welcomes other families like theirs. One grateful mom thanks them for the invitation, saying, "Thank you for inviting us. No one else does."

These are just a sample of the stories, poetry and song that make up Mapping of the Mind. In addition, all shows at The Braid are accompanied by an art exhibit at The Braid, featuring works by eight artists and therapists.

Jewish Women's Theatre has been voted one of the "Best Live Theatres on the Westside" three years in a row by The Argonaut, stages and displays traditional and contemporary works and educational programming that provide a forum for the development, performance and showcasing of Jewish artistic talent. Now beginning its 12th season, JWT's salon theatre of original dramatic shows, each written to a specific theme, displays the diverse and eclectic community of writers, artists and creators who celebrate Jewish life, one story at a time. Learn more about JWT at: www.jewishwomenstheatre.org.

SUBMITTED BU MAUREEN RUBIN

Citywide

History and Art Project will Commemorate the Belmar area

The City of Santa Monica has selected social practice artist April Banks to work with historian Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson in the effort to commemorate the Belmar neighborhood that was formerly part of the civic center campus. The two will work with the community to dive into and elevate the history of Santa Monica's former African American neighborhood located at the civic center. The outcome of the Belmar History + Art (BH+A) project will be artworks and educational programs that commemorate and celebrate the rich legacy of African American contributions to Santa Monica.

"As we look back at the life and erasure of a vibrant beach-side Black neighborhood, we move forward in celebration of the culture and businesses that once thrived here," said Banks. "I'm honored to engage with the Santa Monica community in workshops, conversations and meals to build awareness and permanently commemorate this history."

Over the coming months, Banks will unravel the stories, memories, and dreams of Santa Monicans and the descendants of those who were displaced from the Belmar neighborhood. Banks works with artmaking as "social practice," a form which puts human engagement and community at the heart of its process. Utilizing themes gathered from the public engagement activities and historical materials about the area organized by Dr. Jefferson, the two will shepherd a dialogue with community members to inform an artistic interpretation. Interpretive elements and artworks may find further scope in other sites across Santa Monica.

"Telling the stories of the neighborhood before it became the 'Civic Center' helps make the history of the African American experience in California more visible, and provides a little more symbolic equity and social justice for all," said Dr. Jefferson. "I look forward to collaborating with April Banks and the community to create an exemplary public history and art program that will amplify understanding of our collective and diverse cultural coastal heritage."

As part of its approval of the Civic Center Multipurpose Sports Field, the Coastal Commission added a special condition requiring interpretive signage and an educational program that conveys the history of the African-American residents and business owners of the Belmar neighborhood. After a panel selection process led by Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, the Santa Monica Arts Commission approved Banks' selection at their October 2019 meeting.

Visit santamonica.gov/arts/belmar for more detail and ongoing updates on the project, including opportunities to get involved in January.

April Banks was raised a vegetarian in the woods of Virginia. She graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Hampton University in Virginia in 1996. After migrating west, she obtained a Master of Science in Environmental Design from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena in 1999. She lived in Oakland for 13 years, spent a year living abroad in Colombia, before returning to Los Angeles in 2014. Her unconventional career interwines the worlds of art, design, architecture and social practice. With years of experience designing exhibitions for museums, she understands the challenge of creating public engagement opportunities. As an artist she has developed a style that is visually enticing and thought provoking. By combining the two she develops artwork and design solutions that are memorable multi-sensory experiences. Learn more about April's work at aprilbanks.com.

Alison Rose Jefferson, M.H.C | Ph.D. is a historian and heritage conservation consultant. Her research interests explore the intersection of American history and the African American experience in Southern California, particularly during the Jim Crow era, historical memory, public history, spatial justice, and cultural tourism, with an aim to engage broad audiences through applied history projects in the struggle for social justice. Her new book, Living the California Dream, African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era (University of Nebraska Press, January 2020) examines the local stories of African Americans, including in Santa Monica, who fought for equal access to California's recreation and relaxation offerings as they contributed to the broader U.S. freedom rights struggle during the nation's Jim Crow era (1900s to 1960s). Leisure, was not an optional add-on to civil rights, but an essential component of liberty. Her work has garnered attention in KCET-LA programming, the Los Angeles Times and other media outlets. Learn more about Dr. Jefferson's work at alisonrosejefferson.com.

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